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 Kenya hosts approximately 70% of all internet data centers in East Africa, representing a critical geospatial nexus of digital infrastructure and technological transformation in the regional context. This substantial digital footprint underscores the complex interplay between technological development, national security considerations, and global data ecosystem dynamics  
 Page 18

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**News>> Finance Committee Through With Public Participation On Bills In Counties, Pledges To Incorporate Views**

P. 8. Curtains fell on the Public Participation exercise over six bills currently under consideration by the National Assembly.



**News>> Nakuru Embarks On Wetlands Restoration To Combat Effects Of Climate Change**

P. 12. The Nakuru County Government has embarked on an ambitious programme of harnessing natural wetlands to buffer the residents against the impacts of climate change and help boost resilience.

# Counties To Get KSh 387 Billion

**The Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 unanimously agreed to allocate KSh387 billion to County governments.**  
 The decision came after extensive deliberations over three days, following earlier meetings that failed to reach a consensus. The committee, co-chaired by Mandera Senator Ali Roba and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, announced the agreement as a balance between the fiscal constraints of the National Government and the operational demands of the Counties.



Mediation committee, co-chairs Mandera Senator Ali Roba and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro during yesterday's meeting

STORY ON PAGE 9

# Hospital Goes Hi-Tech With Lab System That Cuts Misdiagnosis

By: Jane Ngugi  
@themtkenyatimes

**Worth Noting:**

- Speaking after touring the facility, the CECM who was accompanied by County Secretary and Chief of Staff Dr. Samuel Mwaura explained that the Atellica Solution is already enhancing diagnostic efficiency, with the capacity to handle over 700,000 tests annually, including thyroid, cardiac, liver, and kidney function tests.
- “This cutting-edge technology integrates immunoassay and clinical chemistry analysis, powered by automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), ensuring precise diagnostics for a wide range of conditions,” noted Mungai.



Advanced technology has cut the time patients take to receive laboratory tests from days to just an hour in a Nakuru hospital.

The Nakuru County Referral and Teaching Hospital’s ultra-modern medical laboratory, equipped with the advanced Atellica Solution system is set to reduce cases of misdiagnosis and save patients who travel for medical tests, time and money.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Health Services Roselyn Mungai said the facility will not only enable doctors to offer better diagnostic services to patients in the county, but will also ease the burden on patients who have had to wait for long hours to get lab results.

The lab has new computers and uninterrupted power supply systems.

Speaking after touring the facility, the CECM who was accompanied by County Secretary and Chief of Staff Dr. Samuel Mwaura explained that the Atellica Solution is already enhancing diagnostic effi-

ciency, with the capacity to handle over 700,000 tests annually, including thyroid, cardiac, liver, and kidney function tests.

“This cutting-edge technology integrates immunoassay and clinical chemistry analysis, powered by automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), ensuring precise diagnostics for a wide range of conditions,” noted Mungai.

She explained how the system works, “The samples for testing are taken, a test conducted, results printed and given to a patient in an hour. Unlike the manual systems that had been in use before patients are able to ask for previous test results without worry of going through many files.”

The doctors can also check the results from the comfort of their offices.

The CECM assured that information sent through the system is encrypted and passwords allocated to every person that has access to the system, ensuring confidentiality of the medical data.

Mungai indicated that the new state-of-the-art lab is set to revolutionize the

healthcare industry in the devolved unit and set new benchmarks in the region’s healthcare industry.

“The facility marks a significant advancement in healthcare and diagnostics in this region. It will utilize the latest AI technology to provide rapid, accurate, and reliable diagnostic results,” said the CECM.

The Chief of Staff explained that the lab’s mission is to raise the standard of healthcare across the county and beyond.

“By investing in fully automated systems, we are ensuring that diagnostics are not only more efficient but also more accessible to everyone in the region,” Dr. Mwaura said.

The facility, he said, represents Governor Susan Kihika’s vision on the future of healthcare, where precision, speed, and reliability meet to provide the best possible care for all.

The lab has cutting-edge diagnostic machines that can also handle a wide range of tests, from routine blood work to complex genetic testing.

“By leveraging artificial intelligence and robotics, the Labs ensures minimal human error, providing patients with trustworthy results and facilitating faster clinical decisions for doctors and healthcare professionals,” he added.

Key features of the lab include fully automated diagnostic systems that offer rapid results with high accuracy and expanded testing capabilities that cover a wide range of medical and diagnostic services.

The facility also includes equipment with increased efficiency which will significantly reduce the waiting time for results.

Dr. Mungai said the laboratory will operate around the clock, ensuring that patients receive timely results, regardless of their location or time of need.

“We are committed to offering affordable and accessible healthcare solutions, and this new facility underscores its dedication to making world-class diagnostics a reality for all Kenyans,” he added.

Editor’s Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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# NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



# The Mount Kenya Times

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Kenya Power Company has launched its 2024 Sustainability Strategy to establish a robust, resilient, and sustainable energy ecosystem. Managing Director and CEO Eng. Joseph Siror emphasised the strategy's focus on environmental protection and community needs. The firm aims to promote environmental sustainability and economic empowerment through social investment and community wellness. Key initiatives include E-Mobility, promoting sustainable use of electric vehicles, and the promotion of portable electric gadgets. It has adopted the Just Energy Transition (JET) framework to foster socio-economic responsibility and serve the community's interests.



An archaeologist collects items at the site of the shipwreck believed to have sunk in the Indian Ocean off Ngomeni's shores approximately 500 years ago. Over the past two weeks, archaeologists from the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and collaborating partners have been investigating a shipwreck believed to have sunk in the Indian Ocean off Ngomeni's shores approximately 500 years ago. Dr. Caesar Bitu, Head of Coastal Archaeology at the NKM, is leading the team in determining the shipwreck's dimensions and ascertaining whether it served commercial or military purposes. The team is also seeking to uncover the circumstances that led to the ship's sinking in 1524, with early findings suggesting a fire as charred timber fragments were discovered among the wreckage.



A 34-year-old mother of three from Kocholwo village in Keiyo South Sub County is the latest victim of Gender Based Violence (GBV) after she was forced to undergo Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by her husband while pregnant and bled to death. According to the Keiyo South DCC Diana Wekesa, the deceased was forced to undergo the rite together with her 45 years old co wife who escaped death narrowly after she also experienced excessive bleeding and was rushed to Kamwosor sub county hospital where she is undergoing treatment. The DCC said the husband had called the circumciser to undertake the rite at their home and when she realized that operation had gone awry, she reported the matter to the Kocholwo Assistant Chief where she was detained before being handed over to the Kaptagat police station. According to reports, the sons to the first wife were set to be circumcised on Saturday this week and therefore the family had agreed that the two women undergo FGM since it was considered a bad omen for uncircumcised women to cook for their circumcised sons.



The Ministry of Education has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research of the Swiss Confederation to promote collaboration in research, technology, and innovation. The Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang, represented the Ministry of Education, while the Swiss Confederation's State Secretary for Education, Research, and Innovation, Martina Hirayama, represented the Swiss Confederation. The partnership aims to create exchange programs for lecturers, provide scholarship opportunities for Kenyan students studying in Switzerland, and establish joint research initiatives. The agreement also includes the establishment of a technical working committee to ensure effective implementation.



Nakuru County is advocating for a 50% reduction in chemical pesticides and a ban on those proven to be hazardous to health by 2030. The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Leonard Bor, stated that the county is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, which combine biological, cultural, and mechanical methods with the careful use of chemical pesticides when necessary. The recent parliamentary debate on highly hazardous pesticides was seen as a significant step in Kenya's fight for food safety and public health. Bor highlighted the importance of holding agrochemical companies accountable by regulating and monitoring their activities, promoting transparency, and encouraging responsible practices.



The State Department for Labour and Skills Development has had a stakeholder engagement workshop on the development of the National Business Process Outsourcing Policy with the intended goal of promoting Kenya as a global leader in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry for economic growth and socio-economic transformation. While addressing the importance of the policy, Dr. Wanjiru Kariuki, Secretary for Skills Development from the Department reiterated that the goal of the policy was to position Kenya as a global leader in the BPO sector. This, according to Dr. Kariuki, required strategic efforts to upskill the youth with BPO-specific skills.

# YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

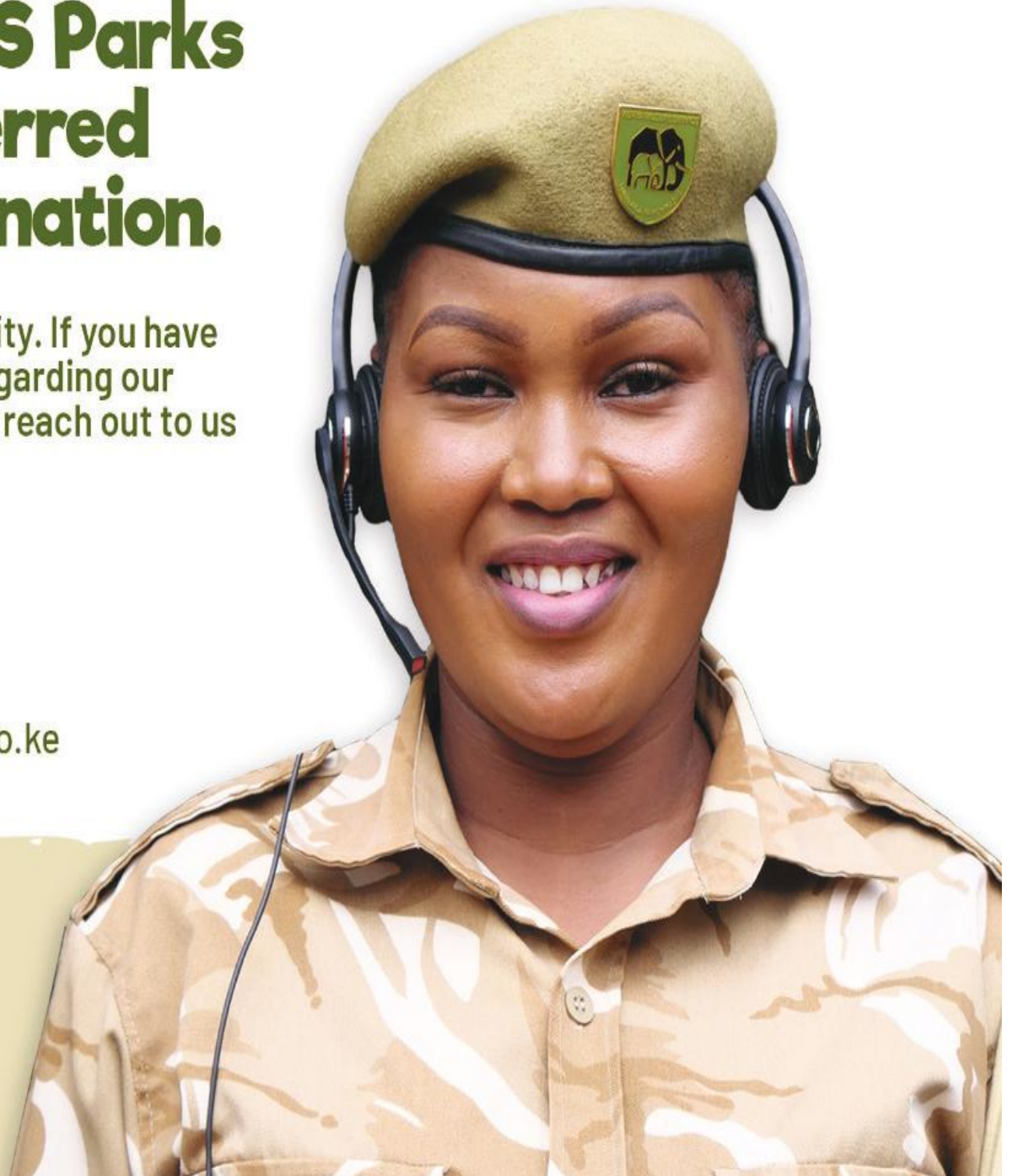
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# National Assembly Questions Agriculture CS On Use Of Harmful Pesticides

By: PSCU

## Worth Noting:

In his response, the CS informed the House that the Ministry had undertaken various steps to address the matter. Among them was the regulation and distributing of pesticide products by gazetting the pest control products inspection and certification regulations of 2024.

The House also heard that the Ministry had conducted an analysis of the pesticide products in the market and as a result the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) had banned 45 products from being sold in the country.



Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Dr Andrew Karanja



Members of the National Assembly

Members of the National Assembly put to task the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Dr Andrew Karanja over the continuous use of carcinogenic pesticides in the Country.

Dr Karanja had appeared before the National Assembly to answer to Members questions.

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Gladys Boss had sought answers from the Cabinet Secretary on the status of the Ministry in implementing the National Assembly's resolutions in a petition against the use of carcinogenic products in Pesticides and steps being undertaken by the Ministry to ensure banned pesticides are withdrawn from the market.

In his response, the CS informed the House that the Ministry had undertaken various steps to address the matter. Among them was the regulation and distributing of pesticide products by gazetting the pest control products inspection and certification regulations of 2024.

The House also heard that the Min-

istry had conducted an analysis of the pesticide products in the market and as a result the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) had banned 45 products from being sold in the country.

Members of Parliament were however not satisfied with the Ministers responses with the Deputy Speaker pointing out that among the products still in the market was Round Up which is banned in other jurisdictions.

"In the United States of America, the Superior court of California awarded each farmer USD250 million against Monsanto, for manufacturing and selling of the pesticide round up. The same Round-Up which has been banned is being sold to our farmers without checking while it has been banned all around the West and Europe," remarked Boss

"Today if our farmers use these pesticides and send agricultural products abroad, the crops are tested and rejected with the entire containers being sent back to the country," she further added.

In his response, the Cabinet Secretary

cited that funding to the PCPB was a major factor hindering the establishment of a local laboratory facility to be used in analysing all the products being sold in the country.

He, however, noted that the 63 pesticide samples studies that had been done in Nyandarua and Nakuru Counties had all displayed compliance with the PCPB set regulations.

The Deputy Speaker however disagreed, pointing out that a study carried out by 22 professors known as the pesticide atlas had shown that the harmful products are indeed present in the pesticides sold locally.

Buuri MP, Mugambi Rindikiri stated, "Meru and Kirinyaga Counties, which are among the most productive regions in this country when it comes to agricultural output, have among the highest prevalence of Cancer cases in Kenya."

"I urge the Ministry to broaden its research are in order to understand the true picture of what these pesticides are doing to our people who are using these products to grow food." He

added.

Emuhaya MP, Omboko Milemba on his part called on the CS to be given time to go back and come up with a comprehensive report on the matter.

"The minister is not telling this house the complete story. In his office, there is a report giving this same Round up a clean bill of health. This matter needs to be looked at more thoroughly to handle the matter once and for all." Milemba stated.

Speaker Wetang'ula directed the CS to gather sufficient research and reappear before the House on the matter.

"As a patriotic Kenyan, and as a country whose economy is rooted in agriculture, employing 70 percent of our workforce, it should concern Members of this House, that the right thing should be done so that we do not lose as a country. You have a duty to ensure as Minister that Kenya benefits from the universal scientific developments," the Speaker directed.

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# Finance Committee Through With Public Participation On Bills In Counties, Pledges To Incorporate Views

By: MTK Correspondents  
@themkenyentimes

**Worth Noting:**

- This was after a section of the members of public took the legislators to task over the influx of graft cases and lack of national projects in the county.
- “Why are views never taken into consideration whenever you conduct public participation? We are willing to pay taxes as long as we can see tangible development projects and excellent delivery of services”, Mrs. Judith Sienei, a Voi resident stated.
- “What plans do you have with the increased taxes that you propose to collect? How come we have no single national project in this county? We want fair distribution of resources across the country”, asserted Gideon, a resident of Mwatate.

Curtains fell on the Public Participation exercise over six bills currently under consideration by the National Assembly.

The exercise which saw the committee visit six counties had intense deliberations on the Public Finance Management (Amendment) No 3 Bill, 2024, Public Finance Management (Amendment) No 4 Bill, 2024, Public Procurement and Asset Disposal (Amendment) Bill 2024, and the Business Laws Bill, 2024.

During the exercise, the Kimani Kuria led committee also subjected the Tax Procedures (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to public scrutiny.

The Committee, which was in Taita Taveta and Kericho counties yesterday pledged to look at ways to incorporate some of the progressive viewpoints picked during the exercise.

In Mwatate, Taita Taveta, Kimani who led the exercise also undertook that the Committee and indeed the House would step up its oversight role to ensure that the collected taxes are put into good use.

“We have heard you and your call on the National Assembly to ensure that taxes collected are not only equitably distributed, but that they are also put into good use. We will scale up our oversight role and hold the Executive to task to ensure that you receive the services you require”, he stated.

This was after a section of the members of public took the legislators to task over the influx of graft cases and lack of national projects in the county.

“Why are views never taken into consideration whenever you conduct public participation? We are willing to pay taxes as long as we can see tangible development projects and excellent delivery of services”, Mrs. Judith Sienei, a Voi resident stated.

“What plans do you have with the increased taxes that you propose to collect? How come we have no single national project in this county? We want fair distribution of resources across the country”, asserted Gideon, a resident of Mwatate.

Another resident, Mrs. Josephine Bonje called for the speedy passage of the Conflict of Interest Bill to deter public officers from doing business with government.

“We should put in measures to deter public officers from doing business with the government and ensure that all public officers meet the threshold of Chapter Six of the Constitution”, she urged.

Karachuonyo legislator Adipo Okuome challenged the residents to also put their county official to task

for delivery of services noting that the component of revenue disbursed to counties was substantial and had the potential to transform the devolved units.

Some of the participants also called for the harmonization of taxes both at the national and county levels. Others observed that there was need to ensure fair administration of taxes within the region.

They submitted that while traders from Tanzania enjoy tariff free export of their goods into the country, Kenyan traders were finding it hard to trade in Tanzania due to imposition of high tariffs.

In response, Kimani noted that the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market provides for free movement of goods between the partner states. He however undertook that committee would implore on the Minister in charge of East African Affairs as well as Kenya’s representatives at the East African Legislative Assembly to check on the matter.

Other issues that emerged during the exercise include the proposed increase of value added tax on park fees which the residents observed would adversely affect the tourism sector.

Other participants sought clarification on the proposed digital service tax, expressing concern that it could affect content creators.

Responding on the matter, Kimani clarified that the proposed tax was targeting digital platforms which content creators host their content on.

He noted that while those platforms generate a lot of revenue from content creators in the country, there was no law obligating them to pay their fair share of taxes.

Other members present were Joseph Makilap (Baringo North), Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo), Mohamed Machele (Mvita), CPA Julius Rutto (Kesses) and area MP, Peter Shake.

Elsewhere, at the ACK Church in Kericho County, residents questioned taxation of raw materials or farm inputs as well as the finished products, leading to losses to the producers.

Kericho residents also supported the high taxes imposed on imported sugar.

Making his remarks on the proposal, David Mboni (Kitui Rural) noted that this year, Kenya will not be importing sugar as there is enough sugar in the country.

“We are not importing sugar this year. For farm inputs, we intend to lower import tax on inputs. But we are also increasing taxes on imported finished products like diapers and



The committee chairman Kimani Kuria briefing journalists



Some of the members of public who attended one of the Public Participation event.

sanitary towels to protect our factories because if the factories increase production, we will be creating employment,” explained Mboni.

“We realized this country has become a distributing economy and we are curtailing that,” he added.

Other proposals made include providing sanitary pads for free, introduction of tax bands to digital content producers as this is the major form of employment for the youth, regulating lending institutions, and strict monitoring systems for government expenditure.

However, a majority of residents welcome the move to raise revenue through taxation, but put the government to task, to ensure that their taxes are utilized efficiently and there is a clear form of accountability.

The Vice-Chairperson who was also the head of the delegation Amb. Benjamin Langat (Ainamoi) further observed the need to do civic education beforehand to give Kenyans enough time to interrogate the bills before public participation.

“We will be proposing that we commence civic education two weeks before we engage you in public hearings, so that by the time we come



The committee chairman Kimani Kuria

you have interacted with the Bills extensively, are well informed and have made your observations on the clauses you would want to propose changes,” said Langat, who is also the area MP.

He further assured residents that all the concerns raised, including new ones that are related to the bills shall be incorporated in the report.

Other Committee members present yesterday were; Joseph Oyula (Butula), John Ariko (Turkana South), Paul Biego (Chesumei), and George Sunkuyia (Kajiado West).

# Counties To Get KSh 387 Billion

*In A Historic Move, The Mediation Committee, Comprising Members From The Senate And National Assembly Agreed On The Amount In A Bid To End The Impasse Between The National And County Governments*

By: PSCU and MTK Reporter

@themtkenyatimes

The Mediation Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill, 2024 unanimously agreed to allocate KSh387 billion to County governments.

The decision came after extensive deliberations over three days, following earlier meetings that failed to reach a consensus.

The committee, co-chaired by Manderu Senator Ali Roba and Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro, announced the agreement as a balance between the fiscal constraints of the National Government and the operational demands of the Counties.

“I want to commend all members of the committee. This mediation team has proven to be great supporters of devolution. We cannot afford to allocate less money to Counties than we did last year,” said Nyoro.

He assured Kenyans that Parliament would expedite the processing of the Bill to ensure Counties continue operating smoothly.

Senator Roba emphasized the



Some of the mediation committee members during yesterday's forum



Some of the mediation committee members during yesterday's forum

unique nature of this financial year, citing the withdrawal of the Finance Bill 2024/2025 as a key factor in the mediated position.

“We recognize that this year is extraordinary. While Counties might have higher expectations, we must face the fiscal realities at hand,” he explained.

Committee members, including Senators Veronica Maina, Edwin Sifuna, Eddy Oketch, Wahome Wamatinga, Mohamed Faki, Richard Onyonka, Danson Mungatana and National As-

sembly members Makali Mulu, Oundo Ojiambo, David Kiplagat and Fatuma Jehow endorsed the resolution.

They urged County Governments to use the funds prudently to deliver tangible benefits to Kenyans.

“Counties must curb wastages and eliminate corruption to ensure meaningful progress,” said Kiplagat.

This sentiment was echoed by Funyula MP Oundo Ojiambo and Senators Wamatinga and Sifuna, who called for austerity measures and the clearance of pending bills that have

hindered economic growth.

In addition to approving the allocation, the lawmakers resolved that any shortfall in revenue collection would be absorbed by the National Government going forward.

“The National Treasury must be realistic in its revenue projections and take full responsibility for any shortfalls. This will prevent Counties from being underfunded,” declared Nyoro.

The decision marks a critical step in ensuring financial stability and continued service delivery at the county

level. However, the emphasis on prudent fund utilization and corruption elimination underscores the committee’s commitment to accountability and economic growth.

As the Bill moves to Parliament, the nation looks to County Governments to rise to the challenge of maximizing the allocated resources for the benefit of citizens.

# Businessman Distributes Avocado Seedlings To Women Groups For Economic Empowerment

By: Dickson Mwiti

@themtkenyatimes

In a bid to boost environmental conservation, a businessman cum politician from Central Imenti is distributing fruit trees to all women groups in the region, a move that is also aimed at empowering them economically.

KK Mutai who is also the Meru County Chamber of Commerce Vice Chairman said his target is to ensure that every homestead in Central Imenti sub county has at least five Hass Avocado trees, which will take only three years to mature and start fetching money to the owners.

“As a way of empowering women and their families in general, I have secured enough Hass avocado seedlings for all the women groups and in addition to that, there are at least 100,000 more seedlings that I will

also be raising for the residents,” said Mutai.

He said each avocado tree, after three years, will be fetching at least Sh20,000 for a homestead and this will go a long way in terms of their economic development.

While issuing the seedlings to women groups in Kinjo, Riiji, and Katheri factory area, Mutai said that he plans to ensure that the residents are registered in cooperatives specifically for the purpose of avocado farming so that they can sell them without going through brokers.

“We have a vision of forming cooperatives that will enable us even to export our avocados directly as well as having factories within our constituency for value addition. This will be a good way of eliminating poverty in our families,” Mutai said.

He also encouraged the residents to take advantage of the ongoing rainy season to also plant sunflower, which will also fetch good money for them.



Some of beneficiaries

“We are supposed to also plant other types of trees but I am emphasising fruit trees because apart from con-

serving our environment, they will also play a key role in terms of food security in our homes,” said Mutai.

# Personal Genuine Love With God Pt 1



By: Eric Musa  
EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com

Relationships in this life are very important in this life. In fact in this world, there are 7 currencies, and money is the least of these currencies. One of those currencies is relationships. Whatever money can buy, relationships can buy. In fact, relationships can give you more than money can buy: yes. People are prospering, living a good life, because of the relationships that they have. I want to encourage you that, it is important for you to value relationships; not only our relationship with God, even other relationships in your life, that are God given, that are important, that are there to help you, to get to your destiny. It is very very important for you to discern the people God has brought into your life, that they may become destiny helpers  
Some children have all they need

because their parents succeeding and prospered in life

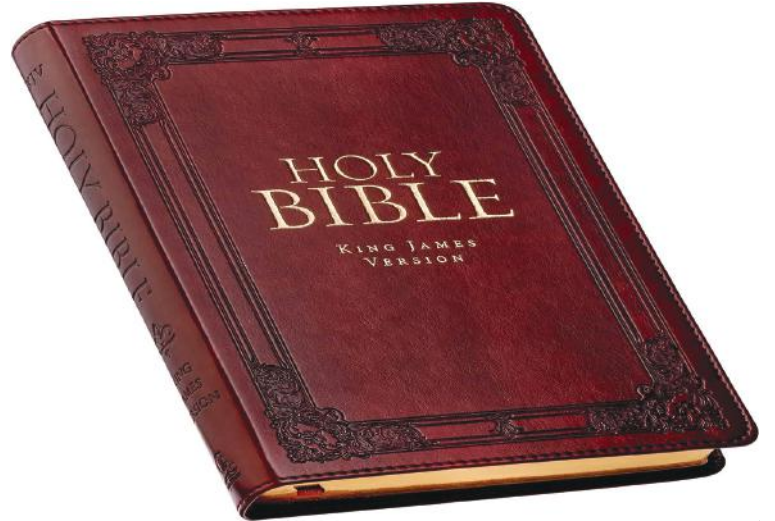
Do NOT take your relationships; sometimes your relationships can be under attack by the enemy, because he knows the value of that relationship, and what it means to your destiny, and you find that your life stagnates, or you are not able to move with speed, because you have lost a relationship, that was supposed to add value to your life. And that it is important to discern the relationships God has brought into your life, and value them, and pray for them, in the mighty name of Christ Jesus.

Now you can imagine, if humanly relationship can greatly add value to your life, and change your destiny; HOW MUCH MORE your relationship WITH GOD: THE KING OF KINGS, THE LORD OF LORDS, THE GOD WHO SAYS: " I AM THE GOD WHO CREATED THE HEAFENS AND THE EARTH, I AM THE GOD OF ALL FLESH, IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR ME?" If you have a relationship with God it forms the BASIS OF YOUR SUCCESS in this life; because the Bible says, "THE DOOR HE OPENS, no man can shut!, the

DOOR HE CLOSES, no man can open." That means you can have relationships with the high and mighty, but they are doors they can NOT open for you.

That is why we need to have a relationship; and a very personal intimate relationship with God. God is looking for people who will LOVE HIM beyond an anointing, beyond titles; positions; beyond riches: those are the closest friends of God. There are people who come to take advantage of what you have; God is tired of such! There are those who pray, fast seeking an anointing; because they have known an ANOINTING is a currency! I hope you know there is an ANOINTING you can get, and never struggle in life again?

I love to minister, and minister with results, but I had not know that an ANOINTING is a currency. Anointing brings some benefits, but am not saying we are to trade with an anointing. We know even of those Jesus proclaims they did miracles, healed diseases; but were evil, wicked people! This currency of relationship Jesus Christ speaks about it, and we get to know that our relationship with God is based/built on LOVE we have



for God. So, if you love God, it is not the things God gives, but rather the way you build the relationship with God. The good thing about loving God is revealed in Proverbs 8: 17 " I LOVE those who love Me, and those who seek Me find Me."

**HALELUJAH; GLORY BE UNTO GOD ALONE.**

**References:**  
Apostle Kimani William( Kenya) preaching & Holy Bible  
Evangelist Eric Musa:

"My message continuously: If you are not saved: Believe, accept, receive and confess Christ Jesus as

your Lord and Saviour and be filled with the Holy Spirit, as it is written; "NOW is the acceptable time, TODAY is the day of SALVATION.- 2 Cor 6:2". For prayers, devotion, and to support the ministry contact Evangelist on +254722157300 ( Email: EMEA.ericmusa@gmail.com). Remember, God LOVES you unconditionally, perfectly and always: SHA-LOM"

## The Mt. Kenya Times



# How Kenyans Are Set To Benefit From Tax Amendment Bill 2024

By: **Joseph Mutua Ndonga**  
*mutuandonga@yahoo.com*

Parliament is currently conducting public participation on Tax Amendment Bill 2024.

This is in line with the power conferred on it by the constitution.

As this exercise continues, one thing is clear. Though Kenyans understand the importance of this Bill, there are a few whose level of awareness is low.

The question some are asking is how they are going to benefit?

If enacted, the Bill seeks to; Bring service closer to the people by ensuring county government gets enough shareable financial resources, Bring down the debt burden to sustainable

level, Enhance tax compliance by ensuring everyone who earns income above a certain threshold pays their fare share and it willensurw that the income from pension scheme savings is now tax-free

Other benefits include; Enabling Kenyans to save for their future, Enabling Kenyans to finally get out of public debt crisis it has been in since 2018, Allow the government to collect tax resources in a manner that is less punitive to Kenyans, Ensure equity and fairness in taxation.

Further benefits are; the Bill will ensure that the low income earners and the middle class benefit from tax exemptions, The deductions on payslip will now reduce the amount of income that is subject to tax and The deductions that are now tax-exempt

include SHIF, the housing levy fund and any retirement fund for medical.

Well, the critics of President William Ruto are once again sharpening their daggers hoping to succeed in inciting Kenyans to reject the Tax Bill.

This is by selling propaganda and outright lies to them. Kenyans have come a long way and hence are able to discern wheat and chaff.

Even the generation of the young Kenyans, the GenZs, have since realized they did not mean well for them. They were out to use them for their personal and selfish political interest.

He assumed office at a time when the foreign debts had risen to a shocking and alarming levels.

When the Kenya Kwanza administration took office, the country was also facing three other main chal-



lenges; biting drought rated to be the worst in 40 years, Russia-Ukraine war and when Kenya was recovering from deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

*Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator*

# A Call For Balanced Dialogue: Oscar Sudi's Appeal For Unity In Criticism Of Ruto's Government

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**  
 @themtkenyatimes

Kapsaret MP Oscar Sudi's appeal to critics of President William Ruto's administration, including religious leaders, underscores a critical moment in Kenya's political discourse. Sudi urges that while it is essential to address the government's shortcomings, it is equally important to recognize its achievements. This call for a balanced perspective reflects a growing frustration among some political figures who believe that relentless criticism can overshadow progress made under Ruto's leadership.

The backdrop of Sudi's remarks is a landscape marked by significant challenges. Critics have pointed to rampant corruption and economic difficulties as major failings of Ruto's government, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among the populace. However, Sudi contends that acknowledging the positive strides—such as initiatives aimed at economic empowerment and infrastructural development—can foster a more constructive dialogue about governance. He emphasizes that leaders should not only highlight problems but also celebrate successes that contribute to national development.

This appeal for unity is particularly relevant in a political climate where

divisive rhetoric often takes center stage. Sudi's insistence on collaboration rather than confrontation resonates with many Kenyans who are weary of ethnic and regional politics that have historically fragmented the nation. By advocating for a more inclusive approach, he encourages politicians and religious leaders alike to work together for the common good, rather than engage in perpetual criticism that serves only to deepen divides.

Moreover, Sudi's comments reflect a broader trend in Kenyan politics where there is an urgent need for leaders to rise above tribal affiliations and speak to issues affecting all Kenyans. His critique of regional politics, particularly aimed at Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, highlights the necessity for leaders to adopt a national perspective that prioritizes unity over division. In doing so, Sudi calls on his fellow politicians to champion policies that benefit all citizens rather than narrow interests tied to specific ethnic groups.

Sudi's remarks come at a time when the political landscape in Kenya is increasingly polarized. The tension between various factions within the ruling coalition has become palpable, with accusations flying between leaders and growing discontent among the electorate. For instance, Deputy President Gachagua has faced backlash for what some perceive as his focus on regional interests over

national unity. Sudi's call for balanced dialogue seeks to address this by encouraging leaders to prioritize collective progress over individual ambitions.

The importance of this balanced dialogue cannot be overstated, especially as Kenya navigates complex socio-economic challenges. High unemployment rates and rising living costs continue to plague many citizens, making it imperative for leaders to focus on solutions rather than merely pointing fingers. Sudi's call for acknowledgment of both the positives and negatives in governance could pave the way for more effective policy-making that addresses the root causes of discontent.

In addition, Sudi's appeal resonates with the aspirations of many young Kenyans who are eager for change and representation in governance. The youth demographic has been particularly vocal about their desire for a government that prioritizes their needs and addresses issues such as job creation and economic empowerment. By fostering an environment where constructive criticism is balanced with recognition of achievements, Sudi advocates for a political culture that empowers this crucial segment of society.

Furthermore, Sudi's remarks align with President Ruto's initial campaign promises centered around inclusivity and economic empowerment through his "hustler" narrative.



*Kapsaret MP Oscar Sudi.*

Ruto's administration was built on the premise of uplifting marginalized communities and addressing historical injustices related to wealth distribution. However, as criticisms mount regarding the effectiveness of these initiatives, it becomes increasingly vital for leaders like Sudi to remind both critics and supporters alike of the broader vision that underpins Ruto's presidency.

In conclusion, Oscar Sudi's appeal for a balanced critique of President Ruto's administration serves as a timely reminder of the power of constructive dialogue in politics. By encouraging leaders to recognize achievements alongside criticisms, he advocates for a more united front that can effectively address the pressing issues facing Kenya today. As the

nation continues to grapple with its political and economic challenges, fostering an environment where collaboration and mutual respect prevail will be crucial in building a more cohesive and prosperous future for all Kenyans.

Ultimately, Sudi's call reflects a yearning among many Kenyans for leadership that transcends tribal divisions and prioritizes national unity. If embraced by both critics and supporters of the government, this approach could lead to meaningful dialogue and collaborative efforts aimed at addressing Kenya's most pressing issues—thus ensuring that all voices are heard in shaping the country's future.

*James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.*

# Nakuru Embarks On Wetlands Restoration To Combat Effects Of Climate Change

By: Esther Mwangi  
 @themtkenyatomes

**Worth Noting:**

- While pledging the County administration's willingness to partner and work with various stakeholders in matters to do with conservation and restoration of wetlands, Dr. Maara emphasized the importance of conserving the riparian land saying they formed an important aspect of ecosystems and habitat for human and animals' existence.
- He argued that in order to reduce the effects of climate change, there was need to strengthen capacity building, training and sensitization programs by enhancing intervention and restoration efforts in the conservation of natural resources.
- The County Executive added that the wetlands restoration programme feeds into the 15 billion tree-growing presidential directive, which is also in tandem with the ongoing global climate change discussions and greenhouse emissions cut strategies.

The Nakuru County Government has embarked on an ambitious programme of harnessing natural wetlands to buffer the residents against the impacts of climate change and help boost resilience.

The County Executive for Water, Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resources Dr. Nelson Maara said last year's national security survey showed that climate change comes in second after terrorism as it triggers intercommunal conflicts in the country, thus calling for serious and enhanced climate actions.

To this end, Maara said the County in collaboration with State agencies, research institutions and environmentalists were rehabilitating riparian land in various parts of the County by planting indigenous trees which had been cut down in recent years by suspected illegal loggers and small-scale farmers.

The County Executive made the remarks when he hosted representatives of the Climate investment fund where they deliberated on nature-based solutions for natural ecosystems, for the overall benefit of the Society.

While pledging the County administration's willingness to partner and work with various stakeholders in matters to do with conservation and restoration of wetlands, Dr. Maara emphasized the importance of conserving the riparian land saying they formed an important aspect of ecosystems and habitat for human and animals' existence.

He argued that in order to reduce the effects of climate change, there was need to strengthen capacity building, training and sensitization programs by enhancing intervention and restoration efforts in the conservation of natural resources.

The County Executive added that the wetlands restoration programme feeds into the 15 billion tree-growing presidential directive, which is also in tandem with the ongoing global climate change discussions and greenhouse emissions cut strategies.

According to Dr. Maara, wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing and filtering excess nutrients, pollutants and sediments from water bodies, which help to purify water and prevent flooding. Furthermore, he said wetlands were essential for biodiversity conservation, providing critical habitat for migratory birds, fish and other wildlife.

Wetlands include any land that is saturated with water like marshes and mangroves along the coasts, floodplains and wet meadows along rivers and streams, vernal pools and prairie potholes.



Part of Nakuru wetlands.

They play a vital role in retaining water on the landscape, maintaining water cycles and reducing temperature extremes. They also store water from precipitation and slowly release it to the surrounding environment, which can recharge groundwater aquifers and maintain atmospheric water cycles.

Wetlands have been hailed globally as carbon sinks, storing a vast amount of carbon and thus helping to mitigate climate change.

Dr. Maara also indicated that the county government and other stakeholders had also kicked off the process of rehabilitating the riparian land around Lake Naivasha which involves the planting of acacia trees and papyrus.

"We are working with the Department of Lands to help us identify all the riparian boundaries in the county so that the land can be protected," he affirmed.

The County Executive said the protection of water catchment areas and

riparian land was crucial for the livelihoods of all Kenyan households and urged farmers to stop encroaching on riparian land and leave a 30-metre distance between their farms and rivers.

He added that Governor Susan Kihika's administration had crafted public-private partnerships that were sensitizing farmers to farm at least 30 metres away from river banks and to plant friendly crops.

Maara observed that prolonged droughts, flash floods, and famine experienced in some parts of the country highlighted the need to protect the environment and underscored the importance of planting and tending trees, to prevent soil erosion and maintain biodiversity.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, wetlands are among the world's most productive ecosystems, providing a wide range of ecosystem services. These include flood control, water purification, biodiversity conservation, and climate

regulation.

According to environmental expert's wetlands slow the speed of flood waters and distribute them more slowly over the floodplain, and thus provide a key ecosystem service to mankind, particularly those who live in Africa, a continent bedeviled by the worsening impacts of climate change.

According to the Global Wetland Outlook report 2021, the world has lost 35 percent of wetlands since 1970. Changes in land use and the climate are severely affecting wetlands, leading to degradation and loss.

Also in attendance were representatives from World Bank, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) authority and the National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND).



The forum that MCEC for Water, Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resources Dr Nelson Maara chaired.

# Embu To Establish Outpatient Unit At Embu Level Five Hospital

By: Samuel Waititu  
@themtkenyatimes

The County Government of Embu is in the process of establishing a level two dispensary unit at Embu Level Five Hospital to take care of patients seeking outpatient services.

The unit, according to Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo, will ease the anguish of patients seeking outpatient services especially those within Embu Town, where it is domiciled from being turned away.

As per Social Health Authority (SHA) regulations, patients must first seek outpatient care at lower-level facilities and can only go to higher level facilities on referral basis.

“We want to turn this facility into a one-stop shop to alleviate the suffering of patients seeking outpatient care by having both inpatient and outpatient care seekers attended to here,” he said.

There has been an outcry from pa-



Embu Deputy Governor Kinyua Mugo..

tients claiming they have been turned away from the facility without being treated that the Deputy Governor attributed to lack of information with regard to SHA packages and contract. Speaking during a tour of the facility yesterday, the DG added that they will equip the lower-level facilities to

enable them offer quality services and handle complex outpatient cases.

The facility Chief Executive Officer Bancy Wawira said assessment has already been done for the new level two unit and was awaiting registration.

“We are establishing the unit at the Maternal and Child Health (MCH)



Embu Level Five Hospital

clinic and we are optimistic that it will be registered very soon,” she said.

The CEO said they had set up a desk at the facility to enhance communication and registration of residents into SHA.

She said the new health policy was working and the few teething problems will end soon and Kenyans will realize its full benefits.

The Deputy Governor also called on residents not to politicize health ser-

vices in the county following media reports of poor services at the county’s largest facility.

“I have toured all units and I can authoritatively say that the facility is fully operational with timely and quality services provision contrary to the allegations,” he stated.

# Absa Bank Kenya Targets Emerging Growth Areas, Opens Branch At Kamakis In Ruiru

By: John Kariuki  
@themtkenyatimes

Absa Bank Kenya, in its quest to extend reach, has opened a new branch in Kamakis, Kiambu County, strategically positioning itself to serve the banking needs of this emerging town and its surrounding communities.

The new branch is a vital part of the Bank’s broader strategy to expand its distribution network, to foster financial inclusion while supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), traders, and individuals in rapidly growing satellite towns.

Speaking during the official opening ceremony, Peter Mutua, Customer Network and Distribution Director at Absa Bank, underscored that this expansion aligns with the Bank’s plan to significantly enhance convenient service for individuals and businesses in the underserved areas.

“Our network strategy adapts and responds to current evolving consumer needs. We understand that our customers desire to be heard

and require solutions that are tailored to their specific needs, which in turn support the advancement of their personal and business growth stories. The Kamakis area, commonly referred to as the Nyama Choma Belt, is dynamic and vibrant, hosting an array of businesses ranging from restaurants and supermarkets to petrol stations, general stores, hospitals, welders, and pharmacies. This diverse commercial landscape presents an opportunity for us to provide relevant financial and non-financial partnerships, creating a meaningful impact in this town.”

He noted: “Beyond the many businesses and the growing populations are real stories of dreams, ambition, and resilience. This is what fuels our passion at Absa, because to us, every story matters.”

Kamakias branch is located at the Viashla Premier Business Centre, this brings Absa Bank’s total footprint to 86 branches across 38 counties, showcasing the Bank’s commitment to expanding its reach. Complementing this physical presence is an extensive agency banking network,



Absa Bank Kenya opens branch at Kamakis in Ruiru

which has seen significant growth this year, increasing from 600 agents to 3,000. The bank has ambitious plans to expand this network further, aiming to enlist a total of 17,000 agents within the next two years.

“This comprehensive strategy will

not only enhance access but also create more opportunities for customers to engage with the bank in a manner that suits their lifestyles,” he added.

Through these efforts, Absa Bank Kenya is not only strengthening its position in the market but is also

committed to drive a more inclusive financial environment that empowers individuals and businesses alike, ultimately promoting economic growth within the communities they serve, Mr. Mutua explained further.

## Beyond The Horizon Of Time



By: Sakshi Rajendra Narawade

Beneath the weight of endless skies,  
Where shadows dance, and time defies,  
We walk as strangers, yet we know,  
That somewhere deep, our spirits glow.

The world is vast, the roads are long,  
We search for meaning in the song.  
Yet in the noise, we lose our way,  
The truths we seek are lost each day.

We build our lives on fragile ground,  
In dreams of gold that can't be found.  
Chasing things that slip through hands,  
We seek control in shifting sands.

But deep within, a quiet plea,  
A voice that speaks, yet none can see.  
For all our pain and endless striving,  
It's love that keeps our hearts surviving.

The walls we build, the walls we break,  
Each choice we make, each step we take,  
It shapes the world we leave behind,  
And whispers secrets to the mind.

The pain we carry, woven tight,  
In every tear, a hidden light.  
For in the struggle, we are found,  
A silent force that knows no bound.

We ask for peace, for hope to rise,  
To see the truth beyond the lies.  
Yet in the quiet of the soul,  
We find the answers, soft and whole.

The future waits, not far, but near,  
For those who face their darkest fear.  
For in the depths of every night,  
There lies the promise of the light.

The world is not what we have made,  
But what we build with love displayed.  
In every act, in every prayer,  
We plant the seeds, we find our share.

So let the winds of change arise,  
Let hearts unite beneath the skies.  
For in the end, we all must see,  
That we are one, and always free.

And through the veil of time we glide,  
A journey shared, with nothing to hide.  
For in the truth we all shall find,  
The peace we seek is in our mind.

## Improved Technology For The Process Of Producing Vinyl Chloride From Ethylene

By: Kurbanova Dilafruz Sobirovna  
Jizzakh Polytechnic Institute

In the work, a catalytic optimal system was selected for the hydrochlorination of important components of chlorinated organic waste in the production of vinyl chloride. Information on the active and selective effect of various substances increasing the speed of the reaction in the hydrogen chloride release reaction was given. Operating modes of the reactor selected for oxidative chlorination of ethylene with hydrogen chloride in the presence of oxygen, designed for oxidative chlorination of ethylene with hydrogen chloride in the presence of atmospheric oxygen, were calculated. Also, the operating modes of the reactor were calculated, the kinetic equations of the rate of formation were constructed, and the equations of the relationship between the reactants and the reaction products were studied. As a result of the experiments, important kinetic parameters of simm-dichloroethane were determined to create a model of the simmdichloroethane (1,2-dichloroethane) synthesis process. Kinetic studies were carried out in a temperature range of 300–350 °C in an ideal displacement flow reactor. In it, the reaction

proceeded with no more than 70% conversion of sym-dichloroethane (1,2-dichloroethane). In addition, the material and heat balance of the reactor designed for oxidative chlorination of ethylene with hydrogen chloride in the presence of air oxygen was calculated. The purpose of the work is to study the optimal conditions and kinetic laws of hydrogen chloride separation reaction from simm-dichloroethane (1,2-dichloroethane). The influence of the amount of sym-dichloroethane (1,2-dichloroethane) per unit mass or volume on the rate of hydrogen chloride separation from 1,2-symm-dichloroethane (1,2-dichloroethane) in the presence of a reaction accelerator containing  $\text{Cl} \cdot \text{ZnCl}_2 \cdot \text{CuCl}_2$  was studied.

1. The optimal conditions and kinetic laws of the hydrogen chloride separation reaction of simm-dichloroethane (1,2-dichloroethane) were studied.
2. Wastes from vinyl chloride production were studied in the catalytic hydrochlorination process. The analysis of the results of experiments on the hydrochlorination of simmdichloroethane and simm-trichloroethane in the presence of a substance that increases the rate of the reaction containing  $\text{Cl} \cdot \text{ZnCl}_2 \cdot \text{CuCl}_2$  allows for the development of a method of processing vinyl chloride production waste using the catalytic dehydrochlorination method.
3. The material and heat balance of the reactor designed for the oxidative chlorination of ethylene with hydrogen chloride in the presence of oxygen and for the oxidative chlorination of ethylene with hydrogen chloride in the presence of air oxygen was calculated.

## Regret



By: Durdona Abdurahmanova

Those times are gone in the blink of an eye. Hajimurad remembers those times and regrets a lot, but it's useless. When he was in school, when he listened to his father and studied diligently, when he went to study even if it was on the basis of a reasonable payment contract, when he was working with a higher education, would he not have started such a disgusting job today?...

At that moment, a knock was heard at the street door. Thinking that it must be Toshtemir, Hajimurad ran out barefoot. He is his father-in-law. Oziyam has not seen his

daughter and grandchildren for more than three years. Hajimurad hardly recognized his father-in-law, he changed a lot after going abroad. Father Khalil and the old woman were very happy to see their godson. The guest was seated in a cool dacha at one end of the yard. Khadija, who was happy that her father had arrived, immediately set the table and brought tea. After meeting with his father, he quietly turned to those around the table:

- Now I'm going to make some homemade soup. You are sitting around.

- I brought five kilos of mutton so that my daughter and my godson could have a roast meat in a hurry.

- Oh, my God, what are you doing when you are busy and have a lot of money, mutton is really expensive, isn't it?

- When I found a cheap place, I got five kilos. He is a friend of Hajimurad, a butcher who is skinny. What was his horse, now...

- Toshtemir?

- Yes, I got it from there. Someone is selling a bucket of meat so cheap that he really needs money...

Hearing these words, Hajimurad's tongue did not roll, he shook his hand and dropped his cup to the ground...

## Friend



Life gifted me a sincere soul companion,  
My kind-hearted person, my dear sibling.  
Together we share both bread and stone,  
You are the light of my life, my cherished friend.

The days spent with you shine brightly,  
Every moment feels as glorious as Jamshid's reign.  
When you arrive, my heart beats with fervor,  
You are the guardian of my soul, my precious friend.

If troubles arise, you're my confidant,  
My closest one, my empathetic partner.  
Every word you say holds immense value,  
Please cherish yourself, for my sake, always.

Difficult days are destined to pass us by,  
Our hearts burn with longing in separation.  
When love blossoms in our shared gardens,

We gift each other radiant smiles.

For those who've left us, we wish patience,  
From the depths of our hearts, we build them graves.

Let us not bring such pain upon ourselves,  
Does love deserve words that hurt us?

This poem for you came from faraway lands,  
Perhaps it crossed rivers, maybe mountains.  
Or maybe it rose from the gardens and meadows,  
Perhaps it was sparked from the depths of my heart.

We will not crave fleeting, worldly love,  
Nor will we be companions to sorrow and grief.

If we've united as friends, my dear companion,  
We shall no longer be enslaved by love.

Dilmanova Dilnoza

Dilmanova Dilnoza Soatmurodovna was born on February 16, 2005, in the Surxondaryo region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She is a student at Termiz State Pedagogical Institute and a member of the "Mushoira" club.

# Law Society of Kenya Raises Concerns Over Polio Vaccination Campaigns

By: Cynthia Masibo  
 @themtkenyatimes

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has raised concerns regarding the ongoing polio vaccination campaigns led by the Ministry of Health (MoH), urging greater accountability, transparency, and public engagement to bolster the effectiveness and trustworthiness of immunization drives.

In a press statement released yesterday, the LSK highlighted various issues observed during the two rounds of polio vaccination campaigns conducted in October and November. The campaigns targeted nine counties—Nairobi, Kiambu, Kajjado, Machakos, Turkana, West Pokot, Busia, Bungoma, and Trans Nzoia—following confirmed poliovirus cases in Kakuma, Kamukunji, and Mbale, Uganda. While achieving a vaccination rate of 95% in the first round, concerns arose regarding communication gaps, informed consent, coordination among stakeholders, and trust deficits among the public.

The LSK emphasized the need for clear and timely communication about the purpose and necessity of the vaccination campaigns. Many parents and guardians reportedly questioned why their children, al-

ready vaccinated under the National Vaccines and Immunization Program (NVIP), required additional doses of the Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2). Clarifications from the MoH, addressing these concerns, were only issued after the campaigns and reports of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs), including 23 cases and two fatalities.

“The Ministry of Health should provide advance, simplified communication to dispel suspicion and mistrust,” the LSK stated, pointing to the MoH’s 2023 Immunization Policy, which emphasizes advocacy, communication, and stakeholder engagement.

Incidents where children were vaccinated in schools without parental consent drew sharp criticism from the LSK, which called for strict adherence to ethical and legal standards. “Informed consent is a critical component of healthcare,” the LSK asserted, emphasizing that parents and guardians must be adequately informed about the purpose, benefits, risks, and alternatives of vaccination campaigns.

The organization urged the MoH to implement robust systems for obtaining and documenting informed consent, ensuring transparency and accountability. It also recommended collaboration with schools and religious institutions to enhance trust and participation.



Law Society of Kenya (LSK) President Faith Odhiambo issuing her statement

The LSK noted a lack of visible collaboration between the MoH and the Ministry of Education during the campaigns, despite the first round being conducted in schools. Greater coordination, the LSK argued, could reinforce the campaigns’ legitimacy and address public concerns.

A noticeable lack of public trust emerged as a significant hurdle for the campaigns, with online commentary on the MoH’s social media platforms reflecting skepticism about the government’s intentions.

The LSK called on the government to address this issue by engaging the public and incorporating their feedback into future initiatives.

The LSK also stressed the importance of training healthcare workers to manage AEFIs and maintaining the integrity of the vaccine cold chain to ensure potency. It urged the MoH to prioritize informed consent and public education over numerical vaccination targets.

The LSK concluded by reminding the government of its constitutional

obligation to uphold transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness when designing public health initiatives. It reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the public’s rights and assisting the government in legal matters to enhance public health outcomes.

The LSK’s intervention underscores the need for a people-centered approach to vaccination efforts, ensuring both public health and trust in immunization programs are upheld.

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# How Nyeri County Government Celebrated the Men's Day With The Widowers

By: Beth Ndirangu  
@themtkenyatimes

Nyeri County Government celebrated International Men's Day with Widowers, focusing on the 2024 theme, "Positive Male Role Models."

Speaking during the ceremony Gender CECM, Esther Ndong'u who led the celebrations of the International Men's Day at whispers ground in Nyeri town, said that this event represents a transformative opportunity for men to come together, share experiences and gain the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthier.

She said the International Men's Day event is a comprehensive initiative designed to empower men by addressing critical social, economic, and mental health challenges they face.

The event which was organized in collaboration with the Move-on Widowers Initiative brought together widowers from the eight Sub-Counties.

In collaboration with community-based organizations and stakeholders, aims to foster a supportive environment for open discussions, sensitization, and skill-building, empowering individuals to navigate life's dynamics.

Meanwhile, the Participants were equipped with a greater understanding of not only the challenges they face but also with a renewed sense of purpose and practical skills for personal, family and social growth which will foster positive change in their lives

"Through the empowerment of men and the promotion of positive societal change, the event also serves as a step toward creating a more balanced and inclusive society", she noted.

The Move-On Widowers initiative, which addresses grief, male role modeling, SGBV advocacy, social integration, family values, family values, economic empowerment, prevention of alcohol and drugs, business management skills, financial planning, and support social groups.

Participants were equipped with a



Francis Wanyiri, a widower addressing the forum.

greater understanding of not only the challenges they face but also with a renewed sense of purpose and practical skills for personal, family and social growth which will foster positive change in their lives.

During the event widowers were given a chance to express them-

selves, narrating how they face challenges especially when they get sick, since there is no one to take care of them.

Francis Wanyiri, a widower from the Mathari Nyeri, said, when he gets ill he panics because no one is there to take care of him.

Different Individuals expresses difficulty in their daily life due to illness as they are unable to cook for themselves.

Mwangi however thanked the department for the support, insightful & thoughtful presentations and concern on the welfare of the Widowers.

# Medics Raise Concerns On Growing Threat Of Antimicrobial Resistance

By: Bernard Munyao and Anjilwa Francis  
@themtkenyatimes

Medics in Murang'a County have raised concerns over the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance occasioned by misuse and overuse of antibiotics.

During a sensitization forum to mark World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week held at Murang'a Level 5 Hospital, the health workers divulged that the misuse and overuse of antibiotics are fueling the rapid development of antimicrobial resistance, posing a serious threat to public health.

A clinical pharmacist Dr. Loise Kariuki, cautioned that unnecessary use of the drugs could render them ineffective in treating infections.

"Individuals should avoid over-the-counter drugs and only use prescribed antibiotics to reduce

the alarming resistance. Likewise, health practitioners should also not prescribe antibiotics when there is no need, to avoid its over-use," she said.

Dr. Kariuki also pointed to the improper use of antibiotics in farming as another contributing factor, warning that residues of these drugs in meat, crops, and other animal products can be transferred to humans through consumption.

"When we consume these residues, the antibiotics may fail to work against infections, leading to complications in treatment," she explained.

To combat this, she urged farmers to vaccinate animals as a preventive measure, reducing the need for antibiotics.

Further, Kariuki cautioned against the widespread use of azithromycin, commonly used during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying the drug is meant to treat bacterial infec-

tions and not viruses.

"When most people catch a sore throat, they are prescribed azithromycin, which has many uses. However, its use in unnecessary situations could make it ineffective for its intended purposes in the future," she said.

On her part, Grace Njoki, a veterinary officer from Maragua Sub-County, discouraged consuming products from animals that are on antibiotics.

She encouraged farmers to wait until the withdrawal period is over before selling or consuming products from animals treated with antibiotics.

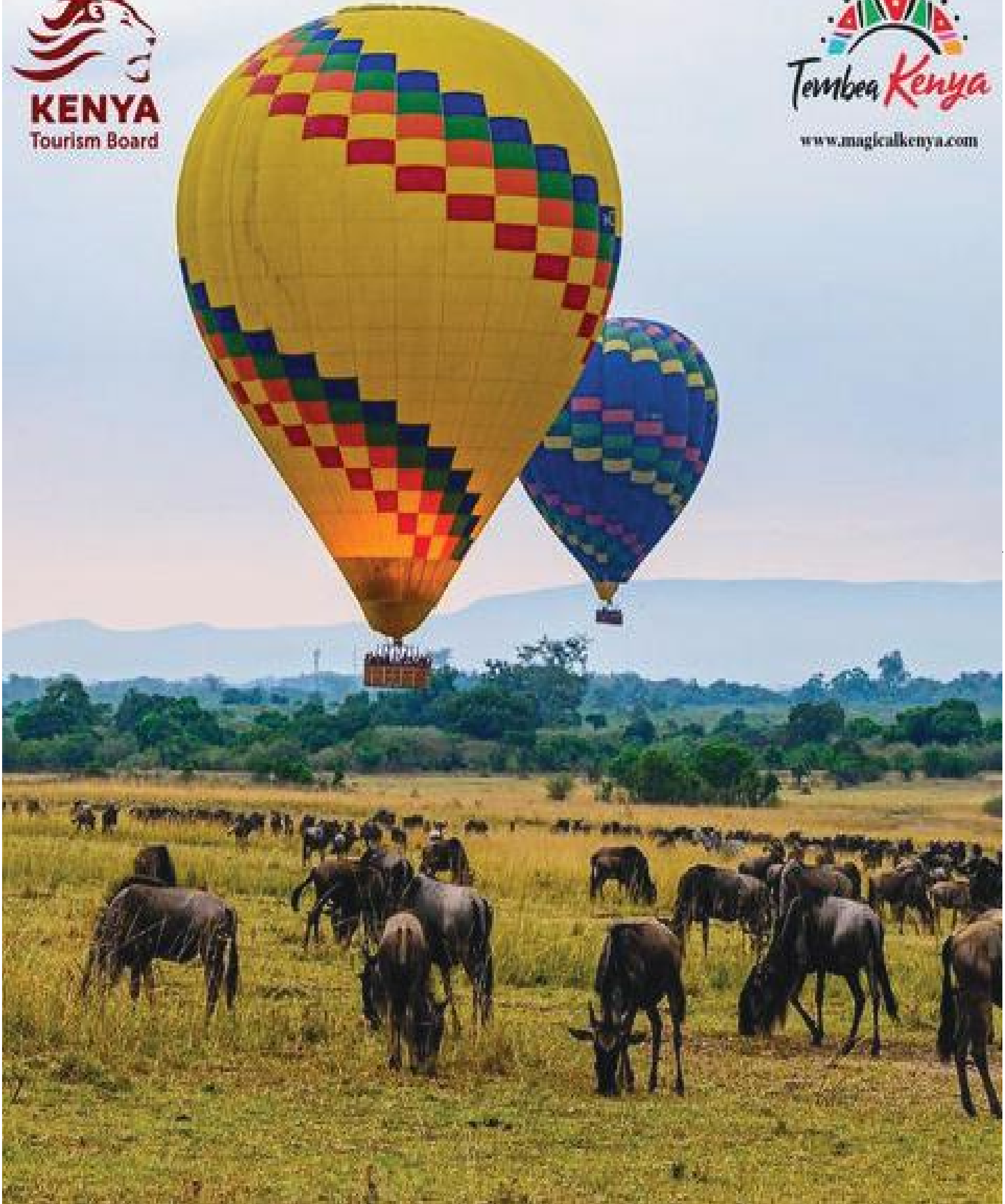
Meat, eggs, or milk from animals treated on antibiotics should not be consumed until the withdrawal period is over," she said, "The reason we have a withdrawal period is so that the antibiotic can be out of the system of the animal so the food can be safe."



Dr. Loise Kariuki briefing journalists

Njoki cautioned that consuming products from animals still under antibiotic treatment could not only

pose health risks but also fuel antibiotic resistance.



# Navigating Data Sovereignty And Transnational Information Flows In Kenya's Technological Landscape



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor  
@themkenyatimes

Kenya hosts approximately 70% of all internet data centers in East Africa, representing a critical geospatial nexus of digital infrastructure and technological transformation in the regional context. This substantial digital footprint underscores the complex interplay between technological development, national security considerations, and global data ecosystem dynamics. The nation's strategic positioning within the digital landscape demands nuanced understanding of data sovereignty principles and cross-border data flow mechanisms. Emerging regulatory frameworks are increasingly challenging traditional paradigms of digital information management and transnational data exchange. Technological infrastructure development in Kenya has accelerated exponentially in the past decade, creating unprecedented opportunities and challenges for data governance. The intersection of local technological innovation and global digital platforms presents a multifaceted research terrain with significant implications for national and international digital policy frameworks. Understanding these dynamics requires comprehensive analysis of legal, technological, and geopolitical dimensions. Contemporary digital transformation processes in Kenya epitomize the intricate negotiations between national sovereignty and global interconnectedness.

The historical trajectory of data governance in Kenya reflects a complex evolutionary pattern deeply embedded in postcolonial technological development strategies and global digital capitalism's expansive logics. Technological infrastructures have emerged as critical sites of power negotiation, where national interests intersect with transnational corporate digital architectures. Kenya's digital policy landscape demonstrates remarkable adaptability in responding to rapidly changing technological ecosystems and global regulatory expectations. The emergence of robust digital infrastructure has simultaneously created opportunities for economic growth and potential vulnerabilities in national data protection mechanisms. Legal frameworks governing digital information flows have undergone significant transformations, reflecting sophisticated attempts to balance national security imperatives with international technological collaboration. Technological sovereignty becomes a nuanced concept that extends beyond mere territorial control to encompass complex networks of data generation,

circulation, and management. Digital governance strategies in Kenya represent sophisticated responses to global technological challenges, integrating local contextual understanding with progressive regulatory approaches. The nation's approach to data sovereignty signals a strategic positioning within the broader global digital economy.

Technological infrastructure development in Kenya has been characterized by unprecedented rapid expansion and strategic international collaborations that challenge traditional conceptualizations of national digital boundaries. Global technology corporations have played pivotal roles in shaping Kenya's digital ecosystem, introducing complex dynamics of power, access, and control within technological networks. Regulatory frameworks have struggled to keep pace with the exponential growth of digital technologies and their transformative potential for socioeconomic structures. The intersection of local technological innovation and global digital platforms has created unique opportunities for reimagining digital governance models that are contextually responsive and globally compatible. Emerging digital policy frameworks demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the intricate relationships between technological infrastructure, national security, and economic development. Cross-border data flows represent not merely technical processes but complex political negotiations involving multiple stakeholders with diverse and sometimes conflicting interests. The technological landscape in Kenya reflects a dynamic interplay between local innovation ecosystems and global digital architectures. Digital sovereignty emerges as a multifaceted concept that transcends traditional territorial boundaries and encompasses intricate networks of technological power and control. Kenya's approach to managing these complex digital dynamics represents an important case study in navigating global technological transformations.

Legal frameworks governing data sovereignty in Kenya have evolved through intricate processes of negotiation, adaptation, and strategic policy development that reflect sophisticated responses to global technological challenges. Constitutional provisions and emerging legislative frameworks demonstrate increasing recognition of digital rights and the need for comprehensive data protection mechanisms. The Data Protection Act of 2019 represents a significant

milestone in establishing robust legal infrastructures for managing digital information flows and protecting individual privacy rights. Regulatory mechanisms have been designed to balance national security imperatives with the need for technological innovation and international collaboration. Complex legal architectures are emerging that seek to mediate between global technological platforms and local contextual requirements, creating nuanced governance models. Technological sovereignty is increasingly understood as a multidimensional concept that extends beyond traditional territorial control to encompass complex networks of digital rights, economic opportunities, and national strategic interests. The intersection of legal frameworks and technological infrastructure creates dynamic spaces for negotiating digital governance strategies. Emerging legal approaches demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complex relationships between technological development, national security, and individual rights. Kenya's legal landscape represents an important site for exploring innovative approaches to digital governance in the Global South.

Technological infrastructures in Kenya have become critical sites for understanding the complex dynamics of digital sovereignty and cross-border data flows. Cloud computing technologies have fundamentally transformed traditional paradigms of data storage, management, and circulation, creating unprecedented challenges for national regulatory frameworks. International technology corporations have played pivotal roles in shaping digital infrastructures, introducing complex power dynamics that extend beyond traditional technological considerations. The proliferation of mobile technologies and digital platforms has created new spaces for understanding how technological infrastructures mediate social, economic, and political relationships. Digital ecosystems in Kenya demonstrate remarkable adaptability in responding to rapidly changing technological landscapes and global regulatory expectations. Technological sovereignty emerges as a dynamic concept that encompasses not merely technological control but complex networks of power, knowledge, and economic opportunities. The intersection of local technological innovation and global digital platforms creates unique opportunities for reimagining digital governance models. Emerging technological infrastructures reflect

sophisticated strategies for navigating complex global digital ecosystems. Digital technologies are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating national interests and global technological transformations.

Economic implications of data sovereignty and cross-border data flows represent complex networks of opportunities and challenges for Kenya's technological ecosystem. Digital technologies have created unprecedented opportunities for economic transformation, enabling new models of entrepreneurship and innovation that transcend traditional economic boundaries. The emergence of robust digital infrastructure has simultaneously generated opportunities for economic growth and potential vulnerabilities in national economic systems. Global technology corporations have played significant roles in shaping digital economic landscapes, introducing complex dynamics of power, access, and economic control. Emerging economic models increasingly recognize the strategic importance of data as a critical resource with significant potential for value generation. Digital platforms have created new spaces for understanding economic relationships that extend beyond traditional territorial and institutional boundaries. The intersection of technological innovation and economic development represents a critical site for exploring emerging paradigms of digital economic governance. Kenya's approach to managing digital economic ecosystems demonstrates sophisticated strategies for navigating global technological transformations. Economic sovereignty emerges as a multifaceted concept that encompasses complex networks of technological innovation, economic opportunity, and strategic national interests.

Geopolitical dimensions of data sovereignty in Kenya reveal complex negotiations between national strategic interests and global technological architectures. International technological collaborations have created unprecedented opportunities for reimagining technological governance beyond traditional territorial boundaries. Emerging geopolitical dynamics demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the strategic importance of digital infrastructure as a critical site of national power and influence. Digital technologies have

**Worth Noting:**

- Technological infrastructure development in Kenya has been characterized by unprecedented rapid expansion and strategic international collaborations that challenge traditional conceptualizations of national digital boundaries. Global technology corporations have played pivotal roles in shaping Kenya's digital ecosystem, introducing complex dynamics of power, access, and control within technological networks.
- Regulatory frameworks have struggled to keep pace with the exponential growth of digital technologies and their transformative potential for socioeconomic structures. The intersection of local technological innovation and global digital platforms has created unique opportunities for reimagining digital governance models that are contextually responsive and globally compatible.
- Emerging digital policy frameworks demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the intricate relationships between technological infrastructure, national security, and economic development.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Meg Whitman Bids Farewell As U.S. Ambassador To Kenya Amid Political Transition

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

President William Ruto bid farewell to Meg Whitman, the outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, who resigned following Donald Trump's election victory. Whitman, who served since August 2022, expressed pride in her role, emphasizing her commitment to strengthening U.S.-Kenya relations. She highlighted key achievements, including Kenya's designation as the first Major Non-NATO ally in sub-Saharan Africa and initiatives in trade and healthcare.

Meg Whitman's appointment as ambassador was significant, marking her as only the second female U.S. ambassador to Kenya. Her tenure began just before the 2022 general elections, a period characterized by political tension and uncertainty in Kenya. Despite initial challenges, she quickly adapted to the local political landscape, establishing a rapport with President Ruto and other key political figures. Whitman's background as a successful businesswoman and former CEO of eBay provided her with a unique perspective on economic issues. Her previous experience in high-level corporate roles enabled her to advocate effectively for increased American investment in Kenya. Under her leadership, several American companies expanded their operations in Kenya, contributing to job creation and economic growth.

During her time as ambassador, Whitman focused on several key areas that significantly impacted U.S.-Kenya relations. She played a pivotal role in enhancing trade relations between the two countries, facilitating agreements that opened doors for American businesses in the Kenyan market. This included efforts to reduce bureaucratic hurdles for U.S. companies seeking

to invest in Kenya. Additionally, she emphasized health collaborations, particularly in combating diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. The U.S. government provided emergency funding to address health crises, including responses to flooding that affected many Kenyans.

Another landmark achievement during her tenure was the elevation of Kenya as a Major Non-NATO ally, underscoring the strategic importance of Kenya in regional security efforts and solidifying military cooperation between the two nations. One of Whitman's notable accomplishments was reducing visa wait times for Kenyans seeking to travel to the U.S., significantly improving access for non-immigrant visas from two years to just two months.

Despite her achievements, Whitman's tenure was not without controversy. Critics accused her of being overly supportive of President Ruto's administration, particularly during periods of civil unrest and protests against government policies. Her perceived silence on human rights abuses drew scrutiny from various sectors within Kenya. Opposition leader Raila Odinga once labeled her a "rogue ambassador" for her comments on the credibility of the 2022 elections, which he contested. However, over time, their relationship improved as they both recognized the importance of maintaining diplomatic ties.

In her resignation statement following Trump's election victory, Whitman noted that it is customary for ambassadors to resign when a new president takes office. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and highlighted the strong partnership between the U.S. and Kenya. "I will depart Kenya full of gratitude for the team that has worked tirelessly on my behalf," Whit-



*President William Ruto bid farewell to Meg Whitman, the outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Kenya.*

man stated. "Our relations are stronger than ever, and I am confident this trajectory will continue." Her resignation was met with mixed reactions on social media; while some praised her contributions, others expressed relief at her departure due to perceived shortcomings in addressing human rights issues.

As she prepares to return to the United States, Whitman plans to support her family while expressing hope for Kenya's future development. She cautioned that ongoing corruption could hinder the nation's potential as an economic powerhouse in Africa. "Kenya has an incredible opportunity to truly be an economic powerhouse on the continent," she remarked during an interview following her resignation announcement.

Whitman's legacy includes significant reforms in U.S.-Kenya relations,

particularly regarding trade and health initiatives. Her efforts have laid a foundation for future collaboration between the two nations. The historic state visit by President William Ruto to the U.S., which came with substantial agreements benefiting both countries, is also part of her legacy.

Whitman's departure marks a significant moment in U.S.-Kenya relations as both nations navigate a new political landscape under Trump's presidency. With Charge d'Affaires Marc Dillard stepping in temporarily, there is anticipation regarding how U.S.-Kenya relations will evolve under new leadership.

As both countries look forward, it remains crucial for them to maintain strong diplomatic ties grounded in mutual respect and shared values of democracy and development. The future trajectory of these relations will

depend on how effectively both nations address emerging challenges while building on the achievements established during Whitman's tenure.

In summary, Meg Whitman's time as ambassador was characterized by notable successes in trade and health initiatives but also marred by controversies surrounding human rights issues and political alignment with President Ruto's administration. Her resignation signals a transition period for U.S.-Kenya relations as both nations prepare for new leadership dynamics under President Trump's administration.

*James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.*

## It Is Time To Fight The Issue Of Unemployment In Kenya Through Labour Exportation

Kenya is making plans to export skilled and unskilled workers to other countries. This initiative is part of the government's efforts to create job opportunities and reduce unemployment among its citizens.

It also seeks to take advantage of the high demand for workers in sectors such as construction, healthcare, and domestic work in different countries.

The Ministry of Labour has been working to establish agreements with

nations in need of labour, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Canada, and the United Arab Emirates. These partnerships aim to ensure that Kenyans can secure well-paying jobs while their rights and safety are protected in foreign countries.

One key area of focus is ensuring that Kenyan workers receive proper training. The government, in collaboration with private institutions, is offering programs to equip job seek-

ers with skills that meet international standards. These efforts also involve educating workers about their rights and what to expect while working abroad.

Exporting labour is expected to bring significant benefits to the country. Workers will earn foreign income, which can be sent back home as remittances. These funds play a crucial role in improving the livelihoods of families and boosting Ken-

ya's economy.

However, there are concerns about the safety and welfare of workers, especially in countries where reports of exploitation have emerged. To address this, the government is negotiating for better contracts and legal frameworks to protect its citizens.

By exporting labour, Kenya hopes to tackle unemployment while contributing to the global workforce. With proper planning and monitoring, this

initiative can open up new opportunities for Kenyans and support the country's development goals.

*By Perpetual John And Veronica Stella Rongo University.*

# Blood For Profit The Hidden Hands Of War And The Cowardice To Question

*While we bleed in the name of peace and freedom, who truly thrives in this tragic theatre of warfare?*



By: Midmark Onsongo  
@themtkenyatimes



## Worth Noting:

- The staggering figure of over 460,000 deaths, according to the Iraq Body Count Project, stands as a solemn testament to the human cost of such ventures, revealing the blood-soaked paths that lead to profit. And what of the ironies woven into the fabric of these conflicts?

- In 2011, when the West intervened in Libya, ostensibly to protect civilians from the tyrannical grip of Muammar Gaddafi, the outcome was a nation in disarray, where chaos reigned and the arms dealers thrived.

- As Gaddafi fell, so did the illusions of liberation; what replaced him was a power vacuum filled by warlords and extremists, an outcome that ironically benefited those who had a stake in the ongoing instability.

Do you remember those days when our primary school teachers used to say; Searing shadows of silent suffering swirl, stirring a storm of questions in the wake of relentless conflict. Who benefits from the perpetual cycle of war? This inquiry is not merely an intellectual exercise; it is a clarion call for accountability. It demands we peel back the layers of obfuscation that our leaders, those cloaked in the mantle of authority, carefully construct. Are we too afraid to question whether our leaders profit from the bloodshed they orchestrate? The cacophony of war has a rhythm—a grim symphony composed by the hands of the few, who thrive while the many suffer. Just as a hawk circles its prey, so do the war profiteers lurk in the shadows, ready to snatch at the remnants of human despair.

Let us not forget the biblical tale of King David, a man whose reign was marked by victories and bloodshed alike. David, a shepherd turned sovereign, knew the allure of power and the intoxicating scent of glory, even as he orchestrated the demise of enemies. Yet, behind the veil of heroism, one finds the irony: a king who flourished from the very conflicts that tore his kingdom apart.

This paradox mirrors our contemporary world, where leaders such as the United States' former President George W. Bush profited immensely from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Iraq War, initiated in 2003, was justified under the dubious premise of weapons of mass destruction. Yet, the reality unveiled a theatre of chaos, where companies like Halliburton and Blackwater reaped the rewards while countless lives were extinguished.

The staggering figure of over 460,000 deaths, according to the Iraq Body Count Project, stands as a solemn testament to the human cost of such ventures, revealing the blood-soaked paths that lead to profit. And what of the ironies woven into the fabric of these conflicts? In 2011, when the West intervened in Libya, ostensibly to protect civilians from the tyrannical grip of Muammar Gaddafi, the outcome was a nation in disarray, where chaos reigned and the arms dealers thrived.

As Gaddafi fell, so did the illusions of liberation; what replaced him was a power vacuum filled by warlords and extremists, an outcome that ironically benefited those who had

a stake in the ongoing instability. One could almost hear the echoes of sarcasm in the air—liberation, they claimed, yet what followed was an implosion that enriched the very vultures that had circled before.

The motives remain cloaked in euphemism: democracy, freedom, and human rights are the banners flown high while the coffers of the elite swell. Furthermore, the contemporary narrative of war extends to regions like Kenya, where conflicts rooted in historical grievances have left scars that run deep.

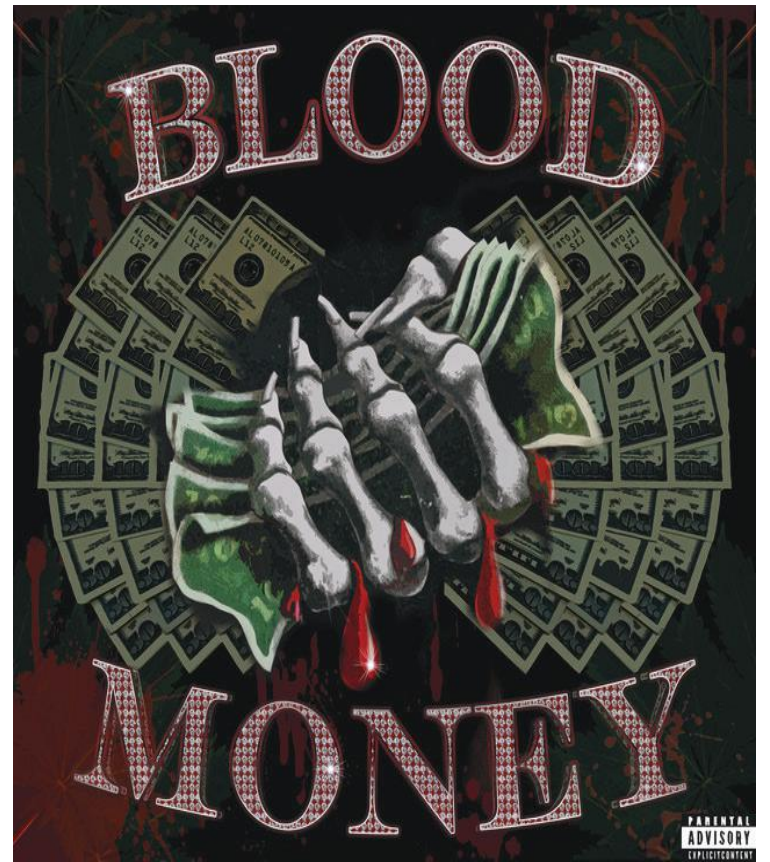
The 2007-2008 post-election violence serves as a poignant reminder of how political ambition can trigger bloodshed, with key figures like Raila Odinga and Mwai Kibaki embroiled in a bitter struggle for power. In this cauldron of conflict, it is the common citizens who pay the price, caught in a cycle of violence that benefits a select few while leaving the masses to mourn their losses.

The irony of peace efforts, often spearheaded by those with vested interests, serves only to underscore the hypocrisy of leadership—a leadership that prefers the status quo, a constant war of attrition that fills their coffers while draining the life from their constituents.

Turning to the Quran, one might reflect on the story of the Prophet Muhammad, who navigated the tumultuous waters of conflict and diplomacy, advocating for peace even amidst war. Yet, today, the lessons of history seem lost in a sea of greed and avarice. The ongoing conflict in Syria has become a modern-day crucible, where international powers vie for control under the pretense of humanitarian intervention.

Here, the figures of a million dead and millions displaced become mere statistics, overshadowed by the geopolitical gamesmanship that ensues. One must ask, as we navigate this tumultuous terrain, who truly benefits from this suffering? The paradox persists: the more we war, the more we profit. In the throes of conflict, those wielding power often employ rhetoric that resonates with pathos—invoking the memory of those lost, yet failing to hold themselves accountable for the policies that led to such tragedies.

Ironically, the very leaders who promise peace often emerge as the architects of discord, crafting narratives that justify their actions while deflecting scrutiny. This duality of



purpose exposes a profound hypocrisy: a leader who preaches unity while sowing division, who speaks of peace while courting chaos.

What of the business of war? The financial machinery that churns beneath the surface reveals an unholy alliance between governments and corporations, where contracts are signed in blood and profit margins soar with each missile launched. Consider the military-industrial complex, a term coined by President Eisenhower in his farewell address, warning of the dangers posed by the symbiosis of military might and corporate greed.

Today, companies like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon thrive, their profits soaring as they capitalize on the misery of others. The figures are staggering: in 2022 alone, the U.S. spent over \$800 billion on military expenditures, while issues such as healthcare and education languish in the shadows, starved of resources.

In this web of deceit, the question remains: are we, the electorate, complicit in this cycle of violence? Our silence, our acquiescence, serves to perpetuate the status quo. Are we too afraid to question the motives of those we elect, too hesitant to hold them accountable for the bloodshed that fills their pockets? We are the architects of our destiny, yet we often remain passive spectators in this tragic play, reluctant to confront the

stark realities laid bare before us.

Our collective apathy emboldens those in power, allowing them to operate unchallenged while we bear the weight of their decisions. The world stands at a crossroads, and the path we choose today will shape the future. It is incumbent upon us to raise our voices, to challenge the narrative spun by those who benefit from war, to unmask the puppeteers pulling the strings behind the curtain. Just as the fables of old warned against the folly of inaction, so too must we heed their lessons.

We cannot allow fear to stifle our inquiry; we must confront the uncomfortable truths and demand accountability from our leaders. In doing so, we reclaim our agency, charting a course toward a future that values peace over profit, humanity over greed.

Thus, as we contemplate the eternal question of who profits from war, let us not shy away from the harsh realities that underpin this cycle. Let us embrace the challenge, armed with knowledge, and rise to confront the shadows that haunt our world. Only then can we hope to forge a path towards genuine peace, one that transcends the false promises of those who thrive on conflict.

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

# Navigating Data Sovereignty And Transnational Information Flows In Kenya's Technological Landscape

Contd from page 18

fundamentally transformed traditional paradigms of international cooperation and conflict negotiation, creating new spaces for understanding global political relationships. The intersection of technological innovation and geopolitical strategies represents a critical site for exploring emerging approaches to national and international digital governance. Technological sovereignty emerges as a dynamic concept that extends beyond traditional territorial control to encompass complex networks of political power and strategic national interests. Global digital platforms have introduced complex dynamics of power, access, and control within international technological networks. Kenya's approach to managing geopolitical dimensions of digital technologies demonstrates sophisticated strategies for navigating global technological transformations. Emerging geopolitical frameworks reflect nuanced attempts to balance national strategic interests with global technological collaborations.

Cybersecurity considerations represent critical dimensions of data sovereignty that extend beyond traditional technological protection mechanisms to encompass complex networks of national security and individual rights. Emerging cybersecurity frameworks demonstrate sophisticated approaches to managing digital risks and protecting national technological infrastructures. The proliferation of digital technologies has created unprecedented challenges for traditional security paradigms, requiring comprehensive and adaptive approaches to technological protection. Complex cybersecurity architectures are emerging that seek to mediate between global technological platforms and local contextual security requirements. Technological sovereignty increasingly encompasses sophisticated understandings of digital risk management and strategic national protection mechanisms. The intersection of cybersecurity strategies and technological innovation creates dynamic spaces for exploring emerging approaches to national digital protection. Kenya's approach to cybersecurity reflects sophisticated strategies for navigating complex global digital risks and challenges. Emerging cybersecurity frameworks demonstrate nuanced understanding of the intricate relationships between

technological development, national security, and individual digital rights. Digital protection mechanisms are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating national strategic interests and global technological transformations.

Technological innovation ecosystems in Kenya represent critical sites for understanding the complex dynamics of digital sovereignty and cross-border data flows. Local technological innovation demonstrates remarkable capacity for adapting to global technological challenges while maintaining contextually responsive approaches. The emergence of robust digital innovation infrastructures has created unprecedented opportunities for reimagining technological development beyond traditional economic and institutional boundaries. Global technology corporations have played significant roles in shaping local innovation ecosystems, introducing complex dynamics of technological knowledge transfer and economic opportunity. Emerging innovation frameworks reflect sophisticated strategies for navigating complex global technological landscapes. The intersection of local technological innovation and global digital platforms creates unique opportunities for exploring new models of technological development. Digital technologies are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating national technological capabilities and global innovation networks. Kenya's approach to technological innovation demonstrates sophisticated strategies for balancing local contextual requirements with global technological expectations. Technological sovereignty emerges as a dynamic concept that encompasses complex networks of innovation, knowledge generation, and strategic national technological capabilities.

Social and cultural dimensions of data sovereignty reveal complex negotiations between technological transformation and local cultural contexts. Digital technologies have created unprecedented opportunities for reimagining social relationships and cultural interactions beyond traditional territorial boundaries. Emerging digital platforms demonstrate sophisticated capacities for mediating complex social and cultural dynamics that extend beyond traditional institutional frameworks. The proliferation of mobile and digital technologies has fundamentally transformed traditional paradigms of social communication and cultural exchange. Digital sovereignty

emerges as a multifaceted concept that encompasses complex networks of social interaction, cultural representation, and individual digital rights. The intersection of technological innovation and social transformation represents a critical site for exploring emerging approaches to digital cultural governance. Kenya's approach to managing social and cultural dimensions of digital technologies demonstrates sophisticated strategies for navigating global technological transformations. Emerging social frameworks reflect nuanced attempts to balance local cultural contexts with global technological platforms. Digital technologies are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating social identities and cultural representations.

Environmental considerations represent emerging dimensions of data sovereignty that extend beyond traditional technological perspectives to encompass complex networks of ecological sustainability and technological infrastructure development. Digital technologies have created unprecedented opportunities for reimagining environmental management strategies and ecological monitoring mechanisms. Emerging environmental frameworks demonstrate sophisticated approaches to integrating technological innovation with ecological sustainability considerations. Complex technological architectures are emerging that seek to mediate between global environmental challenges and local contextual requirements. Technological sovereignty increasingly encompasses sophisticated understandings of ecological risk management and sustainable technological development strategies. The intersection of environmental sustainability and technological innovation creates dynamic spaces for exploring emerging approaches to digital ecological governance. Kenya's approach to environmental considerations in technological development reflects sophisticated strategies for navigating complex global ecological challenges. Emerging environmental frameworks demonstrate nuanced understanding of the intricate relationships between technological development, ecological sustainability, and national strategic interests. Digital technologies are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating environmental protection and sustainable technological transformation.

Philosophical and ethical dimensions of data sovereignty reveal complex negotiations between technolog-



Transnational Information Flows In Kenya

ical development and fundamental human values. Digital technologies have created unprecedented opportunities for reimagining ethical frameworks that extend beyond traditional philosophical paradigms. Emerging digital platforms demonstrate sophisticated capacities for mediating complex ethical considerations that challenge traditional institutional frameworks. The proliferation of digital technologies has fundamentally transformed traditional paradigms of individual rights, privacy, and technological agency. Digital sovereignty emerges as a multifaceted concept that encompasses complex networks of ethical negotiation, individual rights, and collective technological responsibilities. The intersection of technological innovation and ethical considerations represents a critical site for exploring emerging approaches to digital moral governance. Kenya's approach to managing philosophical and ethical dimensions of digital technologies demonstrates sophisticated strategies for navigating global technological transformations. Emerging ethical frameworks reflect nuanced attempts to balance individual rights with collective technological responsibilities. Digital technologies are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating fundamental human values and technological agency.

Technological transformations in Kenya represent complex ecosystems of innovation, governance, and strategic national development that challenge traditional paradigms of digital sovereignty and cross-border data flows. The intricate interplay between local technological capabilities and global digital architectures

creates unprecedented opportunities for reimagining technological governance. Emerging frameworks demonstrate sophisticated capacities for navigating complex global technological landscapes while maintaining contextually responsive approaches. Digital sovereignty emerges as a dynamic concept that extends beyond traditional territorial control to encompass complex networks of technological power, innovation, and strategic national interests. The intersection of technological innovation and national strategic development represents a critical site for exploring emerging approaches to digital governance. Global technology corporations have played significant roles in shaping local technological ecosystems, introducing complex dynamics of knowledge transfer and economic opportunity. Kenya's approach to managing technological transformations demonstrates sophisticated strategies for balancing local contextual requirements with global technological expectations. Emerging technological frameworks reflect nuanced attempts to integrate national strategic interests with global digital architectures. Digital technologies are increasingly understood as critical sites for negotiating national technological capabilities and global technological transformations.

*The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher*

# SPORTS NEWS

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**Sports >>** \*The only certainty about this year's World Rally Championship, which reaches its conclusion in Japan this weekend, is that a Hyundai driver will take the title but whether that is Thierry Neuville or Ott Tanak remains to be seen

## 'Sport Will Have The Last Word' As WRC Title Goes Down To The Wire In Japan



Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT's Finnish driver Kalle Rovanperä steers his Toyota GR Yaris Rally1 Hybrid with Finnish co-driver Jonne Halttunen during the World Rally Championship (WRC) Safari Rally Kenya Special Stage 8 (SS8) in Gilgil, on March 30, 2024. (Photo by LUIS TATO / AFP).

The only certainty about this year's World Rally Championship, which reaches its conclusion in Japan this weekend, is that a Hyundai driver will take the title but whether that is Thierry Neuville or Ott Tanak remains to be seen.

The bespectacled Belgian Neuville is the favourite as he holds a 25-point lead going into this final leg. He won the opening race of the season in Monte Carlo and the Acropolis Rally in Greece and has picked up four other podium finishes along the way.

"It is one of my preferred rallies and one we won two years ago," Neuville said at last week's official welcome.

"It is a different circumstance this year. We have been leading the championship since Monte Carlo up until now so there is a lot of excitement around and I

can't wait to bring it home. "But we know in rally it is not over until we pass the finish line."

Neuville is right to be cautious. With 30 points up for grabs, Tanak, the Estonian who won the title in 2019, remains firmly in contention, having also won twice: Sardinia in early June and the last outing at the Central European Rally.

"We don't have a driver who has established himself as 'number one'," Hyundai team principal Cyril Abiteboul told AFP.

"However, in Thierry we have a driver who has led the championship from the outset, and from the first round in Monte Carlo, where he got off to an admirable start and drove an exceptional race.

"It would only be fair for him to finish the championship in this

position. But sport will have the last word."

### - 'Complicated' -

Abiteboul faces an awkward discussion with Neuville and Tanak because while they have their eyes set on the drivers' championship, Hyundai need both to score well if they are to protect their 15-point lead over Toyota in the manufacturers' championship.

"We're in a slightly complicated situation," said Abiteboul.

"Thierry is bound to play it safe to avoid retiring but, as a manufacturer, we can't afford to do that.

"So we need to come up with a team strategy to counter the attack from Toyota.

"What's more, Japan is always a very tricky rally. In the last edition there was some pretty mon-

strous bad weather, so we're going to have to remain alert in the way we manage our strategy."

Hyundai can certainly expect a reaction from Toyota, who will be competing in their own back yard, with Elfyn Evans and local hero Takamoto Katsuta at the wheel.

"Our big fight is to win back the manufacturers' title," said team principal Jari-Matti Latvala. "It is never easy but we are really determined to get back this title."

The rally starts with a special stage at the Toyota Stadium near Nagoya on Thursday, before getting to the serious business on Friday and over the weekend.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

**Sports >>** \*The Nandi Orgoiyot Golf Tournament, set to take place on Friday, November 22, at the Kenya Railway Golf Club, promises to be a unique celebration of history, culture, and sport.

## Nandi Orgoiyot Golf Tournament: Honouring Koitalel Samoei's Legacy Through Sport, Film



The Nandi Orgoiyot Golf Tournament, set to take place on Friday, November 22, at the Kenya Railway Golf Club, promises to be a unique celebration of history, culture, and sport.

The event aims to honour the legacy of Koitalel Samoei, a revered leader of the Nandi community while offering participants a chance to enjoy a round of golf and support a meaningful cause.

Funds raised during the tournament will support film projects, including the production of the Nandi Orgoiyot Drama Series,

which seeks to preserve and highlight the history and culture of the Nandi people.

"This tournament marks the inauguration of the Orgoiyot drama series," said Maureen Koech, director of Real Cause Film Production Company, which will oversee the series' production.

"We encourage golfers to come together and make this event a success. It's an opportunity to honor Koitalel's leadership and preserve our cultural heritage," he added.

The tournament has also attracted

key partnerships. Viutavel, a travel agency, has joined as a sponsor, providing players with opportunities to win trips to various destinations across the country.

"We're proud to partner in the Orgoiyot Golf Tournament," said Alfred Msachi, Product Manager at Viutavel.

"This collaboration allows us to contribute to a cultural cause while giving participants a chance to explore different parts of Kenya."

The event offers a platform for golfers, filmmakers, and culture

enthusiasts to come together in celebration of Koitalel Samoei's enduring legacy.

Participants will not only enjoy the sport but also contribute to the preservation of history and culture through the planned drama series.

*Citizen Sport*

# SPORTS NEWS



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# SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



# Vincent Onyango An Enterprenuer Who Helps Inmates In Prison



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi  
@themkenyatimes

My name is Vincent onyango. am the CEO and Co-founder of Eden's care organization born in Naku-ru,raised in Mathare. I studied at Mathare North Primary School, later joined Future Kids Academy where I did my K.C.P.E. Joined secondary school in the same school. I was once a prisoner and the life inside prison is not easy, young generation 18-30 years are locked there and this rally motivated me to become what I am today so that I can find way out to help young generation flee from drugs crime and many other bad behaviors that we get ourselves in. Eden's Care Foundation deals with ex-inmates re-entry and reduction of recidivism. We have created a community that has helped over100 ex-offenders get on to successful paths by assisting them with housing, employment, and education.

I was arrested and incarcerated in the year 2018 and I became a remandee for 3years there after I was released in the year 2020 Dec ,the number of people getting out of prison and coming back intrigued my mind with a simple question. "Can we help those with criminal records re-enter society and maintain long-term success?" My answer was yes, and so I started Eden's care, the first organization that provides the services ex-offenders need to be successful once again.

Eden's care is a premier provider of post-incarceration reentry and community-based services. Eden's Care integrates two distinct yet complimentary services to effectively address the risk factors that contribute to recidivism, thus improving the overall effectiveness of criminal justice programs. The first is a national network of expert rehabilitation professionals who specialize in providing services to ex-prisoners, parolees and community members

involved with the juvenile justice system. The second aspect of our services is locally based community organizations working in low income neighborhoods with high crime rates. At Eden's Care, we aim to offer individuals who have served time in the justice system with a full suite of support services designed to reduce recidivism and facilitate re-entry into society. In doing so, we are committed to creating positive change by providing individuals with the education, services, resources and opportunities they need to become part of their communities again. The favorite aspect of reaching out in prison is when we see them change and turn from their wicked ways and give themselves to Christ, this is what touches my heart.

Our mission is based on three main principles: 1) Proactive engagement and education, 2) Empowerment through positive behavioral change, 3) Evidence-based interventions that are scalable in order to serve more people. We believe that every individual deserves opportunities for success and we have dedicated our time over the past 2 years so that we can prevent recidivism.

A typical day for me as the CEO of Eden's care organization deals with ex-inmates reentry and reduction of recidivism involves some light staff to management meetings, communicating about issues or changes in management or procedures. Also a review of our financials as well as any regulatory changes and updates. I will occasionally meet with one member to discuss their personal issues and their needs, this can be during our free time or on an emergency basis. The other hardest part is when we can't access prison or we don't have anything to take to them eg, basic needs but we keep on moving by the grace of God. We kindly as for your support and prayers. I would also attend community outreach events, where I speak to the public about Eden's care organization. I also conduct one-on-one interviews with ex-offenders for their resumes and employment applications. And finally, keep up with project updates through emailing lists and social media platforms. I find success in

identifying learning opportunities, planning for the future, and looking at specific challenges that must be overcome in order to move forward, such as challenges with staff turnover, challenges with training and understanding new hires, challenges in retaining quality employees, challenges with operational standards, challenges with financial issues etc. One of my responsibilities is to oversee budgeting, which includes the hiring process, benefits packages, training and all payroll for our employees. I also serve as liaison to state and local correctional officials to guarantee that we are complying with their respective guidelines and requirements.

Entrepreneurship is an amazing vehicle to succeed in the business world. As an entrepreneur, I have found that I can make a difference in other people's lives. There are many challenges but I know that I am up for the challenges and if not, there are so many other entrepreneurs out there who can help me solve all my problems. The greatest aspect of being an entrepreneur is the freedom to follow your passion. One can never receive enough praise because they know there are other people out there who will benefit from their efforts.

As the CEO of Eden's Care, I love to lead our organization in meeting the needs of clients while serving as role models of healthy living. My favorite thing about entrepreneurship is the freedom it brings, which allows me to work on issues that matter to me, while also pursuing my passion for music and creativity. Being an entrepreneur is a great joy but being a leader and mentor is probably the toughest thing to do. I find it hard because you have to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves and make sure they are successful in there new businesses.

I wish i could have prevented some of the mistakes I made. In all fairness, human beings are not perfect and we always make mistakes. The main one is hiring people who don't fit the profile of a potential employee. Hiring the wrong person can be costly if you hire someone who has a criminal background only to find out that they are not able to



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work or it's our fault for having made the hiring decision! Another mistake I have had is rushing into action when a situation arises and then doing nothing about it for too long because you're scared to make any changes in case you make them wrong. This could result in a lot of money being wasted if your business continues operating like this for too long.

We foster creative ideas through our partnerships with community and government agencies, within which we engage in a range of initiatives to provide vital services. These include housing, healthcare, employment support and training, substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling. We believe that essential element to fostering creative ideas is a collaborative environment. Collaboration is built on trust and respect, a foundation that is critical to developing creative solutions. This can be fostered in several ways such as having employees attend workshops or programs offered by their manager, for example: new employee orientation and training, or professional development.

Social media has become an invaluable tool for recruiting readers interested in learning more about our company's mission and programs. We attract visitors through various social media channels such

as Facebook (Edens Care Foundation), (Art Ventures Outdoor & Décor) Instagram, LinkedIn and email [vincentluo21@gmail.com](mailto:vincentluo21@gmail.com). We also use website visits as another source of traffic. I use social media to communicate with the department heads of our organization and the inmates currently in rehabilitation programs. It is important to be active on social media as it gives us a direct connection to each other which enables us to know if there has been any improvements in each of their lives both off and on the job.

The best advice I can give to an entrepreneur is to do your research and know what you are getting into. Entrepreneurship can be a rewarding experience, but it is also very risky as well. One of the most important decisions you will make is on whom to accept as a client. At Eden's, we believe that everyone can be a part of our organization and success depends on having a diverse workforce, who reflect the communities that we serve. Great talent does not just come to us, it is created in the neighborhoods we work in and live in. Therefore, all of our recruits are carefully screened and placed into various positions throughout our organization. We hope to impact the community through the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.