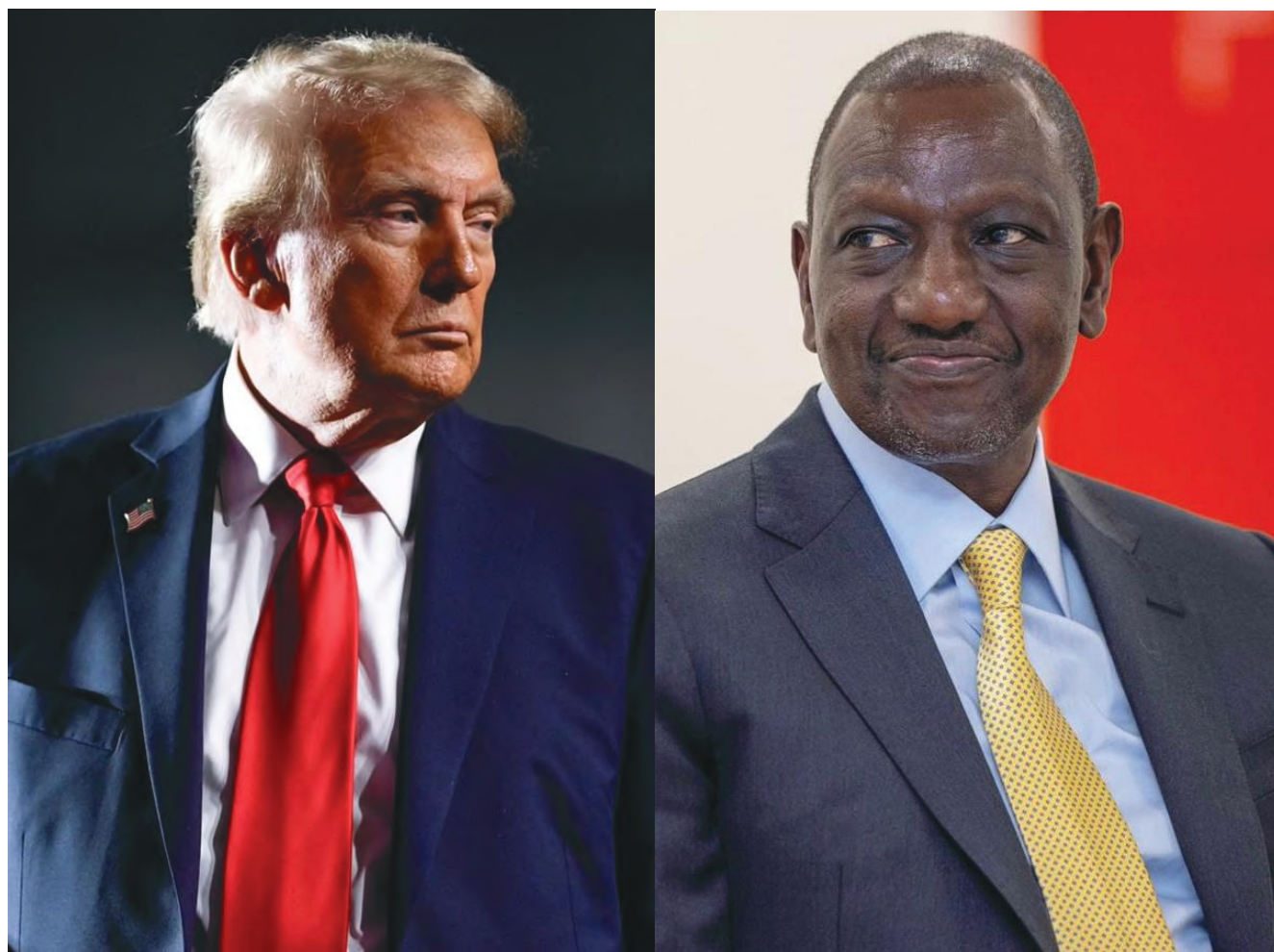


Haiti Peace Keeping Puzzle



P.9

Collage photo of President William Ruto and President Donald Trump



For All Kenyans To Enjoy The Benefits Of Digital Transformation, We Must Work To Put Smartphones In Their Hands

Business: Bridging The Digital Divide: What Is The Way Forward **P.11**



News: Judiciary Expresses Concern Over Rising Child Criminal Cases In Naivasha. **P.13**



KETEPA PRIDE
SPICED BLACK TEA

Cinnamon
A spicy delight

Cardamom
Spice of life

Masala Tea
Blend of delicious spices

Ginger Tea
A zingy and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

NEMA: Do They Still Have an Office in Nairobi?



By: David Ndirangu
@themtkenyatimes

I believe you still remember the ‘One last fight’ story that we had a couple of weeks ago. For those who may have missed the story, ‘One last fight’ is that one ‘award winning’ beating our mothers used to give us (especially the boys) at around the age of twelve and thirteen just before we became too big to be beaten. They made sure it was so thorough that it was enough to last you a lifetime. Thereafter, if your mother caught you red-handed doing something stupid, since you were already too big to be beaten, she would just throw you a scornful look in the eye and hold it there for about a quarter minute and then tell you ‘chonoka mūno’ (meaning be very ashamed). What I can assure you is that the combination of that look and the words were as painful as a slap across the face.

There is this very annoying eyesore in the name of a car wash business along Kamiti Road right inside the river that divides Zimmerman and Githurai 44 estates. In this car wash, all sorts of vehicles including matatus, trucks, tractors, buses, bodas, and even government vehicles are washed while parked right inside the river in the full glare of anyone who is passing along the road.

One can only imagine the level of water pollution happening in the process including gasoline, grease, heavy metals, detergents and so forth. This has been going on for at least seven years and has now expanded to both sides of river across Kamiti Road. I reached out to Nema on phone a few years ago about the issue.

The one who received the call asked me what assistance I needed after which she transferred me to one of her colleagues. After I explained what the issue was, the seemingly bored voice on the other end asked me ‘ni wapi hapo?’ (Where is that?). So I started describing the location to him, Kamiti Road....etc. I am certain this Nema fellow was seated somewhere in this same city of Nairobi but he sounded like I was describing a Kamiti Road that is located somewhere in Lower Mesopotamia.

He appeared to have no idea of the place I was talking about. At the end of the con-



Photos taken along Kamiti road.

versation, he promised to look into it. As I had expected, nothing was done about it and the environmental degradation has continued unabated for all those years. I am not surprised that the place is even recognised by Google Maps as “Mtoni Carwash”. How absurd!

It is almost definite that this kind of water pollution must also be happening in the other rivers in the Nairobi Metropolitan and several other places in the country. The Nema Head Office is supposed to be somewhere in South C Nairobi along Popo Road. With this level of impunity

and wanton pollution of our rivers happening right under their ‘noses’, one can only imagine what could possibly be happening in the far flung areas of the country. When Nema staffers are moving all over that city, harassing Kenyans and collecting bribes from construction sites and other businesses, how come they have never realised that it is criminal for vehicles to be washed while parked right inside rivers?

The Director General at the helm of Nema, one Mr. Mamo B. Mamo, who I believe seats on the red carpeted top

floor of the Nema building owes Kenyans an explanation. That he has never noticed this environmental catastrophe in the name of car wash business is truly unfathomable. Kenyans should throw a scornful look in his eye, hold it right there for half a minute and like our mothers tell him, ‘chonoka mūno’ (Be very ashamed).

David Ndirangu BSc. CPA (K). Certified Professional Mediator Email: ndirangu-david2023@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

- One can only imagine the level of water pollution happening in the process including gasoline, grease, heavy metals, detergents and so forth. This has been going on for at least seven years and has now expanded to both sides of river across Kamiti Road. I reached out to Nema on phone a few years ago about the issue.

- The one who received the call asked me what assistance I needed after which she transferred me to one of her colleagues. After I explained what the issue was, the seemingly bored voice on the other end asked me ‘ni wapi hapo?’

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by Exponential International Limited, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

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

Facebook: facebook.com/themtkenyatimes, Instagram: instagram.com/themtkenyatimes/, Twitter: twitter.com/themtkenyatimes
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-mt-kenya-times/>



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

NEWS IN BRIEF



The Principal Secretary for Basic Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang, has issued a stern warning to school principals who fail to register students for national examinations. Dr. Kipsang emphasized that any such failure would be considered an examination irregularity, with those responsible facing legal consequences. “There is no reason, no reason at all, why we should not register any child because the government pays for these exams,” Dr. Kipsang stated. The PS reminded the principals that the government covers all examination fees, eliminating any financial excuse for non-registration.



In Mwea, rice farmers are facing an unexpected adversary—the golden apple snail—which threatens to devastate their rice crops. These snails voraciously feed on young rice seedlings, leaving farmers grappling with lower yields and economic losses. “We have advised farmers to drain water intermittently after transplanting because the pest cannot survive without water. We also encourage them to use biological methods of control, as chemicals may have harmful side effects,” says Dr. Ruth Musila, Manager at the Mwea KALRO Research Centre. As part of ongoing efforts to help farmers tackle this challenge, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) recently hosted a training session on agribusiness skills, covering topics like quality seedling raising, transplanting, and managing rice seedbeds. Farmers also learnt about sustainable pest management, with an emphasis on eco-friendly solutions. “The snails don’t just damage our crops; they are also a health threat, spreading parasites like the rat lungworm, which can cause meningitis,” says Lydia Mundia, a local rice farmer.



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, met with the End Malaria Council (EMC) to discuss strategies for advancing Kenya’s progress toward malaria eradication. Key proposals from the meeting included strengthening private sector engagement and establishing malaria clinics in endemic zones. The Principal Secretary acknowledged EMC’s invaluable support and emphasized the Ministry’s commitment to working closely with EMC for sustainable and innovative interventions that will accelerate Kenya’s journey toward malaria elimination.

When great minds meet, things move in the right direction! Nyeri County leading industrialist cum politician, Dr Thuo Mathenge alias Noo Wangũkũ (2nd right in the picture) on Friday hosted former Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (2nd left) at his Bantu Africa Resort and SPA near Nyeri town. After the meeting, Dr Mathenge who is also the national chairman of The New Democrats (TND) political party posted on his Social Media platform, “Today, I met former cabinet secretary for health Hon Mutahi Kagwe and other leaders”, but didn’t divulge the nature of their deliberations. He added, “Dr Mathenge is known for having a rich social capital that enables him to have access to valuable and different resources for the people of Nyeri county”. He later extended his generosity and gifted the former Health CS and his friends Bradegate organic coffee. The meeting comes in the wake of rumours that either of the two leaders is set to join the Broadbased national government in the position of Cabinet Secretary. The two were accompanied by among others former government spokesman Muthui Kariuki (left) and businessman Muriithi Nyika (right).



Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairperson, Amb. Anthony Muchiri, has been elected the new President of the Association of African Public Service Commissions (AAPSCOMS). The election took place during the 6th General Assembly held on Thursday, at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, where delegates gathered for the Sixth Conference of AAPSCOMS.



This year’s theme, “Driving Public Service Delivery Transformation through Innovation and Technology,” highlights the growing importance of digital solutions in public governance. Amb. Muchiri emerged victorious in the election, marking a significant milestone in his leadership journey. In his inaugural address, he expressed his commitment to revitalising the association and fostering stronger collaboration among African public service commissions. Amb. Muchiri also outlined his vision for the future, promising to expand the association’s membership and advocate for partnerships with both the private and public sectors. His leadership will focus on enhancing the impact of AAPSCOMS, positioning it as a powerful force in the transformation of public service across Africa.

Kenya School of Agriculture Deputy Director Pauline Njagi says the institution has been working closely with the Thai government in various innovative projects to help improve local food production through mechanisms that are affordable to the people. Through programmes like farm mechanisation, including the Farming Utility Vehicle (FUV), they are bringing practical, affordable solutions to local farmers. “We have been partnering with the Thai government through the Thailand International Cooperation Agency in various initiatives. One of the key areas is farm mechanisation, which is a great way for young people to earn money by preparing land for others. From our calculations, they can make good money from it, and it’s an equipment we highly recommend to the youth,” she said. The Kenya School of Agriculture is also hosting weekly community field days, where locals are trained in the best farming practices, empowering them with skills to improve their livelihoods. This partnership is a step toward addressing both youth unemployment and the challenges of land fragmentation in Central Kenya, offering a sustainable future for farmers and young entrepreneurs alike.



YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

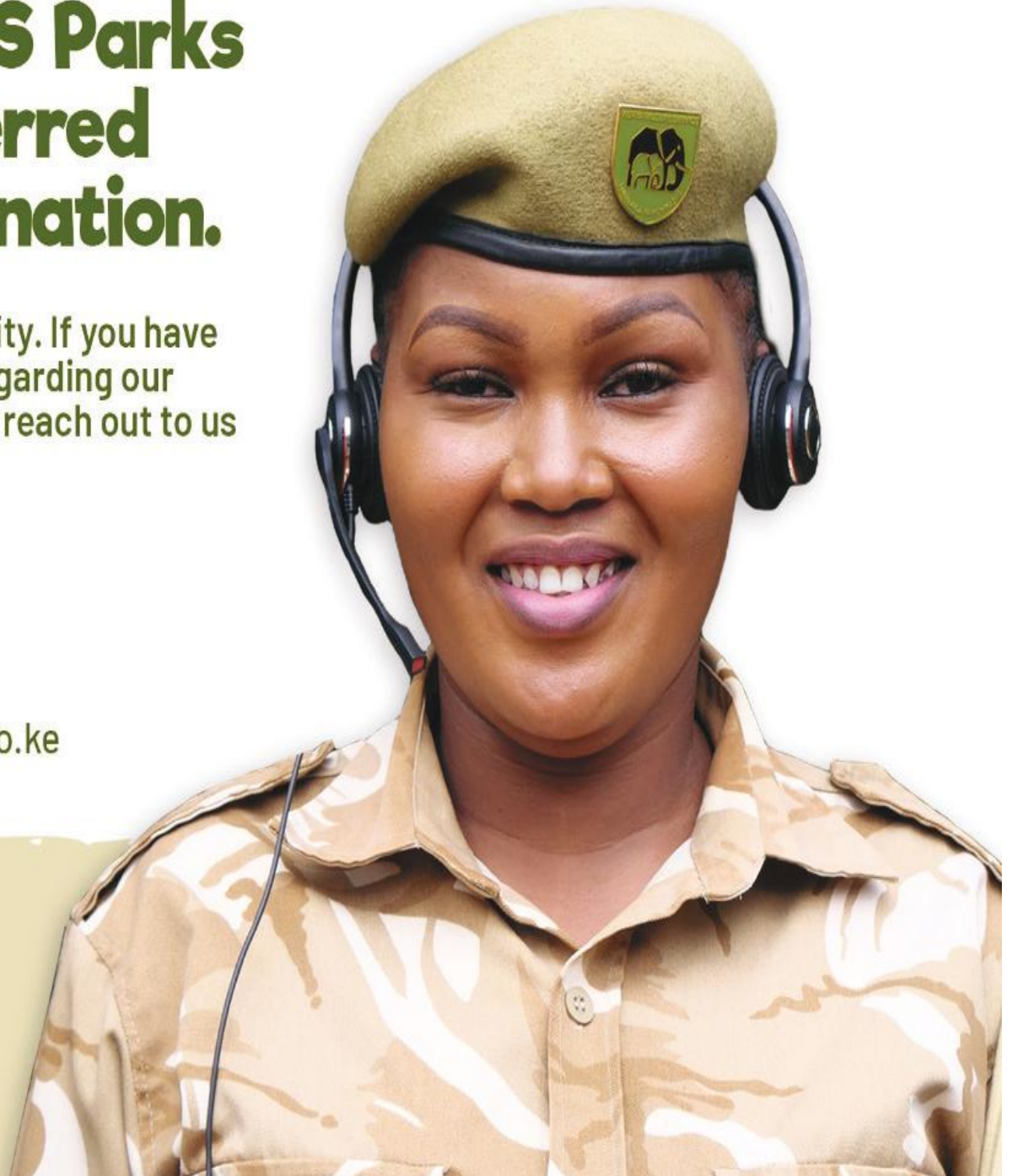
**Thank you for
choosing KWS Parks
as your preferred
tourism destination.**

Your satisfaction is our priority. If you have any concerns or feedback regarding our products or services. Please reach out to us via

☎ 0800 597 000

📞 0726 610 509

@ customerservice@kws.go.ke



All Set For Mau Mau War Veterans Association And Jeremiah Mugi Foundation Thanksgiving Service and Advocacy Meeting At AIC Kirenga, Kiambu

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themkenyatomes

Worth Noting:

- The war veterans National coordinator Mzee Gikonyo Wa Githiga said the attendees will also discuss pressing issues concerning compensation for Mau Mau land claims and a broader recognition of their historical contributions in the fight for the country's independence from British Colony.
- They will also use the event to sensitize the public in general on various issues affecting the descendants of former freedom fighters.



Joseph Mwangi Macharia aka General Kihithuki (right) with a friend.



James Njuguna Mahuria (left) with Archbishop Johnson Fundi Mwai outside the church where thanksgiving service will take place.

Preparations for the grand sensitization forum convened by a caucus for former freedom fighters and a charitable organisation are over.

The organisers of the meeting; Mau Mau War Veterans Association and Jeremiah Mugi Foundation said every has been put in place with the remaining issue being attendance.

The two groups are working closely with the Mau Mau Children Post-Colonial Elite members where they also hope to use the Sunday forum to honour the surviving veterans and their families.

The event will be held at the African Inland Church (AIC) in Kirenga area within Kiambu County.

“Organizers have invited the public to

join in prayers of gratitude, specifically to thank God for the sacrifices and resilience shown by Kenya’s Freedom Fighters and their descendants,” said James Njuguna Mahuria, an official of the foundation.

The war veterans National coordinator Mzee Gikonyo Wa Githiga said the attendees will also discuss pressing issues concerning compensation for Mau Mau land claims and a broader recognition of their historical contributions in the fight for the country’s independence from British Colony.

They will also use the event to sensitize the public in general on various issues affecting the descendants of former freedom fighters.

Last month, the Foundation wrote

to the African Union Mechanism for Public Cooperation (AFRIPOL) through the Inspector General of Police seeking clearance to hold the forum.

The letter signed by Mahuria, the National chairman of the foundation said they anticipate gathering of stakeholders, among them community leaders, public and private institutions representatives to attend the meeting.

The organizers urged those planning to attend to register in advance at the National Archives on the second floor offices along Moi Avenue in Nairobi, as part of the foundation’s efforts to ensure orderly participation and to provide accurate security and records for continued advocacy.

They also plan to engage with the National Government to resolve long-standing lands issues of Mau Mau veterans and the rights of descendants.

Prophet Paul Mwangi of Prophetic Network Ministry, who is also one of the organisers, called on the public to turn out in large numbers and hear they have in store for them.

For more details on the registration process, or for questions related to the event, members of the public may contact National Coordinator Gikonyo wa Githiga on 0758 958 006 or James Njuguna Mahuria on phone number 0722 837 882.

The **MT. KENYA TIMES** Where Investors Get Returns

To advertise in Mt. Kenya Times read by discerning Kenyan professionals and the business community contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.

ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
 GLOBAL PRINT, BROADCAST OUTDOOR & DIGITAL ADVERTISING
 SERVING YOU SINCE 1989

ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
 Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
 Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
 www.adlinkinternational.com
 Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

NOW
OPEN

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

Headteachers Meeting Concludes With Call For Technology Use In CBC Implementation

By: Sadik Hassan
 @themtkenyatimes

As curtains fall on the 21st Kenya Primary Schools Head Teachers (KEPSHA) annual meeting that brought together more than 15,000 Head Teachers of Public Schools, education stakeholders are now appealing to the Ministry of Education to leverage technology to disseminate information on the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

Wambugu wa Kamau, a motivational speaker, identified a communication gap during his visits to schools across the country.

Kamau said the information parents expect to get from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) has not reached them.

He therefore turned to social media platforms to educate parents on the new curriculum.

“I urge KICD to use social media and develop programmes to be aired

on television to explain to people how CBC works,” stated Kamau.

He said that the train has left the station as CBC will be implemented and the country will not go back to the 8-4-4 system.

Julius Muchege, a Head teacher at Kieni Primary School, Tharaka Nithi, lauded the new curriculum, saying it will have a far-reaching impact if it is implemented well.

“What we need the most is to be given teaching equipment that will enable us to implement CBC the way it is supposed to be implemented,” he said, adding that teachers need to be retooled.

Another Head teacher, Otakamong Mathew from Kakamega County, called for the recruitment of more teachers to address staffing challenges. He noted that they are forced to allocate teachers to subjects they have not been trained to teach.

Mathew also called for an increase in capitation to primary schools to efficiently run school operations.

Lydia Murei, a head teacher from Nandi County said they have chal-



Headteachers during the KEPSHA meeting in Mombasa

lenges with textbooks, some of which have wrong curriculum designs.

“We want one curriculum design as some subjects were merged,” she said.

Bancy Murithi, a head teacher from Embu County, thanked the govern-

ment for the new curriculum that she noted will help to nurture the talents of learners at a tender age.

“Though there are some challenges, at the beginning of this year, different learning areas were merged and we didn’t have the designs ready for the

same changes,” she said, adding that they strived to use the designs without textbooks.

She thanked the government for constructing classrooms to accommodate Junior Secondary Schools.

Farmers In Solai Trained On Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Techniques

By: Veronica Bosibori
 @themtkenyatimes

Farmers affiliated to Kihiko Agribusiness Group in Solai Ward, Rongai sub-county, have been trained on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) by Sub County Agricultural Officers.

The training focused on educating farmers about diverse food groups and promoting the cultivation of nutrient-dense crops to address malnutrition in the community.

The County Executive for Agriculture, Leonard Bor, said this initiative aligns with the county’s broader nutrition-sensitive interventions aimed at combating various forms of malnutrition, including stunting, underweight, and obesity.

By integrating nutritional considerations into agricultural practices, NSA seeks to improve the nutritional value of food produced and con-

sumed within the community.

He said encouraging farmers to cultivate a variety of nutrient-rich crops, such as beans and a variety of vegetables, the training aims to enhance dietary diversity and address underlying causes of malnutrition, such as limited access to nutritious foods.

This approach not only improves food security but also contributes to the overall health and well-being of the community.

Additionally, he said nutrition is a critical factor in the overall health and development of children in rural Kenya; adding malnutrition, including stunting and wasting, remains a significant challenge, particularly in these areas.

He highlighted the consequences of stunting, a condition caused by chronic undernutrition, which he said affects 20% of children under the age of five in rural Kenya, compared to 12% in urban areas. Additionally, he said 11% of children in Kenya are underweight and 4% are wasted, a condition characterised by acute mal-



Farmers undergoing the training

nutrition.

Bor noted that these statistics emphasise the urgent need to address malnutrition in rural Kenya, as it has long-term consequences for children’s physical and cognitive development, as well as their overall well-being.

While appreciating the training, the village elder, Peter Rono, said there was a notable difference between children brought up in rural areas and those in urban areas.

He regretted that families normally sell their proteins, such as milk and chicken, to purchase bread and man-

dazi for their babies without realising that they are just carbohydrates and not important building blocks compared to the protein-dense foodstuffs sold out.

Where Does The Trump Win In The US Leave Kenya Peace Keeping In Haiti?

By: Vincent Obadha
@themtkenyatimes

Almost a month ago, during the visit on 11th October by Haiti's Prime Minister Garry Conille to Nairobi, President William Ruto appealed for urgent financial support from the international community to sustain the Kenya-led security deployment in Haiti, which has been extended by a year.

The Kenya-led multinational security mission, which began in June, is helping fight gangs controlling much of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and suburban locations in its vicinity.

President Ruto has been upbeat about the performance of the Kenya Police contingent in Haiti as he reiterated that they had worked hard and had positive results to show for it. Haitian leader Conille, reiterated President Ruto's concerns as he also requested the international community to support them with both the personnel and funds they had pledged earlier.

Haiti, a history of strife and violence

Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, has over sixty percent of its population living in abject poverty and it is not a wonder for a country whose history has been dogged by devastating natural disasters and political instability. The latter is the precipitator of the present crises where organized gangs unleash devastating violence on the public and police in opposition to any organized authority.

From January to October, more than 3,600 people have been killed including over 100 children, whereas over 500,000 Haitians are internally exiled, according to the UN. Human rights experts are now warning that Haiti's violent gangs have now infiltrated new flu-flung areas from the Capital City, causing further displacement.

Kenya to Haiti's Aid, it was a far call

In August 2023 when the US was presiding over the U.N. Security Council, it put forward a resolution to approve a mission in Haiti led by Kenyan police. Up until then Kenya had never been known to have taken part in such a mission regionally or internationally, was Kenya biting what it could not chew?

To compound Kenya's inappropriateness for the assignment, Kenyans

do not speak French, which is the official and widely-spoken language in Haiti. Seemingly unperturbed by these inadequacies, President William Ruto pledged to lead the proposed multi-national force in Haiti to restore peace and normalcy. Had he acted ultra vires? Parliament was soon roped in to regularize the deployment when the courts rejected the plan.

Ruto said a total of 1000 police officers would be deployed to the mission. Indeed, Kenya took to Haiti 400 of its pledged 1,000 police officers in June and July this year and promised the final group of 600 officers, on completion of training within this month, would also be deployed.

Difficulties with the Haitian mission

It has, however not been smooth sailing for Kenya to deploy its part of the multinational force in Haiti. In March, Republican American lawmakers were still holding onto millions of dollars in the Haitian mission funding that the White House desired to be released to help with the mission.

Secretary of State Blinken, in a first, had to override the lawmakers and order for a speedy release which enabled Kenya to deploy. But Republican members of parliament are of the opinion that the US has severally intervened in Haiti with little to show for it. The United States of America, however, remains the largest financier for the Haitian mission as noted when the Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that the U.S. was upping its pledge to \$300 million in March this year.

The triumph of Trump and the Republican Party could be the death of the Haitian mission

At stake now is the immediate and eventual status of the Haitian mission which could be jeopardized when the American political schism over Haiti comes into play with the new administration. The Democratic party has been in support of the Haitian multinational stabilization force while the Republicans have often showed little time for it.

Outgoing President Biden's administration has single-handedly pushed for the formation and funding of the Haitian mission and as he exits many international observers are unanimous that Haiti will not be the Republican government's priority. This factor will directly affect the status and performance of the Kenyan police contingent on the ground.



President William Ruto (L) and Edgard Leblanc Fils (R), president of the Haitian Transitional Presidential Council, attend a meeting with Kenyan police leaders at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on September 21, 2024. (Photo by Clarens SIFFROY / AFP).

Last month, President Ruto mentioned that the status of the funding was shaky and might only last until the first quarter of the coming year. The election of Donald Trump as the 47th President of the United States of America has definitely left President Ruto with his fingers crossed as to the fate of his security officers on the ground and the future of the whole mission. His strongest covert option now should be to have an evacuation plan for his officers at short notice but outwardly he should strongly lobby the U.S. to push for a hand-over to the United Nations (U.N.)

The local envoy to Nairobi from Washington, Meg Whitman has been very instrumental in the warm relationship between Nairobi and Washington but with the change in guard in Washington, will this hold? Trump's policy towards Africa and indeed most of the world, if it follows his stint during the first term from 2017 to 2021, will undoubtedly be one of disengagement from situations that do not impact the lives of people in the U.S.

His slogan for the first term, "America First!" is still remembered by many observers. His slogan for the second term, "Make America Great Again!" is not a stone throw away from the first slogan. In 2018, Donald Trump referred to Haiti, El Salvador and African nations as "shithole

countries" during a meeting with a bipartisan group of senators at the White House, it would be unlikely he would give Haiti the smallest benefit of the doubt today.

A mission on the Precipice

Several dynamics have hindered the Haitian mission to date. Its launch and operations have experienced a funding shortfall. Kenya had calculated that the mission needs around \$600 million annually to operate properly, but total current donations have grossed just over \$400 million. The lack of money has meant slower deployment and a crisis when it comes to equipping the security forces within the mission.

Probable way forward

Last month, Leslie Voltaire, the present head of Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council, made a formal request to the UN Security Council to have the multinational stabilization force in Haiti be converted to a full-fledged UN peacekeeping operation.

However, the Council did not take a vote to effect this widely proposed shift but it is hoped that the U.S. will once more table the proposal before the end of the year successfully. U.S. officials feel that if the mission comes under the United Nations, it would assure the Haiti mission steady funding and increase the mis-

sion's effectiveness.

It will not be the first time to have UN peacekeepers in Haiti as the last time they were there, is not more than five years ago. The UN blue helmets left under a grey cloud as claims of inadvertently poisoning water sources with sewage waste water blew up into a cholera epidemic which claimed over 10,000 lives as well as left hundreds of "UN-Babies" who were the products of largely coerced young Haitian women by UN peacekeepers. Human Rights abuses and harm to civilians in the course of anti-gang operations by UN peacekeepers further created a mistrust of the UN in Haiti.

But five years down the line has left many Haitians desperate as the gang violence rages unabated, and the idea of UN peacekeepers has become more acceptable in the country.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres needs to have a buy-in, even though he had earlier said "Haiti is not conducive to peacekeeping"; it is only the UN that can handle the depravity in Haiti if it commits to a robust mandate and discipline.

Raila Is Poised To Clinch The Seat Of AU Chairm



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com

I have no reason to doubt that former Prime Minister Raila Odinga is poised to clinch the seat of the chairman of Africa Union (AU) Commission.

I have two reasons. First, he has the best credentials and qualifications when it comes to the needs and aspirations of the black African people. He had earlier proved his worthiness when he served as African High Representative for Infrastructure Development.

Apart from initiating mega projects, he carved a niche of being a true pan-Africanist. He has since been championing the ideals of a United State of Africa under the slogan of

One Africa One People.

While articulating the virtues of democracy, good governance and development in Africa, Raila has been mincing no word in reiterating that Africa is the richest continent because of its vast resources.

Africa, however, lags behind because of lack of unity.

If I win, I will strive to ensure that Africa speaks in one voice.

The second reason why Raila is poised to win is because President William Ruto is spearheading his campaign.

The President kicked up his campaign when he hosted the East Africa Community (EAC) heads of state and government at State House Nairobi during which he officially unveiled and endorsed the candidature of Raila Odinga.

Dr Ruto took this opportunity to showcase Raila's credentials and present him as the best candidate.

In a rejoinder, each of EAC leader endorsed Raila candidature.

Former Prime Minister is now our candidate. President Ruto has requested to us mobilize support for him from other heads of state and



Raila Odinga candidate for the chairman of Africa Union (AU) Commission

government from Africa. We want assure you and honorable Raila that we will do this.

Since then, President Ruto has been seizing every opportunity to drum support for Raila.

He did this during China-Africa summit held in Beijing China and also during a similar gathering of African leaders in Germany and USA.

For President Ruto, the main purpose of these visits has always been to represent and articulate the inter-

ests of Kenyan people. He therefore met these leaders on the sidelines of the summits.

The President always returned back with bagful of goodies.

Besides East Africa leaders, Dr Ruto has reached out to other heads of State in Africa and convinced them to vote for Raila during the election slated for February next year.

In his latest trip to Addis Ababa Ethiopia, he managed to persuade and rally more leaders to support Kenyan

candidate.

Raila, who accompanied him in this trip, took this opportunity to showcase his credentials.

He once again made a very powerful presentation and many leaders were convinced that he is most suitable leader to represent Africa.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

The Mt. Kenya Times



Bridging The Digital Divide: What Is The Way Forward

For All Kenyans To Enjoy The Benefits Of Digital Transformation, We Must Work To Put Smartphones In Their Hands



By: Erick Massawe
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The CA Fourth Quarter Sector Statistics Report for the Financial Year 2023/2024 (1st April—30th June 2024) indicates that at the end of the referenced period, the total number of mobile phone devices connected to mobile networks was 66.1 million, with a penetration rate of 128.3 per cent.
- The penetration rates for smartphones and feature phones were 68.3 and 59.9 per cent, respectively.
- The CA Fourth Quarter Sector Statistics Report notes that feature phones acquisition dropped from 31,211,780 to 30,871,316 devices, while smartphone acquisition grew from 34,140,290 to 35,214,539 devices within the period under review.
- However, as we say, mambo kwa ground, ni different, as the average smartphone device cost ranges between Ksh45,000 and Ksh80,000.

A number of recent technology-based developments in Kenya have highlighted a challenge related to a glaring digital divide.

One relatively current development is the registration of persons to the Social Health Authority (SHA). The SHA registration process relies heavily on a USSD registration option to capture details from the masses, given that a majority of Kenyans do not own an internet-enabled smartphone in 2024.

While the numbers from several authorities indicate a relatively high adoption of smartphones, the reality on the ground is proving otherwise.

In this day and age, the lack of a smartphone, particularly for vulnerable communities who also don't have access to personal computers, means having to pay a very high price to access the internet and, to an extent, most of the transformative e-government platforms.

I recently skimmed through the latest Communications Authority of Kenya Statistics Report.

The report indicates good progress and confirms that the country's telecommunications subsector experienced significant growth during the 2023/24 Financial Year. The report attributed the sector growth to telecom infrastructure expansion and increased smartphone service adoption.

The CA Fourth Quarter Sector Statistics Report for the Financial Year 2023/2024 (1st April—30th June 2024) indicates that at the end of the referenced period, the total number of mobile phone devices connected to mobile networks was 66.1 million, with a penetration rate of 128.3 per cent.

The penetration rates for smartphones and feature phones were 68.3 and 59.9 per cent, respectively.

The CA Fourth Quarter Sector Statistics Report notes that feature phones acquisition dropped from 31,211,780 to 30,871,316 devices, while smartphone acquisition grew from 34,140,290 to 35,214,539 devices within the period under review.

However, as we say, mambo kwa ground, ni different, as the average smartphone device cost ranges between Ksh45,000 and Ksh80,000.

While some middle-class to affluent Kenyans have access to multiple devices, millions (more than 20 million) are still suffering from numerous barriers that limit their capacity to acquire mobile phone devices.

According to the GSM Association, these barriers include policy issues such as high tax rates charged on devices and a lack of device financing options.

The GSM Association, in a report titled Driving Digital Transformation of the Economy in Kenya, confirms that Kenya's digital economy will contrib-



ute Ksh662 billion to GDP by 2028.

The report projects that this growth, driven by strategic policy reforms, will accelerate digitalisation in critical sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, transport, and trade. The report also forecasts the creation of 300,000 new jobs and increased tax revenues by Ksh150 billion.

The report notes profoundly that "despite Kenya's extensive mobile coverage, smartphone adoption remains a barrier for many due to high costs. The report recommends policy measures such as tax reductions and expanding device financing options, which could help millions more Kenyans access mobile internet services by 2028. Improving smartphone access would help close the internet usage gap and increase active mobile money accounts, driving greater financial inclusion."

The CA and GSM Association reports aptly capture the fundamental realities we continue to experience in the Kenyan and Tanzanian markets.

At Watu, one of our fastest-growing subsidiaries is our barely two-year-old Watu Simu business.

Watu Simu provides affordable and convenient quality smartphone financing options to allow our clients to tap into the economic and social benefits that such devices provide. We currently work closely with manufacturers like, Samsung Mobile, to offer smartphones that serve our clients' needs with fully loaded features.

Attesting to the growing demand for such financing options, Watu Simu celebrated its millionth customer in Kenya last month. In one of our recent business reviews, diving into the data sets also provided us with a stark insight: More than 70% of our clients are involved in digital enterprises, including ride-hailing, online delivery and marketplaces, among other gigs that require smartphones for efficient operations.

I call it a stark insight as we now appreciate that we are enabling millions of Kenyans to contribute to nation-building by providing such device financing options. Flipping the coin, if a majority



Mr Eric Massawe addressing a forum in the past

of these Kenyans didn't have access to the quality devices we finance, and there being limited device financing options, many of these people would perhaps be out of jobs and unable to meaningfully contribute to their personal and national economic aspirations.

As we continue to focus on several national development ideals, it is safe to say that we must prioritise smartphone penetration. For all Kenyans to enjoy the benefits of digital transformation, we must work to put smartphones in

their hands. Placing smartphones in all Kenyans' hands will have a positive ripple effect by deepening financial inclusion, enhancing social health access, facilitating education and related academic pursuits, and securing social relations.

Mr. Erick Massawe is the Kenya Country Manager at Watu

SHA Partners With NGAO Team In Embu To Ramp-Up Registration

By: Samuel Waititu
@themkenyatimes

The Embu County Social Health Authority (SHA) branch has teamed up with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) and the County Government to ramp up registration of households into the new health scheme.

Consequently, the teams have formed a joint secretariat that will spearhead the registration exercise across the county with a view to onboarding all eligible households.

County Commissioner Jack Obuo said they target to register 206, 000 households into the scheme by the end of December to enable the beneficiaries to access quality healthcare services without financial difficulties.

So far, registration was close to half of the target population, with 105, 000 having been onboarded, according to Health CEC Jamal Runyenje.

The County Commissioner said they would engage local administration, including village elders, chiefs, and their assistants across the county, in

awareness creation on the importance of SHA registration.

“Every week, we will be holding public barazas and town hall meetings in every ward to sensitise our people so that all those eligible for registration are captured,” he said.

Speaking on Friday while commissioning the team, Obuo said they planned to comb all areas in the exercise to ensure no eligible person was left behind.

The Health CEC said the county ranked fifth countrywide in registration.

He said the secretariat would be expected to file a report on a weekly basis in terms of the numbers achieved, which would go a long way towards informing them on areas that needed more effort.

SHA County Manager John Kipkemboi reported that they foresee no challenges that would hamper the campaign.

“Initially, we had system challenges that have so far been addressed by the technical people that have been provided for us, and I have no doubt we will be able to increase the figures,” he said.



Gov't And UNDP To Launch Timbuktoo GreenTech Hub

By: Rachael Kilonzo
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Information, Communications, and The Digital Economy (MICDE), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is set to launch a Timbuktoo Green Tech Hub next month.

The Green Tech Hub is part of a broader initiative that covers a wide range of practices and innovations aimed at reducing the environmental impact of climate change and promoting sustainability, such as renewable energy, waste management, water conservation, and green construction.

Speaking during a Ministerial stakeholder breakfast meeting, the Principal Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy, Eng. John Tanui, who was accompanied by his coun-

terpart in the State Department for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Ms. Susan Auma Mang'eni, noted that establishing ten new centres across Africa symbolises a resurgence of the African spirit.

Eng. Tanui further noted that the establishment of the Greentech Hub represents a significant step towards harnessing Africa's potential in scientific innovation and technological advancement, adding that the Ministry will work closely with that of MSMEs, Education and Investments, Trade, and Industry to unlock the potential of the country's start-ups.

Also in attendance were Anthony Ngororano, UNDP Resident Representative, Kenya; UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Madelena Monaja; and Data Commissioner Ms. Immaculate Kassait, among other senior government and private sector officials.



Principal Secretary for ICT and Digital Economy, Eng. John Tanui (centre) with Principal Secretary, State Department for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Susan Mang'eni and UNDP Resident Representative, Kenya, Anthony Ngororano consult during a Ministerial stakeholder Breakfast meeting at Serena Hotel Nairobi.

Judiciary Expresses Concern Over Rising Child Criminal Cases In Naivasha

By: Erastus Gichohi
@themkenyatimes

The judiciary has expressed concern over the increasing number of criminal cases involving children in Naivasha, prompting efforts to expedite the resolution of these matters.

Principal Magistrate Juliana Ndegenye, Head of the Naivasha children's courts, reported a sharp rise in cases involving children in conflict with the law over the last few months.

From June 2023 to July 2024, the Naivasha court registered a total of 220 cases involving children, of which 170 have been heard.

Furthermore, from July to November this year, 112 cases were registered, with 59 of those completed, while in November alone, 88 criminal cases and 24 civil matters have been filed.

Ndegenye announced that the judiciary has designated November as a special month to expedite the hearing and determination of these cases to ensure timely justice.

She urged parents to protect their children despite the current economic hardships, which have led some children to resort to manual labour to support their families, increasing vulnerability to exploitation.

The magistrate noted that Kihoto, Karagita, and KCC informal settlements have seen significant incidents where youths are seeking sexual favours from minors.

Additionally, she highlighted issues in Mai Mahiu, including femicide and trafficking for sexual exploitation, which may be linked to the trucking business in the area.

Ndegenye emphasized that many of these cases arise because children are left unattended by parents or guardians, exposing them to potential harm.

She called for additional courts in the Gilgil and Mai Mahiu areas and more judicial officers to help manage the growing number of cases.

"The Judiciary Children Month for November aims to raise awareness about children-related issues and promote justice in various courts across the country," said Ndegenye.

One major challenge in resolving child cases, according to the magistrate, is interference by child protectors, who often avoid the legal system.

"People must report issues affecting children to the authorities to ensure that perpetrators face the full force of the law," Ndegenye stated.

Sylvester Wafula from KNote, a non-governmental organisation, mentioned that children's rights clubs have been established in Naivasha and Gilgil primary schools, providing children with a platform to express concerns about issues affecting them.



Naivasha Principal Magistrate Juliana Ndegenye.

Worth Noting:

Ndegenye announced that the judiciary has designated November as a special month to expedite the hearing and determination of these cases to ensure timely justice.

She urged parents to protect their children despite the current economic hardships, which have led some children to resort to manual labour to support their families, increasing vulnerability to exploitation.

The magistrate noted that Kihoto, Karagita, and KCC informal settlements have seen significant incidents where youths are seeking sexual favours from minors.

Additionally, she highlighted issues in Mai Mahiu, including femicide and trafficking for sexual exploitation, which may be linked to the trucking business in the area.

He added that youth groups, community dialogue groups, and 'nyumba kumi' initiatives have been instrumental in raising awareness about child abuse in the community.

Wafula also noted that reporting abuses has been hindered by uncooperative parents due to a lack of awareness and inadequate reporting channels, often compounded by insufficient resources for those responsible for protecting children.

Masese Kennedy, Chair of the Law

Society of Kenya (LSK) in Naivasha, assured that cases involving children are given priority in the courts on a first-come basis to render justice to the minors.

He mentioned that LSK has also provided free legal services to children from low-income backgrounds and continues to engage with the judiciary to establish more courts, including mobile courts in Gilgil and Mai Mahiu, to better serve those in need.

"More funding is necessary to sup-

port the judiciary and implement the establishment of additional courts so citizens can access legal services promptly," Masese added.

He also noted that, thanks to engagement with the judiciary, no fees are currently required for filing children's matters, alleviating financial burdens for many parents and guardians.



Children take part in a sensitization exercise organized by various partners seeking to curb the abuse of children and women at Karagita informal settlement in Naivasha during the marking of Judiciary Children's Month commemorated in November.

Dear Me



Dear me, I see you there,
Heart worn yet full, strong and bare,
Born in shadows, humble and small,
You climbed alone, against the wall.

Through sleepless nights, long and cold,
With only dreams and grit to hold,
You marched on when funds ran thin,

With courage stitched deep within.

When voices doubted, cruel and loud,
And shadows lingered like a shroud,
You held your ground, though weary
eyed,
Kept faith alive, and hope beside.

To all those days of silent tears,
To fears that grew with passing years,
I honor you—your strength, your fight,
Your will to reach the faintest light.

Dear me, you rose above the fray,
Pressed through when there seemed no
way,
So here's to you, for all you've done,
You walked alone, and yet—you won.

(Evans Asikoya, the poet)

I Breathe Not By Even A Whisper



My arm now cold in my death
My victor fades as I go
My glory that rest in a two-hour mass
As the living bore just for a respect

I rest my sweetly rest
Gently deck in my tomb
Up my grave as they plant roses
But all alone in my death
I be laid upon the rested best
In my breast i rest
To go between the stars and clouds

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
Weeping Onion

In the place where my remains are in the
hallowed ground
In silence i gather here
Around the spirits of the dead

Here in silence i weep
Having freedom from my unchecked world
Not able to hear all their sacred tributes
Only that i slept like a warrior

Main Problems In Translation Of Parcelled Compounds



By: Kurbanova Nasiba Sobir

In translation, it is a bit difficult to translate without losing the expressiveness of the meaning, and the use of parcellation units is the most alternative way.

However, various problems can be encountered during the translation process. The meaning of alternatives often depends on the context, but it is also important to consult a dictionary. It is not allowed to approximate the meaning of the words in the translation.

The translator must know the word and its meaning well or find them in the dictionary. Otherwise, it is inevitable that the translator will fall into the trap of "False Friends of the translator". As we noted above, finding an equivalent that partially corresponds to the original word often creates a problem in translation. Such words are usually considered polysemantic, that is, they have multiple meanings. Determining which word meaning is used is the first task of the translator.

In this case, the language phenomenon that prevents the translator from getting lost and choosing the wrong words is the context. In linguistics, there are usually two types of context – linguistic and extralinguistic. Determining which word meaning is used is the first task of the

translator. In this case, the language phenomenon that prevents the translator from getting lost and choosing the wrong words is the context.

In linguistics, there are usually two types of context – linguistic and extralinguistic. Linguistic context, in turn, is divided into two types – broad and narrow contexts. A context in a narrow sense can include a phrase and a sentence, and a context in a broad sense can include a unit larger than a phrase and a whole text. In most cases, the meaning of a word is defined within a small context.

Words used in their own sense and words used in a figurative sense have their own characteristics of translation. A translation problem arises when the words are not used in the context, i.e. figuratively.

In some cases, we need to understand a whole sentence in order to fully understand the meaning of a word.

Kurbanova Nasiba Sobirovna is a Doctoral student of the Foreign Languages Faculty of JDFU

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

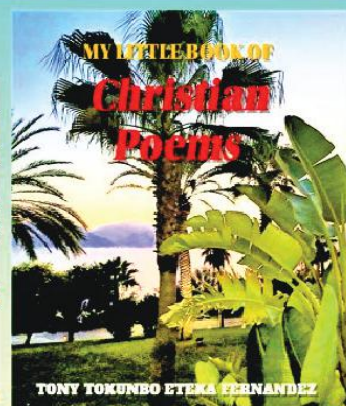
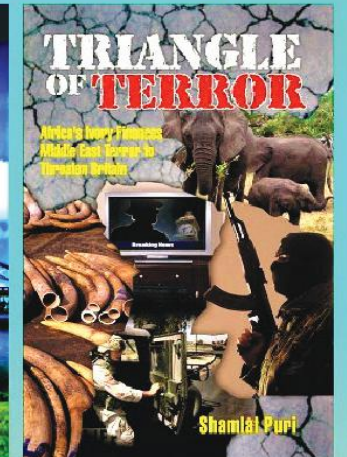
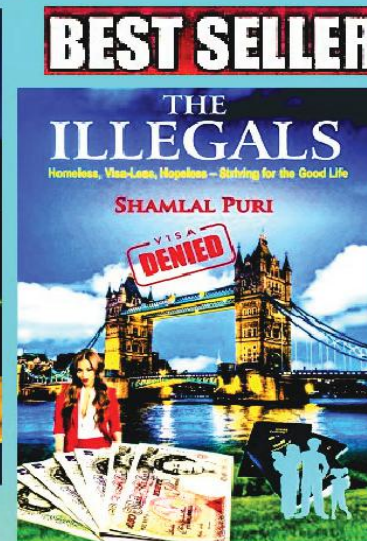
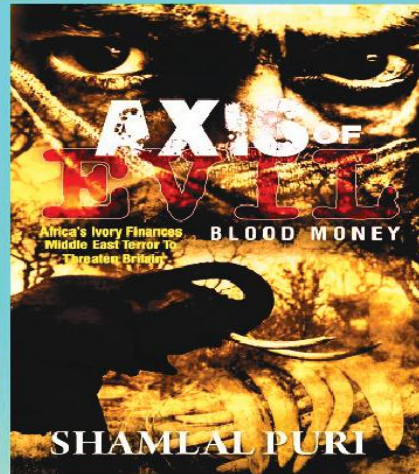
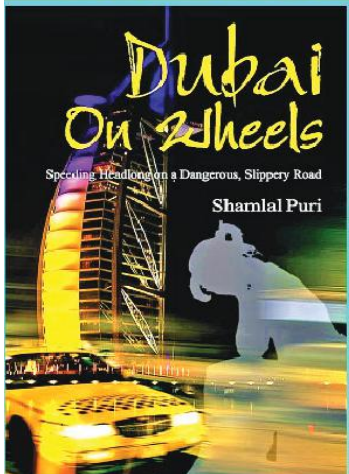
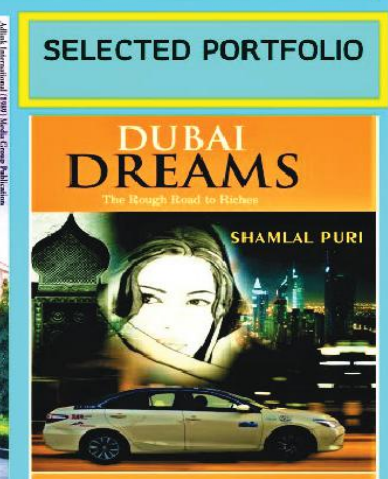
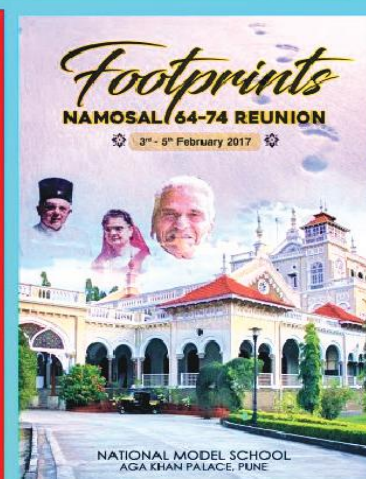
ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FACTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
Books Division
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)
Tel: 44 330 606 1438
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com

DEAF COMMUNITY

Africa Conference On Deafness Comes To Kenya As Government Prioritizes Disability Inclusion



By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- “Article 54 ensures equality, access, and inclusion, while the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) oversees efforts to safeguard these rights. The Persons with Disabilities Act No. 14 of 2003 established the NCPWD to advocate for the empowerment and well-being of this community in Kenya.” He said.
- He highlighted targeted economic empowerment programs that support persons with disabilities.
- “In the Financial Year 2023/24, the government connected 574 Self-Help Groups to funding resources like the UWEZO Fund and Youth Enterprise Fund. Additionally, 30 disability-owned businesses benefited from the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme, while 57 beneficiaries received start-up kits through the Tools of Trade program in fields such as catering, automotive engineering, and beauty.” Mwaura stated.

Government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura has announced that Kenya will host the Africa Conference on Deafness 2024 from November 27-29, a milestone event aimed at advancing the rights, empowerment, and inclusion of Deaf persons and those with disabilities across the continent.

The conference, to be held in Nairobi, will gather policymakers, advocates, and community leaders to address challenges and opportunities in disability inclusion, in alignment with this year’s International Day of Persons with Disabilities theme, “Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future.”

Mwaura emphasized Kenya’s commitment to disability rights, noting that the Kenyan Constitution enshrines protections for persons with disabilities.

“Article 54 ensures equality, access, and inclusion, while the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) oversees efforts to safeguard these rights. The Persons with Disabilities Act No. 14 of 2003 established the NCPWD to advocate for the empowerment and well-being of this community in Kenya.” He said.

He highlighted targeted economic empowerment programs that support persons with disabilities.

“In the Financial Year 2023/24, the government connected 574 Self-Help Groups to funding resources like the UWEZO Fund and Youth Enterprise Fund. Additionally, 30 disability-owned businesses benefited from the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme, while 57 beneficiaries received start-up kits through the Tools of Trade program in fields such as catering, automotive engineering, and beauty.” Mwaura stated.

In support of accessible education, he mentioned that the government has upgraded infrastructure and equipment at six learning institutions to improve enrolment and quality. Further, 2,232 learners with disabilities have received scholarships, and cash transfers have been extended to 65,291 households caring for persons with severe disabilities.

“The government has also distributed over 4,000 assistive devices, including wheelchairs and hearing aids, through the Mobility and Orientation Training Programme, helping individuals like James Kirigo regain



The Government Spokesperson, Isaac Mwaura at the Kenya Society for Deaf Children where he launched the upcoming Africa Conference on Deafness, set to take place from 27th-29th November in Nairobi.

independence after receiving a prosthetic limb.” Remarkd Mwaura.

Additionally, he pointed out several programs addressing specific needs within the disability community.

“The Albinism Support Programme provides sunscreen, cancer screenings, and eye care, benefitting over 5,000 individuals. Another program supports persons with autism and other developmental disabilities, providing therapy and essential medical supplies to thousands.” He added.

On the Affordable Housing Program (AHP), he said that it aims to offer accessible housing for persons with disabilities through universal design standards and a reserved percentage of units for vulnerable groups, highlighting that the program allows for gradual ownership through rent-to-own schemes, while the Housing Fund offers low-interest loans to help overcome economic barriers to homeownership.

In healthcare, the government is enhancing access to specialized services through universal health coverage tailored to persons with disabilities, partnering with healthcare providers to deliver rehabilitative care and preventive health services. To ensure accessible communication, the government has adopted inclusive practices across agencies.

“The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties recently launched a PWD



In picture, the Government Spokesperson, Dr. Isaac Mwaura at the Kenya Society for Deaf Children where he launched the upcoming Africa Conference on Deafness..

Training manual in braille, while the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) has trained 354 public officers in Sign Language to improve service delivery for the Deaf community.” Mwaura highlighted.

In conclusion, he insisted that the Kenya Sign Language Bill 2023 further underscores the government’s dedication to inclusive communica-

tion, mandating the promotion and development of Kenyan Sign Language in education, legal proceedings, and public spaces and invited stakeholders from across Africa to join in advancing policies and strategies for inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment, urging everyone to promote inclusion and build a sustainable future for all.

The Increasing Danger Faced by Journalists Globally: A Call for Protection



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

Journalists play a crucial role in shaping society, holding governments, corporations, and individuals accountable for their actions. Their work often exposes corruption, human rights abuses, and other forms of injustice, providing a critical service to democracy and public interest. Yet, over recent years, the profession has become increasingly dangerous, with journalists being killed, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared at alarming rates.

In regions where authoritarian regimes or powerful cartels rule, journalists are systematically targeted for their efforts to bring the truth to light. While the causes of these killings vary, the underlying motive is the same: silencing voices that threaten the power structures or criminal networks.

Reasons Journalists Are Killed

Political Influence and State-Sponsored Violence

In many countries, journalists are seen as threats to political elites. Investigations into corruption, election fraud, or human rights violations can lead to state-sponsored violence against reporters. Regimes wishing to maintain their grip on power may eliminate journalists to prevent the exposure of their oppressive tactics. This is particularly common in countries with weak rule of law and little to no press freedom.

Organized Crime and Cartels

Journalists who investigate drug trafficking, human trafficking, or other forms of organized crime are often targeted by cartels. In countries like Mexico, where drug cartels hold enormous power, the assassination of journalists who report on cartel operations is common. These criminal organizations view the press as a threat to their business and eliminate those who seek to expose them.

War and Conflict Zones

Journalists covering war zones or conflict areas are highly vulnerable. In the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Asia, reporters have been kidnapped, bombed, or shot by both government forces and insurgent groups. In such regions, media workers are often caught in the crossfire, but they are also directly targeted when their work reveals war crimes or the suffering of civilian populations.

Exposing Corruption and Economic Crimes

Investigative journalists who uncover corruption in government contracts, misuse of public funds, or corporate wrongdoing frequently face retribution. Their work threatens the financial interests of powerful individuals, and as a result, many of them are silenced through violence.

Religious and Cultural Intolerance



Jamal Khashoggi (Saudi Arabia, 2018).

In some societies, journalists who challenge religious, cultural, or societal norms are seen as agitators. Stories that tackle controversial issues, such as women's rights, LGBT rights, or sectarian violence, have led to the targeting of reporters by extremist groups or intolerant communities.

Notable Journalists Who Have Been Killed or Are Missing

Middle East

Jamal Khashoggi (Saudi Arabia, 2018): A Saudi journalist and columnist for The Washington Post, Khashoggi was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. His murder is widely believed to have been ordered by the Saudi government due to his criticism of the kingdom's leadership.

Marie Colvin (Syria, 2012): A veteran American journalist working for The Sunday Times, Colvin was killed in an artillery strike in Syria while covering the civil war. Her work exposed the brutal realities of the conflict.

Shireen Abu Akleh (Palestine, 2022): A prominent Palestinian-American journalist with Al Jazeera, Shireen was shot and killed while reporting on an Israeli military raid in the West Bank. Her death sparked international outrage, with many accusing Israeli forces of targeting her.

Africa:

Norbert Zongo (Burkina Faso, 1998): A Burkinabé investigative journalist, Zongo was assassinated while investigating the murder of the driver of the president's brother. His death triggered massive protests, calling for justice and press freedom.

Deyda Hydara (The Gambia, 2004): Co-founder and editor of *The Point*

newspaper, Hydara was a vocal critic of then-President Yahya Jammeh. He was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen, a crime that remains unsolved.

Ahmed Hussein-Suale (Ghana, 2019): A Ghanaian journalist who exposed corruption in the country's football association, Hussein-Suale was gunned down after his work led to the banning of key officials. His murder was linked to a public call by a lawmaker for retribution.

Latin America:

Javier Valdez Cárdenas (Mexico, 2017): An award-winning Mexican journalist and founder of *Ríodoce*, Valdez covered drug trafficking and organized crime. He was shot dead in broad daylight, a killing widely attributed to his reporting on drug cartels.

Miroslava Breach (Mexico, 2017): Known for her fearless reporting on the connection between politics and organized crime, Breach was shot and killed outside her home. Her assassination is one of many cases in Mexico where journalists are killed for exposing cartel-related corruption.

Europe:

Daphne Caruana Galizia (Malta, 2017): A Maltese investigative journalist, Galizia was killed by a car bomb. She had been investigating corruption at the highest levels of government, including cases involving Malta's ruling elite.

Anna Politkovskaya (Russia, 2006): Known for her critical coverage of the Russian government and the Chechen war, Politkovskaya was shot dead in her Moscow apartment building. Her murder is widely believed to have been orchestrated due to her work exposing

human rights abuses.

The Need for Greater Protection

The rising danger for journalists is a global issue that requires urgent attention. Press freedom organizations, international bodies, and governments need to collaborate to create safer environments for journalists to work in. This includes stronger protections under international law, more robust mechanisms for prosecuting those responsible for targeting journalists, and better security training for those reporting in dangerous environments.

At the national level, countries must prioritize the protection of journalists as an essential component of democracy. Governments should enact laws that protect whistleblowers and investigative reporters while holding those who threaten them accountable. When journalists are silenced, society loses the ability to access the truth, leading to a breakdown in trust, accountability, and transparency.

Conclusion

Journalism is essential for the healthy functioning of democracies and the protection of human rights. However, the increasing threats against journalists must be addressed before the profession becomes too dangerous to pursue. It is the duty of global institutions and national governments to ensure that journalists can work without fear of violence or retribution. Only by doing so can we preserve the vital role that journalists play in society.

Worth Noting:

- Journalists who investigate drug trafficking, human trafficking, or other forms of organized crime are often targeted by cartels. In countries like Mexico, where drug cartels hold enormous power, the assassination of journalists who report on cartel operations is common. These criminal organizations view the press as a threat to their business and eliminate those who seek to expose them.

- Journalists covering war zones or conflict areas are highly vulnerable. In the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Asia, reporters have been kidnapped, bombed, or shot by both government forces and insurgent groups. In such regions, media workers are often caught in the crossfire, but they are also directly targeted when their work reveals war crimes or the suffering of civilian populations.

Judicial Innovation In Constitutional Remedies: A Critical Analysis Of Article 23 Discretion And The Quest For Effective Relief



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The doctrine of constitutional avoidance, while important in its own right, has often been misapplied to justify remedial timidity. In *Kenya Human Rights Commission v Communications Authority of Kenya & 4 others* [2018] eKLR, the court's reluctance to grant immediate relief based on this doctrine resulted in the continued violation of privacy rights, demonstrating how procedural conservatism can undermine substantive constitutional protection. The judiciary must recognize that effective remedial crafting often requires bold intervention at early stages of constitutional litigation.
- The concept of participatory remedies, where affected parties are involved in the design and implementation of constitutional relief, represents an underutilized innovation in Kenyan constitutional jurisprudence.

The constitutional promise of effective remedies stands as a cornerstone of our transformative constitutional architecture, yet the actualization of this promise through Article 23 has often fallen short of its transformative potential. The judiciary's approach to remedial crafting has oscillated between timid restraint and bold innovation, creating a jurisprudential landscape marked by inconsistency and missed opportunities.

This doctrinal incoherence has often rendered constitutional litigation exercises in futility, where even meritorious claims succumb to the twin challenges of mootness and temporal irrelevance. The imperative for innovative remedy crafting, therefore, emerges not merely as a judicial preference but as a constitutional necessity anchored in the principles of effective redress and substantive justice.

The foundational challenge in remedial jurisprudence lies in the persistent adherence to traditional common law remedies, despite the explicit constitutional mandate for innovative and effective relief under Article 23. In the landmark case of *Katiba Institute v President's Delivery Unit & 3 others* [2019] eKLR, the court's reluctance to grant anticipatory remedies resulted in the continued implementation of unconstitutional policies, effectively rendering the subsequent judgment pyrrhic.

This conservative approach stands in stark contrast to the bold remedial creativity displayed in *Trusted Society of Human Rights Alliance v Mumo Matemu & 5 others* [2012] eKLR, where the court crafted a novel supervisory order that ensured the effective implementation of constitutional values in public appointments.

The temporal dimension of constitutional remedies presents a particularly vexing challenge, where the judiciary's hesitation to grant interim relief often results in the perpetuation of constitutional violations. The case of *Law Society of Kenya v Cabinet Secretary for Information Communication & Technology* [2020] eKLR illuminates this dilemma, where the court's delayed intervention in addressing digital rights violations allowed irreparable harm to occur despite the eventual finding of unconstitutionality. This pattern of remedial inadequacy underscores the urgent need for a more proactive and time-sensitive approach to constitutional remedies, one that recognizes the often irreversible nature of constitutional violations.

The concept of structural interdicts,

while sporadically employed in Kenyan jurisprudence, represents a powerful tool for ensuring the effective implementation of constitutional remedies. In *Mitu-Bell Welfare Society v Attorney General & 2 others* [2021] eKLR, the court's innovative use of supervisory orders and reporting requirements demonstrated the transformative potential of structural remedies in addressing systemic constitutional violations.

The judiciary's willingness to maintain oversight through continuing mandamus orders in this case stands as a testament to the effectiveness of creative remedial crafting in ensuring meaningful constitutional compliance.

The principle of effective remedy, enshrined in international human rights law and incorporated through Article 2(6) of the Constitution, demands a more robust and innovative approach to remedial crafting. The judiciary's inconsistent application of this principle, as evidenced in *Communications Authority of Kenya v Royal Media Services Limited & 5 others* [2018] eKLR, where the court declined to grant provisional measures despite clear evidence of irreparable harm, highlights the gap between constitutional promise and judicial practice. This disconnect necessitates a fundamental reimagining of remedial powers under Article 23, one that embraces the full spectrum of available remedial tools.

The doctrine of constitutional avoidance, while important in its own right, has often been misapplied to justify remedial timidity. In *Kenya Human Rights Commission v Communications Authority of Kenya & 4 others* [2018] eKLR, the court's reluctance to grant immediate relief based on this doctrine resulted in the continued violation of privacy rights, demonstrating how procedural conservatism can undermine substantive constitutional protection. The judiciary must recognize that effective remedial crafting often requires bold intervention at early stages of constitutional litigation.

The concept of participatory remedies, where affected parties are involved in the design and implementation of constitutional relief, represents an underutilized innovation in Kenyan constitutional jurisprudence. The successful application of this approach in *Okiya Omtatah Okoiti v Nairobi Metropolitan Services & 3 others* [2020] eKLR demonstrates how inclusive remedy crafting can enhance both the effectiveness and



legitimacy of constitutional orders. This participatory model offers a promising framework for addressing complex constitutional violations that require nuanced and context-sensitive solutions.

The imperative of preventive remedies, particularly in cases involving fundamental rights violations, demands greater judicial attention. The court's approach in *Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) v Inspector-General of Police & 5 others* [2021] eKLR, where preemptive relief was granted to prevent systematic human rights violations, exemplifies the type of bold remedial crafting required under Article 23. This preventive approach aligns with the constitution's transformative agenda and its emphasis on proactive rights protection.

The principle of effective relief requires courts to consider not only the immediate resolution of constitutional violations but also the broader institutional reforms necessary for preventing future breaches. The mixed record of Kenyan courts in crafting such comprehensive remedies, as seen in various public interest litigation cases, points to the need for a more systematic approach to remedial design. This approach must balance immediate relief with long-term institutional reform, ensuring that constitutional remedies serve both corrective and deterrent functions.

The challenge of remedy implementation presents another critical dimension requiring innovative judicial approaches. The experience in *Coalition for Reform and Democracy (CORD) & 2 others v Republic of Kenya & 10 others* [2015] eKLR demonstrates how even well-crafted remedies can falter without effective implementation mechanisms. Courts must therefore incorporate monitoring and enforcement mechanisms into their remedial orders, ensuring that constitutional relief translates into practical change.

The concept of cascading remedies, where relief is structured in phases to address both immediate and sys-

temic aspects of constitutional violations, offers a promising framework for effective remedy crafting. This approach, while demanding greater judicial engagement, ensures that constitutional relief remains responsive to evolving circumstances while maintaining pressure for meaningful reform. The judiciary's occasional success with this model suggests its potential for broader application.

The principle of remedial flexibility, which allows courts to modify and adapt their orders based on implementation experience, represents another crucial innovation in constitutional remedy crafting. This approach recognizes the dynamic nature of constitutional violations and the need for responsive judicial intervention. The successful application of this principle in several public interest cases demonstrates its value in ensuring the continued effectiveness of constitutional remedies.

The imperative of timely intervention requires courts to develop expedited procedures for urgent constitutional matters. The judiciary's inconsistent track record in this regard, particularly in cases involving time-sensitive rights violations, highlights the need for standardized protocols for emergency relief. Such protocols must balance the need for thorough consideration with the imperative of preventing irreparable constitutional harm.

The development of coherent remedial principles requires courts to move beyond case-by-case determination toward a more systematic approach to constitutional relief. This approach must be grounded in the transformative vision of the constitution while remaining responsive to practical implementation challenges. The judiciary's role in this endeavor is not merely to resolve disputes but to craft remedies that give life to constitutional values and ensure their practical realization in the lives of citizens.

The writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Donald Trump's Win; Does It Have Any Impact To Kenya?

By Abraham Ong'uti

The United States as one of the super power nations in the world, its election was followed worldwide closely as keenly. The race was tight between the 45th president Donald Trump and the incumbent vice president Kamala Harris but eventually Trump won it with 279 Electoral College votes. Trump will take leadership from the Democrats to the Republic and will clearly results to a change in policy style. Despite to any change that may be expected, according to Ambassador Macharia Kamau much will not change regardless change in regimes.

This year Kenya celebrated 60 years of good diplomatic relations it has had with the United States. President William Ruto congratulated President Trump after a wait

and see. Ruto has been a close ally of President Joe Biden since taking office culminated in May having a historical four day visit to the US, White House to celebrate the advanced relations between United States and Kenya. Not only the visit but the two countries signed deals concerning education, green energy, security and governance. The visit also made Kenya designated as a non-NATO ally.

President Donald Trump during his 2017-2021 tenure, he introduced a focus on Prosper Africa initiative which was meant to broaden US companies and investments. During this year campaign Donald Trump used a slogan, 'Make America Great Again' which he mostly advocates for nationalistic domestic agenda. He intends also to put tariffs on imports and also deport all illegal

migrants in America. Consequently, Kenya has been benefiting from the Africa Growth Opportunity that allows exports of duty-free particular goods to the United States. Also US have assisted Kenya greatly on security against the Al-Shabaab attacks.

With Trump it means many policies will also change. The implementation of bilateral deals that Kenya agreed with US may also change. Also some key policies between the nations, Trump may need to renegotiate them. A number of countries in Africa that collaborate well with China may also be a concern to him, when recalled while Trump was the 45th President termed China has having a 'Predatory economics' in Africa.

According to Treasury CS, John Mbadi states that economic and eco-



conomic engagements between Kenya and US will not be impaired in any way despite the political transition. "If you look at the American policy, it usually doesn't change much whether the White House is won by a Republican or a Democrat.

"The policy around Africa, policy around economic engagement, usually remains stable, so I don't expect any significant shift," CS Mbadi

promises Kenyans.

Trump's government will be one keenly watched on its policies, United States with it's economy affecting the world's economy either directly or indirectly.

Communication and Journalism Student at Rongo University.

The Tawe Revolution: Natembeya's Bold Challenge to Western Kenya's Political Status Quo

Governor George Natembeya's "Tawe" movement has ignited a firestorm of debate in Western Kenya, challenging decades of entrenched political norms. His call for a new era of accountable leadership and community-focused development has resonated with many, while unsettling the established political order.

Natembeya's background as a seasoned administrator, including his role as Rift Valley Regional Commissioner, lends credibility to his critique of the current leadership. His firsthand experience with the region's challenges informs his vision for change, which emphasizes tangible results over political rhetoric. This practical approach is evident in his implementation of performance contracts for county officials in Trans Nzoia, aimed at improving service delivery and curbing corruption⁴.

The governor's focus on food security, education, and healthcare improvements underscores his commitment to addressing the region's pressing needs. Natembeya has been vocal about the need for change, stating, "The time has come to say 'no' firmly. No to poverty, no to poor leadership. We must be clear and decisive in our pursuit of a better life and better governance"⁷. He argues that lack of honesty is the root cause of struggles in the Western region and urges citizens to make the right decisions for a better future.

However, Natembeya's confrontation-

al style has drawn criticism. His public rebuke of established leaders like Moses Wetang'ula and Musalia Mudavadi has created rifts within the Luhya political elite⁸. Critics argue that his approach may further fragment the community rather than unite it. Some, like Kilifi North MP Owen Baya, have accused him of being power-hungry and using unethical means to dominate the region³.

Despite these criticisms, the "Tawe" movement's call for rejecting negative aspects of political culture resonates with many who are tired of poverty and unfulfilled promises. Natembeya's emphasis on honesty and integrity in leadership strikes a chord with those seeking genuine change. He has declared himself a self-made leader, stating, "I am a self-made leader. I have worked hard to where I'm today, and I will not worship or clap for leaders who call themselves kingpins and have done nothing for our community"³.

The governor's critique extends to the proliferation of small political parties in the region, which he argues has weakened the Luhya community's political strength. He calls for unity among Western leaders and the formation of a strong political vehicle to advance the community's interests³. This call for unity, however, is complicated by the existing political landscape and the entrenched interests of established leaders.

As the movement gains traction, it faces the challenge of translating its ideals into concrete political action. The true test of Natembeya's leadership will be his ability to build coalitions, implement his vision, and deliver measurable improvements to the lives of Western Kenya's residents. His initiatives in Trans Nzoia, such as the introduction of cashless payment systems for revenue collection and the setting of ambitious revenue targets, demonstrate his commitment to tangible results⁴.

The "Tawe" movement represents a critical juncture for Western Kenya's political future. It has the potential to transform not only Trans Nzoia but the entire region. As the Leader of Minority at the Trans Nzoia County Assembly, Eric Wafula, noted, "We need leaders who are willing to stand up for what is right and not just follow the status quo. This is a call for change"⁷.

However, the path forward is not without obstacles. The clash between Natembeya's supporters and those of Wetang'ula during a funeral in Gose-ta, Trans Nzoia County, highlights the tensions that exist within the region's political landscape⁸. These incidents underscore the challenges Natembeya faces in uniting the community while challenging the established order.

The governor's vision extends beyond mere political reorganization. He sees the "Tawe" movement as a catalyst for



Governor George Natembeya.

economic empowerment and social progress. Natembeya argues that the Luhya community has been held back by poverty and irresponsible leadership for too long, and he criticizes leaders who use their political parties to trade the community's voting power for personal gain rather than working towards the betterment of the people.

As the movement continues to gain momentum, it will be interesting to see how it shapes the political landscape of Western Kenya and whether it can truly bring about the change it promises. The success of the "Tawe" movement could have far-reaching implications for Kenyan politics as a whole, potentially serving as a model for other regions seeking to challenge entrenched political systems.

In conclusion, while Natembeya's methods may be divisive, his message is clear: the Luhya community needs a new political paradigm. Whether he succeeds in bringing about this change remains to be seen, but his willingness to challenge the established order is a positive step towards a more dynamic and responsive political landscape in Western Kenya. As Natembeya himself stated, "Even if you suffer today, let the generation that comes after us not suffer"⁷. This sentiment encapsulates the aspirational nature of the "Tawe" movement and its potential to reshape the future of Western Kenya's politics.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and Communication Practitioner.

Inside Kenya's Police Brutality Epidemic As A Culture Of Impunity

In a nation where the cries for justice echo in the streets, the harsh reality of police brutality looms large.



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themkenyatimes



Police Brutality

Worth Noting:

- The streets of Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu, once vibrant with life, now tremble under the heavy boots of officers more interested in oppression than protection. The narrative has twisted into a tragic comedy where police are the protagonists of brutality while the citizens play the roles of mere collateral damage. Yet, amidst the chaos, we are left to ponder: how did we arrive at this juncture?
- The answer lies in a toxic cocktail of impunity, corruption, and a failure of leadership. In 2018, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) called for urgent reforms, citing rampant cases of abuse. However, instead of accountability, the response has been a deafening silence from the powers that be, allowing the brutality to fester like an untreated wound.

If you think you're tired of hearing the same lamentations about police brutality, welcome to the harsh reality of Kenya's law enforcement saga. Gone are the days when we believed our police force was our protector; instead, we are confronted with the chilling truth of a systemic epidemic where violence reigns, and justice is a distant dream.

The grim reports pour in like clockwork: extrajudicial killings, brutal beatings, and harassment paint a dark picture of a police force meant to serve and protect, but instead, they prey on the very citizens they vowed to safeguard. The statistics are staggering and unnerving. According to Human Rights Watch, between 2017 and 2020, more than 200 people died at the hands of the police in Kenya. These aren't just numbers; they represent lives cut short, families shattered, and communities left in mourning.

Imagine a mother, once filled with hopes and dreams for her child, now faced with the grim reality of a child lost to a stray bullet or a police baton. The cold comfort of statistics becomes a heart-wrenching reality when you realize that many of these victims were unarmed and innocent.

The pain doesn't stop there. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights reported in 2021 that 50% of Kenyans fear the police more than they fear criminals. This irony is a paradox we live with daily: those who should be the shield against violence have become the weapon of choice for brutality.

The streets of Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu, once vibrant with life, now tremble under the heavy boots of officers more interested in oppression than protection. The narrative has twisted into a tragic comedy where police are the protagonists of brutality while the citizens play the roles of mere collateral damage. Yet, amidst the chaos, we are left to ponder: how did we arrive at this juncture?

The answer lies in a toxic cocktail of impunity, corruption, and a failure of leadership. In 2018, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) called for urgent reforms, citing rampant cases of abuse. However, instead of accountability, the response has been a deafening silence from the powers that be, allowing the brutality to fester like an untreated wound. The irony is striking: while the government preaches reform, the reality is that perpetrators walk free, emboldened by a system that turns a blind eye to their transgressions.

The case of the late George Floyd in the United States ignited global protests against police violence, yet in Kenya, the flames of discontent are often extinguished before they can even spark. In 2020, the death of 19-year-old Yassin Moyo, who was shot in the back while fleeing police during a curfew, sparked outrage. Yet, where was the accountability? Instead of addressing the brutality, police spokespersons offered euphemisms, labeling the incident an "unfortunate misunderstanding." Such

rhetoric, designed to minimize the horror of state violence, only serves to deepen the wounds and perpetuate a cycle of mistrust.

Let's not forget the sheer irony of our government's attempts at community policing. While they preach collaboration and dialogue, the reality is a far cry from their lofty ideals. The notion of "engagement" is merely a facade, masking a culture steeped in violence and coercion. Community policing should foster relationships built on trust, yet the rampant abuse only drives a wedge between the police and the very citizens they are meant to serve.

In the face of this brutality, brave souls rise to challenge the status quo. Activists, human rights defenders, and ordinary citizens are rallying for change, demanding accountability from a system that thrives on impunity. Movements like #EndPoliceBrutalityKE are not merely social media hashtags; they represent a collective cry for justice in a landscape marred by violence.

The youth of Kenya, once marginalized, are now at the forefront of this movement, wielding their phones as weapons against oppression and shining a light on the dark corners of our society. Yet, amidst this glimmer of hope, the question lingers: will change ever come? The road to reform is often paved with resistance, as entrenched interests fiercely guard their power.

The establishment clings to the status quo, using fear as a tool to silence dissent. But we must re-

member that change is born out of struggle. The fight against police brutality is not just about the present; it is about reclaiming our future, a future where every Kenyan can walk freely without the fear of harassment or violence.

As we confront the bitter truth of police brutality in Kenya, let us not forget the lives lost, the families torn apart, and the communities forever changed. It is our collective responsibility to hold our leaders accountable, to demand transparency and reform, and to stand in solidarity with those who suffer at the hands of a brutal system.

The echoes of justice must ring louder than the silence of complicity, and together, we can dismantle the culture of impunity that has plagued our nation for far too long. This fight requires courage, resilience, and unwavering determination. We must continue to raise our voices, to march, to protest, and to demand change.

Our democracy depends on our ability to confront the harsh truths and forge a path towards justice for all. Together, we can break the chains of brutality and build a society where every Kenyan can live in peace, dignity, and freedom. The time for change is now, and it begins with us.

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

Kenya Partners With Thailand To Promote Mechanized Farming

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyatimes

Kenya is teaming up with the Royal Government of Thailand to enhance food production through the use of simple, mechanised farming practices.

Through this partnership, farmers are being trained to use the Farming Utility Vehicle (FUV), a versatile "walking tractor" that's already improving agriculture in 17 African countries.

"Even the farmers are saying they would prefer the walking tractor over the bigger tractor because it provides jobs for everyone. A big tractor eliminates 20 to 30 jobs, but the walking tractor helps create employment and boosts the economy," said Shannon Lee Ferry, an advisor from the Federation of Thai Industries and one of the officials training farmers on the use of the equipment.

This affordable, easy-to-repair

equipment is a game changer, creating opportunities for youth and small-scale farmers by making farming more efficient and accessible.

The 12.5 horsepower single-stroke diesel engine equipment "This machine can be used for land preparation, water pumping, and even transporting goods. It's an inexpensive way for young people to earn money, and it helps keep them in their communities rather than migrating to cities looking for jobs." said Shannon Lee Ferry.

"It's an inexpensive way to earn money for young people. Once the youth adopt this project, they will see that going to the city to look for jobs is quite not feasible," he added.

Kenya School of Agriculture is also working with the Thai Government to introduce new technologies that will increase food production and tackle unemployment.

"We highly recommend this equipment to youth. They can make good money from it by preparing land for others." – Pauline Njagi, Kenya School of Agriculture Deputy Direc-



Shannon Lee Ferry, an advisor from the Federation of Thai Industries, trains students from the Kenya School of Agriculture on operating the walking tractor.

tor. Njagi noted that with the ever-increasing threat of land fragmentation in densely populated areas, especially

in Central Kenya, there is a need for more research on new income-earning programmes that could create employment for young Kenyans who cannot find paid work.

This partnership aims to create a lasting impact on food security and climate resilience in Kenya.

Archbishop Muheria Criticizes SHIF, Accuses Gov't Of Ignoring Plight Of Kenyans

By: Citizen Reporter

Nyeri Diocese Archbishop Anthony Muheria has accused the government of being out of touch with the plight of Kenyans.

Speaking in Nyeri at the canonisation mass of Father Joseph Aramano, Muheria took a swipe at the government for making policies with no regard to how they would affect the poor.

"We are competing in showing power; our leaders are thinking way too much about their image and their future and not thinking about the image of the poor," he said.

Bishop Muheria took issue with the rollout of the Social Health Authority (SHA), which he says has made it difficult for Kenyans to access health services.

"With the shift of NHIF to SHIF, we don't seem to have had that thought of the sick, people who die because they can't get services," Muheria noted.

He has called on the government to exercise humility and empathy when formulating policies and to take a moment to reflect on how the policies impact Kenyans.

"We must learn humility, especially in leadership," said the Bishop.

Nyeri Diocese Archbishop Anthony Muheria.



SPORTS
NEWSPHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *Israeli, Dutch and European leaders on Friday condemned "anti-Semitic" clashes that erupted in Amsterdam overnight after a Europa League football match, with Israel sending rescue planes for their citizens.

Leaders Condemn 'Anti-Semitic' Football Clashes In Amsterdam



A man wearing an Israeli flag stands to address the press in the center of Amsterdam, on November 8, 2024. An Israeli plane sent to bring home football fans from Amsterdam after clashes in the Dutch city took off from Ben Gurion airport on November 8, 2024, the Israel Airports Authority said. (Photo by Remko de Waal / ANP / AFP).

Israeli, Dutch and European leaders on Friday condemned "anti-Semitic" clashes that erupted in Amsterdam overnight after a Europa League football match, with Israel sending rescue planes for their citizens.

The violence flared after the game between home team Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv that Ajax won 5-0.

Five people were hospitalised and 62 arrests were made as a result of the clashes, police said.

"In several places in the city, supporters were attacked, abused and pelted with fireworks. Riot police had to intervene several times, protect Israeli supporters and escort them to hotels," said Amsterdam officials.

As fans of both teams gathered in Amsterdam for Thursday's match, police said were on alert and monitoring several incidents including the tearing down of a Palestinian flag from a building.

Social media platforms were flooded with unverified images purported to be of the violence, but confirmed details of the clashes were few.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog condemned the clashes and said

the "shocking images" of a "pogrom" were reminiscent of last year's Hamas attack on Israel.

"We see with horror this morning, the shocking images and videos that since October 7th, we had hoped never to see again: an antisemitic pogrom currently taking place against Maccabi Tel Aviv fans and Israeli citizens in the heart of Amsterdam, Netherlands," Herzog said on X.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered two planes be sent to the Netherlands to bring the Israeli fans home.

The first plane took off from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv heading for Amsterdam on Friday.

- 'Horror' -

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof denounced the "completely unacceptable anti-Semitic attacks on Israelis".

"I followed with horror the coverage from Amsterdam," Schoof wrote on X, adding that he had spoken with Netanyahu to assure him that "the perpetrators will be tracked down and prosecuted".

Netanyahu's office said he told Schoof that he "views the pre-

meditated anti-Semitic attack against Israeli citizens with utmost seriousness and requested increased security for the Jewish community in the Netherlands", his office said.

Dutch authorities said they would hold a press conference at 1100 GMT.

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen said she was "outraged" by "vile attacks targeting Israeli citizens in Amsterdam".

"I strongly condemn these unacceptable acts," von der Leyen wrote on X.

"Anti-Semitism has absolutely no place in Europe. And we are determined to fight all forms of hatred," she added.

The United Nations meanwhile called the violence "very troubling" while Germany foreign minister Annalena Baerbock said it was "terrible" and "deeply shameful".

AT5 reported that numerous fights, as well as acts of vandalism, had occurred in the city centre.

"A large number of mobile unit vehicles are present and reinforcements have also been called in," it reported. "Young people

also allegedly provoked the police".

Unverified video on social media purportedly filmed on Thursday appeared to show some Maccabi fans chanting in Hebrew: "Finish the Arabs! We're going to win!"

The Israeli embassy in the United States said "hundreds" of Maccabi fans were "ambushed and attacked in Amsterdam tonight as they left the stadium following a game".

In its post on X, the embassy blamed the incident on a "mob who targeted innocent Israelis".

Israeli authorities urged their citizens in Amsterdam to stay in their hotels and avoid showing Israeli or Jewish symbols if they do go outside.

The army said it was coordinating a "rescue mission" with cargo aircraft and medical and rescue teams.

Israel's new foreign minister Gideon Saar said in a statement that he had requested the Dutch government's assistance in ensuring Israeli citizens' safe exit from their hotels to the airport to take the rescue flights.

A pro-Palestinian rally against the Israeli football club's visit was initially scheduled to take place near the stadium on Thursday, but was relocated by Amsterdam city council for security reasons.

In another potential flashpoint linked to football, France are scheduled to face Israel in an international match at the Stade de France in Paris next Thursday.

The French government said on Friday the match would go ahead as planned.

The violence in Amsterdam took place with anti-Israeli sentiment and reported anti-Semitic acts across the world soaring as Israel wages wars against Iran-backed militants in Lebanon and in Gaza, which have seen massive civilian casualties.

AFP

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Clashes in Amsterdam following the Europa League match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv demonstrate Israeli football's unique position. Here's what you need to know.

Why Does Israel Play In European Football Leagues?



Israel's football team has been the focus of attention in recent months.

By: Stefan Nestler

Clashes in Amsterdam following the Europa League match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv demonstrate Israeli football's unique position. Here's what you need to know.

Where exactly is Israel?

Israel is a nation in the Levant, the Mediterranean region connecting Africa to Asia. Just like the neighboring nations of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan and parts of Egypt, it's geographically in the Middle East.

Shouldn't Israeli teams play in Asian competitions then?

The state of Israel was founded in 1948 in the wake of the Holocaust and World War II. The Israeli Football Association (IFA) was founded in the same year. The IFA emerged from the Football Association of Palestine, where both

Arab and Jewish clubs were represented under the British mandate. In 1956, the IFA joined the Asian football confederation (AFC) – a logical decision, at least geographically.

Israel proved largely successful at the Asian Cup, finishing second in 1956 and 1960 and winning the tournament as hosts in 1964. Israel were meant to host the 1972 edition as well, but had to withdraw.

Why is Israel in UEFA?

Since joining the AFC in 1956, countries from the Arab and Muslim world frequently refused to play against Israel. Turkey, Indonesia and Sudan all refused to play Israel in qualifiers for the 1958 World Cup. In 1974, Israel was expelled from the AFC via a resolution put forward by Kuwait. Seventeen member states voted for it, with 13 against, and six abstaining.

Israel's national football team was cast into exile, and could only participate in FIFA competitions — or with special allowance — in qualifying tournaments at other continental confederations. From 1976 to 1994, Israeli club teams participated in the Intertoto Cup, a European summer competition financed by the betting industry.

In 1991, UEFA allowed the Israeli national team to compete under the European association's umbrella. From 1992 on, Israeli clubs also played in UEFA competitions. By 1994, UEFA had made Israel a full member, instead of just an associate member.

What about in other sports?

Similarly to football, Israeli athletes initially participated in Asian competitions. Israeli athletes won 53 medals – 18 of them gold – from 1954 to 1974 at the Asian Games. In 1962, hosts Indonesia refused to allow Israel to com-

pete, arguing this would damage its relationship with Arab states. In 1978, Israel was finally barred from the Asian Games.

Israel doesn't just take part in European competitions in football. In sports like basketball, handball, athletics and swimming, Israel is a member of European associations. Calls to expel Israel for political reasons from global associations or to boycott them from participating in major sporting events have grown of late.

This much was made clear ahead of the 2024 Olympics in Paris, as well as by the Palestinian football association's attempt to suspend Israel from FIFA. Athletes and teams have also continued to decline to play against Israel.

This article was translated from German.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS
SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Meet An Multi-Talented Award Winning Liberian



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themkenyatimes

Briefly tell us who you are and more about you.

Poet, novelist, teacher by profession, and devout Christian, Gabriel S. Weah, alias “Lyrical Genius,” is an eminently multi-talented Liberian award-winning writer who learned his writing career through dreams. Lyrical Genius, as he is commonly called, hails from Sinoe County, Liberia, and was born unto the union of Mr. and Mrs. Weah. Gabriel S. Weah from the Land of Liberty is the author of six books: three poetry collections, two novels, and a novel. He has co-authored over thirty international published books, including the World Guinness Book of Record-Hyperpoem Project. Gabriel S. Weah was shortlisted among the first 101 international English-speaking Saino writers in the world, invented in the Republic of Nepal by Mr. Khemlal Pokhrel on March 25, 2020, according to Motivational Stripes, the world’s most visited literary platform. He is also one of the many writers to be featured triple in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th international poetry anthem videos translated into 72 languages.

What motivated you to become who you are now?

First, writing wasn’t my dream, and I never thought I could be one. Growing up, particularly at age 13, I had a dream, and I saw taught by a strange man. Even back then, I didn’t know what I was writing or had thought. After I graduated from high school—this was 2018, this same strange man came and thought me. Again, I didn’t know what I was writing or being thought. But before I woke up, he said, “Go and use what you have been thinking and educate others.” With this being said, my thirst for writing grew. Effectively 2020, I penned down my first poem titled Life and Death.

I didn’t know what I did was even poetry. It was a lady from Nigeria that told me.

What does your ideal day look like?

As a writer, the absence of books makes me yearn. I love reading and doing research. Almost every day I write. This brings me joy. Besides, meeting new writers, local and international, has not only made my day; hence, it has empowered me on a gradual process.

What is the favorite aspect of your work?

Writing is not just about inspiration; rather, when you write, it should speak to the soul and should touch you, the writer, including your audience. With this being said, I most often write for the voiceless, the brokenhearted, and those affecting my country, Liberia, and the world at large. The favorite aspect of my work is that you do not just read it and pass. This is because of the reality it carries and the imagery used, including the poetic devices. Some writers write to impress, but as for me, I write to express. This is who I am.

What is the hardest part of what you do?

Writing is not easy. This is the real reality. I am from a country, Liberia, where a preponderance of the youths do not love to read, including degree earners. And because of this, writers do not make any good sum of money from their label. This year I wrote five books: two poetry collections, two novellas, and a novel. But because of financial support, I have not been able to publish them. Sometimes my parents give up. They complain that writing in Liberia is free. Despite the passion I have, writing needs support. The hardest part of my writing career is financial support. This year I have been nominated for an international award in the Philippines, but I cannot go because of the lack of finance. Last year I had award programs in Nigeria and India. Again, because of the lack of finance, I have to let it go.

Have you ever incurred challenges in your work? Please tell

us about it.

Yes. Not all writers are editors. I am a writer, but I am not an editor. Even though I speak English, this does not mean I am a professional editor. Most time after writing, I sent my works out to a few trusted writers to critique, including editors. Unless it is an emergency, it’s when I write and edit it myself and then send.

How do you foster yourself to keep moving?

Writing is my passion. In fact, my blood. I know what I want to achieve from writing. And because I know, I keep motivating myself that I can make it. Positivism is not what you preach; it’s what you speculate and practicalize. A writer is like a president. Many are hoping on them. And with this built mindset, I have always told myself that I can make it. Even if thousands went and failed, my story is different. I can make it. Life is bittersweet. Starting as a writer might be hard, but with determination, perseverance, and dedication, I can make it. I don’t care what people say. Success isn’t a serendipity; it’s what you work toward and hope to achieve.

Do you advertise your work? If yes. Tell us how it has helped you.

Yes. Over the past years, I have used social media, specifically Facebook, to advertise my works. And to admit, it has helped me greatly. Through posting my works on Facebook, I was given a scholarship to study life coaching and mentoring. Through posting my works on Facebook, I was connected with international great writers. Through posting my works on Facebook, people whom I thought I would never talk with became my friends. Through posting my work on Facebook, people have admired it and sent me money. Through posting my works on Facebook, my first book, TEARS OF STRUGGLE, was financially supported and published in 2022 by a writer who works in the United States. There are so many to count.

What advice would you like to give someone who wants to be like you?

To all those who want to be like



me, I would like to encourage you to keep doing what you are doing. Don’t allow anyone to discourage you. Even if your writings are not perfect, do not stop. There is time for everything. Today you might not be perfect, but tomorrow, I tell you, you can still make great history. But remember this: to be like me means you should be dedicated to not only writing but also reading and doing research. You need to do these things. It will help increase your knowledge and persistence for tomorrow’s legacy. Dedication, persistence, obedience, and the fear of the Lord are the formulas that I am using. So, apply it and see your reward.

Given a chance, what impact would you bring to the world, nation, and yourself?

If I am given the chance, my impact will be for writers to partake in the world’s Olympic competition. Writers are artists. They deserve everything good. For my nation, Liberia, since reading is a serious problem, if I am given the chance, I will organize a reading competition, a writing competition, and the President Book Critique Awards for emerging and accomplished writers. As for myself, my greatest dream is to someday win the Noble Laureate Prize for Literature and to have my country’s name on the world map. Thank you!