

Mt Kenya leaders Embrace DP Kindiki, Appeal For Unity



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Prof. Abraham Kithure Kindiki Swearing In Ceremony



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A promotional image for Ketepa Pride tea. It features four boxes of tea: Cinnamon (red box), Cardamom (orange box), Masala Tea (light brown box), and Ginger Tea (light green box). Each box is labeled 'KETEPA PRIDE SPICED BLACK TEA' and '25 TEA BAGS'. The boxes are arranged on a colorful, abstract background. The text 'CHAI NI KETEPA' is written in large green letters at the bottom right.

Mt Kenya leaders Embrace DP Kindiki, Appeal For Unity

By: Raymond Wanjohi and William Muchiri

@themtkenyatomes

Worth Noting:

- Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi from whose constituency, the former DP hails from stated, "Congratulations Your Excellency Kithure Kindiki. Kindly serve with humility. Don't intimidate people however small they are. I wish you nothing but God's blessings and his favour upon you".
- Prof Kindiki was sworn in on Friday, a day after the High Court lifted orders barring his inauguration.

The inauguration of Prof Kithure Kindiki as Kenya's new Deputy President has been welcomed by a section of leaders from the vote-rich Mt Kenya region. The leaders called on the region stakeholders to embrace peace and unity for the sake of the area in particular and country in general. They congratulated the new DP saying he was equal to the task. Muthomi Njuki, the Tharaka Nithi County Governor where Prof. Kindiki hails from said, "I extend hearty congratulations to His Excellency Professor Abraham Kithure Kindiki, The third Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya. Thank you H.E. President Dr. William Ruto for trusting our son to be part of your leadership and vision," adding, "The People of Tharaka Nithi are grateful for the honour of being at the forefront of the Kenya Kwanza Administration and join millions of Kenyans in celebrating the beginning of something truly historic in our Country". Mathira MP Eric Wamumbi from whose constituency, the former DP hails from stated, "Congratulations Your Excellency Kithure Kindiki. Kindly serve with humility. Don't intimidate people however small they are. I wish you nothing but God's blessings and his favour upon you". Prof Kindiki was sworn in on Friday, a day after the High Court lifted orders barring his inauguration. His predecessor, former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, was impeached by Parliament last month but moved to court to challenge his removal from the top office and replacement. But on Thursday, a three-bench judge lifted Prof Kindiki's swearing in, arguing that the position of Deputy President should not remain vacant in accordance with the country's Constitution. The Leaders argued that Prof Kindiki is the best suited person for the country's second-in-command position. Embu Governor, Cecily Mbarire,



From left; Governors Cecily Mbarire, Susan Kihika, Stephen Sang, and Muthomi Njuki during the swearing in ceremony of Prof. Kithure Kindiki.

re averred, "Congratulations my brother and friend, H.E. Prof. A. Kithure Kindiki, on your swearing-in as the third Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya. May you lead with wisdom and dedication, guiding our country to new heights. Wishing you success as you work to transform this country". Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri who was among those touted to replace Rigathi said, "My hearty congratulations to my friend Kithure Kindiki on your nomination as Kenya's Deputy President. May the Lord guide you as you take up this great leadership position. You can count on my support". Lawyer Ndung'u Wangenye exuded confidence that the new DP will be able to unite the country towards economic development. "The moment you antagonize national unity, you definitely touch the umbilical cord of the nation's economic progress. The DP should be a father figure who is supposed to bring together all their children. I support DP

Kindiki and believe that he will ensure that the country speaks in one voice towards progress," Mr Wangenye said. Mr Wangenye appealed to Mt Kenya residents to remain united amidst the ouster of Mr Gachagua who emanated from the region. He said the region should now strategize afresh and chart its way forward ahead of the 2027 General Elections. "Mt Kenya should maintain peace, come together, and chart the way forward towards the next polls. Never again should we vote based on emotions and anger. We need to sober up and know where we are heading to and who will lead us moving forward," Mr Wangenye said. Mr Wangenye, who is also the National Secretary of Kenya Teachers in Hardship and Arid Areas Welfare Association (KETHAWA), urged the region to elect professionals as leaders. "We should know that the more we ignore our professionals, the more we glorify mediocracy. The governance of this country needs serious leaders who have reputable scorecards," he said.

Peace lobby caucus, Amani Kwa Wote national chairman Paul Kariuki Mwati urged all Kenyans to maintain peace and embrace the leadership DP Kindiki. Mr Mwati also appealed to residents of Mt Kenya West and Mt Kenya East to shun being divided along political affiliations. "It is clear that we now have a new Deputy President. I want to tell our people of Mt Kenya East and Mt Kenya West to continue uniting and rallying behind the leadership of President William Ruto and his Deputy Kithure Kindiki," Mr Mwati, who is also a leader of Kenya Council of Elders (KCE), said. "Let us embrace the new DP and I believe that we will move forward towards excellence. Let us pray for our government so that it propels this nation forward," he added. Mwati was speaking in Nyeri town on Friday while flanked by several religious leaders. DP Kindiki is from Tharaka Nithi County in Mt Kenya East while his predecessor – Mr Gachagua – is from Nyeri County in Mt Kenya West.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The government is dedicated to tackling corruption in the transport sector, according to the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Transport, Mohamed Dagar. Speaking at a review of the corruption prevention plan, PS Dagar highlighted that addressing corruption must begin at the individual level and extend to institutions in order to achieve the country's development goals. He pointed out that corruption is a significant barrier to economic growth in Kenya. The government has established various legal frameworks to combat corruption across public institutions, including the State Department for Transport. Dagar affirmed that all staff and management are committed to promoting governance and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption.



Gold mine processes at the Masara gold mine site. The continuous use of old technologies and traditional methods by Artisanal and small-scale miners of mining has continued to bring more economic sorrow to the mining communities. Photo/Beryl Akinyi.



The government has been working to establish Artisanal Mining Committees (AMC) in mining counties to assist in license issuance, formalising the recognition of these miners. However, as the challenges of licenses and permits are being addressed, artisanal and small-scale miners will be battling to impress upon financial entities to ease financing their activities on the ground. Laurice Oduor, a small-scale miner from Rongo Sub County, believes that the gazettement of the Artisanal Mining Committees mandated with issuing licenses will bring hope of unlocking financial assistance and access from financial institutions near them. Alex Ocholo, another small-scale miner from Rongo, stresses that for miners to get meaningful income from mining activities, financial institutions should be willing to listen to their grievances and assist the mining community to realise their dreams.



Residents of Kiambu County will expect average to below average rains for the October to December (OND) short rains season starting the 3rd to 4th week of October 2024 with poor to fair rainfall distribution according to the County Meteorological Services. The County Director for Meteorological Services, Magdalene Gateri, said that the short rains season in Kiambu would affect most parts of the county, with parts of Lari, Limuru, and Kikuyu receiving the least amount of rainfall from 0-250mm and areas such as parts of Juja and Ruiru, Kiambu, Kabete, Githunguri, Gatundu North and South, and Thika Town receiving average to below average levels of rainfall ranging from 250-400mm during the season. "We are expecting to receive a poor to fair rainfall distribution in the county in both time and space, and it is likely to be characterised by occasional storms and prolonged dry spells within the season," she added.



The Mining Project Implementer at the Solidaridad International group, Rita Njeri, speaking during a mining forum at one of the hotels in Migori town. She said that their partnership with the Impact Facility through a program dubbed "project access" funded by the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) aims to formalise all grievances of the artisanal and small-scale miners in mining operating counties. Solidaridad is a global non-profit organisation based in Nairobi and focusing on mining countries in East and Central Africa with a mandate to empower and formalise artisanal and small-scale miners in indigenous communities. Njeri explains that the organisation also aims to empower mining communities to improve their production in line with issues of environmental, social, and governance (ESG). Photo/ Beryl Akinyi



President William Ruto assented the Sugar, thereby strengthening Kenya's Sugar Sector! The signing of the Sugar Bill marks a monumental stride towards revitalizing Kenya's sugar industry and addressing long-standing challenges that have hindered its growth. This new legislation sets the foundation for: Re-establishing the Kenya Sugar Board, Creating the Kenya Sugar Research and Training Institute, Introducing a Sugar Development Levy. These initiatives are expected to empower farmers, boost production, and promote value addition, ensuring the industry's sustainability and capacity to meet growing demand. The President was joined by among others Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Agriculture CS Dr. Andrew Karanja, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, AG Dorcas Oduor, and Speakers Moses Masika Wetang'ula and Amason Jeffah Kingi other leaders.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

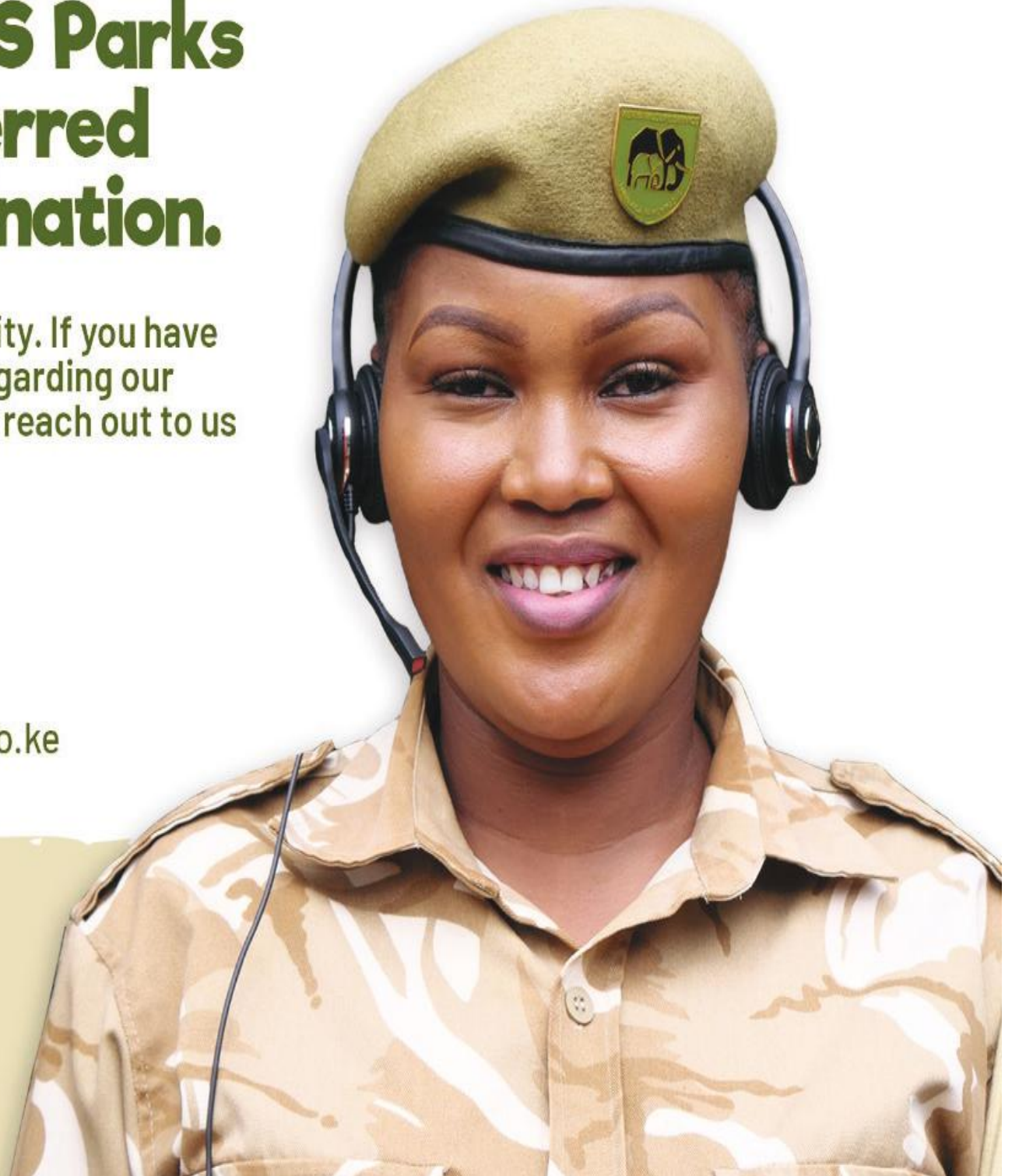
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Gichugu TVC Partners with NGAO to Increase TVC Enrollment

By: Mutai Kipngetich
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- In the strategy the NGAOs from Kirinyaga East sub-county will trace potential learners (those who completed school and have not joined university or middle level colleges) and also use public barazas to enlighten the parents on the importance of the technical courses.
- In the meeting held at the institution, Gichugu TVC Principal Joseph Kimemia said they intend to ensure 100 per cent transition from secondary to college in Gichugu, just like the government does in the 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary school.



Gichugu TVC Principal Joseph Kimemia and other stakeholders during the meeting

Gichugu Training and Vocation College (TVC) which opened its doors in September is planning an intensive sensitization exercise towards increasing the college enrollment in January next year.

The institution that currently has 274 learners undertaking different courses is liaising with the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) in their efforts to attract more learners.

Towards this end, the NGAOs met with Gichugu TVC management to develop strategies for the same as well as to promote education and improve literacy rates across the county.

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In the meeting held at the institution,

Gichugu TVC Principal Joseph Kimemia said they intend to ensure 100 per cent transition from secondary to college in Gichugu, just like the government does in the 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary school.

He noted that working with the lowest administrative units of the Assistant Chiefs, will help them monitor and follow up on pupils and students who have completed their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) to ensure they progress to the next level, adding this will also increase enrollment in the college.

"We want to bring on board all young people. Some venture into the bodaboda sector which is not bad, but with the new funding model all can access funds for education. Also, the NG-CDF has promised to support learners through bursaries," Kimemia said.

Kimemia added TVETS is the way to go, saying his institution targets over 2,500 enrollment in January as the chiefs from the 40 sub locations have agreed to work with the college towards this target. The NGAOs will also create a mapping that will ensure they account for every student graduating from secondary schools. "Our target of 2,500 students is achievable, if chiefs get 50 learners each as we agreed, we have 2,000 as a start. We cannot allow any student to get lost in the village," he added.

The principal said the dedication from officers will catalyze national development and be part of Kenya's mission to achieve vision 2030.

Muchiri Karia, senior chief Ngariama West, said they will use every opportunity available to do civic education and sensitize parents and learners on the need to join the college. He added that Gichugu TVC is the only institution in the en-

tire constituency and they need a lot of support.

"We will join hands to organize barazas at sub-location level and also use churches to sensitize the general public about the school," he said.

Geoffrey Kariuki, NG-CDF Manager Gichugu Constituency, said the office will offer all the necessary support to the TVC through channeling of bursaries and other infrastructural funding. He noted as residents of Gichugu, it is the time to export skilled manpower to other counties.

"We are partners in strategies to increase enrollment in Gichugu TVC so that in future we are source of people ready for job market," Kariuki noted

He further encouraged learners to take advantage of NG-CDF and county governments funding programmes to study technical courses.

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Prof. Abraham Kithure Kindiki Swearing In Ceremony



World Vision Kenya Transforms 2 Million Lives With Sustainable Community Development

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

World Vision Kenya (WVK) has positively transformed over 2 million lives through its commitment to sustainable community development, guided by its 2021-2025 Strategy. This strategy focuses on enhancing livelihoods, health, education, and child protection, aiming to foster resilience in Kenyan communities. Starting with immediate relief efforts during a severe drought, WVK provided food, water, healthcare, and support for over 5,000 children through sponsorship programs and agricultural training. Since 2010, the organisation has intensified its advocacy efforts, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Programs like the Kenya Big Dream have significantly impacted communities, reducing FGM cases by 50%

and increasing school retention rates for girls by 30%. Currently, WVK operates in 37 out of 47 counties, benefiting more than 2 million people annually. During WVK's 50th anniversary celebration, Cabinet Secretary for Labour and Social Protection, Dr. Alfred Mutua, praised the organisation as one of Kenya's largest humanitarian entities. He highlighted the vital partnerships with the government that have helped tackle various challenges, including droughts, while emphasising WVK's role in empowering children and improving community resilience. Dr. Mutua noted WVK's achievements, including educational support for over a million children and access to clean water for 2 million people. He reaffirmed the importance of collaboration in child protection initiatives, aiming to end violence against children and promote their rights.



Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua

Nakuru Industrial Park Construction Resumes After A 2-Year Break

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

The construction of the Nakuru County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) at Ngongongeri Farm in Njoro Sub-County has resumed after a two-year hiatus. According to Dr. Samuel Mwaura, County Secretary and Head of Public Service, the project is currently 15% complete, with support from the national government helping to overcome previous delays. The over Sh 3 billion initiative is expected to create more than 4,000 jobs upon completion. Dr. Mwaura noted that some initial work has been completed, including site clearance, mass excavation, foundation excavation, and the establishment of an administration block. Ongoing tasks include constructing the slab, roofing, and wall installation for warehouses and other structures. The industrial park aims to transform the Central Rift region into a

key commercial hub, hosting various industries such as ICT, energy, engineering, and chemicals. Essential infrastructure like power, water, and a ring road will be ready within three months, allowing investors to begin operations shortly thereafter. During a site visit, Dr. Mwaura emphasized that the park would also attract private investors to establish food processing plants, adding value to agricultural products. The project is a collaboration between the county government, Egerton University, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, with both CAIP and Export Processing Zone (EPZ) allocated 100 acres at the university's Ngongongeri farm. The county has approved a policy document for the implementation of these projects, with Nakuru County committing Sh 250 million this financial year to match an equal amount from the national government. Dr. Mwaura highlighted the potential of CAIPs and SEZs to drive industrialisation and improve living standards by 2030. He also mentioned that the county is working



with the Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry to align CAIPs with the bottom-up economic transformation agenda. The vision for these parks includes light industries like warehousing, logistics, and support for medium and heavy industries, such as fertiliser, iron and steel, plastics, and metal fabrication. The national government has allocated Sh 4.7 billion for CAIPs across counties, with each expected to contribute Sh 250 million and provide at least 100 acres of land for park establishment.

The EU Ambassador Urges Entrepreneurs To Diversify Export Products To Europe

By: Anne Kangero
@themkenyetimes

Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya Henriette Geiger is calling on Kenyan entrepreneurs to diversify export products to the European Union for increased profits under the Kenya -EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Geiger noted that Kenya mainly exports horticultural produce like flowers and vegetables and underscored the need for exporters to shift to manufactured and high value goods.

The ambassador, who spoke during a Kenya -EU EPA sensitization forum held in Athi river in Machakos County said the agreement presents an opportunity for Kenya to build capacity in terms of industrialisation and move to an upper middle level income country.

“Kenya harbors ambition to become an upper middle level income country and this can be achieved by the setting up of companies to manufacture and process products,” she said.

Geiger hailed Machakos as one of the counties that has recognised

the strategic opportunity offered by EPA by setting up Special Economic Zones and called on other counties to do the same.

“These special economic zones present exceptional opportunities that will drive manufacturing and other counties should embrace the move,” said the ambassador.

She assured Kenya of EU’s support in the implementation of EPA and said similar sensitization forums will be conducted in Europe to bring investments to Kenya to upscale trade between the parties.

“I appeal to the Kenyan Government to partner with the private sector and create an enabling environment for business to thrive. Kenya is blessed with the best private sector in Africa, and that’s why many companies are setting up firms in the country,” said Geiger.

Speaking at the same forum Director of External Trade, State Department for Trade Joseph Rotich said the agreement has given Kenyan exporters unlimited access to the EU market for all products.

“The agreement had legally secured a quota free and duty-free market to 27 countries in the European Union,”

said Rotich.

He said EPA will help expand the country’s industrial base and access to markets not only to the EU but also other countries including the US.

Rotich reiterated the State Department’s commitment to fully implement the agreement and disclosed that plans are at an advanced stage to roll out an EPA implementation strategy.

“EPA also has a strong interface with African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Tripartite Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which will give EU investors in Kenya access to the African markets,” he noted.

Also present was Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tobias Alando who hailed EPA as an opportunity for Kenyan manufacturers to not only export directly to the EU but also establish joint ventures with EU companies to set up firms in Kenya.

“This is a great opportunity to develop the manufacturing sector in Kenya and we are also calling upon counties to develop policies that create an enabling environment for the manufacturing sector to thrive,” said



Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya Henriette Geiger

the action CEO.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Fresh Produce Exporters Consortium of Kenya Okisegere Ojepat called on Kenyans to take advantage of the agreement and upscale production to access the market.

Ojepat noted that exports to the EU had declined in the recent past mainly due to the changing regulatory framework but expressed that EPA will address the challenge.

“There is a need for us to scale our exports and ensure consistent supply to the 27-Country economic bloc and also call on farmers and exporters to comply with the standard to access

the markets,” he added.

The CEO called on both the county and the national governments to put in place a regulatory framework that will facilitate farmers and exporters to access the EU market.

In attendance also was Machakos County Secretary Dr. Muya Ndambuki among other government officials and key stakeholders from the public and private sector.

The forums are being conducted across the country to create awareness of the opportunities unlocked by EPA.

A Mother’s Heartbreak: Sharon’s Struggle To Save Bay Jayden

By: Kenya News Agency

In the serene village of Kibias, nestled in Lembus Perkerra Ward, a profound silence envelops the modest home of Sharon Lagat. A two-year-old baby, Jayden Kiprono, lies quietly, unable to stand or talk, his frail body a stark contrast to the vibrant life that once filled the room.

Sharon, a single mother at just 28, is holding her son, her eyes reflecting a mix of hope and despair.

Jayden was born handsome and full of promise, but just a month into his life, everything changed. Born prematurely at seven months, he spent crucial early days in an incubator as doctors battled to stabilise his immature organs.

But as time went on, it became evi-

dent that Jayden was suffering from a severe heart condition known as Atrioventricular Septal disease, which would require urgent surgery. This condition is common with children with Down syndrome.

“His father left when he found out about Jayden’s health problems,” Sharon recalls, her voice trembling. With no partner to share the burden, she found herself in a relentless cycle of hospital visits, desperately seeking treatment for her son. After a series of trials, doctors referred them to Matter Hospital in Nairobi, where a life-saving surgery was estimated to cost around 1 million Kenyan shillings—a sum far beyond her reach.

With tears welling in her eyes, Sharon recounts the agonising wait for help. “They sent us home with medication for six months, costing 5,000 shillings each month. I can barely afford food, let alone this treatment,”

she says, her frustration palpable. Living with her grandparents, who also struggle to make ends meet, Sharon feels the weight of the world pressing down on her shoulders.

Juliet Kiptek, a neighbour, watches as Sharon navigates this painful journey. “Jayden could be such a joyful baby, but his health issues have taken that away from him. We’ve organised fundraisers, but so far, we haven’t found a solution,” she explains. The community has rallied around the family, but the financial demands remain insurmountable.

As the date for Jayden’s appointment at Matter Hospital approaches, hope flickers amidst the despair. Sharon is determined to explore every avenue for fundraising and support. “Only the kindness of others can save my baby,” she whispers, holding Jayden’s tiny hand in hers.

This story is not just one of illness; it’s a testament to the resilience of a



mother’s love. Baby Jayden’s journey is a call to action for Kenyans to come together and help a family in need. The fight for Jayden’s life is not just Sharon’s battle; it’s a shared responsibility that echoes through-

out the community. As they prepare for the next steps, one thing is clear: every contribution can make a difference, and hope is a powerful force.

Mediation: The Better Option For Conflict Resolution



By: David Ndirangu
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- Mediation as a form of dispute resolution is an old and natural method that has been practised by many of the world's cultures for ages. Mediation is recognized by the Kenya Constitution 2010, Article 159 (2) (c) as a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) among others like negotiation, conciliation and arbitration. Professional mediation albeit bearing a similarity to the age old practice has through research been modernised and structured in line with internationally accepted standards.
- Mediation thus refers to a process where parties resolve their disputes with the assistance of a neutral, independent and impartial person called a mediator.



A story is told of a mother and her twin daughters. One day she found the girls fighting over an orange. It was quite a heated argument that required her intervention to avoid escalation to a real fight. Like every other ordinary mother she suggested that she cuts the orange into two where each girl would take a half. They did not want to hear anything like that. It is at this point that an ordinary mother from my village in Tetu where I was born and brought up would have snatched the orange from the girls, sat down somewhere under a tree to eat it as they watched. She would have enjoyed the delicious fruit while all the time telling them, “Nīmūkūgĩa mītwe” meaning “you will have to start using your heads.” “Stop fighting over petty issues”.

The mother from Tetu would have been doing her best to resolve the conflict between her daughters but in real sense she would have started a new conflict this time between herself and the girls. Let us look more closely at the above conflict. Each of the girls wanted the full orange. That was the position of each girl and it is what they were fighting about. When the mother asked the girls why they needed the orange, the first girl said that she wanted to make orange juice while the second one needed the orange peelings to use in baking a cake. This is referred to as their interests. This being the case there was seriously no reason to fight in the first place. A professional mediator would have been able to differentiate between the positions and interests of the two girls (the parties).

It is believed that human beings have

by nature an inborn desire to live in peace amongst themselves. However, the peace is usually upset by conflict which originates from real or perceived threats to human needs. It is normal for human beings to have disagreements as a result of differing values, needs, interests, or at times a desire to pursue one's goals at the exclusion of the other person's goals. Disagreements lead to disputes, disputes lead to conflicts which lead to fights or war. The reality is that conflict is inevitable in society.

Mediation as a form of dispute resolution is an old and natural method that has been practised by many of the world's cultures for ages. Mediation is recognized by the Kenya Constitution 2010, Article 159 (2) (c) as a form of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) among others like negotiation, conciliation and arbitration. Professional mediation albeit bearing a similarity to the age old practice has through research been modernised and structured in line with internationally accepted standards.

Mediation thus refers to a process where parties resolve their disputes with the assistance of a neutral, independent and impartial person called a mediator. It is a voluntary and informal process carried out in a private friendly environment where parties are free to discuss with the mediator as to when and how to carry out the process. They also agree on the ground rules right at the beginning in order to make the process orderly and ensure that parties conduct themselves honourably.

In mediation the parties decide on how to resolve their dispute – the mediator is just a facilitator who assists the par-

ties reach a negotiated settlement. Mediation is a confidential process in that all information and discussions arising from the process are held in strict confidence both by the parties and the mediator. Such information cannot even be produced as evidence in a court of law except in some cases where information relating to an incidence of a criminal nature comes up in the mediation process.

Parties are expected to commit to come to mediation in good faith and with goodwill. They should also be willing to discuss with openness and full disclosure of the issues. They should be ready to cooperate with the mediator during the entire mediation process. Over and above resolving the conflict, mediation aims at restoring and improving the parties' relationship going forward. The parties are at liberty to call for a termination of the mediation process if they feel that it is not working to their expectations. The mediator may also terminate the process if he feels that it is not likely to produce the desired outcome.

There are several advantages of mediation over litigation as a form of conflict resolution. It is a faster and relatively inexpensive process which can be used by the rich and the poor alike. It can be used for multimillion shillings disputes and even minor disputes in the local community.

Mediation is a relationship building process where parties have an opportunity to rebuild, remedy and restore broken relationships be they personal or business related. “Never cut what you can untie” – Joseph Joubert – French Essayist.

In mediation, there is a higher level of

compliance with the settlement agreement since the resolutions in the agreement belong to the parties. Unlike in litigation, mediation is non-adversarial in that there are no plaintiffs or defendants - parties come up with their own decisions.

All manner of disputes can be referred to mediation. However, most cases of a criminal nature, those cases where parties have unequal power and others where violence is involved including human rights abuses are best resolved through the court process.

Mediation is not meant to be a replacement for litigation, however, as more and more disputes all over the world are increasingly being resolved through mediation, litigation is proving to be a slow, costly, cumbersome, inadequate and in most cases unnecessary method of resolving conflict.

In the book ‘The Magic of Mediation’, renowned Mediation practitioner and Trainer Dr. Joy Mbaabu states, “...They (parties) will reason that if they come on one side and cooperatively tackle their problem, each will get their needs and interests addressed. They will go away happy and perhaps with a redefined relationship. The mediator plays the role of creating an environment for parties to engage constructively. Here lies the power of mediation that I have found magical.”

Mediation works...and it's truly magical. Try it!

David Ndirangu Certified Professional Mediator Email ndirangudavid2023@gmail.com

Food Safety Policy To Regulate Food Chain Supply In Nairobi

By: Sadik Hassan
@themtkenyatimes

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) and Nairobi County Assembly are stepping up efforts to put in place a Food Safety Policy to ensure all food supplied, processed, and distributed within Nairobi meets national and international safety standards.

The draft Nairobi County Food Safety Policy 2024-2030 addresses food safety hazards and aims to decrease foodborne illnesses by enhancing regulations across the food supply chain. Implementing the Policy will enable NCCG to safeguard public health, foster sustainable development, and enhance trade.

Speaking in Mombasa during a consultative meeting with MCAs and NCCG officials GRAIN Country Director Ruth Okowa says they are advocating for improved nutrition for all stakeholders particularly the vulnerable including women and children.

She stated that they are drumming support with Nairobi MCAs to pass

the draft food safety bill and policy, which is currently in the assembly.

“We are just encouraging them and putting the rationale behind the importance of food safety in our lives both at home, at the different markets, stalls and shops that we purchase our foods from,” said Okowa.

She divulged that the majority of children in Nairobi still suffer from diarrhea which pulls back the gains made in nutrition.

She linked the high cases of diarrhea to the way food is handled which allows pathogens to move into the food and make it unsafe.

“Having this policy and implementing it means that consumers will be having safe food and naturally with safe food nutrition will improve because there will be no diseases that take us back in the gains, we have made concerning food safety,” said the GRAIN Country Director.

In the capital city, she noted food consumption patterns are affected by food safety, affordability, and availability which are the main deterrents.

“As GAIN we did a study to find why most people in Nairobi are not eating vegetables and number one on the list is that they are not sure about the safety of the vegetables.

“That is a big issue for anybody eating food in Nairobi because there are also foods that are grown in areas that are not recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Health experts,” she stated.

The organization has programmes meant to improve the consumption of vegetables as according to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 2022 there are still high levels of micronutrient deficiencies in the country.

To improve on that, Okowa said apart from fortification they encourage the oral consumption of green leafy vegetables, especially for the vulnerable families.

“We work in the markets to ensure that we have the governance structure well in place, looking at the food storage at our markets to make sure there is no food loss,” she stated.

County Chief Officer of Medical Services Irene Muchoki said the bill and policy will ensure the City residents have safe, nutritious, and quality food from good sources to prevent foodborne illnesses.

“We have some challenges, especially when it comes to street food vendors who are making food that is not regulated, you may not know where the source is from, sometimes even



Ms Ruth Okowa

controlling that is an issue,” said Muchoki.

“We are putting measures to be able to curb that and be able to guide on how to handle that food and ensure that food is safe,” she added.

She further discouraged residents from growing crops along the banks of the Nairobi River.

The Clerk of Nairobi County Assembly Edward Gichana said they want to create awareness to improve governance on health.

He noted that the meeting also deliberated on the financing of health services and ensuring they are accessible.

“We brought MCAs because they are the ones who approve the laws and policies, as those policies come from the executive then members would have to own them so that when they are processing them it is easier to fast-track them to be implemented by the executive,” said the Clerk.

Nairobi will hold the 1st Annual Health Scientific Conference from 20-22nd November themed “Advancing Health Equity towards a Resilience and a Sustainable People-Centered Primary Healthcare System.”

Ministry Investigating Tragic Death Caused By Suspected Medical Negligence

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyatimes

The Ministry of Health has commenced investigations into the death of Lucy Wambui's tragic passing following complications from a surgical procedure at a Nairobi hospital.

Wambui, the wife to a prominent Nairobi businessman died after undergoing surgery at a Nairobi hospital.

Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni said that an investigation has been initiated by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council to thoroughly examine the circumstances leading to this incident.

“A team has been dispatched to the facility to conduct a fact-finding mission aimed at assessing whether the necessary professional standards

were met in Wambui's care,” said the PS.

Ms. Muthoni said that any evidence of malpractice or deviation from established norms will be addressed with appropriate action, in line with applicable laws.

“Ministry, through the State Department for Professional Standards, reaffirms its commitment to ensuring a skilled health workforce equipped with the competencies necessary for delivering high-quality care,” said Ms. Muthoni.

According to the PS, robust frameworks are in place to regulate healthcare services, uphold ethical standards, protect consumers, and foster public trust in health services.

“To safeguard public health, we encourage citizens to verify the credentials of healthcare providers and facilities. Please confirm the status of medical practitioners by sending a free SMS to 20547 using the format: P#Doctor's Name, or to check



Principal Secretary, Mary Muthoni

a hospital, H#Hospital Name,” revealed the PS.

She said that the Ministry remains dedicated to the continuous improvement of healthcare quality and accountability for the well-being of all Kenyans.

Why Limuru Dairy Farmers Society Is Performing Well

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- “We have hosted local and international guests for the purposes of bench-marking. We also undertook significant factory renovations, which included the construction of a boiler house, a water treatment unit, and various storage facilities. These investments have not only improved our production capacity but also ensured that we are positioned to meet growing market demands for high-quality dairy products,” he added.
- The chairman reported to the farmers that the total milk collection increased significantly, reaching 10,739,028 Kgs in 2024, up from 9,448,121 Kgs in 2023. This represents an increase of 13.7%.
- He said that the milk turnover has similarly grown, reaching Sh 600,959,424, compared to Sh 535,310,075 the previous year.

The commissioning of the Extended Shelf Life (ESL) processing plant by Limuru Dairy Farmers Cooperative has led to the society posting good financial performance this year reflecting significant growth and solid management.

According to George Njuguna the chairman of the board of the society speaking during the 60th Annual General Meeting held at the milk processing plant in Limuru said that the ESL has a capacity of 5,000 litres per hour and despite the challenges the society faced, this milestone is a testimony to the resilience and dedication of members and the entire team.

“This project involved the procurement and installation of: Two Aseptic packing machines, a UHT sterilizer and homogenizer, a two-ton biomass boiler and a Freon chiller, UPS for the sterilizer, generator, air compressors, water treatment unit, motors, electrical controllers, and stabilizers,” Njuguna said.

The ESL is a successful project funded by the World Bank through NA-RIGP and Limuru Dairy.

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He said that the society has maintained the average payment to members at Sh 46.03 per kilogram of milk.

“This consistency shows our commitment to supporting the financial well-being of our members despite fluctuating market conditions,” he said

A total of Sh 494,362,456 was paid out to members, representing 82% of the total milk sales.

The total turnover was Sh 1,100,353,032 an increase from Sh 988,370,370 in 2023. Retained earnings were Sh 134,927,814, up from Sh 131,606,747 in 2023.

Farmers were informed that the society has seen a remarkable increase in

assets, now valued at Sh 270,863,031 compared to Sh 118,216,575 in 2023.

“This is largely due to our investments in new processing equipment and factory upgrades,” he said

He said that there has been significant growth in yoghurt sales, which have increased from 150 liters per day in 2023 to 420 liters per day in 2024.

“This success is a direct result of our investment in new equipment and our expanded marketing efforts. However we are yet to get full market penetration, however marketing strategies are being developed in collaboration with CUK and Agriterra,” he said.

The Society membership continues to grow steadily as of 30th June 2024, the Society has 2,687 active members, up from 2,451 in 2023.

“We also have a significant number of dormant members 8,932, and efforts are ongoing to re-engage them in active participation” the farmers were informed.

The chairman said due to prudent management of resources and extra efforts invested by the board the society will be able to pay a bonus at the rate of Sh 1.00 per kilo of milk delivered for the period between 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.

The farmers were told that the board has actively sought partnerships with NGOs and organizations that can provide support to the Society with this year strengthening their collaboration with Agriterra supporting board capacity building and youth develop-



George Njuguna the chairman Limuru Dairy Farmers Cooperative speaking during the Annual General Meeting.

ment. global communities assisting with human resource policies and procedures. cooperative university aiding in the capacity building of the board and selected farmers. partners in food solutions improving the quality of our products and Neadap providing training on manure management for 35 farmers.

During the Ushirika day celebration the society was awarded a trophy for the highest percentage payment rate.

The chairman however cited challenges which have faced the society which included gender representation as they still need to improve female representation on the board to meet the one-third gender rule.

“I encourage more women to participate in leadership roles,” he said.

He said that the society has seen limited youth participation and are making efforts to encourage young farmers to invest in dairy farming by providing them with necessary training and support.

He said that due to erratic climatic conditions the farmers are taught about fodder preservation as a mitigation measure.

He said that due to the high cost of electricity the society has made arrangements to install solar energy.



Shareholders of Limuru Dairy Farmers Cooperative following through the 60th Annual General Meeting.

Mother Tongue-Inheritance

From Grandfathers



Mother tongue-inheritance from
grandfathers,
History flourishes in every word
incomparable.
This river, flowing for thousands of
years,
This amazing tribute to the so-called
language,
We shall live in preservation.
Page of books-knowledge mining,
Literature is the space that gives the
soul.
In the words of Nawab, Babur,
Traces of Kadir, Chulpan,
Armon to us, who went to eternity.
My teacher in my school every morning,

He would teach our language beminat.
Each letter-it, in sentences, in spellings,
Nation spirit flourishing example Sun,
Therefore, I love him desperately.
Book-light of hearts,
Today youth oshufta foreign language,
Faltering forgetting his own language.
But you need to know that every
moment,
Never be a nation without a mother
tongue,
Keep it alive, live always united.
Be the future of my homeland bright,
Live with slices and Bloom.
For my children, grandchildren,
We will leave it as a legacy for all,
Uzbek language, live and live forever!

Ziyodullaeva Marjona Shukhratjonovna
Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, 1st
year student of the Faculty of Foreign
Language and Literature

WAKO WAPI



Wako wapi wako wapi, watu walojaa utu
Nijuzeni wako wapi, ambao kweli ni watu
Kwa ukweli wako wapi, wenye nyoyo ziso
kutu
Wako wapi?

Wako wapi wako wapi, waliyoyashinda
haya
Ndooni msemi wapi, wako wasoona haya
Mimi niwapate wapi, walojweza duniya
Wako wapi?

Wako wapi wako wapi, watetezi wa
wanyonge

Niwapate hao wapi, wasodhulumu
mnyonge
Nikawaambie wapi, leo mwananyonga
wanyonge
Wako wapi?

Wako wapi wako wapi, wale kweli marafiki
Nitambue wako wapi, waloacha unaiki
Hao mashakiki wapi, nijuzeni niafiki
Wako wapi?

Wako wapi wako wapi, wale walezi azizi
Walolea wako wapi, wakijua pia kazi
Si wa leo wako wapi, kwao si bora malezi
Wako wapi?

Wako wapi wako wapi, sijui kwa kweli
wapi
Nijuzeni wako wapi, niwapate huko wapi
Ili nikijua wapi, wapate haya mafupi
Wako wapi?

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

I Want To Confess



I want to confess
I also loved
I did love with restless breathes and
sleeplessness
Heavy and drunk in love was I
But ended up scattered across the field
as dew

I want to confess my father!
The dawn of my love was breaking
The cocks were silent and felt afraid
As the darkness left and light frightened
As though by order
The heavenly big body faded
Made like I was deep in a dream world
And the love ended

I confess to you father
I also loved
Well! Well it may be
It was worth living as time passes

From a season to the next one
If not tomorrow it was till the moon be
black
I loved father
Only for it to leave
As trees of last year's fallen leaves
With a reason of false waves
But know father
My heart ended up bed-head
I once loved

I confess father
I also loved
But still she is out there
Cascading with her sweet beauty
To her time stands still
Vanishing from my life timing
I am at the edge
Still as before hoping
But recent seems long ago
Playing its crazy tricks
But my heart has no tenancy
Not in my heart home anymore
Father!
Can it be so?
Does love really not last?
But ever, all my life father!
I also loved

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
The Weeping Onion

THIS IS NOT A LOVE POEM

Ask anyone who knows me
and they will tell you
that I am no love poet.
I do not write about the soft amber
of my lover's eyes or the way her brow furrows.
I do not tell stories for hours about her lips
or compare her touch to the night rain.
So when I say that you are beautiful,
What I mean is:
God must have taken years to craft you
and then destroyed the blueprint
so no one else like you exists.
What I mean is:
Beethoven would have written
a hundred symphonies in your name.
What I mean is:
Shakespeare would have written
a thousand sonnets about you.

All of this is just to say:
You make me want to write love poems.

Nikita Gill

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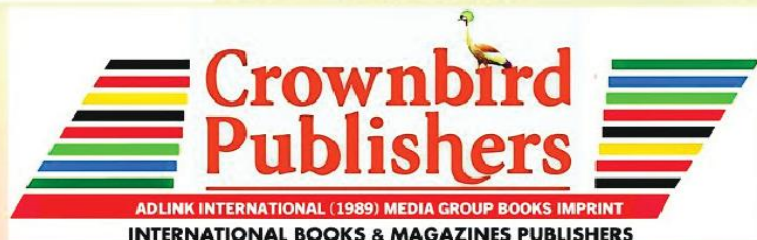
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Wheat Farmers Call For Immediate Action On Wheat Marketing Challenges

By: Kiptanui Cheronu
@themtkenyatiimes

Wheat farmers in Uasin Gishu County have called on the government to put on hold wheat importation until all wheat harvested locally is sold out.

Speaking during a press briefing in Eldoret after a meeting with wheat growers from the County, Cereal Growers Association, CGA, board member Nahashon Ngetich said small-scale wheat farmers relied on market support for efficient uptake of their wheat.

Ng'etich expressed concern that wheat farmers are still holding huge stocks of wheat in their store for lack of market as most millers are not buying the produce.

He said challenges persist in the wheat sub-sector, such as millers prioritizing importation of wheat over local purchases, leaving many farmers unable to sell their wheat. "Marketing agents who are willing to buy local wheat are facing stockpiles and financial constraints," said Ng'etich.

Ng'etich stated that to minimize import reliance, the government has facilitated the Local Wheat Purchase Program that allowed millers to import wheat at a lower duty of 10 percent instead of a full import duty

of 35 percent in exchange that they would purchase locally produced wheat at an agreed minimum price.

"This program, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, through Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), aimed to promote local production and ensure fair prices for consumers," he added.

He pointed out that the Cereal Millers Association, CMA and CGA, along with marketing agents, were key stakeholders in this initiative.

Ng'etich said through the agreement, wheat prices for the 2024/2025 season, were set at Sh. 5,300 as the minimum for grades one and Sh. 5,200 for grade two for locally produced wheat to farmers by registered marketing agents.

However, Kenya National Farmers Federation Uasin Gishu County chairperson, Ruth Kemboi said that currently, farmers are going through a lot of challenges as the CMA has decided not to buy wheat from farmers.

"As farmers, we are disappointed because we thought we were going to be happy this season after AFA gave us the promise of good price. We believed we would just go to the market and sell our produce but it's unfortunate that the farmers have started crying again because CMA has reneged on the agreement," she said.

She warned that the federation is considering to discourage farmers from growing wheat going forward. "We are considering asking farmers not to grow wheat anymore, we can plant other cereals and commercial crops such as coffee, Avocado, Pyrethrum, and other horticultural crops instead of begging to have our produce bought," said Kemboi.

"There is need for immediate action from the Government and stakeholders to address these challenges and ensure the success of the Local Wheat Purchase Program," noted Ngetich.

The issues facing wheat farmers, particularly in regions like Uasin Gishu, Nakuru, and parts of Laikipia must be resolved to support the sustainability of the wheat industry in Kenya.

"Small-scale wheat farmers in Kenya are facing challenges selling their produce due to various factors. They are experiencing post-harvest losses as they lack suitable grain storage facilities, leading to losses worth millions of shillings," he observed.

Ng'etich lamented that some millers were offering prices below the agreed minimum price set by AFA causing further financial strain on farmers.

"The lack of a transparent grading is also another challenge because it has allowed millers to take advantage



Cereal Growers Association, CGA, board member Nahashon Ngetich and Chief Executive Officer Anthony Kioko addressing journalists

of farmers by determining prices independently without sharing test results, leading to mistrust and unfair treatment," complained Ngetich.

Chief Executive Officer, CGA, Anthony Kioko, said they project to produce 1.7 million bags of wheat this year, with Uasin Gishu County producing an estimated 400,000 bags.

He however conceded that wheat production in the country had gone down significantly over the years due to land segmentation, increased cost of input, and lack of extension services.

A farmer from Uasin Gishu Raymond Kimeli, called upon the gov-

ernment and AFA to ensure that the tripartite agreement between the farmers and the millers is adhered to.

"It is futile and disappointing for farmers to work so hard throughout the year knowing the price that has been agreed upon and at the last minute it is not adhered to," he complained.

"It is time the government, through NCPB ensures that we have standardized measurement and certification on the quality mainly the gluten content, moisture, and other purities so that it does not become an issue at the selling point," he said.

Kenya Intensifies Preparedness Against Marburg Virus

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themtkenyatiimes

Kenya has intensified surveillance of the Marburg Virus Disease and response plans due to frequent travel and trade with Rwanda, where an outbreak was recently reported.

Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary (PS) Mary Muthoni said that although Kenya has not reported any cases of Marburg Virus Disease, they are taking proactive measures in strengthening Kenya's disease prevention, preparedness and response framework.

The PS explained that the National Taskforce for Response to Mpox and Preparedness to Marburg Virus Disease held a critical meeting to review progress, enhance coordination efforts and strengthen Kenya's preparedness against Mpox and the

emerging threat of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD), following recent outbreaks in the region.

Ms. Muthoni said they have put in place intervention measures including establishing Marburg Virus Disease treatment units and integrated health worker training programs to ensure Kenya is ready to respond swiftly and effectively should any cases arise.

"The Ministry of Health has developed an integrated training plan aimed at building capacity for healthcare workers to manage both Mpox and Marburg Virus Disease," she said.

The PS said that this proactive approach ensures healthcare workers across the country are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to respond to both infections.

"The taskforce meeting was attended by key stakeholders from across government, representatives from the Council of Governors, County

Governments, health partners, officials from the Ministry of Health and other relevant Ministries, State Departments and Agencies," said the PS.

Ms. Muthoni said that during the meeting, the taskforce reaffirmed its commitment to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, underscoring the importance of a united response to safeguard public health.

"The taskforce called on all Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Counties, and partners to further intensify their contributions toward eradicating Mpox in Kenya and to ensure nationwide readiness for any Marburg Virus Disease cases," said the PS.

Ms. Muthoni assured that the Ministry of Health remains committed to Kenya's constitutional goal of achieving the highest attainable standard of health for all.



PS Mary Muthoni.

Botswana Ruling Party Loses Elections



By: Dr Paula O.M.Otukile Mahalapye, Botswana

More than 31 constituencies already read, and Umbrella For Democratic Change takes more of the parliamentary seats votes so far, followed by the Botswana Congress Party still the former opposition parties.

On the morning of the first of November 2024, the counting still continues but the President of the country Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi, made a press conference and accepted the defeat and promised a smooth transition of power after calling a media press conference.

The former president said he shall communicate accordingly with the president elect, and they shall follow a due process.

Meanwhile it is a surprising turn out of events as after 58 years Batswana voted out their beloved BDP out. The youth are demanding a change and they did so with their votes. So far out of the 31 plus votes only two parliamentary seats are for the ruling party, the BDP.

Mood is jubilant and the streets are oozing with new hope and celebrations, however to be specific the Batswana are such a calm nation as this morning there is no sign of violence or disturbances nor noise. The celebrations are calm and no groups are seen.

The final results are expected to be completed later today but it is already clear which party has won. There are expectations of continued calm celebrations and victory set ups.

The Radio Botswana, the print newspapers continues to give the update about the incoming results as counting gets concluded and verified.

The President of the opposition party named Botswana Congress Party, BCP, Dumelang Saleshando won Maun North and secured his parliamentary seat too. He is the second runner up in these elections as his party is taking more seat too.

Gaolatlhe Ndaba the Vice President of the Umbrella For the Democratic Change, UDC has also won his parliamentary seat at Gaborone Bonnington South.



President Mokgweetsi Masisi of BDP.

Gaolatlhe Ndaba the Vice President of the Umbrella For the Democratic Change, UDC has also won his parliamentary seat at Gaborone Bonnington South.

Botswana Patriotic Front has found more than three seats of Parliamentary seats, Nata Gweta with Lawrence Ookeditse a youth, ensured a win for BPF, Serowe village also conceded two more seats with counting still ongoing so far.

More refreshing news as more youth are winning more parliamentary seats, and these shall mark a change and fresh ideas for the country.

The transition came as a surprise to the ruling party as the atmosphere did not show until the last days of the campaigns that the people want change. President Mokgweetsi Masisi of BDP.



Incoming president- Advocate Duma Gideon Boko of UDC



Botswana congress party president and member of parliament Maun North constituency - Dumelang Saleshando

Worth Noting:

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- The President of the opposition party named Botswana Congress Party, BCP, Dumelang Saleshando won Maun North and secured his parliamentary seat too. He is the second runner up in these elections as his party is taking more seat too.
- Gaolatlhe Ndaba the Vice President of the Umbrella For the Democratic Change, UDC has also won his parliamentary seat at Gaborone Bonnington South.

The Decay Of Democratic Discourse: How Party Allegiance And Coercion Undermine Parliamentary Debate In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The practice of party whipping in Kenya further exacerbates this problem, serving as a mechanism to enforce party discipline and ensure that MPs vote according to the party line. While the role of party whips is not as formalized in Kenya as it is in some other parliamentary systems, the concept of 'toeing the party line' is deeply ingrained in the political culture.
- Party leaders and influential members wield significant influence over their colleagues, using a combination of persuasion, pressure, and sometimes even threats to maintain unity.
- This system, while ostensibly designed to ensure the smooth functioning of government, often results in the suppression of dissenting voices and the stifling of meaningful debate in Kenya's parliament.

The vitality of Kenya's democracy heavily relies on the quality of debate within its legislative chambers, yet the National Assembly and Senate increasingly fall short of fulfilling this crucial role. The decline in the caliber of parliamentary debates in Kenya can be attributed to a complex interplay of factors, chief among them being the overwhelming influence of party politics and the stifling effect of party discipline. This phenomenon has become particularly pronounced since the reintroduction of multiparty politics in 1991, with each subsequent election cycle seeming to further entrench party loyalty at the expense of independent thought. The consequences of this deterioration are far-reaching, impacting the very essence of representative democracy in Kenya and the ability of elected officials to effectively serve their constituents' interests. As we delve deeper into this issue, we will explore the myriad ways in which parliamentary debate in Kenya has been compromised and the implications for democratic governance in the East African nation.

At the heart of the problem lies the erosion of independent thinking among Members of Parliament (MPs) in Kenya, who often find themselves beholden to party lines rather than their own convictions or the interests of their constituents. This lack of intellectual autonomy is not a recent development but has been steadily worsening over the past three decades, fueled by an increasingly polarized political landscape and the growing power of party machinery. The pressure to conform to party positions is immense, with Kenyan MPs risking their political careers if they dare to deviate from the prescribed narrative. This conformity is particularly evident during crucial debates on contentious issues such as constitutional amendments, electoral reforms, or corruption investigations, where one might expect to see a diversity of opinions and rigorous intellectual discourse. Instead, what often transpires in Kenya's parliament is a predictable exchange of rehearsed talking points, with MPs on either side of the aisle merely reiterating their party's stance without engaging in genuine dialogue or demonstrating a willingness to consider alternative viewpoints.

The practice of party whipping in Kenya further exacerbates this problem, serving as a mechanism to enforce party discipline and ensure that MPs vote according to the party line.



While the role of party whips is not as formalized in Kenya as it is in some other parliamentary systems, the concept of 'toeing the party line' is deeply ingrained in the political culture. Party leaders and influential members wield significant influence over their colleagues, using a combination of persuasion, pressure, and sometimes even threats to maintain unity. This system, while ostensibly designed to ensure the smooth functioning of government, often results in the suppression of dissenting voices and the stifling of meaningful debate in Kenya's parliament. The consequences of defying the party position can be severe, ranging from loss of party support in future elections to exclusion from desirable committee assignments or potential cabinet positions. This creates a culture of compliance where Kenyan MPs are incentivized to prioritize party loyalty over their personal judgments or the specific needs of their constituents.

The impact of this party-centric approach to parliamentary debate is particularly evident in the quality of legislation that emerges from Kenya's National Assembly and Senate. When MPs are not truly engaged in the process of scrutinizing and improving bills, but instead are simply following party directives, the resulting laws may be poorly crafted or fail to address the complex realities of the issues at hand. For example, during the debates surrounding the controversial Building Bridges Initiative (BBi) in 2020-2021, many observers noted the lack of substantive discussion on the intricate details of the proposed constitutional amendments, with MPs instead focusing on broad ideological positions and party loyalties. This failure to engage in nuanced debate ultimately contributed to a protracted and divisive process, highlighting the real-world consequences of di-

minished parliamentary discourse in Kenya.

The decline in the quality of parliamentary debate also has significant implications for the public's trust in Kenya's democratic institutions. When citizens observe their elected representatives engaging in performative politics rather than substantive discussions, it erodes confidence in the legislative process and the ability of government to address pressing societal issues. This disillusionment can lead to increased voter apathy, lower turnout in elections, and a general sense of disconnection between the Kenyan populace and their representatives. In extreme cases, it may even contribute to the rise of populist movements or exacerbate ethnic tensions, as politicians capitalize on public frustration with the perceived ineffectiveness of traditional parliamentary processes to advance divisive agendas.

The role of media in shaping public perception of parliamentary debates in Kenya cannot be overlooked in this analysis. The 24-hour news cycle and the proliferation of social media platforms have created an environment where sound bites and confrontational exchanges are often prioritized over in-depth policy discussions. This media landscape incentivizes Kenyan MPs to engage in performative behavior, seeking to create viral moments or quotable zingers rather than contributing to thoughtful debate. The result is a further degradation of parliamentary discourse, as complex issues facing Kenya are reduced to simplistic talking points and nuanced positions are lost in the noise of political theater. This symbiotic relationship between media coverage and parliamentary performance serves to reinforce the superficiality of debates and further diminishes the quality of legislative deliberation in Kenya.

The consequences of subpar parliamentary debate extend beyond the immediate legislative process, impacting the long-term development of public policy and national direction in Kenya. When MPs fail to engage in rigorous debate and scrutiny of government proposals, it becomes easier for ill-conceived or poorly planned initiatives to gain traction. This can lead to the implementation of policies that are not fully thought through or that fail to consider important perspectives from various stakeholders. For instance, the rushed passage of security laws in response to terrorist threats in Kenya has sometimes lacked thorough parliamentary scrutiny, resulting in measures that were overly broad and potentially infringing on civil liberties. The absence of robust debate in these situations highlights the critical role that parliamentary discourse plays in refining and improving government actions to address Kenya's complex challenges.

Another significant aspect of this issue is the impact on the professional development and expertise of Kenyan MPs themselves. When parliamentarians are not encouraged or required to engage in substantive debate, they may fail to develop the deep knowledge and analytical skills necessary to effectively address complex policy challenges facing Kenya. This can create a vicious cycle where the quality of debate further deteriorates as MPs become less equipped to engage in sophisticated discussions on a wide range of topics. The result is a legislative body that is increasingly reliant on external advisors and lobbyists for information and guidance, potentially compromising the independence and integrity of the parliamentary process. This trend is particularly concerning in an era where Kenya faces rapid technological advancement and global challenges that require lawmakers



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Agawo Patrobus Papa: The Heartbeat Of Rumba Music In Kenya

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The legacy of Agawo Patrobus Papa, a cherished figure in the Kenya Rumba fraternity, continues to resonate deeply among fans and music lovers even years after his passing in 2017. Known affectionately as “Papa,” he was not just a presenter at Ramogi FM but a passionate advocate for Rhumba music and its rich history. His contributions went beyond mere broadcasting; he played a pivotal role in popularizing Congolese Rumba, a genre that has become an integral part of the African musical landscape.

Agawo’s shows were more than just entertainment; they were cultural celebrations that educated listeners about the historical context and significance of Rhumba music. He had the unique ability to weave stories about legend-

ary artists like Franco Luambo Makiala and Tabu Ley Rochereau into his broadcasts, creating a sense of connection between the music and its roots. His deep knowledge and love for the genre inspired many, fostering a community of enthusiasts who shared his passion.

In an era where commercial interests often overshadow artistic integrity, Agawo remained steadfast in his commitment to authentic music. He was known for his disdain for mediocrity in broadcasting, often expressing his belief that true artistry should be celebrated and preserved. His shows attracted millions of listeners, making them a national treasure that resonated with audiences far beyond the Luo community. The emotional depth he brought to his presentations allowed listeners to experience Rumba not just

as music but as a profound cultural expression.

Agawo’s passing left a void that is felt across the airwaves and among fans who appreciated his dedication to promoting Rhumba music. His legacy serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving cultural heritage through music. As we remember him, it is essential to honor his contributions by continuing to celebrate and share the beauty of Rhumba music with future generations.

Born on September 23, 1948, Agawo Patrobus had a stellar career spanning over 30 years, working with leading broadcasters including Voice of Kenya (now KBC) and Royal Media Services. His distinctive voice and articulate delivery made him a standout figure in broadcasting, earning him respect and admiration from peers and fans alike.

He was not just an entertainer; he was a cultural ambassador who bridged generations through music.

Agawo’s commitment to Rumba was evident in his programming choices. He often dedicated entire shows to commemorate significant anniversaries of legendary musicians, such as the four-part series celebrating Franco’s death, which captivated audiences for sixteen hours. This dedication showcased not only his passion but also his understanding of the emotional connection people have with music.

As we reflect on Agawo Patrobus Papa’s life and contributions, we must recognize the role he played in shaping Kenya’s musical identity. His work transcended entertainment; it fostered community, pride, and cultural continuity. In an age where many voices compete for attention, Agawo’s legacy

reminds us of the power of authenticity in art.

In conclusion, Agawo Patrobus Papa was more than a radio presenter; he was a cultural ambassador for Rumba music. His passion, knowledge, and unwavering commitment to authenticity have left an indelible mark on Kenya’s musical landscape. As we continue to celebrate Rumba music today, let us ensure that Agawo’s love for this genre inspires future generations of artists and listeners alike. Continues resting in peace, Agawo Papa—you will always be remembered as a true champion of Rumba.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner

Kenyan Workers In Qatar: CS Labor’s Push For Fair Conditions And Mental Health Support

The Kenyan Ministry of Labor has recently highlighted the growing concerns over labor conditions for Kenyans working in Qatar. As the number of Kenyans employed in Qatar continues to rise—primarily in construction, hospitality, healthcare, and domestic work—the Ministry, led by Cabinet Secretary for Labor, has intensified efforts to address reports of exploitative conditions and the mental health impacts on Kenyan workers abroad.

Escalating Labor Concerns in Qatar

In recent months, Kenya’s Labor Ministry has received numerous complaints from Kenyan workers in Qatar, particularly regarding low wages, long working hours, and limited freedom of movement. These conditions have sparked renewed concern, despite Qatar’s efforts to improve labor laws ahead of major international events like the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

CS Labor emphasized the urgency of protecting Kenyan workers’ rights, stating, “It is our duty to en-

sure that our citizens working abroad are treated with respect and dignity. We have implemented measures to curb exploitation and to provide support for those who may be struggling mentally.”

To address these challenges, the Ministry has proposed the establishment of bilateral agreements with Qatari labor authorities to streamline protection mechanisms for Kenyan workers and ensure regular welfare checks. However, as noted by the CS, legal enforcement of labor protections remains challenging due to the complexity of Qatar’s labor framework, specifically the Kafala system, which has traditionally limited workers’ autonomy.

Mental Health Struggles in a Foreign Land

While economic opportunities in Qatar provide vital income for Kenyan families through remittances, which the World Bank identifies as a key driver in Kenya’s GDP, the mental health of many migrant workers has become a growing issue. Kenyan workers, often far from family sup-

port systems, face cultural isolation, language barriers, and limited freedom, contributing to feelings of anxiety, depression, and homesickness.

The Labor Ministry’s recent reports note that many workers find themselves in distressing environments where seeking mental health support is difficult. For example, a Kenyan healthcare worker in Qatar, speaking under anonymity, described her experience as “a constant struggle of loneliness and pressure, working long hours with little social support.”

In response to these reports, the Ministry of Labor has begun coordinating with mental health organizations and support groups, aiming to establish accessible, culturally sensitive support channels for Kenyan workers in Qatar. CS Labor highlighted the Ministry’s partnership with local counseling and mental health professionals to offer remote support and counseling to Kenyans abroad.

A Balancing Act for Kenya

The Labor Ministry’s initiatives come at a time when Qatar remains a major destination for Kenyan work-

ers, who send vital remittances back home to support their families. However, the long-term implications of labor migration, especially as some sectors in Kenya face workforce shortages due to skilled labor migration, are also concerning for local development.

CS Labor has acknowledged the critical economic role of these jobs but stresses the importance of supporting the physical and mental well-being of workers. To mitigate these issues, the Ministry is considering more rigorous pre-departure training programs focused on mental health awareness, stress management, and preparation for life in Qatar.

Looking Ahead

The Kenyan government’s commitment to safeguarding its workers’ rights and mental health in Qatar represents a positive step toward addressing these issues. While Qatar’s labor reforms signal some progress, the challenges remain significant, particularly in light of reports from workers and ongoing restrictions in the Qatari labor system.

The Ministry’s efforts reflect a growing awareness of the mental toll that international work placements can have on Kenyans abroad. With further collaborations between Kenya and Qatar, and support from mental health organizations, the hope is that Kenyan workers in Qatar can experience improved conditions that respect both their labor rights and mental health needs.

By ensuring fair working conditions and mental health support, the Kenyan Ministry of Labor aims to protect the dignity of its workers abroad and foster a safer, more supportive environment for Kenyan citizens pursuing international employment opportunities.

Prepared by Mureithi Melvin, Dip, Pursuing BA Counselling Psychology KCA University, Counselling Psychologist Mental 360.

‘I Need Your Voice’, President Ruto Tells Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

President Ruto while giving his speech during the swearing in ceremony of Prof Kithure Kindiki at KICC, he showed an indirect attack to the former deputy president Rigathi Gachagua who was removed from office through impeachment. Gachagua’s relief ended on Thursday afternoon after a bench of three High Court Judges Anthony Murima, Eric Ogola and Fredah Mugambi va-

cated conservatory orders that were preventing the swearing in of Prof Kithure Kindiki.

The president on congratulating and applauding Kindiki during his swearing in ceremony, Ruto used a remorseful tone on being like a ‘lonely voice’ in giving information about government programs and projects especially from the presidency. He praised Kindiki’s ability to undertake

his duties effectively. The president made a heartfelt request directly to Kindiki by saying, ‘You are eloquent, my brother; you are intelligent, my brother; I’m confident that you will do what I have missed in the last two years, I know you will.’

While complementing the intellect capabilities of the Deputy president Kithure Kindiki, Ruto appealed to Kindiki to assist him by using his el-

quence in communicating what the executive is doing, expressing that is what has lacked in the last two years. ‘I have almost become a lonely voice in the executive especially within the presidency, speaking about our programs and elaborating on our work’, the president said.

This remarks openly expressed what may have caused the fallout between him and his former deputy Rigathi

Gachagua. The president emphasizing on the oath of office, Ruto asked Prof. Kindiki to work for all Kenyans without favor, affection or fear.

By Abraham Ong’uti, Communication and Journalism Student.

Advancing The Sustainable Future: The UN’s Path To Global Well-Being

Exploring the Origins, Structure, and Vision Behind the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- This report first popularized the term “sustainable development” and established it as a guiding principle for global policy. Chaired by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, the commission highlighted the need for an integrated approach to development that considers economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
- Building on the ideas set forth in the Brundtland Report, the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro marked a significant turning point. Officially known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Earth Summit brought together world leaders to discuss sustainable development, resulting in influential frameworks like Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration.

Sustainable development is an approach to growth and human development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The aim is to have a society where living conditions and resources meet human needs without undermining planetary integrity.

This concept emerged in the 20th century, driven by a growing awareness of how unchecked development impacts the environment, society, and economy. It encompasses three primary pillars—economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection—which collectively aim to foster a balanced approach to development.

Sustainable development seeks not only to address immediate human needs but also to consider long-term global impacts, preserving resources and opportunities for future generations. In this light, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), drafted by the United Nations (UN), were established as a comprehensive and structured framework to guide global development efforts.

These goals, adopted by all 193 UN member states in 2015, are an urgent call to action to end poverty, protect the environment, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. As a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs build upon the successes and address the shortcomings of previous international development efforts, setting a bold new agenda for the world.

The Historical Roots of the Sustainable Development Goals

The UN’s journey toward the SDGs has a rich history that dates back several decades. In 1987, the Brundtland Report, formally titled Our Common Future, was published by the World Commission on Environment and Development.

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significant turning point. Officially known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Earth Summit brought together world leaders to discuss sustainable development, resulting in influential frameworks like Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration.

These agreements established a foundation for international cooperation on sustainable development, emphasizing issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and the interdependence of ecological and economic systems. The turn of the millennium brought the next milestone: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), launched in 2000.

These eight goals aimed to address global poverty, health, and education challenges by 2015. While the MDGs led to significant progress in reducing poverty and improving access to basic services, they were criticized for being too narrow in focus and lacking an environmental dimension.

The limitations of the MDGs paved the way for the development of a more comprehensive and inclusive agenda: the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Formation and Numbering of the Sustainable Development Goals

The process of drafting the SDGs was highly inclusive and collaborative, involving consultations with governments, civil society organizations, and experts worldwide. In 2012, at the Rio+20 conference (marking the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit), UN member states agreed to develop a set of “universal

goals” to succeed the MDGs. This decision initiated a three-year process of negotiation and consultation, culminating in the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

Each of the 17 SDGs addresses specific global challenges, ranging from poverty and hunger to climate change and environmental conservation. They are deliberately numbered in a way that reflects their interconnectedness while emphasizing the importance of each issue. For example, Goal 1—End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere—serves as the foundation of sustainable development, while Goal 13—Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts—underscores the critical importance of addressing environmental concerns in development efforts.

The numbering of the SDGs follows a logical sequence that builds from basic needs (poverty, hunger, and health) to social issues (education, gender equality, and reduced inequalities), environmental protection, and global partnerships. This order reflects the belief that progress on foundational issues will create the conditions needed to address broader and more complex challenges, promoting a holistic approach to global well-being. The interconnected nature of the goals is also central to their design, as progress in one area often supports progress in others. For instance, improving access to quality education (Goal 4) can reduce poverty (Goal 1) and promote gender equality (Goal 5).

Defining the Sustainable Development Goals and Their Importance

The Sustainable Development Goals are defined as a set of universal targets designed to create a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable world by 2030. These goals are ambitious yet achievable, representing a shared vision for humanity’s future.

Unlike the MDGs, which were primarily directed at developing countries, the SDGs are universal, applying to all nations regardless of their level of development. This universality underscores the idea that sustainable development is a shared responsibility, requiring collaborative efforts across borders and sectors.

The SDGs are also more comprehensive, covering a wide range of issues that reflect the complexities of today’s global landscape, from economic inequality to climate change and sustainable urbanization. Each goal has specific targets and indicators to measure progress. For instance, Goal 2—End Hunger, Achieve Food Security, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture—includes targets to end malnutrition, double agricultural productivity, and ensure sustainable food production systems.

The indicators for this goal range from the prevalence of malnutrition to the proportion of agricultural land under sustainable practices. These targets and indicators provide a measurable framework for tracking progress, helping nations and organizations understand where they



Advancing The Sustainable Future: The UN’s Path To Global Well-Being

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stand and what actions are needed to achieve the goals.

List of Sustainable Development Goals
The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are as follows:
1. No Poverty – Ending poverty in all forms. 2. Zero Hunger – Achieving food security and improved nutrition. 3. Good Health and Well-being – Ensuring healthy lives and

promoting well-being. 4. Quality Education – Providing inclusive and equitable education. 5. Gender Equality – Empowering all women and girls. 6. Clean Water and Sanitation – Ensuring water and sanitation for all. 7. Affordable and Clean Energy – Promoting sustainable energy for all. 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth – Fostering economic growth and decent work. 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure – Building resilient infrastructure. 10. Reduced Inequality – Reducing inequalities within and among countries. 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities – Making cities inclusive and sustainable. 12. Responsible

Consumption and Production – Ensuring sustainable consumption. 13. Climate Action – Taking action to combat climate change. 14. Life Below Water – Conserving oceans, seas, and marine resources. 15. Life on Land – Protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions – Promoting peaceful societies and justice. 17. Partnerships for the Goals – Strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Goals: The Basis for Global Interconnected Progress
These SDGs are not isolated; they

interconnect in addressing complex, overlapping issues. For example, Goal 1 (No Poverty) is closely linked with Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), as eradicating poverty supports access to food and healthcare. Goal 5 (Gender Equality) intersects with Goal 4 (Quality Education), as equitable education promotes empowerment, while Goal 13 (Climate Action) impacts both Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land), addressing environmental threats across ecosystems.
I proudly share this knowledge as a true reflection of Dr. Agnes Wamuyu Wamai’s work and insights in her

lectures. Her dedication to sustainable development, passion for global goals, and deep understanding of interconnected social, economic, and environmental issues have deeply influenced my approach to the topic. Dr. Agnes Wamai’s commitment to shaping informed, socially responsible students is evident in every lecture. I am grateful for the opportunity to honor her expertise and to contribute to spreading awareness on sustainable development.

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

The Decay Of Democratic Discourse: How Party Allegiance And Coercion Undermine Parliamentary Debate In Kenya

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to have a nuanced understanding of complex issues ranging from digital economy policies to climate change adaptation strategies.
The erosion of parliamentary debate quality in Kenya also has implications for the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches of government. In Kenya’s presidential system, the parliament serves as a check on executive power, scrutinizing government actions and holding the president and cabinet secretaries accountable. However, when parliamentary debate becomes a mere formality, with MPs simply toeing the party line, this crucial oversight function is compromised. This can lead to an accumulation of power in the executive branch, as the government faces less effective challenge and scrutiny from the legislature. The long-term consequences of this power shift can be profound for Kenya, potentially leading to a more authoritarian style of governance and a weakening of democratic safeguards that the country has worked hard to establish since independence.

It is important to note that the decline in parliamentary debate quality is not uniform across all of Kenya’s political history, and there have been periods where legislative bodies managed to maintain a higher standard of discourse. For instance, during the early years of independence and in the immediate aftermath of the reintroduction of multiparty politics, there were instances of vibrant and substantive parliamentary debates. Additionally, some reforms aimed at enhancing the quality of debate have been implemented, such as the strengthening of parliamentary committees following the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution. These examples suggest that while the challenges to effective parliamentary debate in Kenya are significant, they are not insurmountable, and there is historical precedent for more robust legislative discourse.
Addressing the issue of subpar parliamentary debate in Kenya requires a multifaceted approach that tackles the root causes of the problem. One potential solution is the reform of party structures to allow for more diverse opinions within political parties and to reduce the power of party leaders to dictate voting patterns. This could encourage Kenyan MPs to engage more deeply with the

substance of legislation and to vote according to their conscience or the interests of their constituents. Additionally, strengthening the role of parliamentary committees, where more detailed and less partisan scrutiny of legislation often occurs, could help improve the overall quality of debate. Investing in resources to support MPs in developing expertise on complex policy issues, such as enhanced research services and opportunities for continuing education, could also contribute to more informed and substantive parliamentary discussions in Kenya.
The role of Kenyan voters in demanding higher standards of debate from their representatives cannot be overlooked. An engaged and informed electorate that values substantive policy discussions over partisan rhetoric can create pressure for improved parliamentary performance. This requires efforts to enhance civic education and media literacy in Kenya, enabling citizens to better understand and engage with the legislative process. Furthermore, electoral reforms that reduce the power of party machinery in candidate selection and promote more diverse representation in parliament could help bring fresh perspectives and independent voices into Kenya’s



legislative chambers. Ultimately, reinvigorating parliamentary debate is essential for the health of Kenya’s democratic system, ensuring that the interests of citizens are genuinely represented and that government actions are subject to thorough scrutiny and refinement.
In conclusion, the current state of parliamentary debate in Kenya falls short of the ideals upon which the nation’s democratic institutions were founded. The dominance of party politics, the stifling effect of party discipline, and the prioritization of loyalty over independent thought have collectively undermined the quality of legislative discourse. This deterioration has far-reaching consequences, from the crafting of sub-optimal legislation to the erosion of public trust in Kenya’s democratic

processes. However, the situation is not irredeemable. By implementing targeted reforms, fostering a political culture that values substantive debate, and encouraging greater civic engagement, it is possible to revitalize parliamentary discourse in Kenya. The stakes are high, as the quality of debate in Kenya’s legislative chambers directly impacts the effectiveness of governance and the strength of democratic institutions. As Kenya navigates the complex challenges of the 21st century, ensuring that its parliament is a venue for rigorous, informed, and independent debate is more crucial than ever for the nation’s continued development and stability.
The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

SPORTS NEWS

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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> * Uefa has ordered Twente to partially close their stadium during their next European fixture following racist behaviour by supporters.

Twente Handed Partial Stadium Closure Over Racist Abuse



Schalke's Julian Draxler (R) and Enschede's Hidde ter Avest vie for the ball during a soccer friendly match between FC Schalke 04 and FC Twente Enschede at Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, 02 August 2015. PHOTO/AFP.

Uefa has ordered Twente to partially close their stadium during their next European fixture following racist behaviour by supporters.

Lazio winger Loum Tchaoua suffered racist abuse from Twente fans during his side's Europa League encounter in the Netherlands on 24 October.

Twente must now close part of their De Grolsch Veste stadium when they host Union Saint-Gilloise in the Europa League on 28 November.

The Dutch club has been fined 40,000 euros (£33,490) too.

Uefa has also punished the Hungarian Football Federation after supporters breached two regula-

tions of European football's governing body during the national team's Nations League fixture at Bosnia-Herzegovina on 14 October.

The federation has been banned from selling away tickets to their next Uefa competition match for the "racist and discriminatory behaviour of its supporters", and issued with a 20,000 euros (£16,745) fine.

Bosnia-Herzegovina supporters were found to have breached two Uefa regulations – throwing objects and racist and/or discriminatory behaviour.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Football Federation has been fined 29,250 euros (£24,489) and

ordered to partially close the national stadium for their next home game in a Uefa competition.

The national federations of Serbia, Estonia and Georgia have also been fined.

Serbia and Georgia will face partial stadium closures if they breach Uefa's regulations again during a two-year probationary period, while Estonia have a one-year probationary period.

Panathinaikos have also been handed a suspended stadium closure for a two-year probationary period.

Uefa found the Greek side guilty on six charges, including "use of a laser pointer", "throw-

ing objects", "discriminatory conduct" and "lighting of fireworks" during the 4-1 home Europa Conference League defeat to Chelsea on 24 October.

The club must also pay a fine of 76,000 euros (£63,631).

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Sports >>> *An unmissable showdown between Manchester United and Chelsea is set to light up screens on Sunday, November 3, with these two Premier League giants facing off at Old Trafford.

Man U Host Chelsea As EPL Action Enters Week 10



An unmissable showdown between Manchester United and Chelsea is set to light up screens on Sunday, November 3, with these two Premier League giants facing off at Old Trafford. With both teams undergoing pivotal changes this season, fans can expect an intense match, brimming with anticipation and high stakes. The drama escalates with United's recent managerial switch, while Chelsea, under Enzo Maresca's guidance, shows steady growth and determination to re-

claim former glory. For Kenyan fans, DSTv and GOTv make sure this legendary rivalry is available to watch live from home or on-the-go with streaming options, ensuring they don't miss a single moment of the action. With top players like Andre Onana's resilience in goal for United and Cole Palmer's impressive form for Chelsea, it's anyone's game.

EPL WEEK 10 full fixtures
Saturday 2 November 2024
15:30 Newcastle vs Arsenal-St.

James' Park
18:00 Bournemouth vs Man City-Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth
18:00 Ipswich vs Leicester-Portman Road, Ipswich
18:00 Liverpool vs Brighton -Anfield, Liverpool
18:00 Nott'm Forest vs West Ham-The City Ground, Nottingham
18:00 Southampton vs Everton-St. Mary's Stadium, Southampton
18:00 Wolves vs Crystal Palace-Molineux Stadium, Wolver-

hampton

Sunday 3 November 2024
17:00 Spurs vs Aston Villa-Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London
18:00 Man Utd vs Chelsea-Old Trafford, Manchester

Monday 4 November 2024
23:00 Fulham vs Brentford

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Backpage



There Is Urgent Need For Marginalized Women To Access Climate Finance To Promote Climate Justice

By: Ahairiirwe Mary Blessing
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Climate finance involves setting apart or allocating resources in terms of grants not loans to mitigate or take care of any climate disasters that may occur such as floods and droughts. It's mainly aimed at addressing the impacts and outcomes of climate change.
- According to UN September report on State of the Climate in Africa, it highlights that African countries are losing 2-5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and diverting up to 9 percent of their budgets responding to climate extremes. This clearly depicts how the entire economy in our countries thrives on climate resilience and thus ignoring the financing of climate back bites other sectors in the long run.

The climate crisis is not a gender neutral, it affects women and marginalized communities more acutely, particularly in terms of economic, health and social impacts. In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the importance of integrating a feminist approach in climate action, acknowledging the disproportionate burden borne by women and ensuring that their wellbeing is prioritised.

We need to recognize that when crisis come, marginalized women are the one at stake because there are referred as care takers of the family and natural resources. Women continue to face injustices because there are unable to access finances to champion the fight for climate justice.

While so many promises have been made for Global south countries to access to climate finance in Paris Agreement, developing countries still grapple facing climate injustices.

Climate finance involves setting apart or allocating resources in terms of grants not loans to mitigate or take care of any climate disasters that may occur such as floods and droughts. It's mainly aimed at addressing the impacts and outcomes of climate change.

Why is there a need for Climate Finance?

According to UN September report on State of the Climate in Africa, it highlights that African countries are losing 2-5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and diverting up to 9 percent of their budgets responding to climate extremes. This clearly depicts how the entire economy in our countries thrives on climate resilience and thus ignoring the financing of climate back bites other sectors in the long run.

Lack of climate finance to women limits their ability to adopt climate resilient practices such as making reusable sanitary towels, recyclable bags among others. On the other hand, equipping these women with knowledge through organized workshops and trainings puts them at a better position of coping with cli-



Climate Finance

mate change and ensuring greener and sustainable environments.

Excluding climate actions from government budgeting processes affects the compliance and immediate attention to climate changes that are always unexpected such as the floods and landslides in the districts of Bundibugyo, Bududa and Sironko in Uganda where at least 38 people lost their lives in 2019, the 2020 desert locusts in the Acholi, Elgon, Karamoja, Lango and Teso sub regions that affected the agricultural lands that most of these people depended on for survival and posed a challenge of food insecurity. This is derived at showing us how neglecting of climate financing during budgeting and allocation of funds can affect the economy in other completely different sectors since there's a supplementary budget drafted to address them and thus hindering the formerly allocated resources of another sector.

Some of these different institutions, NGOs and CBOs advocating for climate justice receive climate finance that is mostly in form of loans instead of grants implying there are

higher interest rates attached to them and this limits their practical advocacy in organizing workshops and trainings of hands on skills to different communities and other climate resilient projects.

Due to debt crisis and challenges in most developing countries, exploitation of fossil fuels such as crude oil, natural gas, coal and its products acts as a solution to clear some of these outstanding debts from International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank and this subjects the environment to global warming pollution resulting into climate change.

What should be done?

There's need to include climate financing in the government budgeting processes. This will enable immediate response to different climate changes and support climate actions that eradicate negative impacts of climate change on communities.

Alternative solutions to debt financing should be adopted so as to minimize the pressure on debts from IMF and World Bank that pushes these developing countries into exploiting fossil fuels.

Furthermore, Global North countries and big polluters should be responsible to pay up for the Losses and damages they cause in our communities. Climate finance should also be accessible at grassroots by empowering women to start up eco-friendly businesses that can be source of income for their families and for protecting the environment.

Climate finance can as well solicited and lobbied from International funding mechanisms in form of different such as Renewable energy grants aiming at reducing over depending on fossil fuels

or Climate Adaptation grants targeting climate actions and ensuring sustainability and so many other related grants.

In summary, climate financing in any possible form is very crucial since climate actions determine much more of any economy's survival.

*For God and my
Ahairiirwe Mary Blessing
Volunteer
Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda.*