

The Impact Of Socioeconomic Disadvantage On Suicide Rates In Kenya: A Multi-Faceted Analysis
 In Kenya, approximately 1,408 people die by suicide annually according to the World Health Organization's 2021 statistics, with the rate being significantly higher among economically disadvantaged populations. This stark figure underscores a critical public health crisis that intersects deeply with the nation's socioeconomic challenges.

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News>> Traders Endorse Waiguru's Plan To Put Up Another Ultra-Modern Market At Kagio

P. 12. Traders at Kagio town in Kirinyaga County have endorsed the planned construction of an ultra-modern market to end congestion at the fresh produce facility.

Whitman Resigns As US Ambassador To Kenya

Meg Whitman's resignation as U.S. Ambassador to Kenya marks a pivotal moment in the complex tapestry of U.S.-Kenya relations. Her departure, following Donald Trump's unexpected return to the presidency, has ignited a firestorm of debate about the role of diplomacy in an increasingly polarized world. Whitman's tenure was characterized by a laser focus on economic ties, yielding impressive results in trade and investment. Her "Why Africa, Why Kenya?" initiative successfully attracted American companies, leading to historic highs in U.S. investment in Kenya.



US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman.

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
 SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
 A spicy delight

Cardamom
 Spice of life

Masala Tea
 Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
 A zesty and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Continental Markets Development Platform Seeks To Revolutionize Pastoral Livestock Economic Potential

By: Suleiman Mbatiah
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

In October 2024, the APMD held a Pillar Technical Planning workshop with stakeholders from Kenya, Nigeria, and outreach countries to validate priority actions, outline a technical implementation plan, and identify national implementers for pastoral livestock marketing.

Dr. Huyam noted that the analytics and implementers' workshop is a crucial step in shaping the platform's detailed implementation plan and in strengthening the contributions of pastoral communities and stakeholders to the sector's transformation.

The African livestock sector is set for transformation with the creation of a new market platform designed to address challenges faced by pastoralist communities and unlock the immense potential of pastoral markets across the continent.

Pastoral communities are important to Africa's economy and social fabric, especially in arid regions where livestock sustains livelihoods, upholds traditions, and supports local economies, making them essential to food security and rural resilience.

Despite their essential role, pastoralism encounters persistent obstacles such as limited market access, climate change, and policy gaps that have impeded its full potential.

The African Pastoral Markets Development (APMD) Platform, currently being validated by analysts and implementers, aims to strengthen the role of pastoralism in promoting inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and improved livelihoods.

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is spearheading the establishment and operationalization of the APMD platform.

AU-IBAR, a specialized technical office of the African Union Commission (AUC), operates under the Director, who reports to the AUC via the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA).

According to AU-IBAR, this pan-African initiative seeks to promote market-driven, adaptive transformations in pastoralism and is key to advancing inclusive agricultural growth across Africa. "The implementation of the APMD Platform will give us the opportunity to overcome these barriers. By fostering collaboration and embracing innovation, we can unlock new pathways for sustainable growth," said AU-IBAR Director Dr. Huyam Salih in a speech delivered by Professor Ahmed Elbeltagy, the APMD Coordinator, in Naivasha, Kenya.

In October 2024, the APMD held a Pillar Technical Planning workshop with



Professor Ahmed Elbeltagy, the APMD Coordinator, during the 1st APMD analytics and implementers engagement workshop in Naivasha, Kenya. Photo/Suleiman Mbatiah.

stakeholders from Kenya, Nigeria, and outreach countries to validate priority actions, outline a technical implementation plan, and identify national implementers for pastoral livestock marketing.

Dr. Huyam noted that the analytics and implementers' workshop is a crucial step in shaping the platform's detailed implementation plan and in strengthening the contributions of pastoral communities and stakeholders to the sector's transformation.

The APMD Platform is designed to provide practical solutions to foster sustainable growth and transformation in pastoral markets across three key pillars: policy development, data ecosystems, and private-sector integration.

"As Kenya stands as one of the light-house countries, I am confident your contributions shared during this workshop will inspire and guide other nations in the IGAD region (outreach countries) to join us on this journey," Dr. Huyam added,

expressing gratitude to participants and development partners for their valuable input.

The workshop in Kenya, and another set for Nigeria next week, aims to validate the pastoral livestock market analysis, identify key gaps, and enhance stakeholder collaboration across policy, data, and private sectors.

Dr Huyam said it will also develop cost-effective, synergized implementation plans, with a validated monitoring and evaluation framework for progress tracking, and a strategic dialogue plan to engage national leaders for endorsement.

According to Kenya's State Department of Livestock Development, the country's 2021 livestock population stood at 16,182,356 beef cattle, 24,801,605 sheep, 32,570,314 goats, and 4,427,881 camels, collectively producing 500,000 metric tons of red meat that year.

The national demand for red meat in Kenya is projected to reach 800,000 met-

ric tons by 2025, with an expected production of 607,000 metric tons, indicating a growing red meat deficit exceeding 250,000 metric tons due to population growth, urbanization, and rising incomes among the middle class.

"Marketing for both live animals and livestock products, along with securing higher profits, provides the strongest incentive for greater investment in both primary production and value-added production," stated Mr. Jonathan Mueke, Principal Secretary of the State Department of Livestock Development.

In a speech read on his behalf by Dr. Richard Kyuma, Director of Livestock Marketing, Mr. Mueke emphasized that the Kenyan government recognizes these challenges and has prioritized policy development and interventions that actively involve women and youth in formal livestock businesses across various livestock and livestock product value chains.

Editor's Desk

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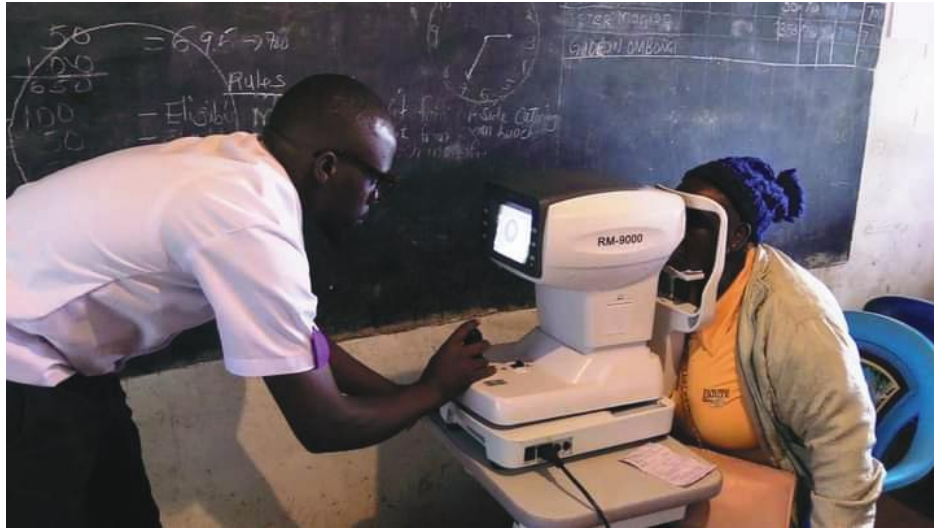
NEWS IN BRIEF

Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni has reassured the public about the safety of the polio vaccine currently being administered to children across Kenya.

The PS emphasised that the vaccine has received the necessary certifications from specialised agencies of the United Nations and should not cause concern for parents.

“I want to assure Kenyans that all vaccines that are offered by the Ministry of Health are tested to be safe, effective and approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). These vaccines are used everywhere in the world, it’s not just in Kenya,” she stated

“All vaccines in the country are tested by the National Quality Control Laboratory in conjunction with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, and they have been confirmed to be safe and highly effective,” added the PS.



Residents of Majoge Bassi Ward in Bomachoge Chache Constituency, Kisii County, benefitted from a free medical camp organised by Kisii County Assembly-nominated MCA Ms. Lilian Gor, local community group USTAWi, and Oasis Health Hospital. Over 150 people were screened, received medications, and participated in counselling sessions at Nyamasebe village. Ms. Gor emphasized the importance of health access, highlighting that the initiative would provide follow-up care for those needing ongoing treatment. She also urged the community to observe the 15 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV) and called for faster implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) program. MCA Isabella Oigara warned against female genital mutilation (FGM), particularly during the festive season, while Edward Onkundi, a counsellor from Oasis Hospital, raised concerns about rising suicide rates linked to economic stress.



Ongoing construction works of the Nyali Affordable Housing Project in Mombasa, which will include the construction of 1,976 affordable housing units. Deputy Chief of Staff in the Executive Office of the President, Eliud Owalo, inspected ongoing infrastructure projects in Mombasa to ascertain the progress of work on the projects. Speaking to the media, Owalo emphasized the significance of the tour, stating: “All these ongoing multibillion-shilling projects reflect the government’s efforts to invest in critical infrastructure that will stimulate economic growth and improve the overall quality of life for Kenyans,” said Owalo. Photo/Andrew Hinga



Deputy Chief of Staff in the Executive Office of the President, Eliud Owalo is a key inspection tour of ongoing infrastructure projects in the coastal counties of Mombasa and Lamu. The visit aims to assess the progress of several high-impact construction works and address challenges faced by contractors and communities involved. Speaking to the media, Owalo emphasized the significance of the tour, stating, “We are here in the coastal region to inspect various high-impact construction projects being implemented by the national government in Mombasa and Lamu counties. The government is committed to alleviating economic hardship and ensuring the continued delivery of essential infrastructure.” Accompanied by key government officials, including Gender and Affirmative Action Principal Secretary Anne Wang’ombe and Coast Regional Commissioner Rhoda Onyancha, Owalo toured several major projects, including the Sh54 billion Dongo Kundu Bypass Highway and the Sh40 billion Mombasa Special Economic Zone Development Project.



Hundreds of amputees from Meru and neighbouring counties in Kenya have received artificial limbs at a medical camp organised by Imenti North MP Rahim Dawood in collaboration with Hindu Samaj Meru and Narayan Seva Sansthan from India. The beneficiaries thanked the MP and stakeholders for reviving their hopes in life and making them active again in their daily activities. Godfrey Kinegeni, a motorcycle and tire repairer, expressed gratitude for the limb, which allowed him to walk to his workplace with ease. “I am very grateful to the MP for making it possible for me to receive this limb. I will now be able to get food for my family as well as money to educate my children,” said Kinegeni.

Construction Of Grade 9 Classrooms On Track, Education CS Assures

By: Sylvia Wanjohi
 @themtkenyatimes

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba, has assured that the construction of classrooms designated for Grade 9 is underway in phases.

He noted that the first 3,500 classrooms are reportedly complete, while the second phase, comprising 7,500 classrooms, stands at 57 percent completion, and a third phase of 5,000 classrooms is in various stages of construction.

The CS was speaking yesterday when he supervised the distribution of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination papers at the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) container at the Kabete Deputy County Commissioner's Office.

"We anticipate, and we are looking forward to ensuring that by the time we open schools in January, the 16,000 classrooms that were assessed will be in place," said Ogamba.

On educational materials, Ogamba noted that textbooks for Grade 9 have

already been published, with distribution ongoing since October.

The Ministry, he noted, is pushing to ensure that each student will have access to a textbook by the start of the term.

"We have asked principals and deputies to remain at school to receive these books during the break so that the one-to-one textbook ratio is achieved," he stated.

The CS also addressed the issue of teacher deployment, noting that 20,000 new teachers are being recruited to meet the demands of the new curriculum.

Additionally, Ogamba confirmed that 46,000 teachers have been made permanent and pensionable, with ongoing retooling efforts by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) to adequately staff Grade 9 classrooms.

"Together with TSC, we're working to meet these staffing needs to ensure Grade 9 learners receive the required instruction," he added.

Ogamba's visit comes as KCSE exams approach their final week, with additional security measures in place to ensure the credibility of this year's examinations.

Ogamba emphasised the Ministry's



commitment to the integrity of this year's exams while also highlighting key developments for Grade 9 classrooms and resources.

The CS also addressed concerns about exam malpractice and confirmed multiple arrests of individuals in Siaya and Eldoret who allegedly attempted to interfere with the KCSE

exams.

"So far, there are a number of arrests that have taken place. I want to inform Kenyans that once the investigations and the arrests are done, we will be able to reveal the extent of the cartels that are involved in these particular attempts and proceed with the prosecutions and ensure that whoever

is involved faces the full force of the law," Ogamba said.

The government is prepared to transition grade 8 students to grade 9 under the new Competence Based Curriculum (CBC), with ongoing preparations for the Grade 9 curriculum set to commence in January.

Gov't Plans To Double Ewaso Ngiro Tannery's Leather Production Capacity

By: John Kaleke
 @themtkenyatimes

The government has announced plans to expand the Ewaso Ngiro tannery's annual output from 1,200 metric tonnes to 2,400 metric tonnes, doubling leather production capacity.

This increase is equivalent to 4.8 million square feet of leather, hence positioning Kenya as a strong player in the leather industry within the region.

During a site visit to the Ewaso Ngiro tannery and leather factory, Ngala Oloiptip, Managing Director of the Ewaso Ngiro South Development Authority (ENSDA), detailed updates on the project expansion.

Oloiptip said that the expansion is ongoing following the installation of new machinery that is set for a test run in December 2024 in readiness for full operation.

He encouraged local suppliers to prepare to meet the factory's expanded demand for hides, stressing that



the facility will require a steady supply to maintain full operations.

"Our goal is to double production capacity, not only increasing output but also enhancing the quality and variety of products available," Oloiptip said.

The Managing Director emphasized the fact that the project is financially sustainable, with government backing to ensure successful implementation.

Oloiptip called on stakeholders to support the ambitious project. He urged the county government to help

monitor and improve hide quality and encouraged learning institutions to train future factory workers.

"This expansion will create new job opportunities and drive economic growth, and we need all hands-on deck," he added.

Engineer Anderson Korir, from the Presidential Delivery Unit and also the secretary to the County Implementation and Coordination Management Committee (CICMC), reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing challenges in manufacturing.



"We're working closely with ENSDA to overcome hurdles like skin quality, and we urge locals to adopt advanced branding methods such as hydrogen branding to preserve hide quality," Korir noted.

He praised ENSDA management for their dedication to progress in the leather sector, recognising the facility as a key asset for the region's economy.

Narok County Commissioner Kipketch Lotiatia stressed the importance of adopting modern techniques to maintain hide quality.

"Traditional branding like the use of hot metal rods have compromised skin quality. Transitioning to new technologies is essential for producing hides that meet factory standards and satisfy international demand," he said.

With all efforts aligned, the expanded tannery is set to become a cornerstone of Kenya's leather industry, driving local economic growth and establishing the nation as a key supplier of quality leather products in the region.

Kenya Leads Global Climate Action With Greener Transportation Solutions

By: Joseph Kamolo Mutua
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “Kenya appreciates the long-standing partnership with the US in the shipping and maritime sector, ports and associated infrastructure development, and related areas of cooperation.” said the speech read on his behalf by Engineer Michael Muchiri.
- The PS acknowledged that the transport sector contributes about 20% of our national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, where shipping in particular contributes about 3% of global emissions.

The Government is committed to collaboration, peer review, and exchange forums to share greener practices in sustainable and green port development.

Principal Secretary for Transport Mohammed Daghar, while officially opening a workshop in Nairobi on Developing Sustainable and Green Ports, said Kenya is keen on decarbonisation, alternative energy sources, digitalisation, smart port technologies, and building capacity in sustainable port development and operations.

PS Daghar reiterated that Kenya has taken impressive strides on zero emissions in transportation, which is resource intensive considering it is a developing country, thus the need for more investment to achieve its targets through cooperation with Development Partners.

“Kenya appreciates the long-standing partnership with the US in the shipping and maritime sector, ports and associated infrastructure development, and related areas of cooperation.” said the speech read on his behalf by Engineer Michael Muchiri.

The PS acknowledged that the transport sector contributes about 20% of our national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, where shipping in particular contributes about 3% of global emissions.

“Although Kenya does not have a huge registry of vessels, it is strategically located on the East African coast and therefore serves neighbouring landlocked countries of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Eastern DRC,” said PS Daghar.

In 2023, Kenya handled 35.98 million MT of cargo throughput and 1.62



million TEUs of containerised cargo, thus prompting the growing shipping and maritime sector to take a front seat in the decarbonisation of the shipping and maritime industry.

The Ministry of Roads and Transport reviewed the Integrated National Transport Policy (INTP), where the Government has committed to implement environmental sustainability actions that will ensure development in maritime transport, progressively reducing carbon footprint.

Transport infrastructure development is now framed on resilience against climate extremes, also known as Cli-

mate proofing. Develop engineering standards coupled with design manuals and long-term strategies for the development of a climate-resilient transport sector.

Necessary regulations have been put in place to prevent and address fuel spills and other hazardous materials, judicious selection of transport modes by shifting cargo from road to rail, refined petroleum products by pipeline, and development of inland waterway systems where congestion is lower and population exposure is limited.

Since 2023, the Ministry has been promoting adoption of greener and

cleaner mobility services, including supporting investments in electric vehicles, improved fuel-efficient vehicles, noise abatement in both vehicles and aircraft, modern aircraft technologies in aviation, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and market-based measures impacting carbon footprint.

The workshop brought together representatives from the US Department for Transportation, US Department for State, US Embassy Officials, CEOs from various State Departments and Agencies of the Republic of Kenya, CEOs of intergovernmental organisations, the private sector, and the media.

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Mau Mau War Veterans Laud Veteran Lawyer Lee Muthoga

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Mau Mau War Veterans have welcomed the United Nations Residual Mechanism of the International Criminal Tribunals Judge Lee Muthoga's release of his historical Autobiography.

Led by the association's National coordinator Mzee Gikonyo Wa Githiga, the elders said they take cognizance to the wide legal knowledge that Lee Muthoga has with legal documentation of the unsettled Mau Mau land disputes which former Attorney General Charles Njonjo clandestinely vetoed.

Lawyer Lee Muthoga was the custodian of late JM Kariuki's Documents which included and not limited to Mau Mau assets e.g land scattered separately in different parts of the

country.

JM Kariuki served as State House Private Secretary to the founding president Mzee Jomo Kenyatta as well as the founding Director National Youth Service and later as assistant minister Agriculture and Livestock as well as Tourism and Wildlife. They therefore have reason to believe that Muthoga has important documents that can unearth the hidden treasures of Mau Mau fighters that will benefit their descendants.

Meanwhile, the former freedom fighters support the decision by the Advisory Committee to transfer Amboseli National Park to the County Government of Kajiado. The Committee has consequently invited members of the public to a public participation exercise to ratify or reject the move on Tuesday next week from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi.

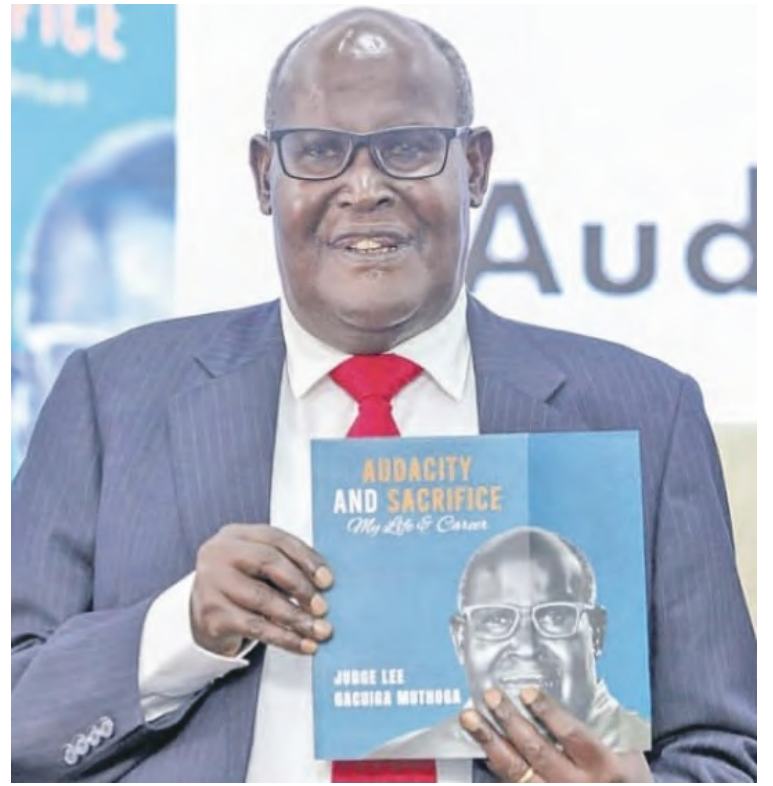
The association however demands

that the Commonwealth Secretariat make public the lease agreements between UK and Kenya governments on National Parks and Ranges whose leases have expired.

They further request the ministry of Tourism and Wildlife to make public movable and immovable properties of Kenya Tourism Board which is a state corporation established and regulated under Tourism Act 2011.

The association members will today visit Kikuyu Law Courts, Kiambu County to hear a case involving one of their own, Bishop Professor Eugene Kavune in solidarity.

Lee Muthoga



World Head Of ACK Resigns Over Pedophile Scandal As Church's Top Leader In Kenya Stares At Jail Term

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themkenyatimes

The head of Anglican Church in England has resigned over increased cases of children and youth sexual abuses. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby resigned after report investigative reports confirmed sexual child abuse scandals by priests, and subsequent concealing the heinous acts.

The Archbishop of Canterbury regretted the cover-up of child sex abuse by a barrister.

The Independent had made reviews of John Smyth abuse of boys and young men.

In scandals spanning over five decades in different countries, involved as many as 130 boy's and young men in the UK and Africa.

Smyth is said to have subjected his victims to traumatic physical, sexual, psychological and spiritual attacks permanently marking their lives.

In a resignation letter, Justin Welby said having sought the gracious permission of his Majesty the king, "I have decided to resign. It is very clear that I must take personal and institutional responsibility for the long



Archbishop Justin Welby

and re-traumatizing period between 2013-2024".

Locally, the head of ACK Archbishop Jackson ole Sapit has had to contend with similar issues and challenges in Mt Kenya West where some priests have been accused of the same shameful acts with some ending in court.

Archbishop ole Sapit may find himself jailed for contempt of court for failing to effect court orders issued by Justice Kizito Magare two weeks

ago demanding elections of a new diocesan bishop for Mt Kenya West after the retirement of Bishop Joseph Kagunda earlier this year.

The court ordered Ole Sapit to start the electioneering process by yesterday.

Meanwhile, in Kirinyaga county the diocesan bishop the Joseph

Kibucwa said if Court cases are not properly handed, we may create unnecessary crisis that can be avoided.

He was apparently referring to a



Pharis Muriithi.

court case filed in February Mr Pharis Muriithi, one of the church faithful, who was seeking orders to compel the respondents to adhere to the ACK constitution.

The bishop was speaking during the burial of the late Rev Edward Gichovi.



Bishop Edward Kibuchwa.

Powering Justice: How Solar Energy Is Reducing Case Backlogs In Kenya's Courts



By: Elizabeth Angira

In Kenya's rural and underserved regions, frequent power outages have long disrupted the flow of justice.

From halting hearings mid-proceeding to delaying essential document processing, the interruptions have led to prolonged case backlogs, leaving thousands of citizens waiting for justice.

However, a new solution has emerged in the form of solar-powered court systems, promising uninterrupted service and a significant reduction in delays.

Keeping the Lights On in the Courts

In Kenya Counties like parts of Narok County, courts have increasingly turned to solar energy as a reliable power alternative.

Chief Justice Martha Koome emphasizes the judiciary's commitment to sustainable green practices by prioritizing solar energy installations in courts.

She states that the installation of solar panels would eliminate service delays caused by power outages, ensuring uninterrupted court operations.

The Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya shared that the judiciary has already installed solar systems in 40 courts.

She cites that in the 2025-2026 financial year, the judiciary aims to expand this initiative to 107 additional courts to mitigate the effects of budget cuts.

Mokaya urges leaders to recognize the importance of funding the judiciary for such transformative projects.

Principal Judge Oscar Angote notes that the solar panel installations align with Kenya's environmental goals to combat degradation, reduce pollution, and address climate change.

He highlights that these solar installations will help lower the judiciary's carbon footprint, reduce electricity costs, and contribute to a greener, more sustainable Kenya.

Principal Judge Angote, where outages can last for days, explained, "We used to see cases postponed regularly due to power issues, sometimes for weeks. But with solar energy installed, we have reduced adjournments by almost 60%, helping us address the backlog." This shift towards solar-powered systems has enabled courts to operate independently of the grid, keeping essential services running regardless of power supply issues.

Efficiency

Chief Magistrate Kilgoris Law courts Mary Ngwaro illustrates the profound impact of this shift. "In the past, some cases would take months just because of a few hours of lost time due to power issues," she notes.

"With solar energy, we've been able to ensure that hearings proceed uninterrupted. It's not just about efficiency; it's about delivering on the promise of justice."

According to Ngwaro they are able to access the station email anytime and correspondences are responded to without delay. This has enabled communication to flow smoothly.

The officer also indicated that previously they had to wait for power to resume so as to type and update the cause list, fill succession forms and place court orders in the website.

"This would be an inconvenience to both the court users, litigants and even judicial officers but with the solar panel, it has been effective, ensuring that no delays both in typing and updating.

For citizens, the change is just as meaningful. Many Kenyans travel long distances to attend hearings, only to face rescheduling due to unexpected power outages. Affected citizens, such as Ruth Naseiku, who waited nearly a year for a property dispute resolution, describe the relief that solar-powered consistency brings. "I would come to court four times, and each time there was a power issue that delayed the case," she said. "But since they've installed solar, the case moved forward, and we finally got a verdict."

The Broader Benefits of Solar Energy in Justice

Beyond just improving access to timely justice, solar energy adoption in courts offers environmental and economic benefits.

Solar energy significantly reduces the operational costs of running court facilities, easing pressure on the judiciary's budget. Solar providers collaborating with the judiciary highlight the dual impact: the installation of solar panels in rural courts reduces the judiciary's carbon footprint while providing an affordable power solution that is sustainable in the end.

Moses Okello, a representative from Solar Solutions Kenya, one of the providers involved in these installations, emphasized the role of renewable energy in public services. "We're proud to partner with the judiciary in making justice more accessible. It's a perfect example of how solar can help transform institutions in Kenya, even beyond the courts."

COP 29

We are here to respond to a key challenge: turning the energy transition towards justice," says UN Secretary-General António Guterres, asking the participants at a roundtable discussion to weigh in on the work of his Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

The panel launched last year at



Chief Justice Martha Koome says that judiciary's commitment to sustainable green practices. Photo/Elizabeth Angira



The Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya says that the judiciary aims to install solar in 107 courts. Photo/Elizabeth Angira



Principal Judge Oscar Angote says that installation of solar panels align with Kenya's environmental goals. Photo/Elizabeth Angira.

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- Mokaya urges leaders to recognize the importance of funding the judiciary for such transformative projects.

COP28 in the United Arab Emirates with the aim of bringing together governments, international organizations, industry and civil society to develop common and voluntary principles to guide extractive industries "in the name of justice and sustainability".

In Baku COP 29, the UN chief, who convened at the event, says that the renewables revolution is powering forward. Last year – for the first time – the amount invested in grids and renewables overtook the amount spent on fossil fuels.

Potential for Expansion and Future Impact

The success of solar-powered courts has prompted discussions on expanding similar systems to other public institutions in Kenya.

Schools, health facilities, and administrative offices in underserved areas face similar power challenges,

and solar energy could provide a sustainable solution for them as well. This cross-sectoral approach to solar energy adoption could create a ripple effect, improving service delivery and supporting Kenya's commitment to renewable energy use.

According to the 2024 Renewable Energy Tracker Report by Climate Action Network, Kenya is on track to achieve 100% renewable energy deployment in the power sector by 2040, thanks to its substantial solar, hydro, wind, biomass, and geothermal resources.

"Kenya's renewable energy progress puts it on a path to reach 100% renewables by 2040, with aspirations for 2030, positioning it among the top 20 globally in renewable deployment relative to its economic size," the report noted.

The Whitman Legacy: Balancing Economic Gains And Democratic Values In US-Kenya Relations

By: James Kilonzo Bwire

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

Meg Whitman's resignation as U.S. Ambassador to Kenya marks a pivotal moment in the complex tapestry of U.S.-Kenya relations. Her departure, following Donald Trump's unexpected return to the presidency, has ignited a firestorm of debate about the role of diplomacy in an increasingly polarized world.

Whitman's tenure was characterized by a laser focus on economic ties, yielding impressive results in trade and investment. Her "Why Africa, Why Kenya?" initiative successfully attracted American companies, leading to historic highs in U.S. investment in Kenya. She also played a crucial role in elevating Kenya to the status of Major Non-NATO ally in sub-Saharan Africa, a significant diplomatic achievement.

However, Whitman's economic successes were overshadowed by controversies surrounding her approach to human rights and governance issues. Critics accused her of turning a blind eye to alleged abuses and aligning too closely with President William Ruto's administration. The

tension between promoting economic interests and upholding democratic values became a defining challenge of her tenure.

Particularly contentious was Whitman's perceived silence during the Gen Z protests in June, where Western diplomatic missions were criticized for their delayed response to violence. This incident highlighted the delicate balance diplomats must strike between maintaining positive relations with host governments and advocating for human rights and democratic principles.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga's relationship with Whitman was notably tumultuous. At one point, Odinga described her as a 'rogue ambassador,' accusing her of overstepping diplomatic boundaries and interfering in Kenya's internal affairs. This characterization reflected the deep-seated concerns among some Kenyans about the extent of U.S. influence in their country's politics. However, the relationship between Odinga and Whitman later showed signs of improvement, as evidenced by their joint appearances at public events, suggesting a complex and evolving dynamic between the opposition and the U.S. diplomatic presence.

Whitman's resignation amid calls

for her recall on social media underscores the growing influence of public opinion on diplomatic affairs. The hashtag #RecallMegWhitman trended on X (formerly Twitter), reflecting the frustration of some Kenyans with her perceived bias and lack of action on human rights issues.

As Kenya grapples with its own political and economic challenges, including concerns about democratic backsliding and economic inequality, the role of the U.S. ambassador becomes even more critical. The incoming envoy will need to navigate these complex issues while maintaining the economic momentum initiated by Whitman.

The transition period, led by Chargé d'Affaires Marc Dillard, will be crucial in maintaining the continuity of U.S.-Kenya relations. It also provides an opportunity for reflection on the broader goals of U.S. foreign policy in Africa under the new Trump administration.

Whitman's mixed legacy offers valuable lessons for future diplomats. It highlights the need for a more balanced approach that promotes economic interests while robustly defending democratic values and human rights. Clear and consistent communication on sensitive political



US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman

issues, as well as the ability to navigate domestic politics while representing U.S. interests, will be crucial skills for her successor.

As both countries look to the future, the experiences of Whitman's tenure will undoubtedly shape the evolving partnership between the United States and Kenya. The next ambassador will face the challenge of building on Whitman's economic achievements while addressing the criticisms that marked her time in office.

This transition comes at a critical juncture for both nations. As they

navigate complex global challenges, from climate change to regional security threats, the strength of the U.S.-Kenya partnership will be more important than ever. The next chapter in this relationship will require a delicate balance of economic pragmatism and unwavering commitment to shared democratic values, while also being mindful of the diverse political landscape in Kenya, including the perspectives of opposition leaders like Raila Odinga.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Youth From Underserved Communities In Meru Complete Business Skills Training

By: Dickson Mwiti

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

At least 375 young people drawn from 15 groups in Meru County have acquired basic business skills after undergoing a three-day training organised by Community Roads Empowerment (CORE), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) implementing road rehabilitation projects within Meru town.

The groups comprise beneficiaries of the NGO who participated in the 40 days of hands-on-the-job training on road rehabilitation using Do Nou technology and who are preparing to form companies revolving around aspects of road construction.

Funded by the Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) through the World Bank, CORE is trying to boost beneficiaries' social and economic

status by encouraging and supporting them to form companies and small micro-enterprises (SMEs) and registering them through the Huduma centres.

The training brought on board business experts, including officers from CORE, who took the participants through various topics, including a general overview of entrepreneurship, the roles of entrepreneurship in economic development, sources of business ideas, business opportunities, the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and sources of business finance, together with their advantages and disadvantages.

They also received some insights on keeping business records and its importance, types and why keep records, financial literacy, business planning, proposal writing, business risks and mitigation, and basic skills in bookkeeping, budgeting, and procurement.

Speaking during the training, CORE



Coordinator Amos Biwott called on the beneficiaries to take advantage of the opportunity to shape their future once and for all.

"This is a lifetime opportunity that has come to your doorstep. Such courses you are receiving for free today are usually paid for, and therefore you should take advantage of the opportunity you are being offered to make a good foundation for your future life," said Mr. Biwott.

CORE's project's first component entails capacity building and sustainability of labour-based road maintenance technology in the targeted communities, as well as enhancement of livelihood opportunities.

CORE's Safeguards Specialist Paul Mboya said the first component, which involved actual road construction, was meant to enhance the beneficiaries' capacity, while the formation of SMEs is meant to enhance

their livelihood opportunities.

"We are aiming not only to improve the road network but also to create job opportunities for young people. We are also targeting the creation of self-reliance in the community, and we want to give confidence to the community that they can do it on their own," said the project's Engineer, George Kaluma.

Rigathi's Impeachment As Kenya's Deputy President Sparks Backlash In His Home County Of Nyeri

By: Raymond Wanjohi
 @themtkenyatimes

The impeachment of Rigathi Gachagua as Kenya's Deputy President has sparked backlash in his home county of Nyeri, particularly among MPs who endorsed the motion.

But a group of local legislators who rejected the motion are now distancing themselves from what they describe as "blanket condemnation" from their constituents.

Before the impeachment vote in the National Assembly, Nyeri Woman Representative Rahab Mukami, alongside MPs John Kaguchia (Mukurwe-ini) and Geoffrey Wandeto (Tetu), announced their opposition to the motion, pledging to stand by Gachagua.

Conversely, MPs who supported the motion included Eric Wamumbi (Mathira), Njoroge Wainaina (Kiini), Maina Mathenge (Nyeri Town), and Wambugu Wainaina (Othaya). In the Senate, Senator Wahome

Wamatinga also endorsed the impeachment bid.

The controversy surrounding Gachagua's ouster has divided residents, with many blaming their MPs for the motion's success.

This division has fueled tension, with some local leaders now avoiding public appearances, including church services, for fear of being heckled.

Nyeri Woman Rep Rahab Mukami has responded to the growing criticism, claiming that residents are being misled into believing that all local MPs supported the impeachment. "It is unfair for our people to judge us collectively when some of us rejected the motion," she told the media in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Mukami emphasized that she is now focused on serving her constituents through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), which supports development projects in the region.

Meanwhile, in Mathira, Gachagua's home constituency, a group of resi-



Nyeri Woman Rep Rahab Mukami.

dents has started collecting signatures to demand the removal of MP Wamumbi, who supported the impeachment.

Wamumbi's support for the motion has led to significant public outcry, particularly from his constituents.

On Monday, Nyeri Town MP Maina Mathenge, a key ally of President

Ruto, faced a cold reception in Nyeri town while addressing matatu operators and traders, with the crowd loudly heckling him.

During the parliamentary debate, MP Geoffrey Wandeto sought to withdraw his signature from the impeachment motion but was blocked by Speaker Moses Wetangula.

The Speaker explained that the National Assembly's Standing Orders do not allow MPs to retract their support once a signature has been added to a special motion.

"Once you append a signature to a special motion, you have crossed the Rubicon and cannot withdraw it," Wetangula stated.



Social Health Insurance Fund Is Working



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- For the first time, SHIF has been offering a comprehensive medical cover to both inpatient and outpatient in public and private hospitals it has signed a contract with.
- Contrary to the impression created, the biggest beneficiaries are those suffering from critical/chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetic and high blood pressure.
- This medical cover, no matter one's economic status, is giving them a chance to live. The cover caters for the medical bills and ensures the patients get proper and quality treatment.
- For doubting Thomases and critics of President William Ruto, I wish to refer them to Makueni Level-Five Hospital. There were a number of patients suffering from cancer who were currently being admitted there.

Recently, I listened to Kipipiri MP Wanjiku Muhia during a recent interview with iNooro TV.

In response to the list of healthcare benefits lined up by the proponents that those who have registered with Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance (SHIF) continued getting, she has stated. This is not true. This thing called SHA is not working.

In trying to justify her claims, she cited one case where a patient in one of the hospitals in her constituency was allegedly asked to pay the medical bills from out-of-pocket.

The medical cover of this patient had been updated and personal details transferred to SHIF. This patient is battling a terminal illness, she further alleged.

She did not reveal the name of the patient and the name of hospital where the patient was receiving treatment. This raised the question. Were her remarks factual or she was just playing politics?

It is worth noting she is leaning towards a political camp that is opposed to President Ruto's leadership.

My take is that Social Health Authority (SHA) is indeed revolutionizing healthcare in Kenya.

For the first time, SHIF has been offering a comprehensive medical cover to both inpatient and outpatient in public and private hospitals it has signed a contract with.

Contrary to the impression created, the biggest beneficiaries are those suffering from critical/chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetic and high blood pressure.

This medical cover, no matter one's economic status, is giving them a chance to live.

The cover caters for the medical bills

and ensures the patients get proper and quality treatment.

For doubting Thomases and critics of President William Ruto, I wish to refer them to Makueni Level-Five Hospital.

There were a number of patients suffering from cancer who were currently being admitted there.

The medical reports prepared by the Oncology department show that they were responding well to treatment. Some had recovered and were waiting for the doctors to approve their discharge.

The patients interviewed were upbeat about the services offered by SHA.

Since SHA came, things have changed for better. SHA through Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) is not only paying our bills but also ensuring we are getting quality treatment.

Makueni hospital is just one of the success stories. SHA is making a difference in many hospitals across the country.

These success stories came in the wake of the recent media campaign apparently sponsored by those opposed to SHA/SHIF.

One of the station showed an image of an old man, who is battling a chronic terminal ailment, and narrated his story.

It alleged that the man had gone for days without taking drugs and receiving critical treatment.

This is because his family did not have the cash for these services.

This TV station wanted Kenyans to believe that his woes started soon after the government rolled out Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Before, the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) cover was allegedly catering for his medical expenses.

To me, this story had been cooked and

reeked of sheer/cheap propaganda and rumors.

By showing the images of this man and disclosing his name to show he hailed from Kalenjin community, this left no doubt the station was championing the narrative of the critics of President William Ruto.

One would have expected this station to carry out investigations on this matter before airing the story.

For instance, visiting the hospital where this mzee was treated and find out.

First, why he was discharged? Secondly, Did he have a medical cover? Had his personal data been successfully transferred to SHIF? Had that hospital signed a contract with SHA?

Notably, Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) are key pillars of UHC.

In a simple language, the two are the main houses.

Since the transition to SHA, we have had a number of successful stories on patients suffering from critical/illnesses receiving proper and quality treatment and their medical bills cleared by SHIF fund.

Just two days ago, doctors at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) conducted a delicate surgery of kidney transplant. The patient is now recuperating and SHIF is catering for all needs of this patient via its numerous packages.

If this station meant well, one would have expected its reporters to visit this patient and other patients admitted in other hospitals who were benefiting from SHA.

Consequently, the station should have aired these as success stories.

The rollout of SHA confirms President

William Ruto is delivering on the promises he made during the campaign.

Ensuring that Kenyans access affordable and quality healthcare stood out as one of his top priorities.

SHA/SHIF are created by an Act of Parliament. The data released a few days ago show that 13 million Kenyans have so far registered.

Under SHIF, the monthly payment is not pegged on a flat rate. The deductions from the payslips of those in formal employment is high. The rates for the poor and vulnerable Kenyans now ranges from Sh300 and Sh500. The government will pay monthly bills for the elderly and those with severe disabilities.

Unlike the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) which only catered for bed expenses for the in-patients, the new SHIF card is all-inclusive.

It is worth noting that the previous governments of President Mwai Kibaki and his successor Uhuru Kenyatta shared a similar dream. But they had made very little progress by the time each completed his two-five-year constitutional terms.

The critics of President Ruto are envious of this success. This is because they know SHA will shape up his legacy in a big way. Their efforts to sabotage this noble course have continued to hit a dead end. This is because majority of Kenyans fully support the President.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Traders Endorse Waiguru's Plan To Put Up Another Ultra-Modern Market At Kagio

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “This expansion is long overdue, the old market has served as well but it can no longer accommodate all of us. We want to laud our Governor Waiguru for her effort to ensure we have a conducive environment for business,” she said.
- Other traders said the new market should among other things have adequate parking for vehicles, adequate space for movement and for display of fresh produce apart from other amenities like toilets, adequate supply of water, perimeter wall for security and electricity.
- Hannah Nyambura, a fresh produce vendor expressed optimism that the ultra-modern market would help end fights for display spaces among the fresh produce traders and help bring in more customers.

Traders at Kagio town in Kirinyaga County have endorsed the planned construction of an ultra-modern market to end congestion at the fresh produce facility.

The traders says the two storey building is being put up by the County government in collaboration with the National Government under the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP).

Speaking during a public participation forum at the market, the traders said expansion of the facility was long overdue and lauded efforts by the County Government to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

Mary Nyawira, a potato trader at the market, said the proposed expansion of Kagio fresh produce market as it will help end congestion and create a conducive environment for business.

She said population of traders at the old facility has grown big and the market can no longer accommodate all inside therefore forcing some to display their wares outside.

“This expansion is long overdue, the old market has served as well but it can no longer accommodate all of us. We want to laud our Governor Waiguru for her effort to ensure we have a conducive environment for business,” she said.

Other traders said the new market should among other things have adequate parking for vehicles, adequate space for movement and for display of fresh produce apart from other amenities like toilets, adequate supply of water, perimeter wall for security and electricity.

Hannah Nyambura, a fresh produce vendor expressed optimism that the ultra-modern market would help end fights for display spaces among the fresh produce traders and help bring in more customers.

“We need more space and a clean environment. Due to the congestion the amenities in the market were not adequate, there has also been drainage issues because people were utilizing every available space. For those of us who sell perishable goods, we also need reliable electricity supply for refrigeration,” she said.

Peter Wangoci expressed joy that finally their plea for the expansion of the fresh produce market has been heard saying this will help bring in more produce and buyers from other parts of the country.

“Many of our customers and those bringing in fresh produce struggle to get parking space, which in turn discourages them from visiting the market. We need designated parking spaces,” Wangoci.



Governor Anne Waiguru with traders at Kagio town in Kirinyaga County ultra-modern market construction site



County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade and Industrialization Calbert Njeru said the proposed market is expected to serve an additional 1000 traders.

Njeru said the public participation forum was necessary so as to buy in the support and suggestion from the traders who will be the end user.

“Our Governor Anne Waiguru has successfully lobbied or the construction of another market here and therefore that is why we are gathering opinion from the traders on how they would want the market to be designed,” he said.

He said the designs for the market includes; a social hall, more organized market stalls, better sanitation facilities and a drainage system. The plans also feature ample parking spaces to ease congestion and improve access to the market.

Governor Anne Waiguru says 11 markets are being constructed in Kirinyaga under the ESP initiative with construction work for Mukarara, Kimbimbi and Kibingoti markets having already started.

She said her administration has over the years constructed a total of 17 modern markets, the latest being Togonye in Murinduko ward and Riakiania in Mukure Ward whose construction was completed a few months ago.

Kagio town boasts of three other markets built during Governor Waiguru's tenure among them; Kagio Cereals market, Fresh Produce market and Kagio Cloths Market.

The other markets includes; Kutus, Kerugoya, Kagumo, Kiamutugu, Wang'uru, Makutano Market, Makutano Tomato Aggregation Centre, Sagan, Kerugoya Fruits Market Sheds,

Kibingoti, Githure, Karumande and Gathoge.

Waiguru noted that the modern markets are responsive to the contemporary needs of our growing towns and trading centers and they incorporate the requisite amenities such as solid waste disposal bins, parking lots, reliable water and electricity supply and efficient drainage systems.

Kiine Member of County Assembly (MCA) Geoffrey Murimi, expressed his commitment to ensuring that the expansion of the market is inclusive and reflects the needs of the traders.

“We are here today to listen to you, the traders, this market belongs to you and we want your input to ensure the development meets your needs and provides a lasting solution to the challenges you face,” Murimi told the traders.

Advisory On Staying Safe On Social Media In This Digital Age:- We're In An Attention Economy Says Dr Ekrah



By: Dr. Ekrah Ndungu
@themkenyatimes



In today's interconnected world, social media platforms have become an essential tool for personal expression, professional networking, and staying updated. In today's world, it is absolutely important that you're visible online. Visibility is credibility today. If you offer professional services be visible online with your names and authenticate your accounts with the blue tick to enhance credibility. You can't be online on pseudo and expect to close clients. Leave positive reviews on friends posts, like their posts too to increase engagement.

However, while the benefits of social media visibility are undeniable, there are increasing concerns about personal security, privacy breaches, and cyber threats. As mentor, I want to offer some vital guidelines on how to balance the need to be visible online with ensuring your safety. I've over 100,000 followers on tiktok and over 15,000 followers on Facebook...when I monitor my inbox, I see how exposed particularly our young people can be. Social media is a networking space, it's not a space to dish out your life 100%. While speaking to leaders I like reminding leaders that your private life is like a nuclear code, it's not for social attention and not everything is for public consumption. So that in case of cyber bullying which is very prominent in Kenya your life is spared. A clergy will advise you to maintain privacy to avoid informing monitoring spirits.

Use your platforms to show your expertise, to inspire and to mentor others. That's my view in today's world.

1. Understand the Risks

Social media is not just about sharing moments; it's also a platform where sensitive personal data can be exploited. Cybercriminals often target individuals for identity theft, phishing

attacks, or even stalking. Your digital footprint can be used to manipulate or deceive you in various ways. Be aware of the risks before posting any personal information. We have seen people getting tricked to death especially women. In today's world when you visit someone's social media you can tell their personality.

2. Review and Customize Privacy Settings

Many users leave their privacy settings on default, which can expose their data to a wide audience. Take time to understand and customize the privacy settings on each platform. Limit who can see your posts, if you are not a public figure. Limit who can message you, and who can access your personal details like location, birthday, and contact information. Make your profile viewable only to trusted people. However if you're a leader or a public figure then everything you share is for public consumption since you're a person of interest. In such instances only share what's really for public interest and good for public consumption. Avoid sharing personal problems on social media. Your problems require personal attention not public attention. We've seen people getting trolled to depression, cyber bullying can lead to suicide, sometimes avoidable if you're keen on sharing.

3. Think Before You Post

It's essential to think twice before posting anything online. Personal details such as your home address, phone number, or upcoming travel plans can be misused by cybercriminals.

Even seemingly harmless posts, like photos with your family or your child's school name, could be leveraged in identity theft or scams. Always ask yourself, "Is this information necessary for public sharing?" Sometimes you read horrible stories of abduction, but people got this information from people's social media.

4. Use Strong Passwords and Two-Factor Authentication

Weak or reused passwords are one of the easiest ways for hackers to gain access to your accounts. Use complex, unique passwords for each of your social media accounts and enable two-factor authentication (2FA) wherever possible. This adds an extra layer of security, making it harder for unauthorized users to break into your accounts.

5. Be Wary of Scams and Phishing Attempts

Phishing attacks are common on social media, where malicious links are shared via messages or posts that seem to come from trusted sources. Be cautious about unsolicited messages or links that ask for sensitive information. Never click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious contacts. I've personally been a victim of this, thank God I've IT skills I'd done a bit of programming & ICT courses in my young years I was able to counter thus fast before shameful posts got to my pages. This got me thinking of a CEO.

A leader without IT knowledge, my advice delegate your accounts to people who are tech knowledgeable.

6. Limit Geotagging

Geotagging, the practice of tagging your location in posts or photos, can be dangerous. While it might seem fun to share where you are in real time, it exposes your whereabouts to potential threats. Limit the use of geotags, especially when posting about your home, daily routine, or when you're traveling...not unless you're running a live. Social media is the new "media house". Report your whereabouts as news. Eg Today I attended ABC conference learnt ABCD...On the same note also be careful on who you pose for photos with just like car pooling with strangers. It can you in problems not unless you're a celebrity and you need to bond with your fans.

7. Monitor Your Digital Footprint

Regularly search for your name and information online to see what's publicly available. Set up alerts for your name or other personal identifiers using tools like Google Alerts, which will notify you if new content associated with your name appears on the web. In today's world people search you online before they meet you. Keep your online CV attractive and clean where possible.

8. Educate Yourself and Your Family

It's crucial to stay informed about the latest security threats and trends on social media. Educate your family, especially younger members, about the importance of maintaining privacy and recognizing potential dangers online. Children and teens can be particularly vulnerable to online predators or cyberbullying.

9. Separate Personal and Professional Profiles

If possible, keep your personal and professional social media accounts separate. This helps maintain a clear boundary between your private life and work-related matters, reducing the chances of unwelcome attention or misuse of professional information for personal gain.

10. Be Skeptical of Third-Party Apps

Many social media platforms allow you to link third-party apps and services. These apps can sometimes collect more data than necessary or have weak security measures. Be selective about which apps you allow to connect to your accounts, and regularly review the permissions you've granted them.

Conclusion:

While visibility on social media is often necessary for personal and professional growth, it's crucial to approach it with caution. By understanding the risks and implementing the right security measures, you can stay safe while still enjoying the benefits of being online. Remember, your privacy and safety should always be a priority.

Stay informed, stay vigilant, and keep your digital life secure...speak to your children about often since they're digital natives. Everyone's safety is important.

Dr. Ekrah Ndungu
Chairperson KENAPCO
Kenya National Association of Private Colleges

Vini Srivastava



Place of birth – Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

How did your personal life experience influence your book?

My personal experiences have greatly shaped my book, particularly through my active listening and observing skills. These abilities allow me to capture subtle nuances in people's interactions and emotions, which I bring into the narrative to create authentic and relatable characters. Additionally, my inspiration from modern love—its complexities, evolving dynamics, and the ways people connect in today's world—has influenced my exploration of relationships, helping to create a story that resonates with contemporary readers.

What motivates you?

As an introvert, writing gives me a comfortable space to express my thoughts and emotions, especially those that might be difficult to convey in person. My motivation stems from a deep desire to share the true meaning of love with the world—its depth, its honesty, and its transformative power. Writing allows me to explore and communicate this essence, hoping that my words inspire others to understand and experience love in its most genuine form.

Achievement

I'm proud of several achievements in my writing journey. I have a book titled *One Sided Relationship* available on Amazon and an ebook on Google Books. Additionally, I secured the 96th rank in a writing competition called *Hashtag Kalakar*. My poetry has also been featured in nearly 70 anthologies, allowing me to share my voice with a wider audience and connect with readers on a deeper level.

Challenges

My personal experiences have greatly shaped my book, particularly through my active listening and observing skills. These

abilities allow me to capture subtle nuances in people's interactions and emotions, which I bring into the narrative to create authentic and relatable characters. Additionally, my inspiration from modern love—its complexities, evolving dynamics, and the ways people connect in today's world—has influenced my exploration of relationships, helping to create a story that resonates with contemporary readers.

Awards

The greatest award in my writing journey has been the unwavering support of my parents. Supporting a daughter who writes on romance is no easy task, and their encouragement has been invaluable to me. Additionally, launching my book on Amazon felt like a significant award in itself. Seeing my work published and available for readers was incredibly fulfilling and marked a major milestone in my career.

Future plans

My future plans in writing are deeply rooted in my passion and purpose. I aim to continue writing until my last breath, reaching as many people as possible with my words. Bringing the true essence of love back into the world will always be my mission, as I hope to inspire readers to see love in its most authentic, transformative form. Through my writing, I aspire to leave a lasting impact that resonates with hearts across generations.

What advice will you give to younger writer?

My personal experiences have greatly shaped my book, particularly through my active listening and observing skills. These abilities allow me to capture subtle nuances in people's interactions and emotions, which I bring into the narrative to create authentic and relatable characters. Additionally, my inspiration from modern love—its complexities, evolving dynamics, and the ways people connect in today's world—has influenced my exploration of relationships, helping to create a story that resonates with contemporary readers.

Where can readers find your writings?

You can find my writings in several places. My book *One Sided Relationship* is available on Amazon, and another book, *A Glance at Social Concerns*, can be found on Google Books. I also have other works available on Flipbook HTML5. For more frequent updates and insights, you can follow my Instagram page, @passionatewriter_123, and check out my YouTube channel, @passionatewriter1458.

Teaching Methods In Foreign Language Instruction



By Pulatova Xilola

Abstract: Teaching foreign languages effectively requires diverse methods to address the varied needs, learning styles, and goals of students. Over the years, numerous approaches have emerged, each with distinct characteristics and strengths. This article explores some of the most widely used foreign language teaching methods, including Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task-Based Learning (TBL), the Direct Method, and others. The focus is on understanding how these methods prioritize communication, fluency, grammar, and cultural understanding to facilitate language acquisition. Additionally, the article highlights the importance of adapting methods to fit learners' needs and the evolving nature of language education, especially with the integration of technology and blended learning approaches.

Keywords: Foreign language teaching, language acquisition, teaching methods, Communicative Language Teaching, Task-Based Learning, Direct Method, Grammar-Translation Method, Blended Learning, language education, language proficiency. Learning a foreign language can be a transformative experience, not only expanding one's linguistic abilities but also offering insights into different cultures, ideologies, and worldviews. However, achieving fluency requires more than just memorizing vocabulary and grammar rules—it demands effective teaching methods that foster communication, critical thinking, and real-world application. Various methods have been developed over the years to facilitate language acquisition, each with its own set of principles, strategies, and objectives. In this article, we explore the most common and effective methods used in foreign language teaching today. Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) emphasizes the practical use of language for communication. The core idea of CLT is that language is best learned when it is used in authentic, meaningful interactions. Instead of focusing primarily on grammar rules, CLT encourages students to engage in activities such as debates, role-playing, and problem-solving tasks that simulate real-world communication. **Focus on communication:** Activities are designed to promote speaking, listening, reading, and writing for real-life purposes. **Fluency over accuracy:** Students are encouraged to communicate even if it means making mistakes, with the emphasis on effective communication rather

than perfect grammar.

Student-centered approach: Learners are active participants, working collaboratively in pair or group settings.

Closely related to CLT, Task-Based Learning (TBL) focuses on completing specific tasks that require students to use the language to solve problems or create outcomes. Tasks such as planning a trip, writing an email, or conducting an interview help learners acquire language in context while practicing both linguistic and cognitive skills.

Real-world tasks: Tasks mirror authentic situations where language would be used in daily life.

Focus on outcomes: Success is measured by how well the task is completed, not necessarily by the accuracy of grammar or pronunciation.

Collaboration: Students often work in groups or pairs to complete tasks, promoting peer interaction and language practice.

TBL encourages active, problem-solving learning.

It focuses on practical language skills and builds confidence in using the language in diverse contexts. The Direct Method is an immersion-based approach that rejects translation and grammar explanations in favor of natural language learning. In this method, lessons are conducted entirely in the target language, and grammar is introduced inductively, allowing students to infer rules through context and usage.

No translation: Language is taught through demonstration and context rather than translation from the native language.

Emphasis on oral skills: The primary focus is on speaking and listening, with grammar learned implicitly.

Inductive grammar teaching: Grammar rules are taught through examples, not explicit explanation.

Advantages: This method is highly effective for building speaking and listening skills and helps learners think in the target language, facilitating faster acquisition of fluency.

The Grammar-Translation Method is one of the oldest and most traditional language teaching methods, primarily used for teaching classical languages. It places heavy emphasis on grammar rules and vocabulary through translation exercises and rote memorization.

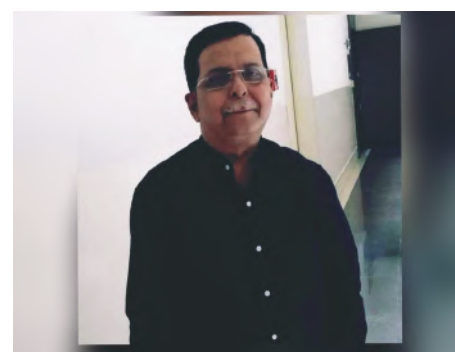
Focus on grammar: The method is based on learning explicit grammatical rules and translating sentences between languages.

Reading and writing: It emphasizes reading comprehension and written translation skills over speaking or listening.

Lack of speaking practice: This method is often criticized for not fostering conversational skills or real-world language use.

It is particularly effective for learners who wish to understand the structure of a language, especially for reading complex texts. It also builds a strong foundation in grammar.

Silent Love



She is not Love, She is not Love...
She is a Friend, Looks like a Ghost...
She is Cute, Voice like a Flute...
In the world of Falsehood, she is True...
Age wise she is elder to me, but looks young...
There's this Girl, I Love her...!

Achyut Umarji

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

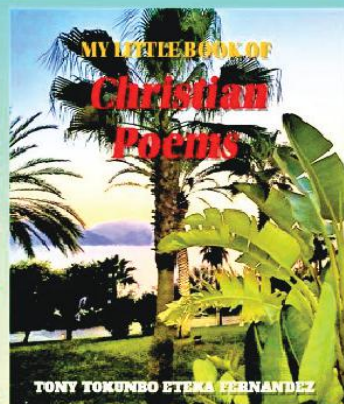
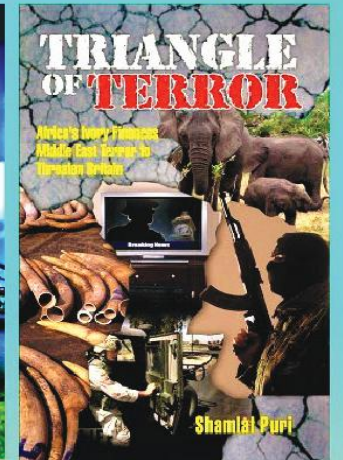
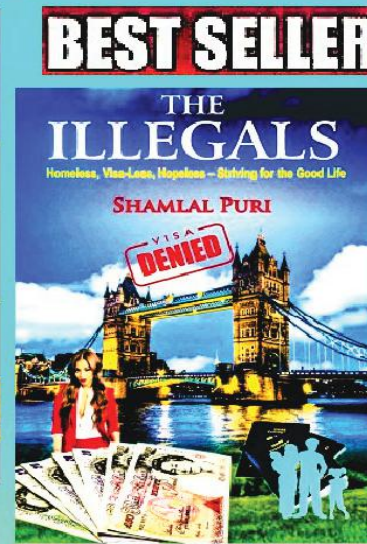
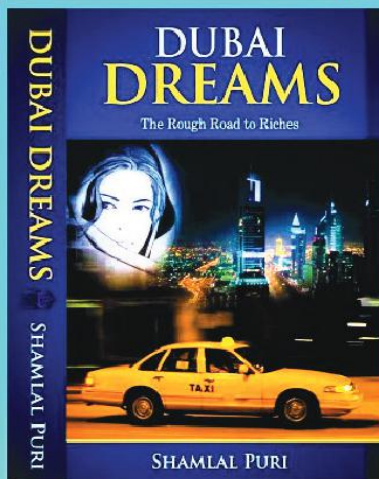
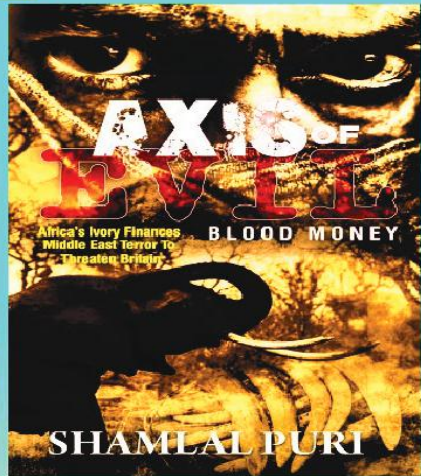
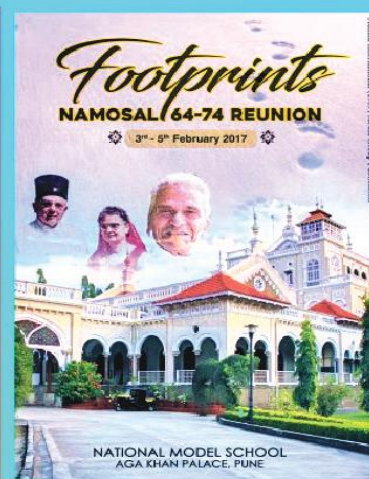
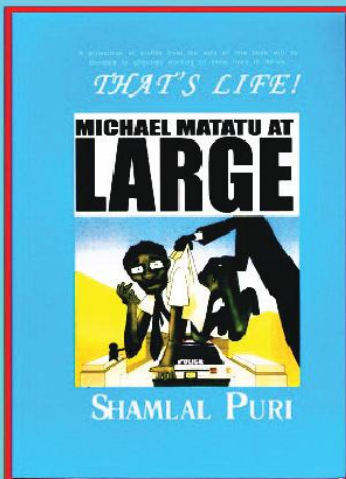
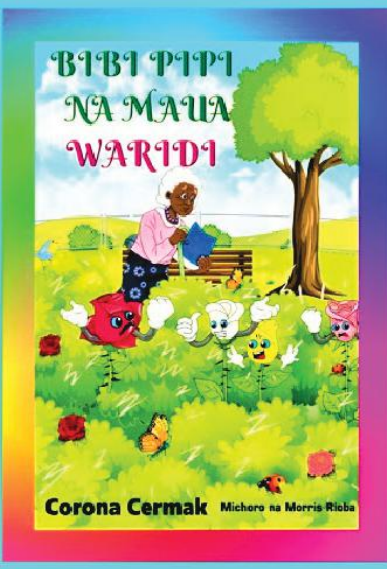
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BUSINESS

Kenya Launches Policy Toolkit to Boost Gig Economy Growth

By: Raymond Wanjohi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Ken Mwenda, Managing Director and Co-founder of eMobilis, emphasized that the toolkit reflects extensive research and consultations with more than 190 stakeholders, including gig workers, employers, and policy-makers.
- “As a leader in digital skills training, we are witnessing firsthand the transformative potential of Kenya’s gig economy,” said Mwenda. “This guide provides a clear path to creating an environment where gig workers can access better opportunities, and businesses can confidently invest in this rapidly expanding sector.”
- Mwenda highlighted that the policy guide is grounded in the experiences of those most affected by the sector’s growth, ensuring that it reflects the real needs and aspirations of gig workers.

Kenya’s burgeoning gig economy, a key player in the country’s digital economy, is set for further growth with the launch of a new toolkit titled “A Policy Guide for Digital Economy Progress.”

Developed by the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy (MICDE) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, eMobilis Technology Institute, and Africa Practice, the toolkit provides a comprehensive roadmap for reforming Kenya’s digital gig economy and supporting its sustainable development.

The initiative is expected to benefit over one million gig workers and businesses, creating a more equitable and resilient digital economy. The guide outlines policy proposals aimed at addressing key challenges faced by gig workers while promoting the sector’s long-term growth.

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“As a leader in digital skills training, we are witnessing firsthand the transformative potential of Kenya’s gig economy,” said Mwenda. “This guide provides a clear path to creating an environment where gig workers can access better opportunities, and businesses can confidently invest in this rapidly expanding sector.”

Mwenda highlighted that the policy guide is grounded in the experiences of those most affected by the sector’s growth, ensuring that it reflects the real needs and aspirations of gig workers.

The gig economy, which connects workers with clients through digital platforms, has seen rapid growth in Kenya. However, the sector faces challenges such as limited legal protections for workers and issues like algorithmic bias on global platforms.

Richard Kiplagat, Managing Director for East Africa and Group Chief Commercial Officer at Africa Practice, described the policy guide as a crucial step toward shaping a fairer and more sustainable gig economy.

“By addressing regulatory gaps and advocating for stronger worker protections, this guide aims to create a digital ecosystem where Kenya’s young people can thrive and compete on the global stage,” Kiplagat said.



The co-founder and managing director of eMobilis Ken Mwenda hands over the Policy Guide for Digital Economy Progress to Anwar Ahmed who was the representative from the Ministry of Trade and Investment. The guide’s launch event brought together ICT stakeholders at Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi. PHOTO BY RAYMOND WANJOHI.

The policy guide presents a range of solutions, including recommendations on legal status, wage protection, occupational health and safety, and social protections for gig workers. It also proposes expanding special economic zones to accommodate the global nature of gig work.

At the launch event, held at Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi, a diverse group of policymakers, industry leaders, gig workers, and media representatives gathered to discuss how the policy guide can drive positive change in Kenya’s gig economy.

Stakeholders highlighted that the gig economy has made a substantial contribution to Kenya’s ICT sector, with its share of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growing from 1.4 percent in 2017 to 2.4 percent in 2021. Many workers in Kenya’s informal sector are also employed within the gig economy.

The toolkit advocates for a systems-change approach, aiming to strengthen the connection between labor protection and a favorable business environment for digital labor platforms and business-process out-

sourcing enterprises. It outlines five key interventions designed to balance the interests of workers, businesses, and government, with the goal of fostering a more inclusive and sustainable digital economy.

As the policy guide is rolled out, stakeholders hope it will serve as a model for other African countries seeking to harness the potential of the digital economy. With the right policies in place, Kenya is positioned to solidify its standing as a leader in digital innovation on the continent.



The co-founder and managing director of eMobilis Ken Mwenda addressing ICT stakeholders during the launch of a toolkit dubbed “Policy Guide for Digital Economy Progress” at Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi. PHOTO BY RAYMOND WANJOHI.

Government Launches Strategic Plan to Revitalize Kenya's Coffee Sector

By: David Kasuku and Cynthia Masibo

@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development has unveiled an ambitious Strategic Plan 2023-2027 for the New Kenya Planters Cooperative Union (New KPCU), marking a significant milestone in Kenya's coffee industry. The launch event, held at a hotel in Nairobi, was attended by top officials, cooperative leaders, and other stakeholders, with CS Wycliffe Oparanya, delivering a comprehensive vision to revitalize Kenya's coffee sector.

In his remarks, CS Oparanya underscored the critical role coffee plays in Kenya's economy, highlighting that coffee remains a leading foreign exchange earner and a vital livelihood source for many rural communities. He emphasized that coffee has been prioritized under the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) as part of its Agricultural and MSME pillars, demonstrating a commitment to bolstering the coffee sector and

strengthening financial inclusion for small-scale farmers.

"Today, we celebrate a crucial milestone for our coffee industry—an industry that serves as a cornerstone of Kenya's economy," stated Oparanya. He noted the close link between MSMEs and cooperatives, explaining that cooperatives are instrumental in resource mobilization, allowing MSMEs to access funds for investment and aggregation of coffee for efficient processing and marketing.

Kenya's coffee industry has demonstrated growth and resilience, with exports increasing to 47,957 metric tons in 2022/23, valued at USD 252.12 million, while domestic consumption has surged by 19%, with the number of coffee houses rising to 791 nationwide. However, challenges remain, as production declined by 6% due to erratic weather and the cyclical nature of coffee production. Nonetheless, the ministry projects production for the 2023/24 season to rebound to 54,800 metric tons, supported by seedling programs and enhanced fertilizer distribution.

Acknowledging the long-standing issues facing the sector, CS Oparanya detailed reforms under Executive Order No. 2 of 2023, aimed at addressing governance and operational



Government Launches Strategic Plan to Revitalize Kenya's Coffee Sector

challenges. These include the development of the Coffee Policy, the Coffee Bill, and the Cooperatives Bill 2024, which seek to enhance transparency and accountability within the industry. Furthermore, the restructuring of the Nairobi Coffee Exchange and the introduction of the Direct Settlement System have facilitated quicker payments to farmers, addressing long-standing complaints of delayed payments.

Oparanya also highlighted the expansion of the Coffee Cherry Advance Revolving Fund from KES 2.7 billion to KES 6.7 billion, increasing payments to farmers from

KES 20 per kilo to KES 80 per kilo. Additionally, modernization efforts at New KPCU aim to ensure it serves as a reliable miller and marketer for farmers in need.

To strengthen governance, the ministry is developing a Dividend Policy for cooperatives, ensuring that dividends are only declared when viable and to prevent borrowing to pay dividends. Additionally, a new code of ethics, modeled after the "Mwongozo" code for state corporations, is in development to provide a blueprint for effective cooperative management.

CS Oparanya concluded by express-

ing optimism for the future, urging stakeholders to unite under the new Strategic Plan to build a sustainable and prosperous coffee industry. "Together, we can sustain Kenya's coffee legacy, boost productivity, and uplift the livelihoods of our farmers and communities," he said.

The Strategic Plan 2023-2027 promises a transformative roadmap aimed at enhancing Kenya's position as a leading coffee producer in Africa and bolstering the livelihoods of coffee farmers across the nation.

Kenya Faces Persistent Threats from Violent Extremism, Says Interior PS Omollo

By: Cynthia Masibo

@themkenyatimes

Kenya's efforts to combat violent extremism remain crucial as the country continues to face threats from extremist groups, according to Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo. Speaking during the launch of the "Peace Building and Preventing Violent Extremism in East Africa Programme" in Nairobi, Omollo highlighted both the progress made and the enduring vulnerabilities in specific regions, including the capital, Nairobi.

Omollo pointed to several tragic incidents—such as the Westgate mall attack, Mpeketoni, Garissa University, DusitD2 complex, and most recently, the Shakahola mass graves—illustrating the ongoing challenges of religiously motivated violence in Kenya. "These occurrences un-

derscore the persistent threat of religiously motivated violence in our nation," he said, stressing the devastating impact of these attacks that have left Kenya in a state of heightened vigilance.

The PS emphasized that Kenya remains proactive in tackling these threats through targeted initiatives and policy frameworks. Among the government's strategies, he highlighted a peacebuilding effort launched by President William Ruto in March 2023 aimed at evaluating the nation's Peacebuilding Architecture. This framework is designed to address core conflict triggers, including identity-based conflicts, extremist ideologies, sensationalist media coverage, and economic challenges that often drive individuals toward radicalization.

Omollo also identified climate-related resource competition and border disputes, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions, as additional



PS. Omollo presiding over the official launch of the Regional Programme on Peace Building and Preventing Violent Extremism in East Africa at Kwetu, Nairobi. Photo courtesy: Ministry of Interior

factors fueling extremism. In these regions, he explained, extremists exploit existing grievances to further their agendas, exacerbating local tensions and increasing vulnerability to radicalization.

Highlighting the importance of community involvement, Omollo

called for sustainable peace efforts grounded in voluntary citizen participation. "Social cohesiveness and peace cannot be enforced; they must be willingly embraced by citizens to be fully guaranteed and sustainable," he remarked, stressing that true stability hinges on public engagement.

The launch event brought together various stakeholders committed to peace and security, as Omollo underscored Kenya's ongoing commitment to addressing this complex and evolving threats to ensure a safer future for all citizens.

The Impact Of Socioeconomic Disadvantage On Suicide Rates In Kenya: A Multi-Faceted Analysis



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The burden of educational inequality further exacerbates the situation. Despite Kenya's efforts to provide free primary education, many families still struggle with associated costs such as uniforms and books. Research from the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis indicates that individuals with incomplete primary education face a 60% higher risk of experiencing suicidal thoughts compared to those who completed secondary education, highlighting the protective role of education in mental health outcomes.
- Housing insecurity and informal settlement living conditions contribute significantly to psychological distress. Approximately 60% of Nairobi's population lives in informal settlements, where overcrowding, poor sanitation, and lack of basic amenities create an environment conducive to mental health deterioration.

In Kenya, approximately 1,408 people die by suicide annually according to the World Health Organization's 2021 statistics, with the rate being significantly higher among economically disadvantaged populations. This stark figure underscores a critical public health crisis that intersects deeply with the nation's socioeconomic challenges.

The relationship between poverty and mental health in Kenya presents a complex web of interconnected factors. Research conducted by the Kenya Mental Health Alliance shows that individuals living below the poverty line, approximately 36% of Kenya's population as of 2020, are three times more likely to experience severe depressive symptoms – a leading risk factor for suicide. This correlation becomes particularly evident in rural areas where access to mental health resources is severely limited.

Unemployment, especially among Kenya's youth population, serves as a significant contributor to suicidal behavior. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics reports that youth unemployment stood at 38.9% in 2021, with limited prospects for economic advancement creating a sense of hopelessness. Studies from the University of Nairobi's Department of Psychology have found that unemployed young adults are 2.5 times more likely to report suicidal ideation compared to their employed counterparts.

The burden of educational inequality further exacerbates the situation. Despite Kenya's efforts to provide free primary education, many families still struggle with associated costs such as uniforms and books. Research from the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis indicates that individuals with incomplete primary education face a 60% higher risk of experiencing suicidal thoughts compared to those who completed secondary education, highlighting the protective role of education in mental health outcomes.

Housing insecurity and informal settlement living conditions contribute significantly to psychological distress. Approximately 60% of Nairobi's population lives in informal settlements, where overcrowding, poor sanitation, and lack of basic amenities create an environment conducive to mental health deterioration. A longitudinal study by the African Population and Health Research Center found that residents of informal settlements report rates of depression and anxiety 40% higher than those in formal housing arrangements.



Gender inequality intersects critically with socioeconomic disadvantage in influencing suicide rates. Women in economically disadvantaged households face multiple burdens, including domestic violence, limited access to resources, and restricted decision-making power. The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey reveals that women from the lowest wealth quintile are 2.3 times more likely to experience severe psychological distress compared to those from the highest quintile.

Access to healthcare, particularly mental health services, remains a significant barrier for economically disadvantaged populations. With only 0.19 psychiatrists per 100,000 people in Kenya, according to the Ministry of Health, the treatment gap for mental health conditions reaches up to 90% in some rural areas. This shortage of mental health professionals disproportionately affects those who cannot afford private healthcare services.

Cultural stigma surrounding mental health, combined with economic hardship, creates a dangerous barrier to seeking help. Research from the Kenya Medical Research Institute indicates that in low-income communities, only 20% of individuals

experiencing suicidal thoughts seek professional help, often due to a combination of financial constraints and social stigma. This reluctance to seek help is particularly pronounced in traditional communities where mental health issues are often attributed to supernatural causes.

The impact of economic stress on family systems plays a crucial role in suicide risk. Studies from the Department of Sociology at Kenyatta University demonstrate that households experiencing severe financial strain show higher rates of family conflict, domestic violence, and substance abuse – all recognized risk factors for suicide. Children from these households demonstrate significantly higher rates of psychological distress and suicidal ideation.

Agricultural communities face unique challenges that contribute to suicide risk. Climate change-induced crop failures and subsequent economic losses have been linked to increased suicide rates in farming communities. Research from the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute shows that districts experiencing severe drought conditions report suicide rates 30% higher than the national average, particularly among small-scale farmers.

The cyclical nature of poverty and

mental health creates a particularly challenging situation. Economic hardship leads to poor mental health outcomes, which in turn can impair individual productivity and earning potential, further entrenching poverty. The Kenya Mental Health Policy Framework 2015-2030 acknowledges this relationship but implementation of interventions remains hampered by resource constraints.

Recent government initiatives show promise in addressing these interconnected challenges. The integration of mental health services into primary healthcare, expansion of national health insurance coverage, and poverty reduction programs have shown early positive results. However, data from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights suggests that without substantial increases in funding and systematic addressing of underlying socioeconomic inequalities, the impact of these initiatives may remain limited in reducing suicide rates among the most vulnerable populations.

The writer is a legal scrivener



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Treat Women With Dignity They Are Humans Too

The recent surge in violence against young women in Kenya, particularly university students, is an alarming trend that has shocked communities and drawn national attention. Over the past months, reports of campus women being brutally murdered have surfaced with heartbreaking frequency, sparking discussions on gender-based violence and the urgent need to protect our young women. These incidents expose a systemic issue within our society—a lack of

respect for women’s lives and a failure to address violence against them effectively.

Behind these statistics are real people with dreams, aspirations, and families who now face unimaginable grief. It is a stark reminder that we must strive to treat all individuals with respect, dignity, and compassion. These women were not just statistics or headlines but daughters, sisters, and friends who deserved to live free from fear.

Addressing this crisis requires a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, stricter enforcement of laws and a streamlined judicial process can ensure perpetrators face swift and certain justice. Strengthening the police response to gender-based violence and enhancing security measures around campuses and other vulnerable areas are immediate steps that can help. Community support systems and anti-violence campaigns need to be bolstered to foster awareness and

encourage reporting of suspicious behavior or harassment.

Education also plays a crucial role. Instilling values of respect, empathy, and equality from a young age can reshape societal norms, promoting non-violence and respect for all individuals. Campus institutions should foster environments where students feel safe and supported, providing resources for mental health and protection for those who feel threatened. These lives are precious, and we

owe it to them to ensure they are not forgotten. Kenya must come together to end this scourge, reaffirming that no one should live in fear or lose their life simply for being who they are. Treating each other with dignity and respect is fundamental; after all, humanity is what binds us all.

*Perpetual John And Linet Musya.
Rongo University Media Students.*

Kigumo Sub County TVET Awareness, Career Guide And Recruitment Campaign Kicks Off

By: **Gitau wa Kung'u**

Yesterday, Kigumo Technical Training College (TVC) administration kicked off a campaign to increase admission of unemployed Kigumo Sub County youths for technical and business courses.

The program shall engage KCPE and KCSE graduates (2000-2023) for courses ranging from Grades 3-6. Youths without KCPE certificates are also considered. 2024 KCSE candidates shall also be considered for short courses in January intake.

The administration engaged the lo-

cal authorities (Chiefs and Assistant chiefs) in bringing together interested persons to raise awareness conduct career guidance and register subscriptions.

“We have been having challenges convincing form four leavers with KCSE grades below C- to get admitted for technical/business course certificate. Most get incorporated into casual jobs while others travel to urban settings in search of jobs. Others still get disillusioned and get into crime and alcohol/drugs,” Mr. Kibe Gacheru, Iriguini Sublocation Assistant chief said.

“We are happy that you have imparted local youths with wise insights on why they must get technical/business training,” he added.

The TVC was established by the Ministry of Education in 2017. It offers various diploma, craft, artisan and NITA Grade 3 certificate courses in the departments of ICT, Engineering (electrical and mechanical), Business, Hospitality and Building/Construction. Level 6/diploma courses take the longest duration of 3 years whilst the short courses take a duration of 3 weeks.

“We assure the local community that



the administration will also assist in course application through KUCCPS and in application for HELB/HEF funds. The college shall also be offering transport services to the beneficiaries in this campaign,” Mr David Muhia-Deputy principal Kigumo

TVC commented.

The program is a government policy to realise 100% transition policy from secondary to tertiary education. It was initiated by the Ministry of Education in the department of TVET.

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Judicial Jargon Justifying Jailing Justly In Justice's Jumble

Examining the intricate entanglements of a system that seemingly favors the affluent while ensnaring the less fortunate



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes

What will it take for us to confront the uncomfortable truth that the judicial system is rigged to protect the powerful while criminalizing the poor? It is a question that echoes through the halls of justice, a haunting whisper in a society that prides itself on equality and fairness. This paradoxical tale unfolds like a dark fairy tale, where the gavel, a symbol of justice, becomes an instrument of oppression, wielded by those who would rather preserve the status quo than pursue genuine reform.

A chorus of voices clamors for change, yet the cacophony often drowns out the cries of the marginalized, leaving them to navigate a treacherous legal labyrinth designed to ensnare rather than liberate. In the glaring spotlight of our modern age, we witness the judicial system's grand theater, a stage set for the affluent to act out their dramas while the poor play the role of the villain.

Take the case of George Floyd, a stark reminder of the systemic inequalities embedded in our justice system. On May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a man gasping for breath became the reluctant poster child for police brutality, the tragedy igniting a wildfire of protests demanding accountability. Yet, as the dust settled, we were left grappling with the aftermath of a system that often seems more inclined to protect the perpetrators than serve justice.

The irony is thick; we live in a society where a rich man's plea can sway the scales of justice while a poor man's cries for help often fall on deaf ears. In a dramatic juxtaposition, consider the case of the wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein, whose connections afforded him a leniency that the average citizen could only dream of.

His numerous transgressions were initially brushed aside, a grotesque display of privilege that begs the question: how many lives must be lost before we acknowledge the chasm between the privileged and the powerless? Yet, this is not merely a modern-day dilemma; the roots of injustice run deep in the soil of history. The War on Drugs, initiated in the 1980s, serves as a potent example of this systemic failure.

The legislation, touted as a means to combat drug-related crime, became a euphemism for the criminalization of poverty, ensnaring countless individuals in a vicious cycle of



Judicial Jargon .

incarceration and societal ostracism. Statistics from the American Civil Liberties Union reveal that Black individuals are four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their white counterparts, despite similar usage rates. This disparity is not just numbers; it is a damning indictment of a system that perpetuates inequality while masquerading as a beacon of justice.

What can we do, then, in the face of such an overwhelming narrative? Can we muster the courage to confront the uncomfortable truths hidden beneath layers of legalese and rhetoric? The answer lies in our collective resolve to dismantle the very structures that uphold this injustice. It requires an acknowledgment of the uncomfortable fact that the judicial system, as it stands, often serves as a shield for the affluent while brandishing a sword against the vulnerable.

This antithesis of justice demands our attention, our outrage, and ultimately, our action. We are confronted with an unsettling reality; the judicial system, in its current form, can feel more like a game rigged for the elite, a cruel joke where the less fortunate are punished not for their crimes but for their lack of resources. The courts become a theater of the absurd, where justice is a luxu-

ry only a few can afford. With each passing day, as the scales of justice tip further away from equity, we are left wondering: how can we allow this travesty to continue?

Let us not shy away from the stark truths embedded within this narrative. The statistics are undeniable; according to the Prison Policy Initiative, over 2.3 million Americans are currently incarcerated, with low-income individuals bearing the brunt of this injustice.

The echoes of their cries for help reverberate through the corridors of power, a haunting reminder that the price of justice is often too steep for the marginalized to pay. As we confront this uncomfortable truth, we must also recognize the power of our voices. Each call for reform, each protest on the streets, serves as a reminder that we are not powerless in the face of injustice; we are the architects of change. So what will it take for us to confront this reality?

It will require a seismic shift in our collective consciousness, an awakening that forces us to question the very foundations of our judicial system. It calls for a rejection of the status quo, a determined effort to redefine justice not as a privilege but as a right for all. This is not merely a fight for the oppressed; it is a battle for the soul of our society, an affir-

mation that we will no longer stand idly by as the powerful manipulate the system to their advantage.

As we navigate this complex landscape, let us remember the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Our journey toward a fairer judicial system begins with acknowledging the uncomfortable truths that lie beneath the surface. It requires us to confront the hypocrisy that permeates our legal institutions and to demand accountability from those who wield power.

Only then can we hope to transform a system that has long favored the affluent into one that truly serves justice for all. Let us be bold, let us be fearless, and let us confront the uncomfortable truths that demand our attention. In the pursuit of justice, we must be unwavering, unyielding, and united in our commitment to change.

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



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Kenya Launches National Workshop To Combat Soil Acidity And Boost Crop Yields

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya's agricultural sector recently launched a workshop focused on addressing soil acidity and exploring the implementation of a national liming program. This initiative begins with a comprehensive scoping study designed to identify the challenges hindering the commercial rollout of lime, strategize its market introduction, and develop a cohesive, scalable approach to encourage widespread farmer adoption of liming solutions.

Mr. Henry Kinyua, Deputy Team Leader of the Kenya Soil Health Development Program, highlighted the urgency of the issue. "Over 65% of our arable land is acidic, preventing crops from absorbing nutrients in the soil and limiting the effectiveness of fertilizers. This leads to reduced

yields, worsening our country's food security situation. However, research has shown that we can reverse soil acidity with lime application."

Christian Witt, Senior Program Officer for Soil Health at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, added that soil acidity is a common issue across East Africa. "Soil acidification is a natural process, exacerbated by rainfall and aging soils. High acidity limits crop growth and reduces fertilizer efficiency. We're working to find the best combination of public and private sector interventions to tackle soil acidity in Kenya, especially for small-scale farmers, while driving economic growth through agriculture."

Sheila Keino, Executive Director of Sustain Africa, emphasized the significance of this scoping study. "Our goal is to rehabilitate soils across Kenya, starting with a few counties. Over the next three months, we will investigate ways to adjust soil pH and



boost farmers' yields. The Nairobi Declaration, following the Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in May, emphasized the need to rehabilitate at least 30% of Africa's soils. Kenya must lead in addressing soil health, and correcting pH through liming is

essential." This workshop, organized by the Government of Kenya, Sustain Africa, and supported by the Gates Foundation, marks the start of a broader initiative to pilot liming on 100,000 acres in two counties severely af-

ected by soil acidity. This ambitious project seeks to restore soil health, improve agricultural productivity, and build a foundation for sustainable farming practices in Kenya.

Empowering Women As Agents Of Change In Climate Action

By: Ainembabazi Shallon
@themtkenyatimes

A Call for Action at COP29

Climate change remains one of the most pressing global challenges of our time, but its impacts are not evenly distributed. Women, particularly in developing countries, often bear the impact of climate change due to existing gender inequalities and socio-economic barriers. As the world prepares for COP29, we must emphasize the crucial intersection between climate change and gender, advocating for policies and funding that specifically address the needs and contributions of women in the fight against climate change.

Women, especially in rural communities, play significant roles in agriculture, water collection, and caregiving, which are directly affected by environmental changes. When droughts, floods, or storms strike, these women face the frightening task of managing declining resources for their families. They are more likely to face food insecurity,

income loss, and limited access to healthcare and education due to the shifting climate. Furthermore, as primary caregivers, they are responsible for family health and nutrition, roles that become increasingly challenging with the rising cost and scarcity of food and clean water.

Despite the vulnerability, women are still excluded from decision-making processes that impact their lives and communities. For instance, only a small percentage of decision-making positions in environmental policymaking are held by women. This exclusion limits the capacity for climate solutions that are inclusive and effective.

Women as Key Agents of Change

Women are not only victims of climate change but also powerful agents of change. Around the world, women have led successful grassroots movements to protect forests, manage water resources, and build resilient agricultural systems. In rural communities, women have established sustainable farming practices that improve food security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Their knowledge of local ecosystems and

adaptive practices can be instrumental in creating effective climate solutions, yet these contributions often go unrecognized.

Increasing women's access to resources, education, and leadership positions can foster more resilient communities. Studies show that when women are involved in disaster response planning, communities recover faster. Likewise, women's participation in natural resource management leads to more sustainable outcomes, benefiting both people and the planet.

What are our demands ahead of COP29

COP29 must prioritize policies that integrate a gender perspective across all levels of climate action. This means not only acknowledging the unique ways that climate change affects women but also tailoring solutions that empower women to thrive in the face of these challenges.

We urge global leaders especially Global North countries to allocate specific funds within climate finance frameworks (NCQG) that prioritize women's empowerment and gender equity in adaptation and mitigation



projects. Furthermore, women from indigenous and marginalized communities, need a seat at the table. COP29 must champion women's participation in climate negotiations and policy formation. Only with diverse representation can we craft solutions that work for everyone which are gender centered.

Educating women and girls about climate change and sustainability has a profound multiplier effect on community resilience. We request that COP29 adopt measures to enhance women's access to education, mentorship, climate information, and technologies to adapt to climate crisis.

Lastly, I therefore say empowering women to take part in climate action is not just an ethical imperative; it is a necessary step for effective and sustainable climate solutions. Women's voices, perspectives, and leadership are essential to addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change. As we address the climate crisis, let us remember that climate justice is connected with gender justice. By supporting and uplifting women, we can build a more resilient world for everyone.

For God and my Country
Ainembabazi Shallon
Programs Officer
Women For Green Economy Movement Uganda (WogemUganda)

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *Record breaking Ruth Chepngetich has been named the LG/SJAK Sports Personality of the Month (SPOM) for October 2024 following her exploits at the 46th Chicago Marathon in the USA

Chicago Champion Ruth Chepngetich Named SJAK Sports Personality Of The Month



Record breaking Ruth Chepngetich has been named the LG/SJAK Sports Personality of the Month (SPOM) for October 2024 following her exploits at the 46th Chicago Marathon in the USA on October 13, where she ran 2:09:56 breaking the one-year record (2:11:53) held by Ethiopia Tigt Assefa, by almost two minutes.

Chepngetich, who arrived in Chicago with a personal best of 2:14:18 in the 42-kilometre race, is the first woman to complete the distance in under two hours and 10 minutes.

She is also the first woman to win the Chicago Marathon three times and has been nominated for the women's world athlete of the year award.

Her outstanding performance in Chicago saw her win the coveted SPOM for the third time after April 2021 and March 2022.

Also competing for the award was Harambee Junior Starlets striker Lorna Faith Wasike, who was named the Player of the Match when Kenya stunned Mexico 2-1 at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in the Dominican Republic on October 24. Other nominees included Albania-based central midfielder Kevin Wangaya; highly-rated forward Aldrine Kibet of Spain's Nastic Soccer Academy; Kakamega Homeboyz goalkeeper Ibrahim Wanzala, and AFC Leopards right winger Hassan Beja.

Kenya Sevens speedsters Pat-

rick Odongo and Ben Salem also made the nominations for their inspirational performance as the national team rallied to defend the Safari Sevens title.

All-rounder Rakep Patel, who was Kenya's best player in the 2024 Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League "A", as well as the first African woman to win the overall Golden Trail World Series title, Joyce Njeru, were also nominated alongside the Most Valuable Player at the Road to Basketball Africa League Derrick Ogechi and Kapsokwony Athletics Kenya Cross Country winner Maureen Jepkoech.

Speaking during awards ceremony, LG Electronics EA MD, Dong Wan Lee, underscored the essence of celebrating Kenya's

world-beating sports personalities.

"At LG Electronics, we are committed to the empowerment of the communities in which we operate, and the SPOM Award has over the last decade been a key avenue for us to showcase to upcoming generations the importance of talent recognition."

"We celebrate people like Chepngetich as well as the many other talented sports personalities that were nominated."

SJAK President James Waindi also commended Chepngetich for her historic performance expressing his joy that Kenya now holds both the men's and women's marathon world records.

KBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *The Aegis Charity Tournament held recently, brought together an energetic crowd for a day of sports and community spirit, merging football with a mission to support local charitable causes.

Football, Philanthropy Unite At Aegis Charity Tournament To Support Local Youth



By Agencies

The Aegis Charity Tournament held recently, brought together an energetic crowd for a day of sports and community spirit, merging football with a mission to support local charitable causes.

Organized by Aegis Football Academy, the event highlighted the academy's commitment to nurturing young talent and instilling core values through football while raising funds for charities that support education and resources for children under 11.

Families, youth, and devoted football fans gathered to cheer on the teams, united by a shared pur-

pose of creating positive change through sports.

The tournament showcased the role of football in building confidence, teamwork, and resilience in young players.

With all proceeds going toward local charities, the event reinforced Aegis's dedication to community impact.

Shabiki, a proud partner of the academy, joined in championing this mission, emphasizing the importance of empowering youth and upholding community values through sports.

The tournament concluded with medals awarded to the standout team, with cheers filling the air,

a testament to Aegis Academy's ability to inspire hope and drive meaningful change through football.

Embracing Innovation with Catapult Vector Vests

In its mission to optimize player performance, Aegis Football Academy has adopted the Catapult Vector Vest, a high-tech performance-tracking tool used by professional teams around the world.

This wearable technology provides real-time data on player movements, tracking key metrics like speed, acceleration, heart rate, and player load.

Coaches can use these insights to understand each player's physical output and endurance, allowing for tailored training plans that maximize performance while reducing injury risks.

Through this commitment to innovation, Aegis continues to set a high standard for player development, giving young athletes the tools they need to reach their full potential.

SPORTS NEWS



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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Miss Mulati , A Kiswahili Teacher Who Fights For Swahili Language No Matter What



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- An ideal day involves engaging my students in lively Kiswahili discussions, using interactive activities to help them understand new concepts, and seeing them live with a sense of confidence and curiosity. I also do a lot of general research.
- Some call me a historian due to the research i do. I do research according to primary level education. I've come to learn that Kenya is a beautiful country and very rich in resources. The only problem we have is that most of Kenyans want white collar jobs forgetting that resources we have can help them be self employed and improve their living standards.

My name is Rosemary Mulati. I was born in Kitale Kenya where i started schooling. I did my primary education at Mitoto Primary School in Kiminini Kitale and thereafter joined Bishop Sulumeti Girls in Lugari. I wanted to be a teacher and by this i joined Shanzu TTC in Mombasa. Here my love for Kiswahili grew. I am a Kiswahili teacher by profession and a poet by passion passionate about sharing the beauty of the language and culture with my students. My mission is to inspire students to embrace Kiswahili as a bridge that connects people across East Africa and beyond.

My love for the Kiswahili language and the desire to preserve and promote our cultural heritage motivated me. I saw how powerful language can be in uniting people and wanted to share that with this generation and generations to come. I have loved Kiswahili as a subject since primary school My teachers used to motivate me when I do well. I loved reading Fasihi in high school. This book "Kifo Kisimani" motivated me. I appreciate Mr . Khalunji for the great foundation he set in me for the love of reading kiswahili books. Generally, Teaching kiswahili is not merely a profession for me, it is a way to keep this vibrant language alive and thriving in the hearts of many students. Watching students grow in their understanding and love for kiswahili brings me immense joy.

An ideal day involves engaging my students in lively Kiswahili discussions, using interactive activities to help them understand new concepts, and seeing them live with a sense of confidence and curiosity. I also do alot of general research. Some call me a historian due to the research i do. I do research according to primary level education. I've come to learn that Kenya is a beautiful country and very rich in resources. The only problem we have is that most of Kenyans want white collar jobs forgetting that resources we have can help them be self employed and improve their living standards. corruption has really affected our country as compared to other countries,, if tourists can come to our country

to see wildlife, beautiful sceneries and enjoy other things like warm climate, then Kenya is a rich country which is affected by corruption.

Actually i love seeing students make connections, not just with the language but with the cultures and histories embedded in Kiswahili. Watching them appreciate its relevance in their lives is incredibly fulfilling.

Equally, getting home having lit a candle of hope in them is a satisfying experience. The most challenging part is dealing with students who may not initially see the value of learning Kiswahili, especially when competing with other popular languages. Changing this mindset takes time and patience especially for the city children "born in town" Yes, I have faced challenges like limited resources for interactive learning and sometimes a lack of support from those who view Kiswahili as less important. However, I find ways to be creative and keep my students engaged.

I stay motivated by constantly learning more about Kiswahili literature and culture. Seeing the progress and excitement of my students also reminds me why I do this work. Furthermore, seeing kiswahili taken to global market and forums is fulfilling. Create awareness to the society through social media, seminars, community gatherings, one on one, for people to be empowered with information about the importance of promoting Kiswahili as a national and official language. Encouraging learners to participate in competitions in school in writing Mashairi and Inshas for them to grow. I don't directly advertise, but I often participate in community events and share my teaching experiences on social media. This has helped create awareness of the importance of Kiswahili in our communities.

As a swahili poet, this has made me enrich myself in the Kiswahili knowledge. I have been helped by those before me and others who are my mates. I recall times i started writing swahili poems. They didn't have any rhyme but today i can comfortably say I have really grown.



Rosemary Mulati

My first poem was.
Maisha kweli safari, ya furaha na huzuni
Siku zote si fahari, nyingine zina huzuni
Wahitaji kusubiri, siku nzuri zi usoni
Fumbo hili lina siri, mfumbuzi kwele nani?

I was enriched with Kiswahili language by great people. Mr. Njoroge motivated me to love Kiswahili while in Primary School, when I joined my secondary school Mr. Khalunji was God sent. He continued what my primary teacher started. In College Mrs Nganje played a crucial role.

I would advise them to cultivate a deep love for the language and always be patient and persistent. Teaching language requires empathy and the ability to connect with each student on their learning journey. All for those who would wish to be teachers, it is a nobile profession and actively involving - be patient with students to help them realize their utmost potential.

I would like to say that, It is a collective responsibility to promote Kiswahili and not just Kiswahili but Kiswahili sanifu. As it is said "Charity begins at home." Let parents encourage children to speak Kiswahili and discourage sheng' which is greatly affecting them in Insha writing. Schools should also find ways

of helping learners to speak fluent Kiswahili by having not just a day to speak in kiswahili but two days can help. Remember, CBC is learner centered and we need to see students being given opportunities to express themselves and do what is best for them. This promotes use of talents and abilities. Social media is one of the things which has killed our National language. A lot of comedies are done in sheng' which attracts the mind of many students. Our own leaders in Kenya while addressing the country use broken Kiswahili and this are the people who should be our role models. They even support and promoted Kiswahili to be an official language, but where it is now, it's getting into a very deep pit. I'm crying for the next generation who will be the best teacher? Let's embrace our national language stop killing it ourselves. I would love to see Kiswahili become a global language, understood and appreciated by many. I'd also advocate for more resources in schools to teach it effectively and make a positive difference in education.

They can find me on social media where I share insights, teaching tips, and resources on Kiswahili and language learning. My social handle is 'Rosemary Mulati' in all social media platforms.