



The Integration Of Artificial Intelligence In Higher Education: A Call To Action

The world of higher education is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the increasing adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI). As AI continues to revolutionize various sectors, universities are beginning to recognize its potential to enhance the learning process. However, to fully harness the benefits of AI, universities must reframe their approach to education and embrace AI

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News>> Uber's Ksh 14.1 Billion Contribution To Kenya's Economy In 2023 Economic Impact Report Highlights Positive Impact on Drivers, Businesses, and Tourism

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News>> Call To Confront Harsh Reality Of GBV In Kenya

P. 12. Gender based violence (GBV) against women and girls continues to be one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world, the United Nations (UN) Women Deputy Country Director Done Basila has said.

KSh 3.7B Disbursed To Settle NHIF Bills

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The funds were disbursed on Monday, with Ksh 1 billion allocated to the Linda Mama program and Ksh 1.3 billion to primary healthcare providers.

An additional Ksh 1.4 billion has been paid to settle defunct NHIF claims.



President William Ruto, in his address at Parliament last Thursday

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EAC Ministers Convene For The 46th Council Of Ministers Conference

By: Ian Chepkuto and Munyasya Musya
 @themtkenyatimes

Ministers' in-Charge of the East Africa Community from the eight partner States will tomorrow gather in Arusha, Tanzania for the 46th Council of Ministers meeting, to deliberate on the progress of the EAC integration process.

The Assembly was preceded by consultations among senior officials, including Principal Secretaries that tackled a multiplicity of issues and made recommendations to the Council of Ministers for approval, ahead of the 24th Ordinary Heads of State Summit on Saturday.

East Africa Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary (CS) Beatrice Askul is leading Kenya's delegation to the meeting accompanied by Principal Secretary (PS) Abdi Dubat, among other senior Government officials.

Key issues in the deliberations agenda include implementation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT), tariff structures, enhancing trade policies and private sector engagement in a bid to enhance trade, revenue collection, reduce turnaround time from 21 days to 4 days along the EAC corridors, and greater private sector participation in regional trade.

Other issues on the Customs Union include resolution of Non-Tariff Barriers to trade (NTBs), the expansion and operationalization of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) among others.

The Council will also discuss the tracking of reforms in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol, which entail monitoring partner states' progress in aligning national laws with the freedoms and rights under the Common Market Protocol.

Other issues under the common market banner will include the implementation of the promotion of EAC Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), harmonization of regional quality standards for goods and the harmonization of laws, protection of migrant workers' rights, and enhancement of the benefits of organized labour migration in the community.

The Council of Ministers, chaired by South Sudan's Minister of East African



ASALs and Regional Development Principal Secretary Abdi Dubat.

Community Affairs Mr. Deng Alor Kuol, will also discuss and propose recommendations towards enhancing industrialization to reduce the region's reliance on imports and position the EAC as a key player in implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Other issues include strengthening the region's agricultural value chains for key crops, addressing climate challenges through climate-smart agriculture, promoting tourism and wildlife conservation.

The Council will also deliberate on the expansion of roads networks as well as

resolve challenges related to road user charges among partner states, expansion of railway transport networks and air transport as well as developments in communications, energy, and the health sector among others.

On the Monetary Union, the Council will deliberate on tax harmonization in a bid to promote cross-border investment and prevent tax evasion, removing tax distortions and promoting efficient allocation of resources within the community among other issues.

Enhancement of democracy and good governance, peaceful elections in Mem-

ber States and the making of the EAC Political Confederation Constitution and regional peace and stability will also be tackled.

The Council will also receive, review and make recommendations on the reports of the Community's Organs and Institutions, such as the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), among others and address pertinent challenges affecting the EAC which will celebrate 25 years of existence this week on Saturday, November, 30 2024 in Arusha.

Worth Noting:

- East Africa Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary (CS) Beatrice Askul is leading Kenya's delegation to the meeting accompanied by Principal Secretary (PS) Abdi Dubat, among other senior Government officials.
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Editor's Desk

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Base Titanium General Manager, Operations, Denham Vickers, says since the inception of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program in 2022, over 154 members of the workforce have been assessed across a wide range of trades. He says the RPL program is an important means of training that seeks to recognise skills by awarding certificates to technically experienced individuals who did not go through the formal education system. Vickers says the trade includes private security supervision, welding, carpentry and joinery, electrical wiring, painting, plant mechanics, plumbing, HDPE piping, power plant operations, refrigeration and air conditioning, rigging, rubber lining, scaffolding, solar systems, general fitting, gas welding, cabinet making, and motor vehicle mechanics.



“Over the past seven years, we have made significant strides in combating AMR in Kenya. However, sustaining these gains is now crucial. We urge the national government to integrate these achievements into its structures by implementing nationwide advocacy and awareness campaigns. These campaigns should educate and guide citizens, from individual households to all other stakeholders, on responsible antimicrobial use.” said Dr. Hillary Kagwa, the County AMR Focal Person and Director of Health, Kiambu County. “To ensure sustainability, both national and county governments should allocate funds for AMR control efforts in their budgets. We must consider how the government can effectively support the necessary work. AMR is not an individual problem but a collective challenge that requires collaborative efforts,” Dr. Kagwa said.

The Presidential Working Party on Education reforms calls for crucial reforms to firm up access and affordability of continuously relevant high quality education system, good enough to produce fit-for-purpose graduates for industry and the ever-changing global job market. The Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) aims at responding to prevailing and future global trends in pedagogy and human capital development. Funding of Technical, Vocational and University education must ensure all Kenyans access higher education to enable them meaningfully contribute to the development of our nation. Yesterday, Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki held a review, status, progress and improvement briefing with the leadership of the Ministry of Education at his official residence in Karen. He was accompanied by among others; Julius Migos Ogamba (Cabinet Secretary, Education), Permanent Secretaries; Dr. Belio Kipsang (Basic Education), Dr. Beatrice Inyangala (Higher Education and Research), Dr. Esther Muoria (Technical Vocational Education and Training-TVET), Elyas Abdi (Director General, Education), Joseph Njau (Secretary, Technical Vocational Education and Training) and Milton Njuki (Deputy Director, Higher Education and Research) in attendance.



Nakuru County has issued a strong warning to the public over the rising cases of fraudulent job imposters who pretend to be employees of the County Government. The County Secretary, Dr. Samuel Mwaura, has warned against falling prey to these scammers who offer large sums of money in exchange for job offers. “The public is duly notified to beware of unscrupulous individuals posing as Nakuru County Government employees with the intention to defraud unsuspecting Kenyans by calling or sending text messages and asking for payment to get offers for jobs advertised by the devolved unit,” stated the notice. The County Government has notified the public to be aware of these scammers, who lure them into giving them large sums of money with the promise of job offers.



The Principal Secretary State Department for Water and Sanitation Julius Korir, CBS, was the chief guest during the launch of (i-WSSM) regional office and RCGW-i-WSSM joint workshop on enhancing groundwater development and management. This project was conceived way back in 2019, during the implementation of the Sustainable Water Security for Human Settlement in Developing Countries Program, funded by the Korean government through UNESCO. The project has a shared objectives that includes: Mutual cooperation and support for water-related programs to advance research, knowledge sharing, and policy development, Exchange of expertise and capacity-building efforts, promoting skill enhancement and knowledge transfer, and Joint development of water-related agendas and co-hosting seminars to foster learning and innovation. Ms Agnes Mbugua the CEO RCGW lauded the partnership and shared her insights into the importance of this collaboration between Kenya and the Korean government through UNESCO. The PS was accompanied by the Water Secretary Eng. SAO Alima.



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Counties To Advance Universal Health Coverage

By: Patience Mabonga

@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

The PS highlighted that counties are at the heart of delivering quality healthcare services to Kenyans as the Constitution of Kenya places the management of primary and secondary healthcare firmly in the hands of County Governments.

“This role is supported by laws like the Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF) Act, which ensures health facilities have financial independence, and the Social Health Insurance Act, which establishes funding mechanisms to support these facilities,” she added.

The Council of Governors has launched a financial procedure manual for county health spending units to enhance fiscal prudence and accountability within the health sector.

Speaking at Movenpick Hotel at the launch, Principal Secretary Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms. Mary Muthoni said Kenyans have a fundamental right to attain the highest standard of health, including access to reproductive health care services and emergency medical treatment.

However, the demand for quality and affordable healthcare services in Kenya has steadily risen over the years. Unfortunately, this demand has not been met with adequate financing to address all healthcare needs.

The PS highlighted that counties are at the heart of delivering quality healthcare services to Kenyans as the Constitution of Kenya places the management of primary and secondary healthcare firmly in the hands of County Governments.

“This role is supported by laws like the Facilities Improvement Financing (FIF) Act, which ensures health facilities have financial independence, and the Social Health Insurance Act, which establishes funding mechanisms to support these facilities,” she added.

“The implementation of the FIF manual marks a significant milestone in ensuring that counties can mobilise and increase domestic resources for health as it will catalyse improvements in the quality of care, enhancing the competitiveness and performance of public health facilities and to achieve this, counties must commit to equipping health facility managers with the necessary training to build their skills



Principal Secretary Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms. Mary Muthoni .

and capacity for effective management of FIF funds,” she added.

She encouraged the need to train County Health Management Teams (CHMTs), Community Health Assistants (CHAs), and Community Health Promoters (CHPs) on the new framework through fast-tracking the registration of Kenyans under the new health scheme and implementing SHI Act regulations are also high on the agenda.

“It is the responsibility and commitment of the MOH to work with all stakeholders to ensure that every Kenyan enjoys quality, affordable and accessible healthcare. We commit to providing strategic leadership and governance oversight towards the realisation of Universal Health Coverage and health sector objectives for

Kenya,” she said.

According to the Chairperson, Council of Governors, Governor Wajir County, Ahmed Abdullahi, the ongoing UHC reforms have drastically refined how health is to be provided and introduced radical changes.

He said that the manual and subsequent trainings will strengthen the county health spending units by enhancing their leaders’ leadership skills and accelerate positive governance in those facilities.

“A lot has changed under UHC reforms, including making hospitals independent spending units. This shift requires facilities to improve their resource management and accountability. Counties have already made strides, with 43 out of 47 now allowing facilities to retain the money they

generate, reinvesting it back into services,” he added.

The transition from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to the Social Health Authority (SHA) has already shown promise because over 5,300 public health facilities are now registered, licensed and operating under SHA and counties have facilitated the registration of 14.8 million members, granting them access to tax-funded healthcare at Level 2 and 3 facilities.

“Counties are committed to making UHC a success and ensuring that every Kenyan has access to quality healthcare and stakeholders must work together to roll out the manual and adopt its practices across all 47 counties,” noted the CoG boss.

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Uber's Ksh 14.1 Billion Contribution To Kenya's Economy In 2023 Economic Impact Report Highlights Positive Impact on Drivers, Businesses, and Tourism



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

Uber has unveiled its first Kenya Economic Impact Report, revealing that the app contributed an estimated KSh 14.1 billion to the country's economy in 2023. Conducted by Public First, the report outlines Uber's impact on local businesses, drivers, delivery people, and consumers through its mobility and delivery services.

Imran Manji, Uber's Head of East Africa, emphasized the platform's role in fostering economic growth and innovation. "This report highlights the billions of shillings in economic value that Uber generates annually in Kenya, offering convenient and safe access to transportation and delivery services while empowering drivers and delivery partners with flexible earning opportunities," said Manji.

The Uber app has significantly boosted various sectors of Kenya's economy. For example, it created KSh 2.7 billion in additional value for the tourism industry, supporting millions of tourist journeys. Moreover, the Uber Eats platform added KSh 534 million to restaurants by enabling them to adopt delivery as an additional revenue stream.

Beyond supporting businesses, the app has also played a key role in Kenya's nighttime economy, contributing KSh 167 million in additional value. Uber's technology allows Kenyans to safely and conveniently access bars, clubs, and restaurants during late hours, further driving economic activity.

Uber's flexibility remains a key draw for drivers and delivery partners, with 57% of them citing the ability to work independently as the main reason for choosing the platform over other earning opportunities. According to the report, 87% of drivers and delivery partners used earnings from Uber to cover essential bills, while 65% started using the platform to counter rising costs of goods and services.

One 47-year-old driver from Kiambu shared how Uber's platform transformed his family's future. "I earned enough money to take my son to high school through Uber. My son and I have never forgotten that," he said.

For consumers, safety, convenience, and speed emerged as the most important reasons for using Uber. The report found that 96% of female riders cited safety as a critical factor, with 70% stating that Uber was the safest way to get home. A 22-year-old Nairobi resident added, "It's much safer using Uber because I can con-



Imran Manji, Head of East Africa, Uber, during the launch of Uber Kenya Economic Impact Report

Worth Noting:

- Beyond supporting businesses, the app has also played a key role in Kenya's nighttime economy, contributing KSh 167 million in additional value. Uber's technology allows Kenyans to safely and conveniently access bars, clubs, and restaurants during late hours, further driving economic activity.

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veniently share my location with my family."

The app also plays a pivotal role in leisure and work-related travel. Over 80% of riders reported using Uber for work trips, while 64% used the app to attend parties or festivals, and 53% relied on it to get to the airport.

Uber Eats has similarly become a vital service, with 67% of users citing convenience as their primary reason

for ordering food or essentials via the app. In 2023, over 36% of Kenyan adults used Uber Eats, highlighting the growing demand for reliable delivery services.

Manji reiterated Uber's commitment to Kenya's growth. "The data from this report shows Uber's net positive contribution to Kenya's economy. Our commitment is to help Kenyans go anywhere and get anything while

enabling drivers and delivery people to earn sustainably on the platform," he said.

This report offers a comprehensive look at how Uber continues to drive economic growth, empower local businesses, and support livelihoods in Kenya.



(From Left) Kui Kinyanjui, Strathmore Institute of Public Policy; Kui Mbugua, Uber Eats Kenya; Ambassador Phillip Thigo, MBS, Special Envoy for Technology for the Republic of Kenya; Imran Manji, Head of East Africa, Uber; Samuel Kariuki, Microsoft; Asif Khan, Ando Foods; and Christopher Maclay, Mercy Corps during the launch of the Uber Kenya Impact Report.

KSh 3.7B Disbursed To Settle NHIF Bills Owed To Hospitals

By: Margaret Kalekye

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The Government has released Ksh 3.7 billion to settle bills owed to hospitals by the defunct National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

The funds were disbursed on Monday, with Ksh 1 billion allocated to the Linda Mama program and Ksh 1.3 billion to primary healthcare providers.

An additional Ksh 1.4 billion has been paid to settle defunct NHIF claims.

President William Ruto, in his address at Parliament last Thursday, stated that the new Social Health Authority (SHA) will settle all October claims by next week.

“SHA will pay all October claims in full by next week and it will contin-

ue like that going into the future,” he said.

He described the payments as part of broader efforts by his administration to stabilise Kenya’s healthcare system and ensure equitable access to services

“We are now doing the heavy lifting: clearing decade-old debts, ensuring access to medicine and equipment, and stabilising a system that had failed too many, for too long. We are building a healthcare system that serves every citizen with equity and dignity,” he added.

The government had already disbursed Sh5 billion over the past month to settle similar obligations, some of which date back over a decade.

In October, Kenya transitioned from the NHIF to the new Social Health Authority (SHA), known as Taifa Care.



Number Of Students In TVETs To Hit 2 Million By Next Year

By: MKT Reporter

[@themtkenyatimes](#)

The number of students enrolled in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is expected to reach two million by the end of next year, according to the Ministry of Education.

According to the State Department for Technical Vocational Education and Training, the number of students in TVETs currently stands at 500,000, up from 350,000 earlier in the year.

PS TVET, Dr. Esther Muoria, noted that the government has recently employed 2,000 tutors to improve the trainer-student ratio, bringing the total number of tutors to 3,300.

In addition, the PS said they are engaging with the National Treasury seeking more funds that would facilitate employment and training of more tutors to enhance quality training.

Speaking in Naivasha during an engagement with TVET institutions, Dr. Muoria said the State is com-

mitted to establishing and equipping 25 centers of excellence, which are crucial to the implementation of the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) curriculum.

“We are engaging the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) in making sure that all students at home attend TVETs classes,” she said.

The PS said the ministry in partnership with Mastercard Foundation has retooled more than 5,000 trainers on CBEC since its implementation.

Consequently, Dr. Muoria said the Ministry had formed industry advisory committees to ensure the students acquired the requisite skills needed in the market and was rooting for external examiners to guide practical training.

“The government is committed to realign deliberate efforts to enhance youth’s skills to enable them to get well-paying jobs as well as establish their business”, said the PS.

She added that the ministry was on course to ensure digital training, use of simulation and virtual labs for students to prepare them for future jobs



PS TVET Dr. Esther Muoria

in industries.

On his part, Aggrey Ndombi from CICAN stated that they have partnered with the government to develop over 700 programs and engage with 500,000 students during the

Giver Year project.

He added that the five-year program aims to empower youth and includes equipping 19 Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across the country.

Ndombi emphasized that the collaboration seeks to ensure that training reaches more than 7 million youths by 2030, enhancing their employability.

Why Public Private Partnership Is Inevitable In The Success Of Future Education System



By: Paul Kinyanjui
@themkenyatimes

Secondly, there is also a need to properly effectively and efficiently train both boarding school's managers and staffs on hands on skills to ensure effective and smooth running of existing education facilities.

The ministry Inspectorate is to be blamed for both buying time, poor implementation of policies, neglecting wide consultations, ignoring the important role of civic education and lack of proper and clear public participation processes, policy and guidelines.

Where will all the staff working in those boarding schools be expected to get their daily bread from when they are closed down? What should be the role and input of alumni from such schools? If I may ask?

Who cares about the visions of the founders or owners of boarding schools on the spotlight? I believe that the boarding schools on the spotlight have always relied on their own privately sourced funds.

Besides , they must have been well run and managed especially before

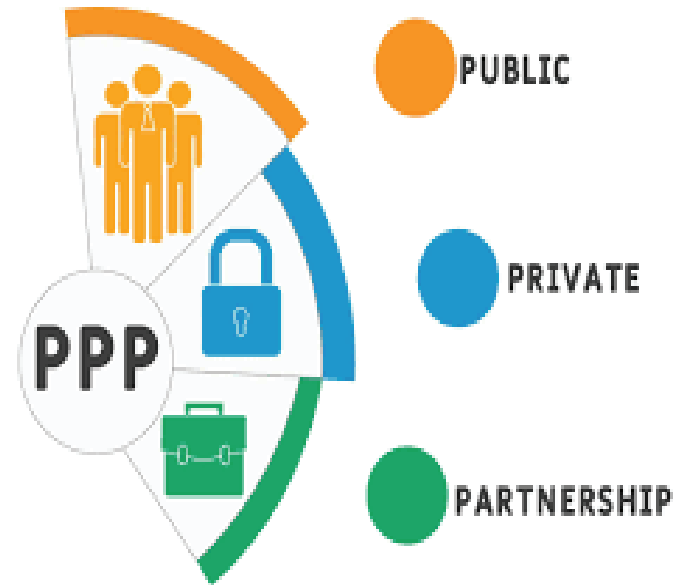
the Covid-19 catastrophe in 2020.

Any serious school or institution should have a well written and published business plan or strategic plan. Any serious inspectorate should be well informed and facilitated with a clear school Strategic Plan stipulating the vision, policy statement and all other key areas.

And in any case that such schools may have suffered any financial mismanagement or crisis, it is the reason and moment why public private partnership policy guidelines are applicable.

One of the National Goals of Education is to promote positive attitudes towards good health and environmental protection.

One of the importance of the national goals of education is to help the government ensure learners acquire the skills, knowledge, and attitude they can use as they enter the workforce. It gives a broad overview of the values that the citizens should have after graduating from each level. The safety and security of both learners and



tutors is paramount.

The worst negligence therefore remains with underfunded ministry inspectorate and who are devoid of resources. The buck stops with the ministry of education, planning and all relevant stakeholders.

The writer is a freelance Researcher, Analyst, Critic, Tutor and Writer on Emerging Issues and Trends with an aim to Create Awareness Educate Enlighten Empower and Inspire. Email; KinyanjuiPaul2030@gmail.com

The thinking that some boarding schools may face closure soon is a far-fetched thought that holds no water. Bearing in mind that some of those dilapidated boarding schools underwent proper inspection upon their establishment, it is futile to close them down owing to their deplorable state. Needless to say that, the ultimate solution is to come up with a proper Public Private Partnership policy guidelines.



Kiambu county Misses Out On KICOSCA Games

By: Felix Njenga
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu County has for the first time missed out in participating in the Kenya Inter County Sports and Cultural Association (KICOSCA) games being held in Kakamega county due to financial challenges.

The 11th edition of the games has united county government workers through sports and cultural activities and aims to foster local talent and strengthen the hospitality industry with available resources where over 300 kiambu county workers will not be a part of.

The Kiambu workers are not happy with missing out on the fete since it is the only time they get to meet and interact with fellow workers in various county governments.

“The county government knew about the games since the start of this year and workers have been preparing to participate and had also attended a selection program only for it to be cancelled the last minute by the governor,” said John Njogu Gitothua ward MCA and the chairperson sports committee Kiambu county assembly.

Njogu said that there was no reason for Kiambu county to miss out on the games

since funds are made available through the budget passed in the assembly.

“In the budget the assembly had allocated Sh 30 million for the games. The funds have been redirected to other matters,” he said.

He said that the executive has been redirecting funds to matters that were not intended for in the budget hence paralysing matters of importance to kiambu residents.

“The KICOSCA games are crucial for the workers as it will help them to network with other county workers. it motivates them and gives them an opportunity to participate in sports for their well being away from the usual work they do for a full year,” he said

According to the workers who participated in the selection to participate in the games and declined to be mention by names due to retribution said that they had never missed to participate in the games since they have always brought back trophies and raised the Kiambu county flag high

“We were engaged and also called in for selectio. We were excited that we will join our colleagues but after selection no communication has been done to us yet the games have already started,” a county government worker said.

Another county worker said that the county government has not yet paid them for four months of their salary and



Kiambu county governor Kimani Wamatangi with Osman Korar. CECM sports flags off Kiambu county workers for the 10th KICOSCA games held in Embu county last year in August

they were looking forward to participating in the KICOSCA games since they will be paid their per diem.

“For a full year we have not been motivated by the county government. They expect us to perform our best yet they have not yet paid our salaries for four months. The KICOSCA game was to

give us hope since we will get per diem so that we will be able to pay our bills and fend for our families,” said the worker.

A senior county officer said that the over 300 workers who were to participate in various games had been slashed to 120 who were selected to participate

but were also not communicated to by the time the games had started.

Efforts made to reach out to the county executive committee member in charge of sports Osman Korar on the matter were futile since he did not respond. The office of governor Kimani wamatangi also did not respond to the matter.

Mauritius PM Ramgoolam Expresses Support For Raila's AUC Bid In Phone Call With President Ruto

By: Capital Correspondent

Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam has expressed his support for Raila Odinga's African Union Commission bid.

This followed a telephone conversation with President William Ruto which saw Mauritius candidate Anil Gayan of effectively exiting the race. During the conversation, President Ruto expressed his appreciation even as he affirmed the cordial ties between the two countries.

“I have had a telephone conversation with the newly-elected Prime Minister of Mauritius, Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. I congratulated him on his election and for the faith the people of his country have shown in him and his party,” President Ruto stated.

“Prime Minister Ramgoolam confirmed his support for Kenya's can-

didate to the African Union Commission Chairperson, Hon. Raila Odinga, for which I expressed much appreciation.”

President Ruto formally endorsed Odinga for the AUC role on August 27, in a ceremony attended by several East African leaders.

Recently, Odinga introduced a team of political strategists and diplomats supporting his campaign, including Makumi Mwangi, Boaz Mbaya, Mohamud Jama, Dismas Mokua, Catherine Mwangi, Ochieng' Kamudhayi, Herman Manyora, Tom Amolo, and Karuti Kanyinga.

Odinga's main rival in the February 2025 election is Djibouti's Foreign Affairs Minister Mahmoud Yousseuf.

He also faces competition from Eastern African candidates Richard Randriamandrato of Madagascar.



Call To Confront Harsh Reality Of GBV In Kenya

By: Patrick Nyakundi
 @themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The UN Deputy Country Director said there was also a need to take action and review the priorities of EAW that have been implemented as per the Beijing Declaration of 30 years ago.
- “Beijing platform for Action and Political Declaration, recommits, accountability and resourcing. This includes implementing comprehensive strategies in partnership with women rights organizations and allocating necessary budgets,” he observed.
- “Also actively reporting on the progress to end impunity and prevent violence against women and girls with particular urgency regarding its most extreme manifestation of femicide,” Basila said.
- The Director noted that the 16 days of activism are critical in reminding of our responsibility to break the silence, challenge harmful norms and invest in transformative change.



UN Women Deputy Country Director Done Basila.

Gender based violence (GBV) against women and girls continues to be one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world, the United Nations (UN) Women Deputy Country Director Done Basila has said.

Basila said that in Kenya statistics paint a grim picture where 16 percent of women and 10 percent of men have experienced physical violence in the last 12 months while adding that 34 percent of women and 27 percent of men have experienced physical violence since they were the age of 15.

Consequently, he called upon all stakeholders to mount campaigns aligned to Kenya’s commitment to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls as outlined in the Beijing Framework geared towards averting disruptions of lives and communities from being weakened.

“As we gather here, we must confront the harsh reality of violence against women and girls that is one of the worst human rights violations in the world. According to statistics from the Kenya Demographic Household Survey (KDHS) of 2022, 16 percent of women and 10 percent of men have experienced physical violence in the last 12 months,” said Basila at Unoa Sports Ground in Wote town.

He said this during the launch of 16 days of activism against GBV where he emphasized the need for all duty

bearers, especially states and private sector companies to take action to End Violence Against Women (EVAW).

The UN Deputy Country Director said there was also a need to take action and review the priorities of EAW that have been implemented as per the Beijing Declaration of 30 years ago.

“Beijing platform for Action and Political Declaration, recommits, accountability and resourcing. This includes implementing comprehensive strategies in partnership with women rights organizations and allocating necessary budgets,” he observed.

“Also actively reporting on the progress to end impunity and prevent violence against women and girls with particular urgency regarding its most extreme manifestation of femicide,” Basila said.

The Director noted that the 16 days of activism are critical in reminding of our responsibility to break the silence, challenge harmful norms and invest in transformative change.

He further said that ending GBV is not a responsibility of one sector, individual or organization but requires the whole of society in order to commit to gender equality and address GBV vice in the country.

While saying the government has enacted legal frameworks like Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, Sexual Offences Act and Poli-

cies Supporting Survivors, the survey indicates that women and girls still experience physical and sexual violence.

“This calls for renewed advocacy through the Beijing + 30 lens. The 30th anniversary provides a pivotal moment to reflect on violence against women and girls, equality through justice and protection leaving No One Behind,” he added.

UN Women with partners and government of Kenya, civil society organizations and other development partners continues to prioritize actions to prevent and respond to GBV and femicide.

They are committed in policy and legal frameworks that support reforms, implementation of laws and policies that protect women and girls, community engagement where they mobilize communities to challenge harmful norms and behaviours.

Through service delivery they strengthen survivor-centered services including health care, psychosocial support, legal aid and shelter services, to ensure survivors recover.

Speaking at the same event, Makueni Woman Representative Rose Museo, blamed consumption of alcohol and use of drugs as the main cause of Gender Based Violence in the county.

Museo called upon the government through the law enforcement agencies to fight the vice to ensure the elimination of the drug and substance

abuse in an effort to end GBV.

Further, she urged women in marriage to avoid causing controversy in their families in order to avert GBV that is prevalent in the area.

“I urge the national government to ensure the consumption and use of alcohol and use of drugs and substance abuse is eliminated so that we avert conflict in families.

Makueni County Commissioner Duncan Darusi warned chiefs and their assistants to avoid subverting justice by using kangaroo courts them in solving GBV cases saying this was not the way the government expects them to execute their duties.

While warning them against taking advantage of the vulnerable in the community, Darusi reminded them that Kangaroo courts are not the policy of the government hence the need to stop the habit forthwith.

“The bad habits of kangaroo courts must stop; this is not the policy of the government. You must protect the vulnerable in the community and never take advantage of them,” warned Darusi.

Kisumu: A Catalyst For Africa's Economic Transformation

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Projects like the Koru-Soin dam and the Lake Victoria ring road are prime examples of initiatives expected to create thousands of jobs while stimulating economic growth in Nyanza, a region historically marginalized in development.
- These projects align with the AfCFTA's objectives to promote sustainable investment and industrialization, essential for poverty reduction and economic resilience. By fostering an environment conducive to innovation, Kisumu can attract sustainable investments that not only benefit local communities but also contribute to broader national and regional economic goals.
- The conference serves as a vital platform for local leaders to engage with international investors, potentially unlocking significant funding for infrastructure projects.

President William Ruto's arrival in Kisumu for the Fourth Investment Conference of the African Sub-Sovereign Governments Network marks a significant milestone in revitalizing regional economies. The conference, themed "Leveraging the AfCFTA for Sustainable Trade and Investment," aims to enhance intra-African trade and empower local governments, positioning Kisumu as an emerging investment hub. This event reflects Kenya's commitment to harnessing the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a landmark agreement designed to create a single market for goods and services across the continent.

The AfCFTA has the potential to increase intra-African trade by over 81% within the next decade, generating substantial economic growth and job creation. Ruto's participation underscores Kenya's strategic focus on leveraging this agreement through targeted investments in infrastructure and technology. The emphasis on public-private partnerships (PPPs) is crucial, as these collaborations can drive development in key sectors such as energy, transportation, and agriculture.

Projects like the Koru-Soin dam and the Lake Victoria ring road are prime examples of initiatives expected to create thousands of jobs while stimulating economic growth in Nyanza, a region historically marginalized in development. These projects align with the AfCFTA's objectives to promote sustainable investment and industrialization, essential for poverty reduction and economic resilience. By fostering an environment conducive to innovation, Kisumu can attract sustainable investments that not only benefit local communities but also contribute to broader national and regional economic goals.

The conference serves as a vital platform for local leaders to engage with international investors, potentially unlocking significant funding for infrastructure projects. By prioritizing collaboration and sustainable practices, Ruto's government aims to transform challenges into investable opportunities, positioning Kisumu at the forefront of Africa's economic landscape. The emphasis on sustainability within the AfCFTA Investment Protocol is particularly noteworthy; it encourages investments that align with environmental protection and social equity, addressing climate change challenges while promoting economic development.

As African nations strive to meet their Sustainable Development Goals



President William Ruto in Kisumu for the Fourth Investment Conference of the African Sub-Sovereign Governments Network

(SDGs), integrating sustainable practices into investment strategies will be crucial. The AfCFTA Investment Protocol provides a transparent framework for investment regulation across Africa, promoting coordinated positions and cooperation among member states. It seeks to streamline regulations that have historically been fragmented across different countries, enhancing predictability for investors while ensuring that investments contribute positively to host countries' socio-economic landscapes.

Moreover, as Africa faces significant challenges such as climate change and economic disparities, initiatives like the AfCFTA are essential in creating frameworks that encourage responsible investment while fostering resilience against these threats. The integration of sustainability into investment protocols not only aligns with global standards but also addresses local needs effectively. The protocol emphasizes that each State Party has the right to regulate investments within its territory to achieve

national public policy objectives, including environmental protection and social equity.

The potential for synergy between the AfCFTA's investment protocol and other international agreements offers promising avenues for catalyzing sustainable investment in Africa. By focusing on sectors that promise sustainable growth—such as renewable energy, technology-driven industries, and sustainable agriculture—African countries can attract foreign direct investment (FDI) that not only brings capital but also knowledge transfer from skilled investors.

In summary, President Ruto's engagement in Kisumu during this conference is not merely ceremonial; it represents a commitment towards building an economically resilient future for Kenya and Africa at large. The collaborative efforts initiated here could lay down the groundwork necessary for transformative change across various sectors within the continent—ultimately positioning Africa as a formidable player on the global

economic stage.

The success of this conference could catalyze a new era of sustainable growth and development not only in Kisumu but across the continent, paving the way for a prosperous future where local economies thrive in harmony with global markets. By embracing sustainable practices and fostering collaboration between governments and investors, Kisumu can emerge as a beacon of hope in Africa's quest for economic transformation. Through active community engagement and innovative approaches to investment facilitation, African nations can work towards achieving their ambitious development goals while ensuring that growth is inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Guidance



light of knowledge,
Every action has its question, know the
answer.

Your life will be filled with peace,
Always strive toward goodness and
virtue.

Jo'rayeva Marjona

Jo'rayeva Marjona Baxtiyorovna was born on October 18, 2003, in the Termiz district of Surxondar'yo region, Uzbekistan. She is a third-year student in the Uzbek language and literature department at the Faculty of Foreign Languages at Termiz State Pedagogical Institute, and the coordinator of the "Mushoira" club.

When your Lord grants you guidance,
A servant cannot attain it without
prayer.

When evil comes, do not complain,
For from Allah, you will not receive
protection.

May your path be illuminated by the

Romance Writer Saikiran S. Eligeti Releases Sixth Book, A Debut Collaboration With Nikita P. Galgate

Before The Last Goodbye



NIKITA P. GALGATE
SAIKIRAN S. ELIGETI

By: Saikiran S. Eligeti

Saikiran S. Eligeti is set to release his sixth book, marking his first-ever collaboration.

Known for titles like *Insight With Master*, *Garland Of Words*, *Free White Spirit*, *If She Stayed With Me*, and *We Complete Each Other*, Saikiran's journey as a romance writer has captivated readers through five deeply emotional novels. This latest work, co-authored with debut writer Nikita P. Galgate, expands on Saikiran's passion for romance, offering a fresh perspective within his beloved genre. The novel promises an engaging narrative that blends the seasoned storytelling of Saikiran with the unique voice of Nikita, creating a story that resonates with new and long-time fans alike.

Renowned for his heartfelt storytelling,

My Uzbekistan



A spring in your heart, a beautiful
paradise,
Like a mother dear, O my beloved
Uzbekistan.

To live with joy and grasp success anew,
In my heart, your love shines clear and
true.

Make me a crescent beneath your sky
of blue,

A spring in your heart, a beautiful
paradise,
Like a mother dear, O my beloved
Uzbekistan.

My path is shaped by life's guiding ray,
You are the light in my heart every day.
The dawn of hope in every word I say,

A spring in your heart, a beautiful
paradise,
Like a mother dear, O my beloved
Uzbekistan.

Shoberdiyeva Fotima

Fotima Shoberdiyeva was born on August 15, 2004, in the Surxondar'yo region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. She is a third-year student in the Uzbek Language and Literature Department of the Faculty of Languages at Termez State Pedagogical Institute. Member of the "Mushoira" Club

With love and warmth, I grow strong in
your embrace,

Standing firm on this path with your
guiding grace.

What more do I need than your
cherished place?

A spring in your heart, a beautiful
paradise,

Like a mother dear, O my beloved
Uzbekistan.

Lead me towards prosperity's peak so
grand,

Caressing my head with your nurturing
hand.

If love is needed, you are where I stand,

Muslihiddinova Sevinch Erkin



Man lives in the world with hope. He walks
in the sky of dreams. And life becomes richer
depending on human actions.

"Halal Lukma" by Rauf Jelasun, who tried to
write actual events rather than imaginary
subjects in his works and was familiar with
the life of every stratum of society, is also
a product of real life events. -real events
closely related to each other are described.

Reality [Latin. realis-real] is the part of
existence that actually exists in reality.

The work begins with Yusuf's life in Istanbul,
where he is struggling to find a halal livelihood
among poor people. Through this, Rauf Jelasun
revealed the stratification in life and the
events in the life of each class.

Yusuf works in the streets of Istanbul to
bring honest sustenance to his family as a
paper stacker. This is a character who lives
thanks to the meager, but most importantly,
honest and blessed sustenance he gets from
work. God sent Abdulkarim to him, he will
grow up to be the envy of all people. The life

of such a person is also very wonderful, that
is: "Something like a smile appeared on Yusuf's
face. And he froze like that." This is how it
ended.

Abdulkarim, a pious child who was brought up
by Yusuf with God's grace as a child. .

Tayfur and Ayla. Inhumane, uneducated and
homely people. In general, brothers and sisters
who are victims of parental mistakes. But
their lives were ruined not only because of
their parents' fault, but also because of their
own mistakes. So, there is not only someone
else behind all the misfortunes in a person's
life. That is, a person should understand that
he is the manager of every second of his life.

Mr. James is a character who knows the
value of a person in life.

Maryam is an enigmatic character who
is aspiring, thoughtful, and renounces her
parents after realizing the essence of life.

Ibish is a faithful and hardworking person who
knows the value of trust and kindness.

Domla Turgay, Henry Rector, Mehmed Zaky
are people who think about their own benefit
under the shadow of goodness.

Lamiya is the daughter of Mehmed Zaki.

By reading "Halal Lukma", you can understand
what kind of people there are in life, and the
deep abyss at the bottom of everything...

Muslihiddinova Sevinch Erkin
2nd year student of Gulistan State
Pedagogical Institute.

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BUSINESS

E-procurement To Fight Corruption And Enhance Transparency

By: Fatma Said
@themtkenyatimes

The Chairman of the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management, John Karani has said that the adoption of the electronic procurement system would significantly enhance accountability and transparency in the supply chain processes in the country.

He reiterated that by automating and digitizing transactions, the system would reduce opportunities for malpractice, ensure better governance, and create a more open and competitive environment.

This shift is expected to foster greater trust and efficiency within procurement operations, benefiting both public institutions and stakeholders.

Speaking at the 3rd edition of the Supply Chain National Dialogue held at Sarova Whitesands Mombasa, themed 'Strengthening National Supply Chains for Innovation, Resilience, and Global Competitiveness' Karani noted that the issue of supply chain and corruption has unfortunately been interlinked for too long but added that they were now instilling discipline among their members, and ensuring segregation of duties while holding everyone accountable as they transit to the adoption of e-procurement.

He noted that the theme was strategically curated as the procurement and supply chain landscape is challenged by issues such as fragmentation, limited technological adoption, and inadequate sustainability practices.

Karani stated that KISM aims to be the primary authority on all matters related to supply chain management, thereby easing the burden on its members.

He emphasized the importance of partnerships with organizations like the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

These collaborations, he said, are designed to promote a deeper understanding of procurement as a structured and collaborative process rather than a one-person effort.

"I am telling my members to refuse to be the conveyers of corrupt activities because we can stop it by vigorously ensuring the processes are followed and ensuring segregation of duties. We are just facilitators of the process but we get blamed when things go wrong in between," Karani said.

He noted that the institute developed the Disciplinary Manual and that the Disciplinary Committee Members



The Chairman of the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management, John Karani .

have been trained by the Judiciary Training Institute adding that a total of 45 cases have been so far been handled by the committee.

Karani underscored the fact that e-procurement is a vital pillar in the fight against corruption and enhancing transparency and accountability within the system.

He emphasized the organization's ongoing efforts to empower the supply chain sector in response to numerous dynamic changes affecting the industry.

"Looking at recent challenges, the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war, and the Israel conflict, have significantly reshaped the global supply chain and procurement landscape, posing new challenges and requiring innovative strategies to adapt to the shifting environment," Karani said.

He further highlighted the role of technology in strengthening supply chains to meet members' evolving

needs and stated that leveraging emerging technologies is critical to ensuring supply chain continuity and enabling institutions to be served consistently.

"It's really about addressing the issue of disruption in the supply chain and how they impact the overall supply points in the economy, because the supply chain cuts across everything, the delivery of goods and services, and even logistics," Karani said.

He emphasized proper planning to bolster supply chain resilience, while underscoring the need for robust contingency planning to promote local economic growth, reduce reliance on imports, and strengthen stability.

The Director of Public Procurement at the National Treasury Eric Korir reiterated that the implementation of the e-procurement system was a key reform noting that by April 1, 2025, all ministries, departments, and government agencies would be required to transact exclusively on this plat-

form.

This shift, Korir said, aimed at enhancing efficiency by eliminating manual processes that have long been associated with governance challenges.

Adoption of e-procurement is expected to bring transformative changes, including increased transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, it will encourage broader bidder participation in tendering processes, ultimately ensuring better value for money.

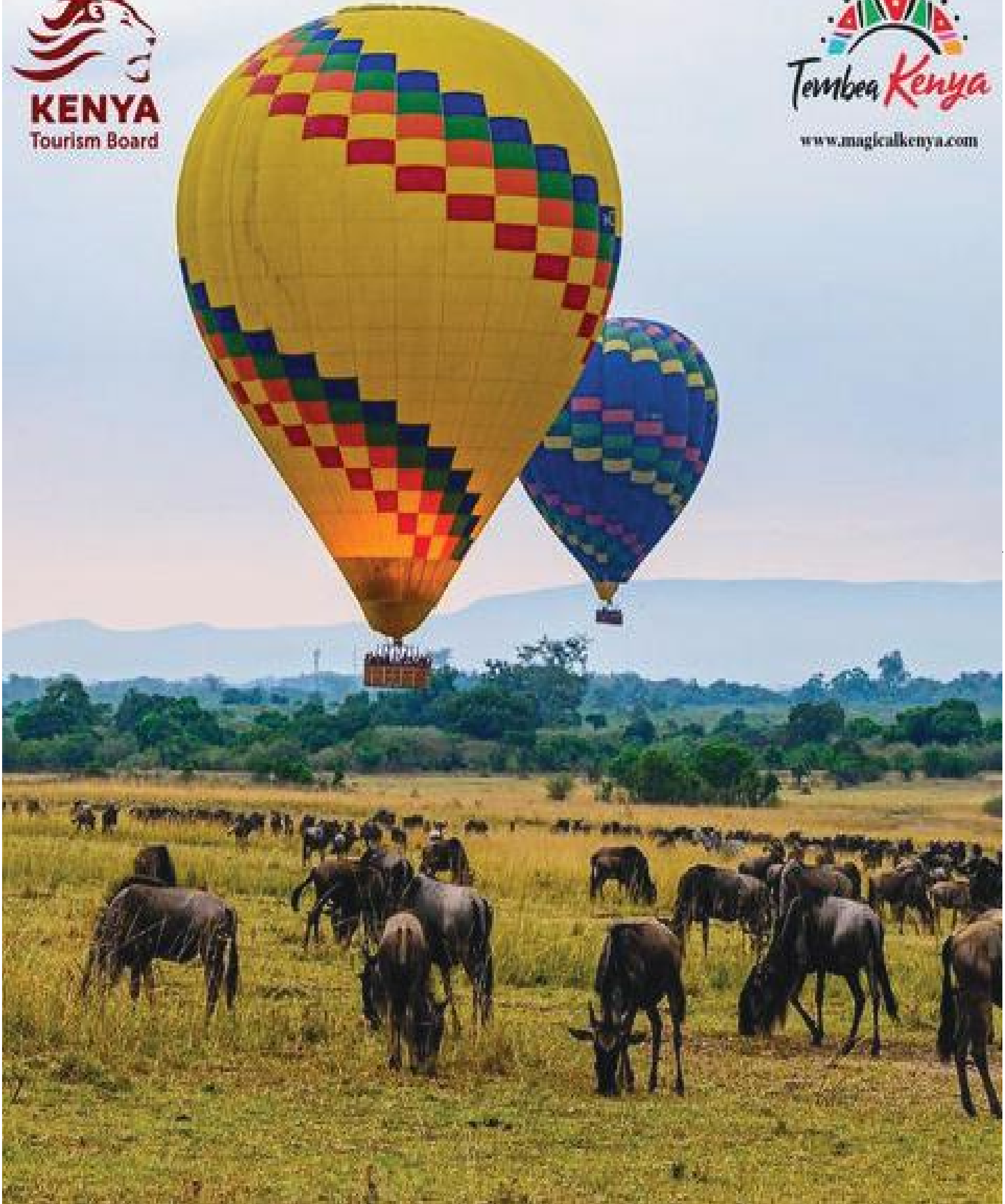
The CEO of Kenya Institute of Supply Chain Management, Kenneth Matiba said that this year's edition has been attended by more than 1000 participants as they have representatives drawn from South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Uganda, and Ethiopia as they seek to position KISM as the African Centre for Supply Chain Excellence.

Worth Noting:

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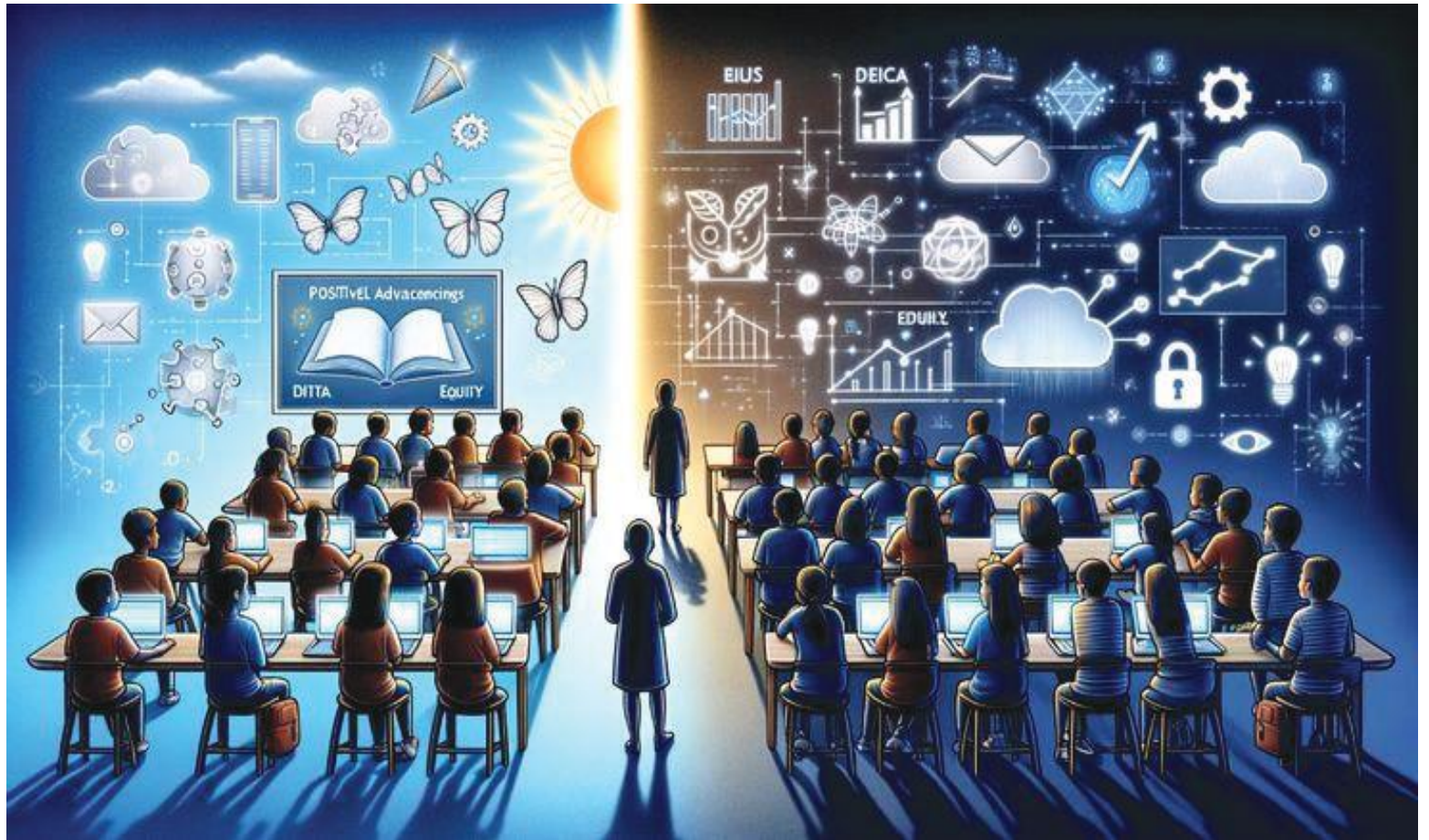
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The Integration Of Artificial Intelligence In Higher Education: A Call To Action



By: Daniel Tusiimukye K'abaasa
@themtkenyatimes



Artificial Intelligence

Worth Noting:

- Another significant advantage of AI in education is its ability to automate administrative tasks, freeing up educators to focus on teaching and mentoring. AI-powered tools can assist with tasks such as grading, data analysis, and student support, enabling educators to devote more time to high-touch, high-value activities.
- Moreover, AI can help bridge the gap for students with limited access to traditional learning tools. AI-driven math tutors, for example, can provide personalized learning support via WhatsApp, enabling students to access quality education regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background.

The world of higher education is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the increasing adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI). As AI continues to revolutionize various sectors, universities are beginning to recognize its potential to enhance the learning process. However, to fully harness the benefits of AI, universities must reframe their approach to education and embrace AI as a tool to aid the learning process.

One of the primary ways AI can aid the learning process is through personalized learning experiences. AI-powered platforms can analyze individual students' learning patterns, preferences, and behaviors, providing tailored educational experiences that cater to their unique needs. This approach enables students to learn at their own pace, revisiting concepts they struggle with and accelerating through material they've mastered.

For instance, AI-powered adaptive learning systems adjust the pace and complexity of content delivery to suit individual learners. These systems use real-time data and analytics to identify knowledge gaps and provide targeted interventions. As a result, students receive a more effective and efficient learning experience, and educators can focus on providing support and guidance where it's needed most.

Another significant advantage of AI in education is its ability to automate administrative tasks, freeing up educators to focus on teaching and mentoring. AI-powered tools can assist with tasks such as grading, data analysis, and student support, enabling educators to devote more time to high-touch, high-value activities.

Moreover, AI can help bridge the gap for students with limited access to traditional learning tools. AI-driven math tutors, for example, can provide personalized learning support via WhatsApp, enabling students to access quality education regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background.

Rising Academy Network in Rwanda is a shining example of AI's potential in education. This organization has successfully integrated AI tools to enhance teaching quality and efficiency. AI-powered interactive prompts are being used to improve lesson delivery, while optical character recognition (OCR) tools are being tested for grading exams. Additionally, AI-driven math tutors provide personalized learning support via WhatsApp, bridging the gap for students with limited access to traditional learning tools.

A review of AI in education highlights its role in addressing barriers such as language proficiency, re-

source gaps, and teacher workloads. AI-powered platforms are being tested for adaptive learning, virtual tutoring, and intelligent content delivery. For instance, these systems support language learning, provide personalized feedback, and help bridge the digital divide by offering localized solutions tailored to African contexts.

The potential of AI in education is vast, and its impact will be felt for generations to come. As universities continue to navigate the complexities of AI adoption, it is essential that they prioritize the needs of students, educators, and the broader community. By embracing AI as a tool to aid the learning process, universities can create a more inclusive, effective, and efficient education system that prepares students for success in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

However, the integration of AI in education also raises important questions about the future of work, the role of educators, and the potential for bias in AI decision-making. As AI assumes more responsibility for tasks such as grading and student support, educators must redefine their role in the learning process. This may involve focusing on high-touch, high-value activities such as mentoring, coaching, and providing emotional support.

Moreover, the use of AI in education

raises concerns about bias and equity. AI systems can perpetuate existing biases and inequalities if they are trained on biased data or designed with a particular worldview. Therefore, it is essential that educators and policymakers prioritize transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in AI decision-making.

In conclusion, the integration of AI in education has the potential to transform the learning process, making it more inclusive, effective, and efficient. However, to fully harness the benefits of AI, universities must reframe their approach to education and prioritize the needs of students, educators, and the broader community. By embracing AI as a tool to aid the learning process, universities can create a brighter future for generations to come.

The writer is an engineering student at Makerere University, Kampala Uganda and a publisher at The Iconic Publications. danidalimonite@gmail.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Navigating Kenya's Political Landscape: The Imperative Of Alliances And Accountability

By: **James Kilonzo Bwire**

The conversation between Mumias East MP Peter Salasya and COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli illuminates the intricate dynamics of Kenyan politics, where alliances and accountability are crucial for effective governance. Atwoli's counsel to Salasya underscores the necessity of forging strong relationships with seasoned politicians, particularly Raila Odinga, who has been a dominant figure in Kenya's political arena for decades. Odinga's extensive political journey, marked by multiple presidential bids and a legacy of opposition leadership, highlights the importance of strategic relationships in navigating the complexities of Kenya's political landscape.

Atwoli advised Salasya to approach Odinga before making public statements, reflecting a broader strategy essential for political survival in Kenya. This approach is particularly relevant given the historical context of political rivalries and shifting alliances that characterize the nation's governance. The interplay of personal ambitions and collective responsibility is a recurring theme in Kenyan politics, where leaders must balance loyalty to their parties with accountability to their constituents.

Salasya's defense of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) against Odinga's advocacy for devolved funding illustrates a critical debate on development strategies in Kenya. While Odinga argues that devolved units are more effective for local development, Salasya insists that the CDF is vital for addressing immediate community

needs. This clash highlights the tension between traditional funding mechanisms and newer models aimed at enhancing local governance. The CDF has historically played a significant role in financing local projects, providing communities with resources to address urgent needs directly.

Moreover, the discussion surrounding the controversial Adani deals adds another layer of complexity to this political landscape. President William Ruto's cancellation of these deals amid allegations of fraud underscores the pressing need for transparency and accountability in governance. The fallout from this situation illustrates how corruption can undermine public trust and hinder development efforts. Both Atwoli and Salasya recognize that blind allegiance to party leaders can be detrimental; thus, they advocate for a more nuanced approach that prioritizes the interests of constituents over party loyalty.

Kenya's political environment is characterized by its fluidity, where unexpected alliances often emerge. For instance, Ruto's recent collaboration with Odinga, his former rival, reflects a convergence of interests that may pose risks but also offers opportunities for stability. Such alliances are often formed out of necessity rather than ideological alignment, as politicians seek to maintain their regional or ethnic support bases while negotiating national partnerships.

The historical context of Kenya's political landscape reveals a pattern where parties have often failed to represent the broader interests of their constituents. Political parties have



Mumias East MP Peter Salasya and COTU Secretary General Francis Atwoli

been criticized for prioritizing ethnic affiliations over national cohesion, perpetuating divisions rather than fostering unity. This has led to a situation where political parties are seen as vehicles for advancing personal or ethnic interests rather than as platforms for national development.

As Kenya approaches its next elections, the ability of leaders like Salasya to engage constructively with established figures like Odinga will be crucial for their political longevity. The electorate increasingly demands accountability from their leaders, especially in light of widespread corruption and governance failures that have

plagued the country. The 2010 Constitution aimed to address these issues by promoting principles of leadership and integrity; however, challenges remain in ensuring that these principles are upheld in practice.

In conclusion, the conversation between Salasya and Atwoli serves as a microcosm of the challenges facing Kenyan politicians today. The necessity of alliances, the importance of local development strategies, and the demand for accountability are all critical factors that will shape Kenya's political future. As new leaders emerge, their ability to navigate these complexities will determine not only

their success but also the trajectory of governance in Kenya. Strengthening local governance through enhanced accountability mechanisms will be essential in rebuilding public trust and ensuring that democratic gains take root in society. Ultimately, it is through collaborative efforts that Kenya can aspire towards a more inclusive and transparent political environment that serves all its citizens effectively.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Mudavadi Leads The Fight Against Femicide In Kenya

As cases of femicide rise in Kenya, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has called for urgent action to curb the violence. Speaking during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Mudavadi condemned the persistent attacks on women and urged law enforcement agencies to ensure that perpetrators face the full weight of the law.

Femicide, the killing of women due to their gender, has become a worrying trend in the country. Recent cases, including intimate partner violence and brutal attacks on women, have sparked outrage, with many Kenyans calling for justice. Mudavadi highlighted the need for a collective societal approach, urging men to take

an active role in ending gender-based violence. He emphasized that these acts should never be normalized, adding that the government is committed to protecting women and girls.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign, observed globally, aims to create awareness and inspire action against gender violence. In Kenya, the campaign is a platform to advocate for policy changes, community education, and survivor support. Mudavadi's strong stance has been hailed as a crucial step in addressing the root causes of gender-based violence and fostering a culture of respect and equality.

This call to action comes amid broader efforts to tackle gender inequality and promote safer commu-

nities for women across the country. However, the true measure of success will be the tangible outcomes from this renewed focus on ending femicide.

*By Moreen Kajuju
Rongo University*

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi



Kenya Where Borders Are For Trafficking Not Sovereignty; Nairobi The Abduction City

In the heart of East Africa, justice is gagged, and the truth is traded for silence.



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- This story of betrayal is not new. On June 23, 2016, Willie Kimani, a human rights lawyer, along with his client Josephat Mwenda and driver Joseph Muiruri, were abducted and murdered by rogue police officers. Their bodies, discarded in Ol Donyo Sabuk River, shocked the nation. And yet, the outrage dissipated, paving the way for more disappearances—each case dimming the nation’s moral light.
- Even our neighbors, like Uganda, have found our soil fertile for suppression. Besigye’s abduction mirrors that of Stella Nyanzi, the Ugandan academic known for her sharp critique of Museveni’s regime. In July 2023, Nyanzi was briefly detained in Nairobi, allegedly at the behest of Ugandan authorities, before an international outcry forced her release. Our government’s response? Silence, as if ignoring tyranny absolves one of its stench.

Welcome to Kenya, where abductions are no longer isolated tragedies but a chilling norm. Imagine a nation that once symbolized refuge but now stands accused of complicity in transnational repression. From Nairobi’s bustling streets to the shadowy corners of power, Kenya has become a land where borders are porous to injustice and sovereignty is a mere illusion.

On November 16, 2024, Dr. Kizza Besigye, the fiery Ugandan opposition leader and four-time presidential candidate, was abducted in Nairobi while attending a book launch hosted by Martha Karua, Kenya’s indefatigable voice for democracy. Witnesses recall the sinister efficiency of the operation—menacing figures, unmarked vehicles, and the suffocating silence of authority. By the time the dust settled, Besigye was in Kampala, facing dubious charges in a Ugandan military court despite being a civilian. The law clearly states such trials are illegal. And our government? They washed their hands like Pontius Pilate, denying involvement while the evidence screamed otherwise.

Besigye’s plight is just the latest in a pattern that has left Kenya’s image battered. On October 18, 2024, seven Turkish asylum seekers were abducted in Nairobi. Four of them were subsequently deported to Turkey, a move decried as a gross violation of international asylum laws. Their “crime”? Being affiliated with Fethullah Gülen, a cleric accused by the Turkish regime of orchestrating a coup attempt. These individuals had sought sanctuary here, believing Kenya to be a bastion of fairness. Instead, they were betrayed.

This story of betrayal is not new. On June 23, 2016, Willie Kimani, a human rights lawyer, along with his client Josephat Mwenda and driver Joseph Muiruri, were abducted and murdered by rogue police officers. Their bodies, discarded in Ol Donyo Sabuk River, shocked the nation. And yet, the outrage dissipated, paving the way for more disappearances—each case dimming the nation’s moral light.

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Video captures moment former Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter is abducted outside Holy Trinity Catholic Church

behest of Ugandan authorities, before an international outcry forced her release. Our government’s response? Silence, as if ignoring tyranny absolves one of its stench.

But why Kenya? Why is our country the playground for such heinous acts? The answer lies in the chilling alliance between authoritarian regimes and a complicit elite who prioritize political expediency over human rights. The Bible warns us, “The wicked flee though no one pursues,” yet here we are, enabling wickedness to thrive.

And so, the abductions continue. In October 2024, Julius Mutua, an environmental activist from Kwale, vanished after speaking out against illegal mining operations backed by influential figures. His case has gone cold, like so many others, with authorities offering little more than perfunctory statements. How do we, as citizens, reconcile this apathy?

These disappearances are not just isolated events; they are threads in a larger tapestry of repression. They reflect a nation where the rule of law bends to the whims of power, where borders are crossed not for trade or diplomacy but for silencing dissent. Kenyan soil has become a stage for transnational repression, where regimes like Uganda’s use our proximity and infrastructure to extend their authoritarian reach. The sym-

bolism of these abductions cannot be overstated. Besigye’s kidnapping was not just a physical act—it was a metaphor for the erosion of Kenya’s sovereignty and moral standing. Similarly, the deportation of Turkish citizens was a slap in the face of our Constitution, which guarantees protection to all who seek refuge. Are we not bound by the Kiswahili saying, “Mgeni ni baraka” (A guest is a blessing)?

Our leaders, meanwhile, continue to dance around the truth. The government denies involvement, yet these operations require levels of coordination and access that suggest otherwise. Can we truly believe that such actions occur without tacit approval? Is our silence not complicity?

Let’s call this what it is: a moral crisis. Kenya is fast becoming a paradox—a country that champions democracy on global stages while enabling its subversion at home. The irony is painful, the hypocrisy glaring. As the late Wangari Maathai once said, “You cannot enslave a mind that knows itself, values itself, and understands itself.” Yet, our actions seem designed to do just that—enslave the minds of those who dare to dissent.

But there is hope. History teaches us that oppression, no matter how entrenched, is never permanent. It is

toppled by those who refuse to bow, who speak truth to power even when their voices tremble. Let us be those people. Let us demand accountability, not just for the victims of abduction but for the soul of our nation.

In the words of a Kenyan proverb, “Usipoziba ufa, utajenga ukuta” (If you don’t mend the crack, you will build a wall). The cracks are widening, and the walls of tyranny are rising. If we don’t act now, future generations will inherit a nation that has traded its conscience for convenience.

So I ask you: How long will we let this continue? How many more Besigyees, Gülenes, and Mutuas must we lose before we say enough? The time for silence is over. The time for action is now. Let us reclaim our dignity, our sovereignty, and our humanity before they are lost forever.

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

Kenya To Host Elite Brands Awards International Gala

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya is set to host the Elite Brands Awards International on December 13, 2024, at a hotel in Nairobi. This globally recognized event will bring together over 100 companies from 18 African countries to celebrate excellence, innovation, and ethical practices in various industries. The awards, organized by Jubilant Stewards of Africa, are designed to honor organizations and individuals who go beyond industry standards to make a meaningful impact on humanity.

Unlike conventional awards that focus solely on market leadership, the Elite Brands Awards International evaluates nominees based on the Organizational Performance Index (OPI). This system scrutinizes processes and systems, benchmarking them against globally acceptable standards to identify outstanding contributions. The awards promote best practices, ethics, and sustainability, setting a high bar for industry leadership.

Speaking at a press briefing, Jared Oundo, Executive Director of Jubilant Stewards of Africa, underscored the significance of the awards. “We are honored to host the Elite Brands Awards International and bring together a community of remarkable individuals who exemplify excellence and innovation,” he said. “This event is a testament to our dedication to recognizing and supporting those at the forefront of creating a better future for all. To be recognized among such esteemed industry leaders is both humbling and inspiring.”

Oundo added that the awards aim to acknowledge key players across diverse sectors who have achieved exceptional results and positively influenced industry growth. He emphasized that the evaluation goes beyond performance, focusing on the processes and extra efforts organizations make for the benefit of humanity.

This year’s gala will also mark a milestone for Jubilant Stewards of Africa, which has successfully hosted seven similar events in the past. Awardees will gain prestigious recognition, enhancing their brand image and demonstrating their com-

mitment to innovation and social responsibility.

Among the nominees is Mwananchi Credit, whose CEO, Dennis Mombo, expressed gratitude for the recognition. “This award is a significant milestone for our company, underscoring the impact of our dedication to quality and innovation. The nomination has elevated our brand and motivated us to continue striving for excellence,” he said. Mombo dedicated the recognition to his team and commended Jubilant Stewards of Africa for their initiative.

The list of nominees includes notable companies such as Ena Coach, Aquamist, Consolata Hospital Mathari, and Kenyatta University, among others. Previous awardees and sponsors like Safaricom, Kevian Kenya, and Robisearch Limited are also expected to participate in this year’s event.

The nomination process for the Elite Brands Awards International involves a thorough survey and research to identify deserving firms. Companies and individuals can also self-nominate through the official website.

The event is anticipated to attract a



Jared Oundo, Executive Director of Jubilant Stewards of Africa addressing the press

diverse audience, including industry leaders, government officials, entrepreneurs, and media representatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, network with thought leaders, and celebrate the achievements of the award recipients.

As Kenya prepares to host this prestigious event, the Elite Brands Awards International is poised to inspire organizations and individuals to uphold the highest standards of excellence and innovation in their respective fields.

Experts Advocate Pragmatic Strategies To Reduce Tobacco Harm In Kenya

By: Contributor
@themtkenyatimes

Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) specialists have today called on stakeholders in the health sector to embrace pragmatic strategies to reduce the negative effects of tobacco among the Kenyan populace.

Speaking at the inaugural Harm Reduction Society of Kenya workshop at a Nairobi Hotel today, the specialists said there’s need for the entrenchment of science-based regulation in Kenya to enable smokers transition from the more harmful traditional cigarettes to the less-riskier alternatives which will help them to quit smoking.

This, they said, would help lower the incidents of tobacco-related illnesses and deaths.

In Kenya, more than 8,000 people die of tobacco-related ailments, with tobacco use being singled-out as the leading cause of preventable deaths in Kenya according to data from the Ministry of Health. Kenya has about 2.3 million tobacco users – aged be-

tween 15 and 65 – according to the National Survey on the Status of Tobacco Use in Kenya.

Commenting on this, Harm Reduction Society of Kenya Secretary-General, Dr. Michael Kariuki, said: “We want to come up with pragmatic strategies that can be used to reduce tobacco harm on consumers and those around them through the use scientifically known methods that reduce harm and target the smoker so that they can be assisted to quit smoking. We urge stakeholders in the health sector in Kenya to consider this approach towards reducing the harm caused by tobacco to users and those around them.”

In particular, the specialists are calling on the amendment of the Tobacco Control Act to accommodate new products which carry reduced risk compared to cigarettes, arguing that their application in other countries has proven useful in helping smokers quit.

“We strongly recommend the amendment of the Tobacco Control Act so that it can recognize most of these novel products that are coming on board. The purpose of this regula-

tion is to ensure that the young and the children are protected from these products whilst recognizing that some of these products have a safer safety profile as compared to traditional cigarettes which have been used elsewhere, like in the United Kingdom and in Sweden to assist smokers quit,” said Dr. Kariuki.

“I would also want to commend the Tobacco Control Board and the Ministry of Health for initiating the discussion in as far as regulation and amendment of the Tobacco Control Act is concerned. It is critical that these regulations are brought on board with further engagement done to ensure that we have proper legislation that is based on science,” he added.

The specialists singled out Sweden as a model example where Tobacco Harm Reduction has been successfully rolled out, helping to reduce tobacco-related deaths and subsequently helping to reduce the number of smokers.

“The idea is obviously not a copy-pasted approach, but that countries can look to Sweden and adopt the concept of harm reduction but



Harm Reduction Society of Kenya Secretary-General, Dr. Michael Kariuki.

tailor-make them to their countries. The reason why there Swedish has been so successful is because they have a variety of options for people and they don’t only have one option tailored to different tastes, and needs. Giving people alternatives to highly addictive and toxic traditional ciga-

rettes is all about over options making them available, accessible and available,” said Dr. Suely Castro, Director Quit Like Sweden – a platform for people who want to make alternatives to smoking available to all adults seeking to quit smoking.

Sports >> *The national sevens team Shujaa has safely landed in Dubai ahead of this weekend's first leg of the 2024/2025 series.

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Shujaa Land In Dubai Ahead Of World Series Opener



Shujaa players celebrating in Machakos. Photo [Courtesy]

The national sevens team Shujaa has safely landed in Dubai ahead of this weekend's first leg of the 2024/2025 series. Shujaa will be making their return to the World Series after being relegated a year ago, and Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) Chairman Sasha Mutai said they are targeting a top-eight finish in their return. "The team has safely landed in Dubai for the series kickoff.

They are in high spirits ahead of their return; they feel motivated and ready to deliver good results with the target of finishing in the top eight," said Mutai. Kenya is pooled alongside France, Australia, and South Africa, a pool Mutai believes will be a good taste for the team on their return. "It very tough pool in a very tough season where teams have been reduced to 12 that means

we are playing against the best 11 in the world and we are confident the players will make Kenyans and all the Shujaa fans proud," added Mutai. The team received a major boost on Monday after Safaricom announced a sponsorship deal worth more than KSh. 100 million, which also covers ladies side Lionesses. "It is a big morale booster to the players technical bench and

the union now has no reason as to why they cannot deliver. We are very happy with the support we have so far received from the sponsors."

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Sports >> *Football Kenya Federation (FKF) presidential aspirant Doris Petra has refused to echo calls by football stakeholders to sack Harambee Stars head coach Engin Firat based on poor results.

Firat Not To Blame For Harambee Stars Woes, Says Petra



Doris Petra.

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) presidential aspirant Doris Petra has refused to echo calls by football stakeholders to sack Harambee Stars head coach Engin Firat based on poor results.

Through an exclusive phone interview, Petra revealed that she has robust and better plans for the Kenya men's football team if she is elected the new FKF president in the December 7 elections.

"I think we need to get younger players into the team, and I don't want to talk for the coach or about the coach, but I will say that we

have better plans for the team", said Petra.

Petra, the only female candidate in the race to become the next Kenyan football chief, has expressed her disappointment in Kenya's failure to qualify for the 2025 AFCON after finishing fourth behind Cameroon and Zimbabwe in Group J.

"Harambee Stars failing to qualify for the 2025 African Nations Cup is a disappointment for us.

We never at all expected this because we hoped we would qualify and, indeed, expected them to earn

that ticket to fly to Morocco.

It's unfortunate that that was never the case, but I want to assure you that I think there is time to improve on this and several other things," Petra added.

Firat's fate will be known immediately when the new regime takes over as Kenya prepares for the 2025 CHAN tournament and 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

Last week, Sports Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen threatened that his ministry would halt funds directed to Harambee Stars after failure to qualify for

the biggest tournament in the continent.

In the same breath, Murkomen hinted at Firat's sacking due to the poor results and failure to help the team to go to Morocco in 2025.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Egemuze Yambozike Okilo, A poet From Nigeria



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• My ideal day is a balance of productivity, connection and selfcare. A day for self reflection, fulfilment and inspiration. I write more of poetry. Well, my ideal day is usually a little exercise or a morning walk, takes my cup of tea and then takes ample time to watch nature, dewdrops and sunrise and get inspired by it. I then dedicate the rest of the day to my writings and my job.

• Well, my poems are products of inspiration. I feel inspired when I see artworks and desires to interpret it, I hear the bird sings and see myself singing along in my poems. Everything around me inspires me to write, so you see, I keep writing poems daily, even while having a stroll, I have with me my notes.

My name is Egemuze Yambozike Okilo. I am a writer, a poet from Nigeria. I am a graduate of English Language and Education from the prestigious University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN). I write in all literary genres but specialized more in poetry. So far, I have published 3 books on poetry, a play and two novels with a host of other unpublished works. I have written more than 4 thousand poems and have translated most of them into various international languages. I have also won more than 30 awards and recognition on poetry from various poetry platforms, including a gold award. Moreso, I had featured in various poetry live shows in the US and granted series of interviews on radios and television, here in Nigeria. I am a teacher and a poetry coach.

I am motivated to write because of my burning desire to change society for better through my writings and poems. I am also motivated to write when I see artwork and tends to interpret it in writing.

I have been on Storyboard which is a literary show held periodically and hosted by Alan Johnson. It's a show that brings all poets and writers from all over the world together. Writers are expected to submit their entries in respect to the issues or themes raised. There are team of judges who go through the entries and select the best entries that appeals more to them or the theme, featured on the live show. It is a participatory program where the public can call in or send in their individual contributions to the show. It is held during special occasion or worldwide celebrated festivities such as Valentine, Halloween, Christmas, Easter and other important world celebrations.

My ideal day is a balance of productivity, connection and selfcare. A day for self reflection, fulfilment and inspiration. I write more of poetry. Well, my ideal day is usually a little exercise or a morning walk, takes my cup of tea and then takes ample time to watch nature, dewdrops and sunrise and get inspired by it. I then dedicate the rest of the day to my writings and my job.

Well, my poems are products of inspiration. I feel inspired when I see artworks and desires to interpret it, I hear the bird sings and see myself singing along in my poems. Ev-



Egemuze Yambozike Okilo

everything around me inspires me to write, so you see, I keep writing poems daily, even while having a stroll, I have with me my notes.

I have sometime gotten Poetry challenge. Since I write mainly from inspiration, most poetry challenge doesn't come easy, so I'll have to put myself in the mood, so to speak, before I can start writing, so it's challenging, but it worths it.

Yeah there are a lot of challenges, most of the challenges I encountered especially with poetry is using the right diction to interpret a situation, and it must be fitting too to create that impression, and also getting my manuscript to a printed work

has been my greatest challenge. No wonder I have more of my works unpublished.

Well, I keep pushing, I am not discouraged and every day of my life I keep encouraging myself seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Yes, I advertise my poems on Facebook, SoundCloud and Audiomark. Of course my poems are also in videos and audios. It has helped me to reach out to more persons sending in my message to them in their homes.

I won't advice someone to be me, everyone is created with his or her special gift, they can harness it. Just keep developing yourself, read works that you have passion on,

that's where your creativity or gift lies. Just keep reading and developing yourself.

To everyone If given a chance I will create a society free from corruption, a society that no one will be oppressed. A society where your colour doesn't matter. I will create a society where everyone will be given an opportunity to showcase his or her God given potentials. A society of peace and love.

For now, you can check my work on Facebook SoundCloud and Audiomark with the name Egemuze Yambozike Okilo. Planning on getting them published online too for easy access.