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News>> Ole Sapit Ordered To Kickstart Elections For ACK Mt Kenya West Diocese Bishop

P. 8. The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit has been ordered by the High Court to kickstart the election process of the new bishop of Mt Kenya West diocese by Wednesday next week.



News>> Kirinyaga Farmers Reap Big From County Government's Irrigation Water Projects

P. 12. Farmers in Kirinyaga County are reaping big from irrigation projects initiated by the County Government.

Ruto: Allow Executive To Fulfil Promises

President William Ruto has urged the Judiciary to exercise restraint on national and public interest matters in an effort to prevent individuals and groups whose goal is to advance their sectarian agenda. The President noted that the line between public interest and populist politics can be blurred, saying we live in a complex and dynamic era characterised by agenda pushed through social media and anonymous individuals.



President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zesty and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Gov't Assures KCSE Candidates Of Security As National Examination Kicks-Off

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang (centre) with other officials during opening of the KCSE yesterday..

Worth Noting:

- “Even in some of the difficult regions that we have always had challenges like the North Rift it has been quiet which is very good for our children.
- “We would like to thank our colleagues in the Ministry of Interior for stabilizing this region and making it easier for us to deliver examinations this year,” stated the PS.
- He noted that they are determined to have credible exams through a well-coordinated multi-agency approach.

The Principal Secretary for the State Department for Basic Education Dr Belio Kipsang has assured candidates across the country of security as they sit for KCSE.

As KCSE common papers began yesterday, the PS was accompanied by Teachers Service Commission (TSC) CEO Dr Nancy Macharia, to witness the distribution of the examinations in Mombasa.

Dr Kipsang said that Regional Commissioners made adequate security arrangements and the exams kicked off fairly well across the country.

“Even in some of the difficult regions that we have always had challenges like the North Rift it has been quiet which is very good for our children.

“We would like to thank our colleagues in the Ministry of Interior for stabilizing this region and making it easier for us to

deliver examinations this year,” stated the PS.

He noted that they are determined to have credible exams through a well-coordinated multi-agency approach.

“We are going to continue using the multi-agency team because each member has their strength. We have DCI for investigations, Police to provide necessary security, our teachers to make sure professional practice is maintained and our Officers in the field to support the teachers,” said the PS.

Teachers have been sensitized not to drop their guard to ensure seamless examinations. Meanwhile, Kipsang said that necessary arrangements have been made for students who sat for the ‘fake’ KPSEA in Uasin Gishu County not to be disadvantaged.

“I want to assure you that action has

been taken, the Director and Owner of the school have been taken to court,” he said.

“We have already taken action on our Officers overseeing that area so that we all ensure we do the right thing. It was an unfortunate situation but we have dealt with it. The law has taken its course,” he added.

Examinations are underway in areas that were declared disturbed in Tana River County following a spate of inter-communal clashes.

The media was urged to relay positive messages for communities to realize the need to be peaceful for the sake of their children.

“Children can only give us their full potential when we give them a conducive environment to do that. We urge ourselves as adults to avoid situations

that may negatively affect the delivery of examination and an opportunity for our children to give us their full potential,” stated the PS.


All teachers involved in the administration of national examinations have been vetted.

“But in the unlikely event if something happens and it touches on our teachers of course the criminal aspect will take its place,” said TSC CEO Dr Nancy Macharia.

In January TSC will employ 20,000 teachers, and the interns have been converted to Permanent and Pensionable.

In preparation for grades nine and ten, teachers will be retooled during the December holiday. “We have been given Sh1 billion to prepare teachers who will teach grade ten learners,” said Dr. Macharia.

Editor's Desk



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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatimes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The government has put on standby six choppers to help in ferrying the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations in far flung and border areas of the North Eastern region. Some of the areas that are far from the main distributions centres include Galmagala in Garissa, Diff and Harar in Wajir and Kotulo and Arabia in Mandera. Each of the three counties of the region will have access to two choppers when the need arises. This year, 22,244 students in the North eastern are sitting for the KCSE examination out of which 16,919 are from public schools and 5,325 from private schools. North eastern regional Director for Education Adan Roble said that no challenges have been reported so far and that the expectation is that everything will run smoothly.



A total of 10,851 candidates are sitting for Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams in Laikipia County this year. Laikipia County Director of Education Reverend Francis Shikanda speaking during the exam container opening in Nanyuki told media that there were 143 centres with 132 and 11 for both public and private schools respectively. "Laikipia county has 10,325 candidates for public schools, 526 for private students who are sitting for exams in 143 centres," noted Shikanda. He pointed out that all measures to curb malpractices have put in place, while at the same urging the center managers to adhere to them for credible exams.



Examination centre managers double check examination papers during the KSCE distribution exercise at the Nyeri central sub-county exam container yesterday. According to the new guidelines issued by the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC), examinations will be collected twice every day. The centre managers are expected to collect the first paper in the morning and after it has been completed, it will be returned to the container at noon as they collect the second exam.



Over 120,000 candidates in Central Region are sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) 2024. The Central Regional Director of Education, Sabina Aroni, assured that all necessary measures are in place for a smooth examination process. "We are strictly adhering to the set exam regulations and procedures," she stated in an interview with KNA. This year, the region—which includes Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Nyandarua, and Nyeri—has registered a total of 122,421 candidates, with 59,456 males and 62,965 females. Kiambu County leads with 39,159 candidates, followed by Murang'a with 31,651. Nyeri has 20,363 candidates, while Nyandarua and Kirinyaga counties have 16,809 and 14,439 candidates, respectively. Additionally, 1,588 adults will sit for the examinations as private candidates. Unlike previous years, KNEC has organised a single examination centre per county for these candidates.



A total of 26,989 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates in Migori County will be sitting for their exams this morning. Migori County has 312 examination centres in 12 sub-counties, and 14 examination containers are spread throughout the county. Migori County Commissioner Kisilu Mutua who oversaw the opening of the Suna East Sub County container said security has been beefed up to ensure the examination runs smoothly.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

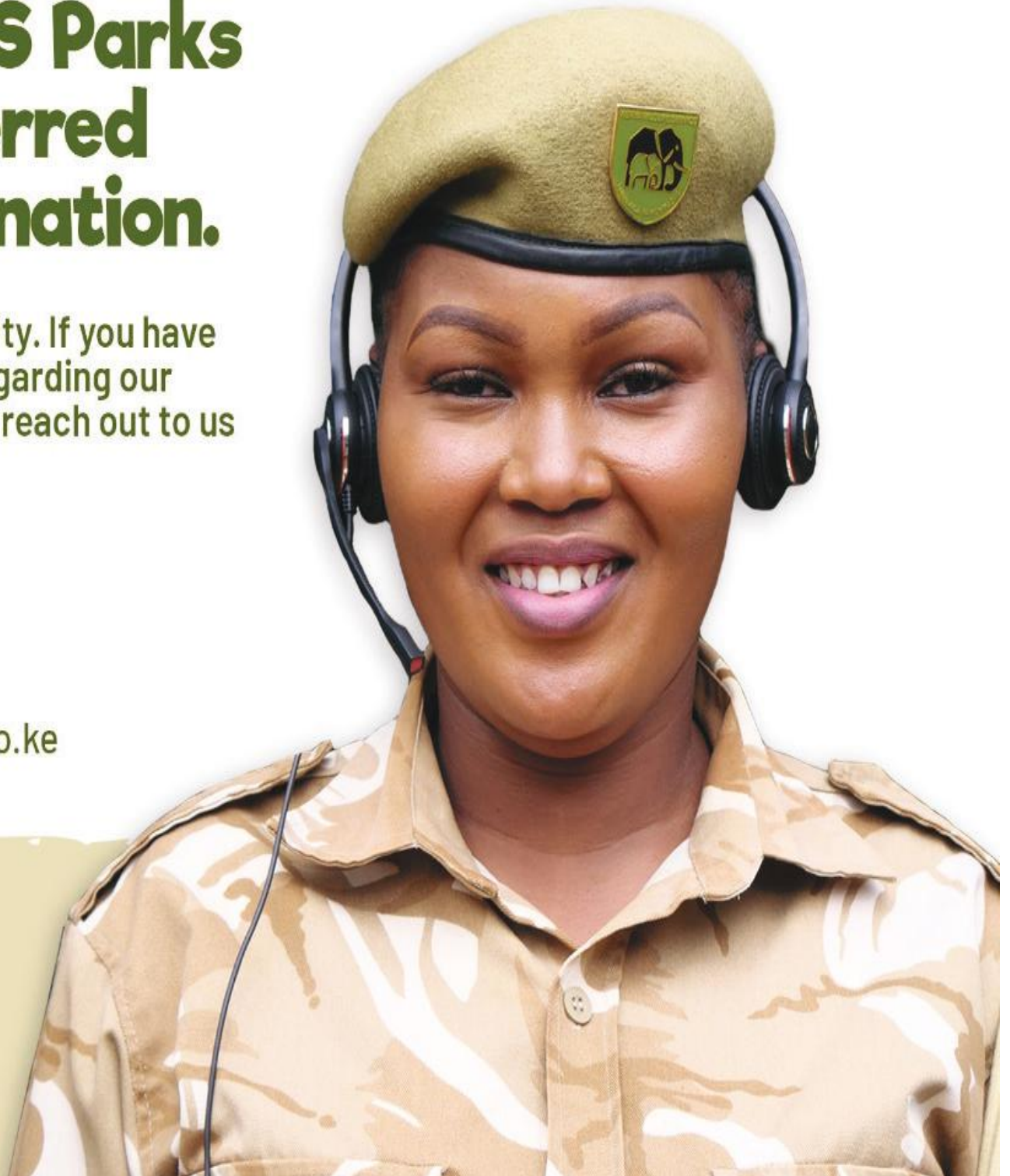
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ACK Church Launches Community Development Trust In Malindi

By: Emmanuel Masha
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The Malindi Community Development Trust (MCDT)'s main objective, according to officials, is to economically empower households and communities, thereby eradicate extreme poverty among residents, especially Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) faithful.
- The trust was officially launched at the St Andrews ACK Cathedral by Bishop Dr Reuben Shukuru Katite, who underscored the need to promote a saving and investment culture among Christian faithful, noting that this would assist the church in evangelism.

The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Diocese of Malindi has launched a community-based development trust to promote financial literacy among the church's faithful and address environmental management issues and human-wildlife conflicts.

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The trust is a subsidiary of Five Talents Kenya, a financial services intermediary that works with the Anglican Church of Kenya to promote micro-enterprise activities with a view to economically empowering households and communities and ultimately eradicating extreme poverty.

"Our people have all along been used to receiving handouts, but we are determined to change this by promoting financial independence through promoting the culture of saving and investment so that the church can carry out its evangelism mission without relying on donor support," the bishop said.

He said the organisation would provide financial management skills and empower people to know how to make money and enable them to govern



Bishop Dr Reuben Shukuru Katite

themselves instead of relying on politicians who give them handouts and the expense of their voting rights.

Five Talents Kenya Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Mugendi said the organisation was already present in 14 counties, where church faithful are organised in community-based organisations (CBOs) with a view to pooling resources together.

In the Coast region, the organisation is working in Taita Taveta, Kwale and Kilifi Counties where about 3,700 Anglican faithful had joined groups have been trained on financial literacy, climate literacy, natural resource and human-wildlife conflicts arising from the counties' proximity to the Tsavo East and West National Parks.

He said to avoid members from fall-

ing victim to pyramid schemes that have in the recent past been associated with the church, the groups were being allowed to operate independently, while Five Talents Kenya's role is only to provide necessary literacy.

The Programme Coordinator of the Malindi Community Development Trust, Mr. Anthony Mwendo Kivuva said a total of eleven CBOs had been registered with the trust and had already saved about Sh100, 000 after sensitization.

"The trainings are targeted to members who reside where human wildlife conflicts and we are teaching them on how to invest in a coexistence manner," he said.

Reverend Tom Dawa of Malindi diocese said that the programme was long

overdue and that he was now confident that church members will have a well-coordinated and organised saving platform.

"Apart from our spiritual wellbeing, it is important that we must be able to be economically empowered and this initiative is the best way to go and my members will become economically independent," he said.

Ben Mwambegu from Kama Gahaleni parish and Elizabeth Yaa from Mida Majaoni parish lauded the launch saying that it will help them save money and take loans to improve their livelihoods as well as run away from the begging culture.

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Ole Sapit Ordered To Kickstart Elections For ACK Mt Kenya West Diocese Bishop

By: Raymond Wanjohi and MKT Correspondent
 @themkenyatimes

The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit has been ordered by the High Court to kickstart the election process of the new bishop of Mt Kenya West diocese by Wednesday next week.

The diocese's long-serving bishop Joseph Kagunda retired on April 14 this year, but his replacement has been marred by prolonged court battles over how the election process should be conducted.

Justice Judge Kizito Magare ordered Archbishop Ole Sapit to initiate the process on or before November 13.

"... the first respondent is ordered by consent to commence the elections of the bishop of the ACK Diocese of Mt Kenya West on or before November 13 by commencing the nominations of the said elections," stated Justice Magare's order issued last week.

Mr Pharis Muriithi, one of the church's faithful, had moved to court seeking orders to compel the respondents to adhere to the ACK Constitution.

In the lawsuit, Archbishop Ole Sapit, the Provincial synod, ACK Mt Kenya West synod and the registered trustees of the ACK were named as respondents respectively.

Retired bishop Kagunda had been named as an interested party.

They were represented by lawyers Elias Masika and Wachira Nderitu.

Justice Magare, in his orders, struck out the retired bishop as an interested party in the matter.

Mr Muriithi, in his sworn affidavit dated February 27, told the court that the respondents had failed to commence election process of the new bishop that was supposed to be undertaken on March 15 in accordance to the ACK Constitution

"... that unless this honourable court intervenes urgently by granting the orders sort for the first instance, the respondents are likely to advance the acts of impunity by illegally failing to adhere to the ACK Constitution in filling the position held by the interested party (Mr Kagunda)," Mr Muriithi told the court.

"This is likely to throw ACK Diocese of Mt Kenya West leadership into anarchy resulting in possible exposure of its entire membership into suffering irreparable prejudices which cannot be adequately compensated by way of damages," he added.

Mr Muriithi was presented in court by Nyeri based lawyer Wabandi Gacheru.

Archbishop Ole Sapit has already appointed Murang'a South diocese bishop Julius Karanu as a commissary to oversee operations of Mt Kenya West diocese before the election of the new bishop is held.

During retired bishop Kagunda's 20-years tenure, the diocese was marked with chaos and conflict that saw congregants exchange blows over leadership wrangles.

He was in the spotlight when he engaged in a court battle with three priests from the church who were expelled for allegedly practicing homosexuality.

President William Ruto, in a gazette notice dated October 3, appointed retired bishop Kagunda as the chairperson of the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya.

Candidates eyeing for the bishop seat include Reverend Sospeter Kuria and Archdeacons Isaac Wanjii, Samuel Mwangi, Peter Ngumo, Gerald Muriithi, Charles Itegi and Edwin Mbiiri.

Members of the diocese's synod are supposed to pick 16 representatives amongst themselves so as to participate in electing the next bishop. A synod is the governing council of the church, which consists of the House of Bishops, the Clergy and the Laity.

The candidates will be shortlisted by the church's committee. The committee will then come up with three candidates who will compete at the ballot.

Rev Kuria, who also doubles up as a lawyer, says he seeks to introduce his expertise as a lawyer and a priest to the Church.

He has served as the Church's priest for 17 years and believes he also has the capacity to solve legal battles that have dogged the diocese over the years.

Rev Kuria hails from Mahiga ward in Othaya, Nyeri County, where he was the first person to be ordained as a reverend under the ACK Munyaga parish.

"With my legal expertise on labour laws, the diocese will not experience legal battles as it has experienced there before. My experience in human resources management will help me address the clergy and other employees' issues amicably," Rev Kuria said.

"I will bring a lot of wealth to the Church as a priest and a lawyer by embracing the adherence of scriptures as well as the legal system. I have been doing pro bono legal awareness forums not only in ACK but also in other churches so as to



Mr Pharris Muriithi



Lawyer Stanley Gacheru Wabandi

Worth Noting:

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promote ecumenical cohesion," he added.

After the election of the new diocese head, a winner will automatically assume the position of bishop-elect.

Archbishop Ole Sapit will announce the consecration date and

later conduct a special service of consecration and enthronement for the new bishop.

In case the Archbishop fails to adhere to the orders, contempt of court proceedings will be instituted against him.

Allow Executive To Fulfil Promises To Electorate, Ruto Urges Judiciary

By:KBC Digital

President William Ruto has urged the Judiciary to exercise restraint on national and public interest matters in an effort to prevent individuals and groups whose goal is to advance their sectarian agenda.

The President noted that the line between public interest and populist politics can be blurred, saying we live in a complex and dynamic era characterised by agenda pushed through social media and anonymous individuals.

He said the Judiciary has a role to play in helping the country curb politics of personality, ethnicity and populism, and promote politics based on issues and programmes.

President Ruto said this could be achieved if the popular mandate of the people, through their elected government and the manifesto endorsed by Kenyans, is given high regard.

“How do you respond to litigants and individuals who challenge a policy and a manifesto position canvassed among the citizens and voted for by the people of Kenya?” he asked.

The President was of the view that governments are elected on the basis of a manifesto and stressed that this should carry more weight in court.

He made the remarks during the official opening of the Supreme Court of Kenya at 12 Conference at the Supreme Court grounds in Nairobi. The conference was to mark 12 years since the establishment of the court.

The President was accompanied by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi and Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja.

Chief Justice Martha Koome and her deputy and Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu were also present.

President Ruto said collaboration among the three arms of government is key to promoting national interest and strengthening constitutionalism.

“No single institution or organ is entire of itself and viable in isolation,” he pointed out.

The President, however, defended the principle of separation of powers and the need for checks and balances, saying they must be respected to prevent overreach and interference.

He noted, however, that while there is a remedy for the overreach of the Executive arm of government, there was no remedy for judicial overreach and interference.

“What happens when we have judicial overreach and judicial interference? Who will help us resolve it?”



President William Ruto being received by Chief Justice Martha Koome

he asked.

The President added that while the Executive is committed to refraining from interfering in matters under the purview of the other arms of government, the Judiciary should also restrain itself from interfering with matters within the purview of other government branches.

He said the Executive is committed to working with the Judiciary and the legal fraternity to build a more accessible, empathetic and efficient judicial system that delivers timely, fair and effective justice for all.

He said the government is keen to ensure that the Supreme Court remains a beacon of integrity, a trusted guardian of rights and freedoms, a champion of the rule of law and a leading contributor to progressive jurisprudence in Africa and globally.

President Ruto announced that the Executive has consulted the Legislature and Judiciary on the national budget and will support the expansion of court infrastructure and enhance the capacity to administer justice.

On the stabilising role of the Supreme Court, President Ruto re-

called that the 2007 post-election violence exposed systemic failures that the Supreme Court has since addressed to restore public confidence.

The President said the jurisprudence developed by the Supreme Court demonstrates its capacity to address complex controversies and deliver sound judgements that advance constitutional law, resolve disputes, clarify the law, stabilise policy and meet the expectations of the Kenyan people.

“Twelve years after the establishment of the Supreme Court, it is difficult for us to imagine how Kenya existed for many decades without it,” he said.

On his part, Prof Kindiki called on the Judiciary to clarify the balance between public and national interest for Kenya’s well-being.

He pointed out that, at times, the public can be mobilised for the wrong reasons which threaten national stability.

Chief Justice Koome called for political solutions to political problems, stating that politicians should only come to court as a “last resort”. She assured Kenyans of the Ju-

diary’s commitment to justice, promising to be a champion of the Constitution and the rule of law.

“I want to assure Kenyans that the Supreme Court of Kenya will stand rock-solid as a constant guardian of the Constitution and the rule of law,” she said.

Mr Mudavadi encouraged the three arms of government to work together to serve the people in the spirit of interdependence.

“While the arms of government are independent, we serve the same people,” he said.

Governor Sakaja said a strong judicial system has made Kenya a competitive investment destination.

He noted that the country’s justice system has increased investor confidence in Kenya.



Worth Noting:

- President Ruto said this could be achieved if the popular mandate of the people, through their elected government and the manifesto endorsed by Kenyans, is given high regard.

- “How do you respond to litigants and individuals who challenge a policy and a manifesto position canvassed among the citizens and voted for by the people of Kenya?” he asked.

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Mombasa To Introduce Feeding Programme In Primary Schools

By: Sadik Hassan
 @themtkenyatimes

Governor Abdulsamad Nassir has directed the Department of Education to do mapping in all six sub-counties to identify places where more kitchens can be constructed for a feeding programme to be rolled out in Primary Schools akin to the one in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE).

Speaking at the Kenya Primary Schools Head Teachers Association (KEPSHA) Annual General Meeting and Conference in Mombasa, the Governor assured the Head Teachers of his unwavering support for their roles in society.

“We all grew and stood on your shoulders. Let no one lie to you, we are as good as those who taught us to be where we are,” said Governor Nassir.

The governor highlighted some of

the transformative initiatives in the education sector since he took the reins of power in the Port City. Education, the Governor said is one of the departments with the highest vote head.

“We looked at the situation at our Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), and we came up with a feeding programme. We are one of the first counties in the country that came up with a feeding programme. It’s 100 per cent free of cost from the parents or the school,” he explained.

The feeding programme saw an increase in learners from 8,000 to more than 10,000. Currently, the devolved government is constructing ten ECDE schools to accommodate more learners.

He told the Teachers to expect an increase in transition to Primary Schools.

“We need to have a seamless transition and fusion from the ECDE to Primary Schools. That is vital for any growth to happen,” said the Governor.

Through the county scholarship programme initiated last year, the County delegated the Primary school boards to choose the best performing two boys and two girls.

“400 students were fully sponsored. This is going to be a continuous programme up to university.”

The Nassir administration is also disbursing Sh5000 to all students in 137-day secondary schools as a yearly bursary.

The governor announced that through the Shariff Nassir Foundation, 11,000 KCSE candidates across 114 schools will be receiving lunch to enable them to concentrate on the month-long examinations.

On his part, KEPSHA Chairman Johnson Nzioka assured the Head Teachers that 18,000 classrooms under construction across the country for Grade 9 learners will be completed in December.

Nzioka further assured parents and teachers that there will be a 100 per cent transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 in January.



Mombasa County governor Abdulsamad Nassir

To ensure the success of the Competency-Based Curriculum and expedite the recruitment of 20,000 teachers it had promised, the teacher shortage the Teachers Service Commission was urged to

The Mt. Kenya Times



President Ruto's Commitment To Creating A Friendly Environment For Businesses



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- The businesses play a critical role in reviving and rebuilding of the economy. As we now, President Ruto assumed office at a time when the country was facing four major challenges; a dilapidated economy, the biting drought rated to be the worst in 40 years, Russian-Ukraine war and when the country was recovering from the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.
- In his acceptance speech after being sworn-in, he minced no word in assuring Kenyans of his commitment to address them.
- Apart from the owners creating wealth, the businesses create jobs for millions of Kenyans particularly the youth. This also becomes the main source of government revenues.



President William Ruto and his Deputy President Professor Kithure Kindiki

As he promised during the campaigns, President William Ruto has made yet another key stride in his resolve to create a friendly environment for businesses to thrive in Kenya.

The drafting of the proposed Business Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 is the latest move in this endeavor.

The Bill seeks to drastically reduce bureaucratic barriers a move that paves the way for the local and foreign investors to increase the scope of their investments.

This adds a new feather to Kenya as being the leading business hub in Eastern Africa.

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war and when the country was recovering from the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

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Besides businesses, President William Ruto has made remarkable progress in helping Kenyans to secure jobs in other sectors both locally and outside the country.

The other day thousands of Kenyans turned up at KICC in Nairobi to apply for jobs in Qatar, United Arab Emirate (UAE). This exercise was coordinated and supervised by Tourism Cabinet Secretary Dr Alfred Mutua.

Dr Mutua announced those qualified will immediately start to sign their contracts and government will facilitate their travels. We will also ensure they have been received well by the companies and business entrepreneurs that have offered them jobs.

Thousands of Kenyans have also landed jobs at the sites of the ongoing construction of affordable housing in Kenya. The beneficiaries are in three categories. Those working at construction site, the suppliers and those doing business at the site.

More Kenyans particularly those involved in content creation have also secured lucrative jobs in digital platforms.

In addition, a sizable number of Kenyans have also been incorporated in the civil service and Parastatals/State Corporations.

President Ruto's critics have been turning deaf ear to his achievements.

They know the problem of unemployment is one of the key challenges facing Kenya. The previous administrations did very little to address this problem. So, if Dr Ruto succeeds, this will shape up his legacy in a big way.

The critics' efforts to incite Kenyans against the President have not borne any fruits.

This is because Kenyans know that the President means well.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Kirinyaga Farmers Reap Big From County Government's Irrigation Water Projects

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The project that benefits 800 households has been transforming household through subsistence crop farming enabled by efficient water management even when there is no rainfall.
- Even though the farms served by the project are generally fertile and have the potential of producing bumper harvests, farming was always a challenge owing to over dependence on rainfall. This would make farmers only cultivate during the rainy seasons thereby subjecting many families to food insecurity.
- With the completion of the project, however, the story has changed and farmers can now irrigate their farms and get a bumper harvest throughout the year.

Farmers in Kirinyaga County are reaping big from irrigation projects initiated by the County Government.

The projects, aimed at increasing access to irrigation water supply have enabled thousands of households to undertake subsistence farming thus increasing agricultural productivity, reducing food insecurity and uplifting the living standards of many families in the rural areas.

Under an elaborate plan by Governor Anne Waiguru to increase the distribution network of both domestic and irrigation water to the county residents, more than 70 water projects have been completed while another 80 projects are ongoing.

The governor has been distributing water pipes and fittings as well as funding micro tunneling for various projects across the county.

She said that her administration is committed to supporting farmers to increase agricultural production in the light of resources scarcity and climate change.

One of the successful projects is Kiamuka Irrigation Water Project in Mutira Ward in Kirinyaga Central.

The project that benefits 800 households has been transforming household through subsistence crop farming enabled by efficient water management even when there is no rainfall.

Even though the farms served by the project are generally fertile and have the potential of producing bumper harvests, farming was always a challenge owing to over dependence on rainfall. This would make farmers only cultivate during the rainy seasons thereby subjecting many families to food insecurity.

With the completion of the project, however, the story has changed and farmers can now irrigate their farms and get a bumper harvest throughout the year.

John Maina, a resident of Kariko village and one of the beneficiaries of this project narrated how they used to fetch water from the river using jerry cans, a tedious and a time wasting task that often deprived them of time to attend to other activities.

But with the project, they only allocate a few minutes to water their crop and then go about their other duties.

"Before the project was initiated, we struggled to grow enough food for our families but now we can irrigate our farms and grow crops such as vegetables whereby we produce enough for our families and sell the surplus to the market thus creating employment for ourselves," said Maina.

Peter Muthii, the Chairman of



John Maina, a farmer from Kiriko village and a beneficiary of Kiamuka Irrigation Water Project in Kirinyaga.

Kiamuka Irrigation Water project, said that availability of water has greatly benefitted farmers since they can now cultivate even during the dry seasons unlike before when they only relied on rainfall for farming. He said that despite being a dry season, he was expecting to harvest about five crates of tomato from his small piece of land. With the proceeds from his farm, he is able to feed and educate his three children and create a job for himself.

"The County Government has been assisting us with water distribution pipes, micro tunneling as well as training on proper use and maintenance of irrigation systems. Many farms in this area are ever green since farmers don't have to wait for the rains to grow their crop," said the chairman.

His neighbour, Bernard Ngirigacha, is growing cabbage in his small farm where he expects to harvest not less

than Ksh. 50,000 worth of cabbage, a thing he could not dream of before he got connected with the irrigation water.

Lucy Nyakio Karimi who is a young farmer from Kiriguini village is also reaping from Kiamuka water project. On her farm, she grows cabbage, kales, capsicum, spring onions which she uses to feed her family and sells the surplus to cater for other household requirements. She has also employed several people to tend to her farm thus creating employment opportunities.

Nyakio's story is similar to that of Roselyn Muriithi, a retired government officer who is now a small scale farmer. With irrigation water, she no longer has to go to the market to buy vegetables since she gets them from her farm. She is intercropping coffee, assorted vegetables as well as livestock farming. Most of the farmers use sprinkle irrigation methods while

a few of them have installed drip irrigation systems.

The County Executive Committee Member for Water and Irrigation, James Kinyua Mutugi, said that Kiamuka is one of the impacts of a well-coordinated plan by Governor Waiguru to ensure that Kirinyaga people benefitted from the county government through such strategic partnerships.

"Such projects provide an opportunity for job creation through farming given that is the mainstay of our county. The County Government is expanding the water distribution network to reach more households with about 100,000 families targeted for irrigation water projects across the county. We aim at ensuring that our people are engaged economically and that their standards of living is uplifted," said the CEC.



Lucy Nyakio Karimi from Kirigu-ini village and a beneficiary of Kiamuka Irrigation Water Project in Kirinyaga.

Transportation Of Livestock Banned In Githunguri Over Rampant Theft

By: Felix Njenga
@themtkenyatimes

Githunguri subcounty security team has banned transportation of livestock at night in new measures to curb stealing of dairy milk cows in the area.

Githunguri cash crop being dairy milk farming has attracted thieves who have continued to terrorize them by taking away their source of livelihood.

According to James Ringera, the Assistant County Commissioner 1, speaking on behalf of the Deputy County Commissioner Githunguri Sub-County, the security team has put up several measures to curb livestock theft

"Due to the measures we have put in place, the theft of livestock has gone down and we have been able to recover several cows that had been stolen," Ringera revealed.

He said that the measures put include banning the transportation of cows during the night.

"We have said that no transportation of livestock during the night and those

who will be caught will face the law," he warned.

He added that another measure is while buying and selling of livestock both buyer and seller should notify the area chief who in turn will issue a letter of recognition of the transaction.

He said that after getting a letter from the chief, the buyer should get a moving permit from a veterinary officer and while transporting the livestock the buyer should have chief's letter and the records of the livestock.

"We have put these measures to ensure that no stealing of livestock in Githunguri will take place," he said.

To further curb the stealing of livestock, the DCC has gone to the villages to sensitize residents on the need of forming village committees which will take the roll of reporting incidents to relevant authorities including challenges facing the village.

The residents have however been urged to submit relevant information to the committees so as to ensure their areas are safe and secure from livestock thieves.

John Wainaina, a farmer, said that he has been forced to put CCTV cameras in the cow shed since he has lost his



James Ringera Githunguri Sub-County ACC 1 speaking in Githunguri..

two cows to theft.

"I am a dairy milk farmer which has employed me and gives me money to take care of my family. Thieves have invaded this place and our cows have gone, I have used unnecessary money to install CCTV cameras so that we can nab those who are terrorizing us,"

he said.

Mary Wanjiku, another farmer said that farming dairy cows is not easy and once a cow is stolen is like killing a farmer since the cow is their daily earnings.

Githunguri Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society chairman George Kin-

yanjui called on the security apparatus to beef up security so as to end the stealing.

"Even though as a cooperative we encourage our farmers to insure their cows, more security is needed to protect farmers livestock," he said.

Three Girls In Narok To Sit For Their Exams In Hospital

By: Ann Salaton
@themtkenyatimes

Three girls in Narok County are sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) in hospital after they gave birth a few hours to the onset of the exam.

Narok County Education Director Apolo Apuko confirmed that the girls are from St Antony's Secondary School in Narok East Sub County, Namnyak Girls in Narok West and Chepkoiyet Secondary in Trans Mara East Sub County.

He reiterated that the girls are in good condition and are sitting for their exams under tight supervision, just like their colleagues in school.

Apuko called on the members of the public to accord the candidates the support they need during this month as they are sitting for the National Examination.

"Our role as education stakeholders is to ensure the exam is done in a conducive environment and the children sit for the right exam at the

right time. We ask all members of the public to support us by keeping off from the school premises," he requested.

He confirmed that about 17,300 candidates are sitting for the KCSE exam this year with 16,500 being in public schools and 855 in public schools.

More boys are sitting for the exams compared to girls as boys are 9, 500 while girls are 7,800. The candidates are sitting for the exams in 196 centers around the county.

Speaking while opening the exam container at the Narok County Commissioner's office today, Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. David Njengere asked the candidate to follow the laid down rules and regulations to avoid being on the wrong side of the law.

He asked all candidates and exam supervisors not to carry their cell phones in the school premises as it is against the rules and regulations.

"As soon as the vehicle carrying the examination enters the school compound, the gate should remain open



until the vehicle returns the papers to the examination container," added the CEO.

14 POEMS

Divine Diwali In India



A prayer for fortune peace and grace,
worship goddess Laxmi
and Ganesha in every place
In the heart of India, where tradition reside,
Diwali radiants, a shining guide.

All rejoice in this festival glow
For in every spark a promise to show
Together we unite in this colourful night
Everything everywhere feels
So right.

Rashmi Tiwari
Delhi, India

Rashmi Tiwari is an Indian poet, an author of two educational books. She has more than 50 articles and poems in different national and international journals. She writes in multiple languages like English, Hindi Bengali and odiya. She is always passionate towards writing and reading new and unique facts of society, world ,human natures and pragmatic life's spectrums. She is an Academician as well, she has been contributing her skills as a Teaching Faculty for last several years.

Its early autumn, a festival bright,
Land glows, showers in "Diwali" light
With the flicker of lamps, the
Night stands alive,
As if joy in air start to thrive.

Beautiful Rangoli at entrance of each home
A canvas of Colours where traditions roam
In decoration seems all are keen
Sweets every where can be seen.

Family bonding in a jubilant cheer,
Shaping hopes new year so
Near
A beaming beams of faith, love and dreams
In the hue of lights, whole nation beams.

If I Tell You, My Friends



Even if my life comes to an end,
Nobody knows my sorrow.

Don't trust my cheerful face,
Nor my shining eyes.
Listen to my heart,
Nobody knows my sorrow.

I have more enemies than friends,
Let them slander me if they will.
But listen to my wisdom,
Nobody knows my sorrow.

I've told you my pain,
Yet I can't understand myself.
Breaking my heart into pieces,
Nobody knows my sorrow.

Abdigapparova Asilabonu Bobomurot qizi was born on May 22,2008 in the Bandixon district of Surxondarýo region. She is an 11 th-grade student at the specialized school in Bandixon district
Nobody Knows My Sorrow

If I tell you, my friends,
My heart is full of sorrow.
Nobody knows my pain,
No one hears my sighs and groans.

Even if the world collapses,
Even if grief bows my head,
Even if my friends leave me,
Nobody knows my sorrow.

Fake laughter, forced smiles,
Gossip never ends, even for a while.

I Was There



To clinch that coveted trophy
For my cabinet was empty and dusty

I saw your lewd stare
Pierce every ounce of her
And felt sorry for her innocence
Who didn't know-
That you were a wolf
That devoured every single animal of her kind?

The other day in town
I bumped into her
Her radiance was no more
I knew you had done your job
To you, she had just been some running water
That you never touch twice

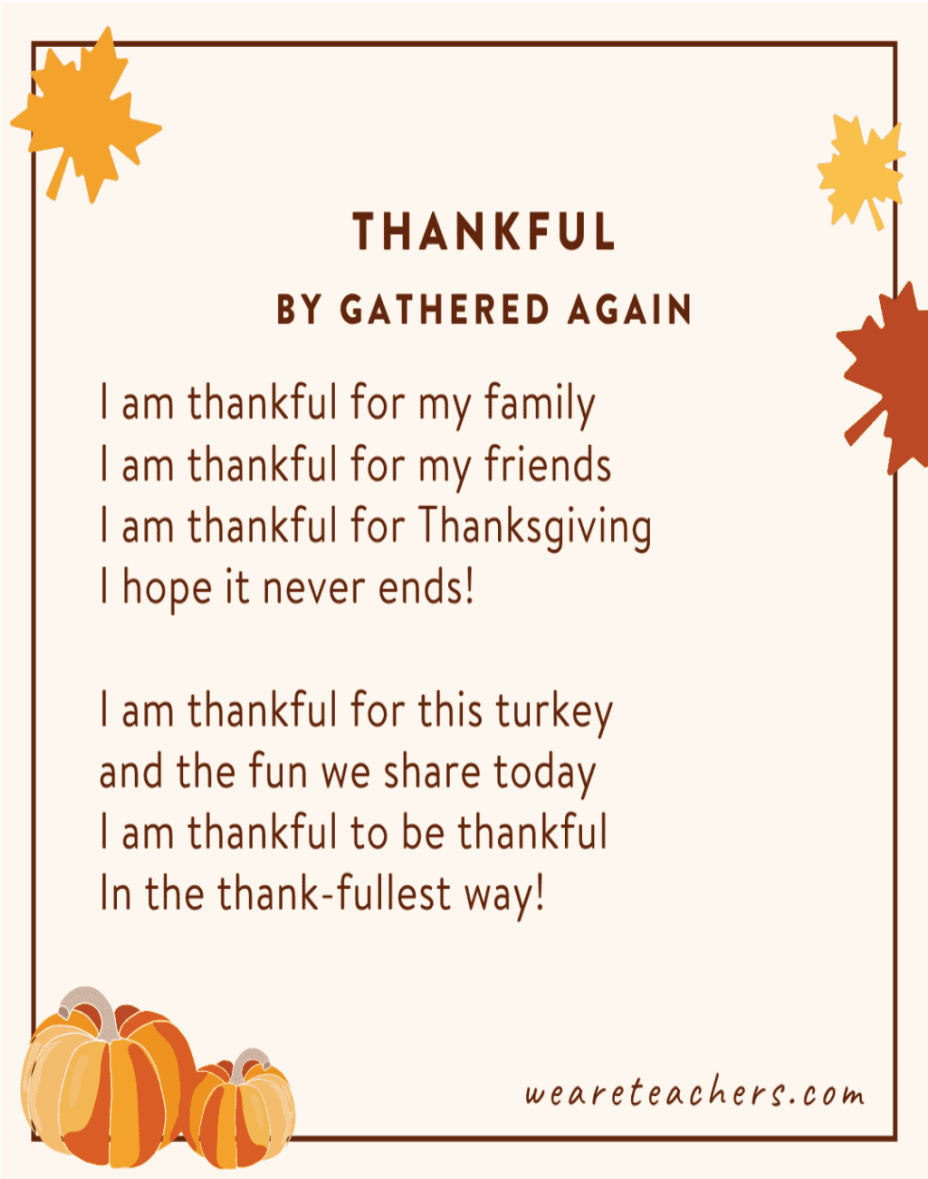
I grabbed the moment
And told her the truth
She was rueful, but the damage had been done
I promised to mend her broken heart
If only she'd give me the chance to

©The Untamed Ink

I was there when your paths first crossed
I was a seat away
And wished I could be closer
I enviously watched your moves
That opened her crimson lips for smiles

I watched painfully
As you convinced her to have your digits
When the destination reached
I could do nothing,
'Cause you had taken steps ahead of me

One last time
I admired her angelic face
And her near perfect shape
I wished I had come ahead of you



**THANKFUL
BY GATHERED AGAIN**

I am thankful for my family
I am thankful for my friends
I am thankful for Thanksgiving
I hope it never ends!

I am thankful for this turkey
and the fun we share today
I am thankful to be thankful
In the thank-fullest way!

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CLIMATE

PS Omollo Launches Chiefs' Climate Action Day At Ondiri Wetlands



By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Throughout the day, participants engaged in various activities, including tree planting, workshops on sustainable farming, and educational sessions on water conservation. These hands-on initiatives aimed to provide chiefs and other leaders with practical knowledge they could take back to their respective communities. The event also served as a platform to discuss the challenges and solutions related to climate change, with chiefs sharing insights on the environmental issues affecting their specific regions.
- The Chiefs' Climate Action Day is expected to serve as a catalyst for similar initiatives across Kenya, encouraging other local leaders to adopt eco-friendly practices. Key among the objectives of the event was to address the pressing issue of wetlands degradation.



PS Omollo during a tree planting session at Ondiri Wetlands in Kikuyu, Kiambu County.

In a groundbreaking event aimed at galvanizing local efforts in climate action, PS Omollo officially launched the Chiefs' Climate Action Day at the Ondiri Wetlands. This initiative, held on the lush and environmentally significant grounds of Kenya's second-largest wetland, underscores the vital role of community leadership in safeguarding natural resources and combating climate change. Chiefs and village leaders from across the region gathered for the occasion, signaling a unified stand for conservation and environmental resilience at the grassroots level.

The Chiefs' Climate Action Day initiative is a collaboration between local communities, environmental organizations, and government bodies, aiming to increase awareness and action around environmental protection, water conservation, and sustainable agricultural practices. With Kenya's wetlands facing mounting threats from deforestation, pollution, and unsustainable land use, the Ondiri Wetlands – a unique highland bog

and the only known quaking bog in Kenya – provided a fitting backdrop for the day's activities.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Omollo, a renowned advocate for sustainable development, emphasized the importance of involving local communities in climate solutions. "The Chiefs' Climate Action Day is not just an event; it is a movement aimed at empowering communities to protect their natural environment. Chiefs play an influential role in shaping the values and behaviors of communities, and through their leadership, we can foster practices that ensure our environment remains protected for future generations," he remarked. Dr. Omollo also highlighted the vital role of wetlands in regulating water cycles, reducing flood risks, and serving as habitats for a diverse array of flora and fauna.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in various activities, including tree planting, workshops on sustainable farming, and educational sessions on water conservation. These

hands-on initiatives aimed to provide chiefs and other leaders with practical knowledge they could take back to their respective communities. The event also served as a platform to discuss the challenges and solutions related to climate change, with chiefs sharing insights on the environmental issues affecting their specific regions. The Chiefs' Climate Action Day is expected to serve as a catalyst for similar initiatives across Kenya, encouraging other local leaders to adopt eco-friendly practices. Key among the objectives of the event was to address the pressing issue of wetlands degradation. According to environmental reports, Kenya has lost nearly 60 percent of its wetlands in recent decades due to human activities, and initiatives like this are crucial in reversing that trend.

Local environmental groups, including Friends of Ondiri, expressed optimism about the outcomes of the event. "Today marks a pivotal moment in our journey to protect Ondiri and other critical ecosystems. By

engaging chiefs and local leaders, we are bringing climate action closer to the people," said a spokesperson from the group. The Ondiri Wetlands are home to rare species and serve as an essential water source for the surrounding communities, underscoring the need for such conservation efforts.

The Chiefs' Climate Action Day at Ondiri Wetlands was more than a symbolic gesture; it marked the beginning of a sustained effort to address climate change at the community level. As the event concluded, Dr. Omollo reiterated his commitment to continuing support for similar initiatives, urging all Kenyans to actively participate in environmental conservation. This inaugural event has set a precedent, highlighting that climate action, when championed by community leaders, can create meaningful change from the ground up.

KCSE

Dr. Raymond Omollo Opens KCSE Exams With A Call For Integrity And Security



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The KCSE exams, which mark a significant milestone in Kenya's education calendar, will be conducted under heightened security and scrutiny this year. With nearly 900,000 students sitting for the exams across the country, the government has deployed security officers and put in place strict measures to curb cheating and any other malpractices.
- This year's KCSE exams are set to run smoothly and transparently, according to Dr. Omollo, who reiterated the Ministry of Education's zero-tolerance policy towards examination fraud.
- At Alliance Girls' High School, Omollo addressed students, offering words of encouragement and underscoring the value of honesty and hard work.

The Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Raymond Omollo, yesterday underscored the government's commitment to ensuring integrity and security in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations. As part of the entire government's approach, he personally participated in the opening of the examination container at the Deputy County Commissioner's office in Kikuyu, Kiambu County, before proceeding to Alliance Girls' High School, where he officially inaugurated the start of this year's exams.

Speaking to officials gathered at the Deputy County Commissioner's office, Dr. Omollo emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of integrity and vigilance throughout the examination period. He noted that securing the national exams is not just a logistical task but a concerted effort to safeguard the future of Kenya's youth and the credibility of its education system. "We are here to ensure that all procedures are strictly followed, from the opening of the containers to the distribution of examination papers. This is a critical responsibility that requires coordination across government departments," he remarked.

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At Alliance Girls' High School, Omollo addressed students, offering words of encouragement and underscoring the value of honesty and hard work. "Today marks the beginning of an important journey for each of you, one that is built on integrity and resilience," he told the students, urging them to focus on achieving their best results through honest effort. His visit to the school also highlighted the government's emphasis on ensuring fairness and equal opportunities for all candidates, regardless of location or school status.

The government's Whole of Govern-



PS Raymond Omollo during the opening of the examination container at the Deputy County Commissioner's office in Kikuyu, Kiambu County

ment Approach aims to bring together various agencies and departments to tackle issues holistically, ensuring seamless coordination in processes such as the KCSE examinations. This year, the approach has been applied more extensively, bringing together the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Teachers Service Commission (TSC), and other relevant bodies to create a safe and conducive examination environment. Overseeing the entire process is a testament to the government's commitment to fostering accountability and trust in national institutions.

In addition to enhanced security, Dr. Omollo highlighted the importance of ensuring that the examination experience remains positive and fair for all students. "Examinations should be a reflection of our commitment to education and excellence, and we will spare no effort in making sure they proceed in the most orderly way," he added.

As the exams continue, the government is expected to monitor each phase closely, with designated officers stationed across counties to oversee the secure and equitable distribution of examination materials.

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) has also assured the public of its readiness to address any challenges that may arise during the exam period, stressing that there will be regular reports on the progress of the exams.

With the opening of the exams now complete, Dr. Omollo's visit to Kikuyu serves as a reminder of the

shared responsibility between the government, educators, and students in upholding Kenya's educational standards. As students sit for their exams in the coming weeks, all eyes are on the integrity of the process and the promise of a fair future based on merit and hard work.



PS Omollo At Alliance Girls' High School as the KCSE exams kicks off

The Digital Lifeline: Why Internet Access Is Emerging As A Fundamental Human Right In Kenya And Globally



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

In an increasingly interconnected world, internet access is rapidly transcending its status as a luxury and emerging as a fundamental human right, not just in Kenya but on a global scale. This paradigm shift is driven by the internet's pivotal role in facilitating access to information, education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and civic participation. As digital technologies become more deeply ingrained in every aspect of modern life, the absence of reliable internet access is increasingly synonymous with social, economic, and political marginalization. In Kenya, where mobile internet penetration has grown exponentially over the past decade, the digital divide still leaves millions without access to this vital resource. This disparity mirrors a global trend where internet access is becoming a key determinant of an individual's ability to fully participate in society and exercise other fundamental rights. The recognition of internet access as a basic human right is not merely a matter of technological progress; it represents a crucial step towards ensuring equitable development, fostering democratic engagement, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential in the digital age.

The case for internet access as a human right is profoundly rooted in its role as an enabler of other fundamental rights. In Kenya, as in many parts of the world, the internet has become an indispensable tool for accessing education, with online learning platforms and digital resources bridging gaps in traditional educational systems. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this became starkly evident as students with internet access could continue their education remotely, while those without were left behind. Beyond education, the internet serves as a crucial platform for freedom of expression and access to information, allowing citizens to engage in public discourse, hold governments accountable, and make informed decisions. In Kenya's vibrant digital landscape, social media and online news platforms have become powerful tools for civic engagement and political participation. The internet's role in facilitating these fundamental rights underscores its importance not just as a technological tool, but as a critical infrastructure for the realization of human dignity and potential.

The economic implications of internet access further strengthen its case as a basic human right. In an increasingly digital global economy, internet connectivity is not just advantageous



but essential for participating in the workforce and accessing economic opportunities. In Kenya, the rise of digital platforms has created new avenues for entrepreneurship, allowing individuals to start businesses, access markets, and participate in the gig economy with minimal capital investment. Mobile money services like M-PESA, which rely on internet connectivity, have revolutionized financial inclusion, providing millions of previously unbanked Kenyans with access to digital financial services. On a global scale, the internet has become a great equalizer, allowing individuals and small businesses from developing countries to compete in the global marketplace. Denying access to the internet, therefore, is tantamount to denying individuals their right to economic participation and development. As the digital economy continues to grow, recognizing internet access as a human right becomes crucial for ensuring that no one is left behind in the new economic paradigm.

The role of internet access in healthcare further underscores its importance as a basic human right. In Kenya and globally, telemedicine and e-health initiatives are increasingly bridging gaps in healthcare access, particularly in rural and underserved areas. During health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the internet has proven invaluable for disseminating critical health information, facilitating contact tracing, and enabling remote consultations. Access to online health resources empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their well-being, while digital health records and data analytics are revolutionizing healthcare delivery and policy-making. In the context of global health challenges, the internet serves as a crucial tool for coordinating responses, sharing research, and mobilizing resources across borders. Recognizing internet access as a human right in this context is not just about technological advancement; it's about ensuring equitable access to

life-saving information and services. As healthcare becomes increasingly digitized, the lack of internet access could translate into a denial of the fundamental right to health, further emphasizing the need to view internet connectivity through the lens of human rights.

The internet's role in fostering democratic participation and governance provides another compelling argument for its recognition as a basic human right. In Kenya, as in many countries, online platforms have become vital spaces for political discourse, civic engagement, and government accountability. Social media and digital news outlets have empowered citizens to voice their concerns, organize movements, and challenge power structures in unprecedented ways. The internet has also facilitated more transparent and efficient governance, with e-government initiatives improving service delivery and reducing corruption. During elections, online platforms play a crucial role in voter education, election monitoring, and result dissemination, enhancing the integrity of democratic processes. On a global scale, the internet has become a powerful tool for transnational activism and solidarity, allowing marginalized groups to amplify their voices and build coalitions across borders. By enabling these forms of civic participation and democratic engagement, internet access becomes intrinsically linked to the fundamental rights of freedom of expression, assembly, and political participation. Denying internet access, therefore, can be seen as a form of political disenfranchisement, further strengthening the case for its recognition as a basic human right.

The potential of the internet to bridge social and economic inequalities provides a compelling rationale for its recognition as a human right. In Kenya, as in many developing countries, internet access has proven to be a powerful tool for social mobility, offering opportunities for education, skill development, and econom-

ic advancement that were previously inaccessible to marginalized communities. Online learning platforms have democratized access to quality education, allowing individuals from remote areas to access courses from world-class institutions. Digital marketplaces have empowered artisans and small-scale producers to reach global markets, bypassing traditional intermediaries. For persons with disabilities, the internet has opened up new avenues for participation in society, from remote work opportunities to assistive technologies. On a global scale, internet access has the potential to level the playing field between developed and developing nations, enabling knowledge transfer, cultural exchange, and collaborative innovation. However, the realization of this potential is contingent on universal access. As such, recognizing internet access as a human right becomes crucial for ensuring that the digital revolution serves as a force for equality rather than exacerbating existing disparities.

The role of internet access in environmental sustainability and climate action further reinforces its status as an emerging human right. In Kenya and globally, digital technologies are playing an increasingly crucial role in environmental monitoring, resource management, and climate change mitigation efforts. Internet-connected sensors and satellite data are enabling more accurate tracking of deforestation, water resources, and wildlife populations, informing conservation efforts and policy decisions. Digital platforms facilitate the sharing of sustainable practices and technologies across borders, accelerating the adoption of green solutions. For individual citizens, internet access provides the means to make more environmentally conscious deci-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Refresh: Lost Connection

Dear **Rigathi Gachagua**,

As your tenure as Deputy President comes to an unexpected conclusion, I want to take a moment to reflect on your time in office. Your commitment to equitable resource allocation, encapsulated in your "one man, one shilling" mantra, resonated with many Kenyans seeking fairness and justice in governance. This principle aimed to ensure that every citizen received their fair share of national resources, a goal essential for fostering trust in our political system.

Throughout your time in office, you undertook various initiatives aimed at addressing pressing issues facing our nation. Your focus on agriculture, particularly the support for smallholder farmers, was commendable. By advocating for better access to funding and resources, you aimed to uplift those who are often marginalized in the agricultural sector. This approach not only sought to enhance food security but also aimed to empower rural communities economically.

Additionally, your efforts to promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship were noteworthy. By championing programs that provide training and funding for young entrepreneurs, you recognized the potential of Kenya's youth as drivers of economic growth.

This focus is vital for a country where a significant portion of the population is young and eager to contribute positively to society. Your initiatives in this area helped create pathways for young people to realize their ambitions and participate actively in the economy.

However, your leadership faced increasing scrutiny amid allegations of disloyalty and political isolation. The political landscape can be unforgiving, and it is essential to acknowledge that navigating these challenges is part of public service. The controversies surrounding your administration often overshadowed the positive initiatives you championed. It is crucial for leaders to maintain open lines of communication and foster collaboration across political divides.

The impeachment proceedings against you highlighted the fragility of political alliances and the importance of unity within the government. As a leader, it is vital to build bridges rather than walls, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes. The lessons learned from these experiences can serve as a foundation for future endeavors. Your experience can inform how future leaders navigate similar challenges, emphasizing the need for integrity and collaboration in governance.

As you transition from this role, I en-

courage you to continue advocating for the people of Kenya. Your voice is still valuable in shaping the future of our nation. Embrace this opportunity for growth and reflection, and remain dedicated to the welfare of all Kenyans. Consider how you can leverage your experiences to contribute positively outside the confines of formal office.

Engaging with grassroots movements and community organizations can provide insights into the needs and aspirations of ordinary citizens. Listening to their stories will not only enrich your understanding but also reaffirm your commitment to serving the public good. Your ability to connect with people on a personal level has always been one of your strengths; harnessing this skill can help bridge gaps between leaders and their constituents.

The political landscape in Kenya is evolving rapidly, particularly with Kithure Kindiki stepping into the role of Deputy President. There is an opportunity for a fresh approach focused on unity and development. The new administration must prioritize the welfare of all Kenyans, steering clear of divisive politics that have historically hindered progress.

It is imperative that Kindiki fosters an inclusive environment where diverse perspectives are valued. By promoting dialogue between different political



factions, he can help bridge divides and create a more cohesive governance structure. Your insights and experiences could be invaluable during this transition period as he seeks to establish his leadership style.

In closing, I hope you take this time for introspection seriously. The journey of public service is filled with both triumphs and tribulations; each experience offers lessons that can shape future leaders. As you move forward,

remember that your commitment to justice, equity, and service can continue to inspire others.

Thank you for your service thus far; may your next steps be guided by wisdom and a renewed dedication to the people of Kenya.

Sincerely,
James Kilonzo Bwire.

Abductions And Extrajudicial Killings Should Not Be Tolerated In Kenya

Just as he promised during his campaigns for presidency in 2022, President William Ruto should ensure that as the first in command, he do away with abductions and extrajudicial killings which seems to be 'a new normal' in Kenya today. Several Kenyans have been abducted, mostly during the Anti-finance Bill demonstration which was witnessed earlier this year. Quite a good number of them were murdered, others tortured while the whereabouts of some are not known.

Abductions sometimes in broad daylight and disappearances of persons have drawn a very sharp condemnation from citizens and foreign partners, with key partners like the United States and European nations expressing serious concerns about the government's conduct. With the massive increment in taxes which

seems to be unpopular to Kenyans, officers in security agencies have expanded their raids in streets, estates, and private homes to silence 'The noisemakers' or rather the opposers.

The sharp razor seemed not to cut only the demonstrators, but also high-profile individuals like the son of the former Attorney General of Kenya, Githu Muigai, a move that was seen by many as politically castigated. Among those reported missing for weeks are political blogger Maverick Aoko, who was later found within the Kenya-Tanzania border, lawyer John Eric Wesonga, and Wajir MCA Yusuf Hussein Ahmed, raising fears that a secretive security team is operating at a grassroots level to silence the opposition.

According to Human Rights Watch East Africa region Director Otsieno Namwaya, the abduction officers are

a team of 50 officers supported by the NIS, the Rapid Deployment Unit, individuals in Military Intelligence, and anti-terror police. "We will be releasing a report this week on their activities where these officers are holding victims in private buildings, abandoned buildings, and warehouses," Namwaya said, adding, "And if they take you to police stations, they won't record to show that you were not arrested."

Kenya being a democratic and a country governed by constitution, Human Rights should be upheld and one of the backward behavior of abductions should not be tolerated by all means.

Isaac OKOTH
Rongo



Kenya's Infrastructure Boom Profits Hidden In Plain Sight

A critical examination of the stakeholders behind Kenya's infrastructure projects and their true beneficiaries



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes

You see, even fools grow old. Can you imagine a nation burgeoning with ambition yet shackled by the chains of debt? In Kenya, where every new road and towering building glimmers with the promise of progress, a deeper story lurks beneath the surface, hidden in plain sight. This is not merely an infrastructure boom; it is a dazzling masquerade, where the true beneficiaries wear masks, and the people remain in the shadows, waiting for the spotlight of prosperity to shine upon them. With the Kenyan government pouring billions into grandiose projects, one must ask: who really profits from this rush of development? Are we building a future or digging a grave of debt that the next generation will have to pay for?

In 2013, Kenya embarked on a monumental journey with the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), a project that promised to revolutionize transport by linking Mombasa and Nairobi in a matter of hours. Costing a staggering \$3.6 billion, funded predominantly by Chinese loans, this endeavor was touted as a marvel of modern engineering. However, as the first train chugged out of Mombasa, what was initially celebrated soon became a haunting refrain of regret. The irony here is palpable: while trains sped across gleaming tracks, Kenyan taxpayers were left holding the bag, with debt repayments projected to consume a significant chunk of the national budget. This raises a rhetorical question—are we truly moving forward or merely moving in circles?

The hyperbole surrounding the SGR is reminiscent of a mirage in the desert, shimmering with promise yet ultimately deceptive. Kenyan politicians, clad in suits and promises, stood before the cameras, declaring this project a game-changer, while citizens watched their lives stagnate.

The very fabric of the Kenyan economy hangs in the balance, stretched thin by repayments that will stretch to 2027, when the full weight of this financial burden will settle in. With a national debt surpassing \$70 billion, the paradox lies starkly in front of us: is this infrastructure revolution a phoenix rising from the ashes, or a vulture circling, ready to feast on the remains of our economy?

Imagine a painter meticulously crafting a beautiful landscape, only for the viewer to realize that the colors are merely a façade, masking a canvas riddled with cracks. This is the reality of Kenya's infrastructure development; glistening highways



Kenya's Infrastructure Boom.

and sprawling housing projects are often juxtaposed with the grim reality of soaring youth unemployment, which currently hovers around 40%. In a land where opportunity is a fleeting dream, the bright lights of development cast long shadows of despair. The oxymoron of growth amid hardship is disheartening; how can a nation pride itself on advancement when its people remain marginalized?

The Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor project further exemplifies this dissonance. Launched in 2012 with an estimated budget of \$24 billion, LAPSSET was envisioned as a transformative project that would enhance trade and bolster regional integration. Yet, as with the SGR, the promises of prosperity have often been met with skepticism. The paradox remains: while foreign firms secure lucrative contracts, local communities face displacement and economic disenfranchisement. The tragic irony is that the very people who should benefit from these projects find themselves pushed aside, their voices drowned out by the din of machinery and the promises of progress. As we delve deeper into the quagmire of Kenya's infrastructure projects, it becomes evident that political interests play a pivotal role in shaping the landscape. Politicians like former Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia have become synonymous with these mega projects, often seen as both champions of development and architects of controversy. The lines between public service and private gain blur dangerously, with whispers of corruption and cronyism echoing through the corridors of power. It's a classic tale of synecdoche; the few individuals at the top wield immense influence, overshadowing the needs of the many. Anecdotes from the

ground reveal a stark reality: small-scale businesses and local entrepreneurs are often left out in the cold. When the government announces a new infrastructure project, the anticipated influx of jobs and economic opportunities frequently fails to materialize for the average Kenyan. Instead, it's the well-connected contractors and foreign investors who reap the rewards. This asyndeton of benefits for the elite, while the masses languish, is a bitter pill to swallow for those who believed in the promises of development.

Social media, the modern agora, has become a powerful tool for expression and dissent. Hashtags like #KenyaIsNotForSale and #EnoughIsEnough have trended as citizens express their frustration over perceived injustices. This digital activism symbolizes a burgeoning consciousness among Kenyans, a collective realization that the time for change is now. Yet, one must wonder: will this outcry translate into tangible change, or will it dissipate into the ether, lost among the countless empty promises that have come before it? The chiasmus of hope and despair reverberates through the nation as citizens grapple with the reality that their future hangs precariously in the balance.

As we peer into the crystal ball of Kenya's future, the specter of the next general election looms large in 2027. Politicians will once again don their capes of hope, promising progress and prosperity. But will the electorate be swayed by the allure of slick slogans and empty rhetoric, or will they demand accountability and transparency? The path forward must be paved with the voices of the people, an awakening that shouts, "No more!" to the exploitation and deceit that have long characterized the landscape of Kenyan politics. In this grand tapestry of Kenya's

infrastructure boom, it is imperative that the narrative shifts. The citizens deserve to see the fruits of their labor, not just in the form of roads and buildings but in the quality of life that accompanies genuine development. As the construction cranes loom over the cities, let them not symbolize merely the architecture of ambition, but the hope of a nation united in the quest for equality and justice. The question that remains, however, is whether Kenyans will continue to play the role of passive spectators or rise as active participants in the narrative of their nation. The time is ripe for a new paradigm, one where the profits of mega projects are shared equitably, where the voices of the marginalized are heard, and where the promise of infrastructure translates into genuine opportunities for all. As we stand on the precipice of a new era, let us not forget the power that lies within the people; after all, in the grand scheme of development, it is the citizens who hold the keys to the kingdom, and it is their time to demand the wealth that lies within the heart of their nation. So, as the dust settles on the construction sites and the noise of machinery fades, let the real work begin: the work of forging a future that serves all Kenyans, not just the privileged few. The echoes of change are calling, and it is up to us to answer with clarity, conviction, and courage. After all, Kenya's true infrastructure must be built not only from steel and concrete but from the collective spirit and determination of its people, determined to break free from the shackles of exploitation and claim their rightful place in the narrative of their own development.

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

Worth Noting:

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The Digital Lifeline: Why Internet Access Is Emerging As A Fundamental Human Right In Kenya And Globally

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sions, from accessing information about sustainable products to participating in carbon footprint reduction initiatives. In the context of climate change, which poses an existential threat to human rights on a global scale, internet access becomes a critical tool for adaptation and resilience. It enables early warning systems for natural disasters, facilitates the coordination of humanitarian responses, and empowers communities to share adaptation strategies. Recognizing internet access as a human right in this context acknowledges its role not just in individual empowerment but in safeguarding the collective right to a sustainable and habitable planet.

The intersection of internet access with cultural rights and diversity presents another compelling argument for its recognition as a basic human right. In Kenya's multicultural society, the internet has become a vital platform for preserving and promoting indigenous languages, traditional knowledge, and cultural heritage. Digital archives and online platforms allow for the documentation and sharing of oral traditions, rituals, and artistic expressions that might otherwise be lost to time. For minority communities, the internet provides a space to assert their identity, challenge stereotypes, and connect with diaspora populations. On a global scale, the internet has facilitated unprecedented cultural exchange and dialogue, fostering mutual understanding and challenging ethnocentric worldviews. It has also empowered marginalized voices to challenge dominant narratives and reclaim their histories. However, the realization of these cultural rights through the internet is contingent on equitable access and representation in the digital sphere. Recognizing internet access as a human right, therefore, becomes crucial for ensuring that the digital realm reflects and respects the full diversity of human cultural expression, rather than homogenizing global culture.

The critical role of internet access in disaster response and humanitarian aid further underscores its importance as a basic human right. In Kenya, as in many parts of the world prone to natural disasters and humanitarian crises, internet connectivity has become an essential tool for early warning systems, coordination of relief efforts, and reconnecting displaced communities. During emergencies, the internet enables rapid dissemination of critical information, facilitates the mobilization of resources, and allows affected individuals to communicate their needs and location to

rescuers. Digital platforms have revolutionized fundraising for humanitarian causes, enabling global solidarity and rapid resource mobilization in times of crisis. In refugee settlements, internet access provides a lifeline to displaced populations, allowing them to maintain contact with family members, access educational resources, and seek opportunities for resettlement or repatriation. The internet also plays a crucial role in post-disaster recovery, facilitating the coordination of reconstruction efforts and the reestablishment of vital services. In this context, the denial of internet access during crises can have life-threatening consequences, highlighting the urgency of recognizing connectivity as a fundamental right in humanitarian contexts.

The evolving nature of work and education in the digital age presents a compelling case for internet access as a human right. In Kenya and globally, the job market is increasingly favoring digital skills, with many traditional roles being transformed or replaced by technology-driven alternatives. As remote work becomes more prevalent, driven in part by global events like the COVID-19 pandemic, internet access has become synonymous with employability. In the education sector, the shift towards online and blended learning models is redefining access to knowledge and skills development. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and digital learning platforms are democratizing access to world-class education, allowing individuals to acquire new skills and qualifications regardless of their geographical location. However, this digital transformation of work and education risks exacerbating existing inequalities if internet access is not universally available. Those without reliable connectivity face the prospect of being left behind in an increasingly digital job market and educational landscape. Recognizing internet access as a human right in this context is not just about ensuring equal opportunities; it's about safeguarding the right to work and education in the 21st century.

The role of internet access in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment provides another strong argument for its recognition as a basic human right. In Kenya, as in many parts of the world, the internet has become a powerful tool for challenging gender stereotypes, providing women with access to information about their rights, and creating networks of support and solidarity. Digital platforms have opened up new economic



opportunities for women entrepreneurs, allowing them to start and scale businesses with lower barriers to entry. Online education has made it easier for women and girls to access learning opportunities, particularly in contexts where cultural norms might restrict their mobility or participation in formal education systems. The internet has also provided a platform for women's voices to be heard in public discourse, enabling them to speak out against gender-based violence and discrimination. However, the gender digital divide remains a significant challenge, with women in many parts of the world less likely to have internet access than men. Recognizing internet access as a human right becomes crucial for addressing this disparity and ensuring that the digital revolution serves as a force for gender equality rather than reinforcing existing inequalities.

The potential of internet access to revolutionize governance and public service delivery further strengthens its case as a basic human right. In Kenya, e-government initiatives have significantly improved the efficiency and transparency of public services, from tax collection to issuance of national identification documents. Online platforms have made it easier for citizens to access government information, participate in public consultations, and hold officials accountable. The digitization of public records and services has reduced opportunities for corruption and improved the overall quality of governance. On a global scale, internet-enabled technologies are transforming the way governments interact with citizens, from digital voting systems to blockchain-based land registries. These innovations have the potential to strengthen democratic processes, enhance public trust in institutions, and make governance more responsive to citizens' needs. However, the realization of these benefits is contingent on universal internet access. Without it,

large segments of the population risk being excluded from these new forms of civic engagement and service delivery. Recognizing internet access as a human right in this context becomes essential for ensuring that the digital transformation of governance serves to enhance, rather than undermine, democratic participation and equitable access to public services.

In conclusion, the case for recognizing internet access as a basic human right, both in Kenya and globally, is compelling and multifaceted. The internet's role as an enabler of other fundamental rights – from education and healthcare to freedom of expression and political participation – underscores its importance in the modern world. Its potential to bridge social and economic inequalities, foster cultural diversity, and drive sustainable development further strengthens this argument. As we navigate the challenges of the 21st century, from climate change to pandemics, the internet has proven to be an indispensable tool for resilience, innovation, and collective action. However, the realization of these benefits is contingent on universal and equitable access. The digital divide, if left unaddressed, risks exacerbating existing inequalities and creating new forms of marginalization. Recognizing internet access as a human right is not just about technological progress; it's about ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to fully participate in and benefit from the digital age. As we move forward, it is imperative that governments, international organizations, and civil society work together to enshrine this right in law and policy, and to invest in the infrastructure and education necessary to make universal internet access a reality. Only then can we ensure that the digital revolution serves as a force for empowerment, equality, and human dignity for all.

The writer is a legal researcher

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Sports >> *Barcelona continued their excellent early-season form under Hansi Flick as the La Liga leaders swept aside city rivals Espanyol to move nine points clear of Real Madrid.

Barca Spank Sorry Espanyol To Surge Ahead Of Real In Laliga Race



Barcelona players celebrate their win over Real Madrid. PHOTO/FC BARCELONA X.

Barcelona continued their excellent early-season form under Hansi Flick as the La Liga leaders swept aside city rivals Espanyol to move nine points clear of Real Madrid.

Fresh from thrashing Real in their El Clasico encounter last week, Barca's attacking play was again sensational at times, with teenage winger Lamine Yamal once more looking a class above his contemporaries.

He bent in a wonderful cross with the outside of his foot which Dani Olmo turned in off the crossbar for the 12th-minute opener.

Another talented youngster,

Marc Casado, then played an equally good ball in behind the Espanyol defence 11 minutes later, where captain Raphinha timed his run perfectly to clip the ball home.

Defensively, Barca's incredibly high line once again made life interesting, with Espanyol having two goals ruled out for narrow offside calls.

Full-back Omar el Hilali squared for Jofre Carreras to sweep in, but the strike was ruled out by the video assistant referee (VAR). Moments later, Olmo got his second with a thumping shot from the edge of the area to put Barca 3-0 up.

Early in the second half Alvaro Tejero's effort for the visitors was also ruled out after another close offside call.

Captain Javi Puado, though, swept in at the far post 18 minutes after the break to reduce the deficit.

Espanyol improved as Barcelona shut down, but the fourth-bottom side were second best throughout as their dismal derby record continued.

They have now gone 27 straight derbies without a win over Barcelona and have lost six of their last seven games in La Liga.

Flick's side have won 11 of their 12 league games under the Ger-

man and, since their sole loss at Osasuna at the end of September, have won six in a row in all competitions, scoring 24 goals in the process.

They visit Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League on Wednesday and will look to maintain this wonderful run of form.

Earlier on Sunday, third-placed Atletico Madrid beat Las Palmas 2-0 to move to within a point of Real in the table.

BBC

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Son Heung-min was included in the South Korea squad named Monday for World Cup qualifiers this month, with coach Hong Myung-bo vowing to "protect his health".

South Korea Vow To 'Protect' Son Heung-Min After Injury



South Korea's midfielder Son Heung-min applauds the fans at the end of the Qatar 2023 AFC Asian Cup Group E football match between South Korea and Malaysia at Al-Janoub Stadium in al-Wakrah, south of Doha, on January 25, 2024. (Photo by Giuseppe CACACE / AFP)

Son Heung-min was included in the South Korea squad named Monday for World Cup qualifiers this month, with coach Hong Myung-bo vowing to "protect his health".

The Spurs and South Korea skipper missed recent weeks with a hamstring problem and on his return was subbed off in Tottenham's 4-1 win over Aston Villa on

Sunday.

Spurs boss Ange Postecoglou said the decision to take the 32-year-old off before the hour was a precaution.

Son did not feature for South Korea in World Cup qualifiers last month but was named in Hong's squad for upcoming games against Kuwait and Palestine.

"We will see how much his play-

ing time increases in the next two matches (for Spurs) and that will be part of our preparation for the two November games," Hong said, according to the news agency Yonhap.

"I don't think it's appropriate for us to push him hard on the national team just because he has returned to action for his club."

Hong added: "I obviously under-

stand he wants to play for the national team but first and foremost we have to protect his health."

South Korea are on course for the 2026 World Cup, sitting top of their group in the pivotal third Asian qualifying round with three wins and a draw.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Approaches To The Study Of Family Relations



By: Asaloy San'at
@themkenyatimes

Abstract: The family is a sacred foundation for humanity and forms the social basis of society. The primary purpose of family life is to ensure the continuity of generations and the historical development of humanity through the birth of children. This article discusses approaches to studying family relations.

Keywords: family, relationship, Eastern people, society, child.

Due to Uzbekistan's state independence, our people's ancient national customs and traditions have begun to be revived, and these traditions play a crucial role in strengthening families. The government of Uzbekistan considers family matters as a priority task at the level of state policy. According to Article 63 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the family is considered the fundamental unit of society and has the right to be protected by both society and the state. Other legal documents for the protection of motherhood and childhood have been adopted, and practical measures have been taken. In particular, on August 22, 1994, a decree titled "Measures for the Social Protection of Low-Income Families" was issued, expanding the scope of material and moral assistance to needy families. To further increase the role and participation of families in the development of society, and to improve the legal, social, economic, and moral interests and well-being of families, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan declared 1998 as "The Year of the Family." A state program outlining measures to protect family interests was developed accordingly. The "Family" scientific-practical center was established under the Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The

Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which addresses legal regulation of family life, was adopted.

The family embodies the traditions related to the life and customs of the people and society. It preserves values and passes them down to future generations. The family nurtures children, instilling in them universal values and providing them with initial social orientation. By integrating their children into society, the family influences the direction, economy, culture, and education of society. Therefore, in the East, the family has long been considered a sacred stronghold. The characteristics of large and extended Uzbek families are still preserved today. In Uzbek families, older generations and parents play a significant role in shaping a frugal and tidy lifestyle and in raising children to be morally and spiritually mature. Uzbek families stand out for their stability, organization, love for children, respect for kinship, and other family values such as compassion and care.

The first school of child development is the relationship between parents. The mutual respect, love, honesty, purity, diligence, and humanism expressed in these relationships create harmony in the family. This social process within the family shapes young people's understanding of the material world and social life and teaches them the correct way to observe moral and ethical norms, based on Eastern traditions. The moral image, behavior, and manners of young people are initially shaped within the culture of family relationships.

Historical evidence shows that the culture of family relationships has long been developed in Eastern societies. Sacred religious sources, Uzbek folk oral traditions, and the works of great Eastern thinkers contain valuable information about the moral and ethical norms and human virtues that characterize family relationships, particularly between spouses, in Uzbek society.

As the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, emphasized, "In the East, the family has long been considered a sacred nation. Honesty, truthfulness, integrity, honor, and respect—along with other human virtues—are primarily formed within the family."



Indeed, the works of great Eastern scholars and reformers such as Abu Nasr Al-Farabi, Abu Rayhan Biruni, Avicenna, Kaykavus, Yusuf Khass Hajib, Alisher Navoi, Husayn Waiz Kashifi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Rizouddin ibn Faxruddin, Ahmad Donish, Abdulla Avloni, and Fitrat discuss the national psychological characteristics of family life, the mutual obligations of spouses, the way of life, and the educational environment within families, particularly in Central Asian societies, including the Uzbek people.

Issues related to the culture of interpersonal relations in family life are also widely discussed in the works of scholars such as Muhammad ibn Ismail Bukhari, At-Termizi, and the leaders of the Sufi philosophy—Ahmad Yasawi, Bahauddin Naqshband, and Najmuddin Kubra.

The scientific and cultural heritage of Eastern thinkers shows that the rules of family life, the culture of interpersonal relationships, the upbringing of children, and the relationship between men and women are all interconnected with the oral literature of Eastern peoples, particularly the Uzbek people. The moral values found in Uzbek folk proverbs, tales, epics, legends, and narratives highlight bravery, honesty, modesty, loyalty, friendship, justice, industriousness, cleanliness, beauty, harmony, respect for family honor, love for one's homeland, and the pursuit of good.

In ancient epics, women and men are depicted as having equal social status, and women are portrayed as courageous and no less brave than men.

Loyalty in love and familial harmony are characteristic traits of the Central Asian peoples, particularly the Uzbek clans and tribes.

It is well known that in Islam, as highlighted in its main sources, the Qur'an and Hadiths, there is a wealth of information and laws regarding family life and marital relations. Islam places great importance on the formation of future families. According to Sharia, the following conditions must be met for a valid marriage:

Mutual consent of the spouses.

The couple must be of legal age.

Marriage must be concluded in the presence of witnesses.

A dowry must be paid for the bride.

Both spouses must share the same religious beliefs.

The spouses should not be close relatives.

There must be social equality between the couple.

The spouses must be mentally healthy.

Only marriages that meet these conditions are considered legitimate and provide both parties with the corresponding rights and responsibilities.

The Qur'an outlines the roles of husbands and wives in the family. According to Sharia, the husband is responsible for all financial and moral aspects of the family and must protect it from external threats. In exchange for this responsibility, the husband is considered the head of the family, with virtues such as wisdom and prudence being valued. A good wife, on the other hand, is seen as a woman who brings harmony to her husband's home and remains faithful to him for life. Many exemplary stories of marital relationships can be found in the Qur'an.

Even in Zoroastrianism, the religion of our ancestors, marriage and family duties held a significant ethical position. Zoroastrianism prohib-

ited polygamy, and a life of celibacy was also condemned. Women who reached adulthood but deliberately refused to marry were punished with 25 lashes, while men who did the same were publicly shamed. According to the Avesta, a man must be financially and morally stable before marrying, and both men and women were advised to seek the guidance of their elders when choosing a spouse. The Avesta also outlined specific rules for marriage and divorce.

The ethical norms of Zoroastrianism also emphasized the sacredness of the family, prohibiting the dissolution of marriage for reasons such as slander, misunderstandings, or disagreements with in-laws.

In both Zoroastrianism and Islam, it was emphasized that both parties should be equal and suitable for marriage. According to the traditions and practical experiences of marriage, the bride and groom were expected to be equal in terms of lineage, social status, education, character, beliefs, and property. Hence, special attention was given to preparing young people for family life in Eastern societies. Particularly, it was important to prepare girls for family life by instilling human virtues and teaching them the importance of preserving the sanctity of the family, as explained in the wisdom literature passed down from our ancestors.

Shomurotova Asaloy San'at qizi is a Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Urganch State University 2nd-year student of Social Work (Social work with families and children)