



The Gig Economy: How Can East African Youths Position Themselves?

In recent years, the gig economy has transformed the global labor market, introducing flexible, short-term contracts and freelancing as viable alternatives to traditional employment. With its youthful population, growing digital infrastructure, and strong entrepreneurial culture, East Africa is well-positioned to tap into the opportunities of this new economic model.

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News>> Tunisia Businessmen In Mombasa In Search Of Partnerships

P. 8. Representatives of 15 business companies from the Republic of Tunisia are in Kenya for a two-day Tunisia-Kenya business forum to explore opportunities for partnerships and boost commerce.



News>> Government Urged To Set Aside Market Spaces For Organic Produce

P. 12. The Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association of Kenya has appealed to the government to set aside organic market spaces in sub counties where farmers can sell their organic produce.

Gachagua: I Regret Trusting Ruto

⚡ **Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said only regrets his unquestionable faith in President William Ruto, terming his dealings with him “as a Christian” had taught him a painful lesson.**

Speaking on Saturday, Gachagua said whatever Ruto told him, he took it as the truth and acted blindly. Given a second chance, Gachagua said he would strictly deal with the President as a politician.

“The only regret I have is that I dealt with President Ruto as a Christian. I trusted him, I believed in him. Whatever he told me, I took it as the truth and acted blindly,” Gachagua told NTV.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

KETEPA PRIDE
Cinnamon: A spicy delight
Cardamom: Spice of life
Masala Tea: Blend of delicious spices
Ginger Tea: A zingy and tasty treat

CHAI NI KETEPA

Gov't Seeking Other PPP Models For Projects After Adani Exit

By: PSCU



Worth Noting:

- Funyula MP, Wilberforce Oundo, emphasized that a majority of Kenyans now favor public-private partnership (PPP) models, citing the successful completion of the Nairobi Expressway as a prime example.
- However, he argued that projects like the modernization of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) present challenges that might make them unsuitable for PPP models under certain circumstances.



Principal Secretary for the State Department of the National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo.

The National Treasury is exploring alternative Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to finance the country's mega infrastructure projects following the cancellation of Adani Group-led initiatives for the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO). Principal Secretary for the State Department of the National Treasury, Dr. Chris Kiptoo stated that the country's fiscal position is untenable, making it impractical to finance key infrastructure projects like the upgrading and modernization of JKIA through the national budget. He emphasized that taxpayers are already burdened by the current tax regime. Appearing before the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee (PAC) yesterday, Dr. Kiptoo highlighted the urgent need for JKIA's modernization. He noted that the airport, designed in 1978 to handle 5-7 million passengers

annually, is now managing over 10 million passengers, straining its capacity and functionality as East Africa's primary aviation hub. "JKIA, when it was built and designed, was meant to handle about 5-7 million passengers. Today, as the East African hub, it is handling in excess of 10 million passengers. Therefore, it is in dire need of upgrading and modernization to accommodate these numbers," Dr. Kiptoo told MPs. The PS explained that the amount required for such a significant project cannot be raised through the national budget. "The only viable way to finance this is through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Since Kenyans have rejected the Adani Group, we will need to identify a partner with better ideas and options to execute the project, not necessarily Adani," he added. The PS had appeared before the Butere



National Assembly Public Accounts Committee .

MP Tindi Mwale led-committee to respond to and address the Auditor General's report for the financial year ending June 30, 2022, concerning the State Department for the National Treasury. Funyula MP, Wilberforce Oundo, emphasized that a majority of Kenyans now favor public-private partnership (PPP) models, citing the successful completion of the Nairobi Expressway as a prime example. However, he argued that projects like the modernization of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) present challenges that might make them unsuitable for PPP models under certain circumstances. "PPP is the way to go when it comes to financing mega projects, given the limited and constrained fiscal space our country is currently facing," Dr. Oundo stated. He underlined the necessity of PPP models to bridge the gap between ambitious infrastructure goals and the reality of strained public resources. On his part, Bura MP, Yakub Adow, also voiced support for PPPs but stressed the critical need for transparency and public engagement in their implementation. He stressed the importance of conducting thorough public participation to educate citizens, ensuring legitimacy and

widespread acceptance of such partnerships. "The National Treasury must involve the public sufficiently to enlighten the masses and secure legitimacy for these projects. If these deals are shrouded in secrecy, as was perceived in the case of the Adani Group's proposals for JKIA and KETRACO, it will be disastrous," Adow warned. Chepalungu MP Victor Koech-Mandazi also agreed that while PPPs represent a viable path forward for financing large-scale projects in Kenya, the government must adopt a transparent, inclusive approach to avoid public mistrust and opposition. According to Koech, it state should ensure that all agreements align with the interests of the nation and address concerns raised by all stakeholders. "If executed properly, PPPs, can play a transformative role in advancing Kenya's infrastructure agenda without overburdening taxpayers. However, success hinges on transparency, accountability, and meaningful public engagement at every stage of the process," Koech stated.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



State Department for Mining has intensified its fight against illegal mining activities in Taita Taveta County, with Director of Mines Gregory Kituku currently leading the charge of conducting an inspection visit to the region. Kituku directed that ongoing illegal mining operations by two companies, Universal Exploration Limited and Apple Mining Group, should both stop their activities. Speaking at a mining site owned by Universal Exploration Limited, Kituku revealed that the company had been engaging in illegal iron ore mining, despite having its operations suspended a year ago by the Regional Mining Officer.



Tana Water Works Development Agency Board of Directors led by the new chairman Mukundi Wambugu alias Temuwa and top management officials, led by Chief Executive Officer Eng. Philip Gichuki yesterday toured the leading Water and Sanitation Service provider; Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (Nyewasco). The visit included the Kangemi Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Kamakwa Water Treatment Plant, where the Board gained valuable insights into the operations and infrastructure supporting water and sanitation services in the region. The engagements reaffirms the agency’s commitment to improving water supply and sanitation coverage, ensuring a better future for our communities. They were hosted by the service provider officials led by the Managing Director Eng. Peter Kahuthu.

Three criminals who have been waylaying members of the public and robbing them valuables along Kisumu - Nairobi road near CFAO center have been arrested by undercover officers drawn from Kasagam Police Station. Oblivious of a sting operation to end their reign of terror, the trio who were part of a five-man gang pounced on the officers using an array of crude weapons, too late to realize they had carried the wrong weapons in a battle of guns. Outsmarted, three of the five obeyed orders to surrender, dropping their weapons as the other two scooted off like terrified warthogs. The latter, having been identified, are being hotly pursued amidst calls to surrender at the Kasagam station. The arrested, Elly Omondi Oyugi, 22 and Isaac Ochieng, 22 have been placed in custody pending arraignment while Wesley John Oyugi, 27, is in hospital undergoing treatment.



The Ministry of Health is taking a significant step in advancing Kenya’s digital health infrastructure. As part of the Digital Health Act No. 15 of 2023, the Ministry has launched a public participation process to shape the regulations that will govern the implementation of digital health solutions across the country. These regulations aim to create a secure, efficient, and integrated health system that will contribute to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all Kenyans. These regulations will address vital areas, including secure data exchange for sharing health information, setting standards for e-health technologies to improve health-care delivery, and ensuring the protection of patient privacy in health information management. During the internal stakeholder engagement at Afya House, Dr. Patrick Amoth, Director General for Health, emphasized the importance of public participation stating that a transparent and inclusive approach is essential to creating a system that meets the diverse needs of Kenyans.



Amagoro acting chief Joel Omachar in Busia County has issued a stern warning to parents, whose children are fond of roaming in the evenings instead of helping them with house chores. Addressing mourners during the burial service of Rev. Evelyn Amuruon, the wife to Maranatha Amagoro Church Bishop Moses Onyapidi at Amagoro Polytechnic, Omachar said youths have taken the law in their own hands by roaming in late hours, which is becoming unbearable. Omachar also raised concerns over the increase in defilement cases in his location, especially among school children with married men involved in such macabre acts.



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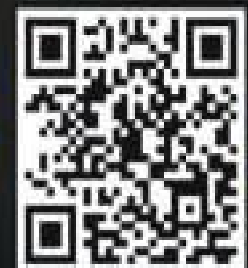
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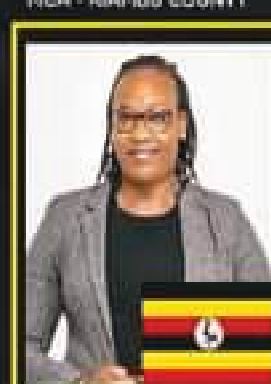
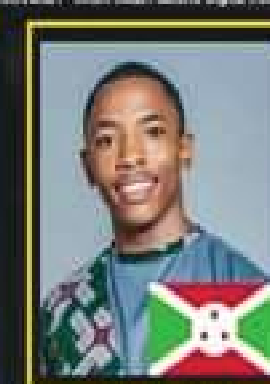
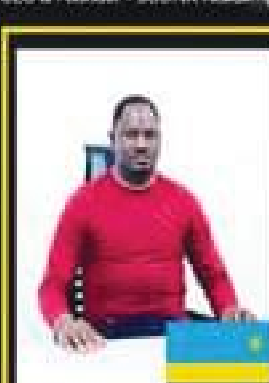
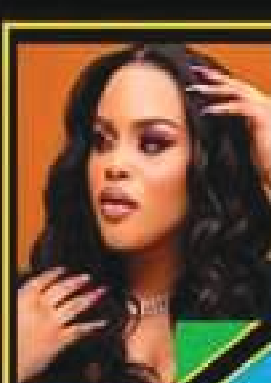
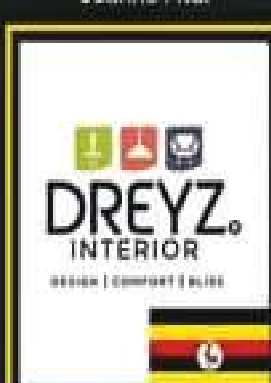
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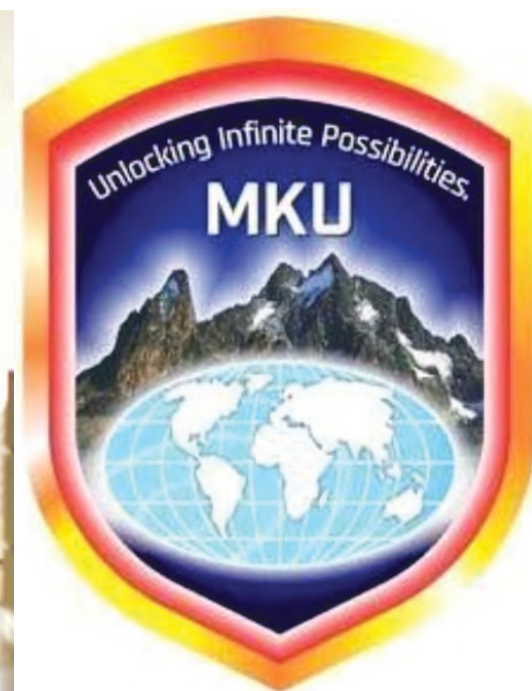
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MKU Emerges Top 3 In New Rankings Ahead Of The 26th Graduation Ceremony

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The university continues to implement different policies and strategies to enhance access and affordable quality education to all people in Africa and beyond.
- One of the key methodologies by the ranking was "assess the impact of universities in addressing some of the toughest challenges faced in the region" where MKU has notably invested in state-of -the-art facilities such as the institute of tropical medicine which fosters research towards cross cutting diseases affecting the region.



Mount Kenya University (MKU) has been graded among the Top Three institutions in the Times Higher Education Sub-Saharan Africa University Ranking as it sets to celebrate the 26th graduation ceremony on Friday.

More than 7,000 graduands are expected to graduate in a ceremony presided over by the university Chancellor, Prof John Struthers and guest speaker, Amb Eunice Kigenyi, Deputy High commissioner, Uganda High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya.

The graduation fete is themed "Internationalization of University Education towards Development of a Competitive Global Workforce."

The Thika town headquartered institution has been categorized as position three out of the 15 Kenyan ranked universities that met the requirements to be considered in the exercise, emerging top among the academic giants.

Times Higher Education Sub-Saharan ranking featured 129 universities from 22 countries in the region.

Regionally, the institution was ranked number 32 out of 129 Sub-Saharan universities stamping its recognition regionally as a top academic destination university.

Times Higher Education Ranking is a globally recognised ranking that runs several strategic rankings that recognizes the best performing universities in different disciplines.

The university continues to implement different policies and strategies to enhance access and affordable quality education to all people in Africa and beyond.

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ed in state-of -the-art facilities such as the institute of tropical medicine which fosters research towards cross cutting diseases affecting the region.

At the Center for Malaria Elimination MKU acquired the Illumina NextSeq 1000 machine, the first next-generation sequencer to be owned by an educational institution in Kenya.

This cutting-edge, high-throughput platform places MKU at the forefront of genomic research, uniquely equipped to tackle critical health challenges. The sequencer machine is utilized in cancer research, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) studies, and the investigation of infectious tropical diseases.

MKU has created a seamless relationship between teaching and research leading to employable graduates and recognition of researchers such as Dr. Joyce Gikandi by National Research

Fund. "Our students are making ground breaking innovations and have been featured in key innovations such as Huawei IT challenge, Zindigi Challenge, AI Hackathon Competition, Ayute Challenge amongst others," the university said in a statement.

MKU underscored its commitment to transformative research. As the only university in Kenya with such advanced capabilities, we prioritize impactful research while fostering collaborations with key strategic partners such as JICA, UNESCO- KNATCOM, UN Volunteers, among others.

Embu university was ranked first, followed by Strathmore.

Other top ten universities were; in order of merit, USIU, Kibabii, Murang'a, Kabarak, Karatina, UoN and Kabianga.

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Tunisia Businessmen In Mombasa In Search Of Partnerships

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Representatives of 15 business companies from the Republic of Tunisia are in Kenya for a two-day Tunisia-Kenya business forum to explore opportunities for partnerships and boost commerce.

Tunisian ambassador to Kenya Anouar Ben Youssef is leading the Tunisian trade delegation that is in the country for the first time in Mombasa, to mark a milestone of the co-operation between the two nations.

Speaking at the start of the conference, Youssef said that the choice to bring the Tunisian economic delegation to Mombasa is motivated by the potential of the coastal city, as an important seaport in East Africa that is a gateway to many East African countries.

He noted that the city also registers a good performance in the essential infrastructure indicators plus being the centre of the coastal tourism circuit in Kenya

The envoy added that the economies of Tunisia and Kenya are highly com-

plementary as Tunisia has a comparative advantage among others in the construction, electrical and mechanical materials, health services, pharmaceutical products, textile industry and agri-food business especially olive oil.

He said Kenya also has many comparative advantages especially in sectors like tea, coffee, flowers, tourism, health services and information technology.

The Ambassador reiterated that through the expanded economic co-operation, the two countries' economic relations will reach a new height adding they will embrace a brighter future on a win-win basis.

"Tunisia has been a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) since 2018 and in addition has ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) treaty, and with Kenya being a major and key player, especially in COMESA, we can join efforts and explore the available business opportunities for the two countries," he said.

He added that Tunisia is impressed by the economic progress made by Kenya, which has been illustrated by sustained growth over the past years,



stability and international openness, which has enabled Kenya to attract foreign investment and a great momentum of modernisation of economic activities, notably through the increasing digitalization of economic operations.

The Director of the Office of the Tunisian Export Promotion Centre in Nairobi, Walid Moussa, said that they are in Kenya to enhance cooperation between Kenya and Tunisia to connect companies together for business.

Moussa said that the best companies in Tunisia are in Kenya to connect with clients and Kenyan companies

to enhance foreign exchange and to develop the two countries.

The Chairman, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) Abud Jamal said that the mandate of the chamber is to create linkages and partnerships across the world for businesspeople to build lasting business relations.

He noted that the engagement has brought up meaningful cooperation, and many opportunities are available for businesspeople from Kenya and Tunisia.

"We welcome the delegation, and we are also in talks with the Tunisia

Embassy to have a delegation from Kenya visit Tunisia to hold talks and cement those partnerships.

He said that goods will be subjected to reduced barriers and good market prices since the stakeholders will have interacted and tackled some of the hurdles affecting exports.

Jamal noted that on matters of investment, all sectors will be tackled with the delegation that is to travel to Tunisia to grasp knowledge in technology and capacity building and share it among the business community.

Beware: Land Cartels Issuing Forged Title Deeds

By: The DCI

The DCI is cautioning land owners especially those in upscale suburbs of the Capital city of an organized criminal ring that is targeting their parcels of land with a view to obtain hefty sums of money using forged documents.

To lower the risk of early detection and go whole hog with their fraudulence, the cartel's main target are the land owners entering into joint ventures with developers.

The criminal enterprise sets in at a time when developers are approaching individuals with underdeveloped parcels of land, where the two parties agree on profitable terms for the development of the land. More often than not, the agreement will require the land owner to obtain certificates of lease, which has become the soft spot for the fraudsters.

In one recent incident involving a Pumwani-based resident, the victim could have lost his two parcels of

land had a keen developer not sought the services of a thorough city advocate. He (the victim), however, lost Sh 553,550 to the cartel that posed as staff at the Nairobi County Lands Registry.

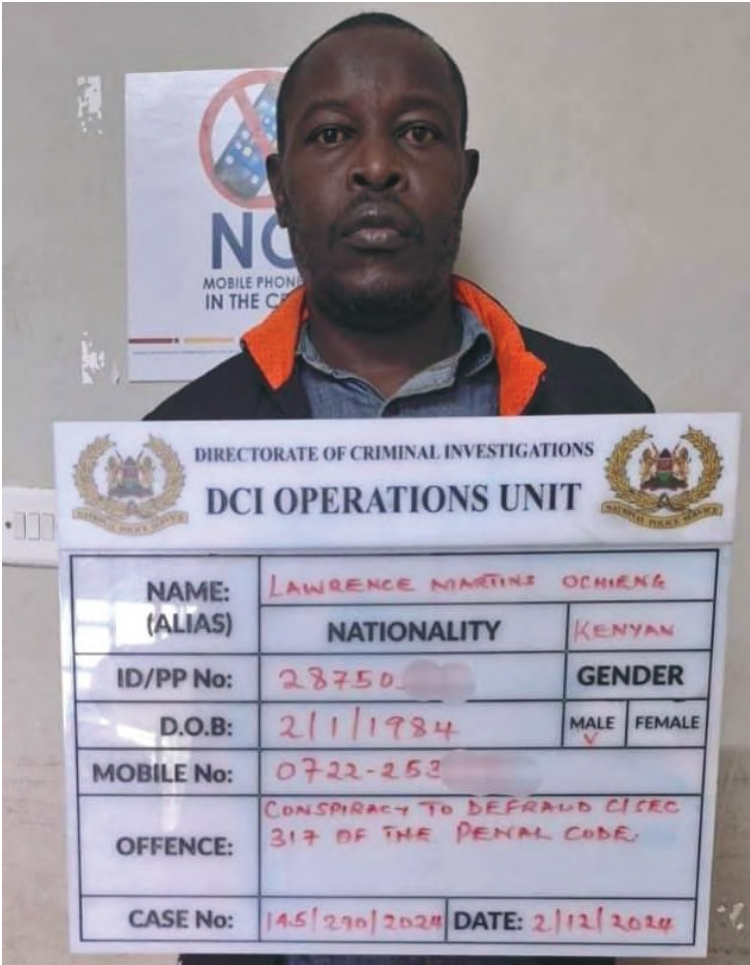
One suspect, Lawrence Martin Ochieng, who approached the victim with a promise to get him certificates of lease for both parcels of land was arrested and arraigned at Milimani Law Courts yesterday after his gang issued the victim with forged documents and obtained the stated amount of money.

Notably, most of the suspects implicated in the case are renowned gold scammers, who have taken a break from that field and are testing the waters on this illicit venture.

Luckily, they have been identified and the DCI Operations team is hot on their heels.

Even as probe into this grand scheme continues, land owners are cautioned to ensure due diligence whenever dealing with any land-related matters, given the emotive nature of land issues that often trigger regrettable consequences.

One suspect, Lawrence Martin Ochieng



I Regret Trusting Ruto: Gachagua’s Post-Impeachment Assessment

By: Sharon Resian
@themkenyatimes

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has said only regrets his unquestionable faith in President William Ruto, terming his dealings with him “as a Christian” had taught him a painful lesson.

Speaking, Gachagua said whatever Ruto told him, he took it as the truth and acted blindly. Given a second chance, Gachagua said he would strictly deal with the President as a politician.

“The only regret I have is that I dealt with President Ruto as a Christian. I trusted him, I believed in him. Whatever he told me, I took it as the truth and acted blindly,” Gachagua told NTV.

Gachagua said he now understands why former President Uhuru Kenyatta campaigned against President Ruto in the 2022 presidential contest.

The former Mathira lawmaker said he had come to realization of President Ruto’s “true identity” and soon he will tell Kenyans who he is.

He attributed the fallout to his opposition to some of the projects he considered harmful.

“I am happy Ruto has come to confirm the many negative things Uhuru used to tell us about his deputy, then I used to doubt the issues raised but not any longer,” he said.

“He has given me an opportunity to serve, deal with him and know him better and moving forward I will ensure Kenyans will get to know who he is,” Gachagua said.

The former DP vowed not to repeat his mistakes.

Life after October 18

Gachagua became first Deputy President in Kenya to be impeached.

The 59-year-old politician, popularly known as “Riggy G,” was convicted by the Senate, which upheld five charges out of eleven levelled against him by Kibwezi West MP Mwengi Mutuse.

Gachagua had denied multiple charges including corruption, practicing ethnically divisive politics, and undermining the President.

The former DP now said he engages in family and recreational activities



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

since the events of his impeachment on October 18, 2024.

He said he has enough time to read books and listen to country music and also more time to spent with his wife, Pastor Dorcas, and also visit friends.

“I have had a lot of time to read, listen to country music, spend time with my wife, and visit friends, to exercise and have time to reach out to people out of the country which I did not have enough time there before,” Gachagua said.

Wamuchomba’s Bravery And Courage Celebrated

By: John Waithaka
@themkenyatimes

Githunguri Member of Parliament, Gathoni Wamuchomba, is a force to be reckoned with - a lioness in Kenya’s political arena.

Bold, outspoken, and fiercely independent, she embodies resilience and determination, refusing to be anyone’s puppet. Wamuchomba’s unwavering courage to speak her mind and champion causes, no matter the cost, has cemented her as a beacon of boldness in Kenyan politics.

On Saturday, her relentless dedication and fearless leadership were recognized when she was honored with two prestigious awards at the Jamhuri 2024 Awards in Nairobi. Wamuchomba was celebrated as the Best Member of Parliament in Kenya and also as the Best MP in Kiambu County, where her Githunguri constituency is located.

Taking to her X (formerly Twitter) handle, the elated legislator proudly showcased her awards and expressed heartfelt gratitude to her supporters.

“Elated to receive two awards during the Jamhuri Awards last evening: The best MP in Kenya and best in Kiambu County. A win for me is a win for all who follow and support me,” she wrote, brimming with excitement.

Wamuchomba has built a reputation as a fearless advocate for justice, often standing alone to challenge oppressive policies. One notable example is her resolute opposition to the punitive Finance Bill 2024, where she emerged as a lone voice of reason, championing the fight against its oppressive measures. Her unwavering stance earned her the admiration of Kenyans across the political divide.

Known for her outspoken and opinionated nature, Wamuchomba is often referred to as “the last woman standing.” These qualities have not only won her accolades but also the respect and loyalty of her constituents and beyond.

As she continues to rise above political challenges and fight for justice, Wamuchomba’s legacy of courage and leadership shines brightly—a true testament to the power of standing firm for one’s beliefs.

Githunguri Member of Parliament, Gathoni Wamuchomba.



Fire Evacuation Drill Training For Enhanced Safety Preparedness

By: Kenya News Agency

A comprehensive fire evacuation drill training was conducted yesterday at Uchumi House, Nairobi County to ensure that occupants of the building are well-prepared for unforeseen emergency situations.

The drill, which caught many un-awares, focused on familiarizing participants with evacuation routes, emergency exists and the importance of swift action during a fire incident.

This proactive approach aims to enhance safety awareness and reinforce government’s commitment to maintaining a secure working environment for the people.

The building which is owned by the Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), houses the Directorate of Information amongst other government agencies and private offices.

The KDC Deputy Director Human Resource & Administration Carolyn Misoi who spoke on behalf of the



Carolyn Misoi addressing Uchumi House tenants and members of the public outside the building.

company’s management, thanked all the building’s tenants and staff for their cooperation during the exercise.

Misoi explained that fire drills were important since they could happen unexpectedly, and in such moments of crisis, the ability to act swiftly and

without hesitation can make a critical difference.

Furthermore, familiarity with the evacuation process allows one to stay composed under pressure and ensures that we can protect not only ourselves, but also those around us.

Misoi appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of safety champions, the fire marshals and the aiders who ensured that the drills were well-organized and effective.

She also thanked the Nairobi Fire Services department and the Kenya

Police for their prompt response.

The tenants and staff also gained valuable insights into emergency procedures, ensuring that everyone is well equipped to respond effectively in case of a fire incident.



2027 Political Battle Lines



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandonga@yahoo.com



Worth Noting:

- Notably, the re-election of the party that is in power depends on its performance in terms of fulfilling the pre-election promises.
- Having read the histories of political parties in other countries including the advanced democracies, I want to say this without any fear of contradiction. None of the party has ever fulfilled all the promises.
- For UDA, the party has made great strides and so its rating is good. The party leader, President William Ruto, deserves to take the credit.
- Under his stewardship, many Kenyans believe that the party is poised to win the next General Election and form the government.



President William Ruto and Raila Odinga at State House, Nairobi, where he was officially unveiled as Kenya's candidate for the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. [PCS]

Political Parties are formed for single - purpose of contesting the elections with the ultimate goal of winning and forming the government.

In Kenya, President Ruto's United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) are the most popular political parties.

Two days ago, Raila announced that ODM will field a presidential candidate in 2027. Our candidate will be on the ballot. We are soon going to rollout measures aimed at rejuvenating re-vamping our party.

Raila added: My focus is on the race for Africa Union Commission Chairman and I'm confident that I will clinch the seat.

I, however, love Kenya and so this new assignment will not stop me from making my contribution to building a strong and vibrant nation of Kenya.

Raila spoke at a time when ruling UDA was on ground unveiling the Youth-led Comrades Chapters.

Notably, the re-election of the party that is in power depends on its performance in terms of fulfilling the pre-election promises.

Having read the histories of political parties in other countries including the advanced democracies, I want to say this without any fear of contradiction. None of the party has ever fulfilled all the promises.

For UDA, the party has made great strides and so its rating is good. The party leader, President William Ruto, deserves to take the credit.

Under his stewardship, many Kenyans believe that the party is poised to win the next General Election and form the government.

Last weekend, the party is unveiled the South Rift edition bringing the total number of Comrades Chapters launched so far to nine. The exercise started in September.

I think here we need to congratulate Secretary General (SG) Hassan Omar for providing the much needed visionary leadership.

Having previously worked with Omar, I know he has all it takes to steer the UDA party to great heights of success and prosperity.

My close interactions happened during the struggle for constitutional reforms spearheaded by the NCEC/NCA led civil society lobbies'.

Omar replaced former Kakamega Senator Cleophas Malala.

Malala had faced a barrage of accusations including despising members of the secretariat, running the party like his personal property.

I knew Hassan, the former Mombasa senator and 2022 gubernatorial aspirant, with his team has made great strides. This is in terms of breathing a new life to the party whose fortunes had started dwindling due to Malala's poor leadership.

Less than two months, the party has taken a new trajectory with its presence being felt in all parts of country. Hundreds of thousands of new members have enrolled as UDA members. They include those who initially owed their

allegiance to opposition Azimio affiliated political parties.

The ongoing launching of the editions of Comrades Chapters aim at rejuvenating and building a strong political party that is anchored on pillars of good governance. The five main pillars are; democracy, social justice, rule of law, constitutionalism, good governance and sustainable development.

In these forums, the youth have made a raft of proposals.

The two main ones are calling on the party leadership to establish a Youth Academy and the youth to play a central role in the stewardship of the ruling party.

In his response, Hassan has been assuring youth that the party respects their views and it is committed to implement them to the letter and spirit.

This party belongs to you and the only thing you have done is to delegate to us the power to coordinate and organize these forums. So, much of our work is to listen to you, compile the reports and ensure your views are implemented in full.

The UDA Comrade Chapter becomes one of the core fulcrum of our party.

As you are aware, UDA won the elections of 2022 because its leadership believed that the sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya.

The party still believe in these virtues and we want you to become good ambassadors of disseminating this gospel to every village in the republic.

Regarding the youth academy, Hassan would aver. This is a good idea and I

want to promise you this school will be established.

It will offer courses aimed at sharpening the knowledge of youth with the aim of preparing them for servant leadership. Kenyans are yearning for servant leadership. The party leader is walking the talk and we fully support him.

The earlier launch of UDA Western Comrades Chapter took place just a few days after the party hosted a visiting delegation of the top leadership of Chinese Communist Party (CPC), a party that has been at the helm of power for more than 100 years.

CPC officials shared great lessons with their Kenyan counterparts led by Hassan on how to create and form a formidable political party. They also met the party leader, President William Ruto.

The CPC made similar visits during the reign of President Uhuru Kenyatta. A powerful delegation of Jubilee officials led by then Secretary General Raphael Tuju made several visits to China to learn lessons on this. Uhuru, however, left power before his dream came to fruition. Notably, Besides CPC, Africa National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) of Tanzania are other examples of formidable political parties.

President Ruto promised to do things differently. I have no doubt he will succeed.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Social Commentator

Government Urged To Set Aside Market Spaces For Organic Produce

By: MTK Correspondent

@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Omae called upon Agriculture research institutions, such as the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), to always offer feedback to farmers on the research they conduct about farming for them to utilize the findings and knowledge to improve their farming practices.
- Vihiga County Director of Agriculture, Ben Chumba who was present during the forum, said the milestones made in Agroecology in western Kenya comes at an opportune time when Vihiga is finalizing preparation of an Agroecology policy, becoming only the second county after Murang'a to have produced such a document.
- "This policy is geared towards promoting regenerative agriculture, it is about how to replace eucalyptus trees on farms with fruits trees; it's how to regenerate the soil; it's how to consume safe foods," Chumba said.



The Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association of Kenya has appealed to the government to set aside organic market spaces in sub counties where farmers can sell their organic produce.

PELUM-Kenya, Kakamega Zonal Coordinator, Beth Omae said the organic market will enhance traceability of the food consumers purchase, thereby boosting food safety.

"We are not aware where fresh produce in the markets is sourced from; if we have stalls for organic produce, customers will be able to trace the food they consume from where they come from and they would be able to know how they have been produced," she noted.

Omae was speaking during a National Agroecology Farmers forum hosted by Caritas in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega themed 'Agroecology in Action: Voices from the Ground in Solidarity for Resilient Communities'.

The forum brought together more than 1000 farmers from across 400 villages in nine counties in Kenya to celebrate the milestones in agroecology farming.

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"This policy is geared towards promoting regenerative agriculture, it is about how to replace eucalyptus trees on farms with fruits trees; it's how to regenerate the soil; it's how to consume safe foods," Chumba said.

The Agriculture Director noted that Vihiga county government will also address challenges hampering youth involvement in agriculture through the policy, which tackles the loopholes that have seen youth shy away from farming as an enterprise.

"We also want to mentor youth to

venture into these high value enterprises; many youths do not have access to land same as women, now the modern farming technologies do not require land or if it does it requires just a space; so we don't want to teach our children, our women that you have to rely on your clan or your father to give you land in order to do farming. We want you to practice farming from where you are, using the available spaces. We want to discourage our people from thinking that without land you cannot be a farmer," he explained.

Chumba also said that the county government will utilize the church to form cooperatives and common interest groups (CIGs), so that residents can realize economies of scale and be able to access credit and engage in contract farming.

"We realised that bringing farmers together in Western Kenya in cooperatives is a big challenge compared to Central; we have noticed that it is easier for our farmers to come together under the umbrella of a church, than coming together as a cooperative," he added.

The chair of board, Act for Change Trust, Edwin Bunja said the forum

that brought together farmers representing 800 solidarity groups, was a true celebration of the strength of solidarity and their transformative impact in the communities.

"Solidarities are at the heart of our vision, enabling us to come together, overcome challenges and create pathways for resilience and growth.

Solidarity enables us to break barriers of food security, provide women with the time and resources they need to thrive and foster a future where no one is being left behind. Together we are transforming lives, building communities and creating a future filled with hope and opportunities," he explained.

The Chief of Party, Youth and Adolescent Development at UNICEF, Gloria Kaberia, said they are pushing for young people to be involved in agriculture that is sustainable, scalable and one that mitigates climate change.

"It is impressive to see that we are using seeds that are not only amazingly healthy to promote nutritious food outcomes, but also help to ensure that everyone throughout the food chain has something to contribute to the economy," Kaberia noted.

Government To Boost Service Delivery Through Grassroots Outreach

By: MTK Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

The national government is stepping up efforts to improve public service delivery through Huduma Mashinani outreach programmes. The initiative will see Huduma Centers partner with national government administration officers (NGAOs) to bring innovative, seamless and efficient services closer to the people, particularly in rural areas. Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development Justin Muturi, said the outreach programme aims to address the needs of citizens at the grassroots level and ensure they receive quality services with ease. Muturi who was addressing Huduma staff at Kapsabet town yesterday during a tour to assess the level of service delivery to citizens, applauded the programme stating that it would enhance efficiency and accountability in public service despite potential

challenges. “We will keep addressing issues as they arise and continuously improve our service delivery. Huduma Mashinani is about ensuring every Kenyan, no matter their location, can access government services conveniently,” he said. Huduma Kapsabet, which serves approximately 400 people daily, is one of the centres leading the charge. Muturi announced plans to collaborate with Members of Parliament (MPs) through Constituency Development Funds (CDFs) to construct office buildings and that the Government will provide necessary infrastructure to further reduce service delivery time. He emphasised the importance of effective and customer-friendly service delivery saying, “Government exists to serve the people. If you have the privilege to serve, you must give your best. When you serve someone with enthusiasm and compassion, they leave with a smile—a true blessing. We must continue to innovate in the way we deliver services to ensure

greater efficiency,” he said. The Chief Executive Officer of Huduma Kenya, Benjamin Chilumo, urged Huduma Center staff to approach their work with zeal and dedication. “Our goal is to reduce the time it takes to deliver services and ensure every citizen is treated with respect and professionalism. Effective service delivery is at the heart of our mandate,” Chilumo stated. He also encouraged more government institutions to on-board their services to the Huduma Center platform, highlighting that the current 48 centres are working towards meeting the ever-growing demand for efficient services. The collaboration between NGAOs and Huduma Center staff will be critical in ensuring the success of the Mashinani outreach initiative. Both parties are committed to ensuring seamless service delivery in all corners of the country. Muturi pledged to visit all 48 Huduma Centers nationwide to evaluate their operations and identify areas for improvement.



Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development Justin Muturi.

“Our customer satisfaction rates for this quarter have been impressive, but there is always room to do better. Let’s ensure we provide services with a smile and keep innovating for the benefit of the citizens,” he said. As the Huduma Mashinani programme rolls out, Kenyans can expect a significant transformation in how they access government services. This initiative underscores the government’s commitment to making public service delivery more accessible, efficient, and citizen-focused.

Safaricom Business Unveils Revamped 5G Solution For Enhanced Enterprise Connectivity

By: Aoma Keziah
@themtkenyetimes

Safaricom has announced revamped 5G for Business to provide SMEs with faster, more reliable connectivity that supports their growing digital needs, such as real-time collaboration, seamless online transactions, and remote operations. The announcement was made at the ‘Grow with Safaricom Business’ Western Kenya edition, a platform that aims to equip SMEs with knowledge that will enable them scale their businesses through technology. The Western Kenya edition is part of the Sambaza Furaha na Safaricom Caravan. The upgraded 5G for Business will deliver speeds that are five times higher and aims to improve customer experience. Old speeds 10 Mbps upgraded to 50 Mbps at ksh 4,000,



In picture, attendees of the GROW with Safaricom Business being awarded for their participation during the event in Kisumu.

20 Mbps upgraded to 100 Mbps at ksh 5,000 and 50 Mbps upgraded to 250 Mbps at ksh 10,000. “The new 5G for Business will ensure that SMEs can access enterprise-grade internet performance without stretching their budgets.

This will empower them to enhance productivity, improve customer interactions, and scale operations efficiently in today’s increasingly connected marketplace.” said Peter Ndegwa, CEO, Safaricom PLC. Additionally, there will be an offer



Lucille Aveva, Director Customer Obsession, Safaricom PLC addressing the crowd at the GROW with Safaricom Business event in Kisumu

from 29th November to 31st December 2024 where businesses that sign up for the 5G plan will get 25% off all 5G plans. According to the Kenya Institute of Public Policy, Research and Analysis, there are over 7.4 million MS-

MEs, employing approximately 14.9 million Kenyans in various sectors of the economy, generating 30% of the GDP.

Debanjali Adhikary Awarded Karmaveer Chakra Silver Award



Debanjali Adhikary born on 7 June wants to be a scientist and she is an author and world Record holder. She is a poet. She has been honoured with several honours.

She has been awarded with karmaveer chakra silver medal on 26 November 2024. She has written more than 1000 poems till now. Her work is loved by many readers. Karmaveer chakra award is a civilian honour united by incognito and united nations its given to those who have done something for the society that is the changemakers. Debanjali Adhikary is a changemaker and she has ideas for action. She believes in karma and her role model is Dr. APJ ABDUL KALAM AZAD.

She wants to work more on her career

and be a responsible citizen of india. She is a 26 solo book writer and participated in 2000 anthologies till now. She deserves karmaveer chakra award . she has inspired many youngsters till now. She is an inspiration for youth and she is working more on herself and her skills. She read swami Vivekananda quotes which had changed her life. She has also done diploma in painting and since four years age she is painting and she has learned oddishi dance too. She has been working with sankalp NGO last year and educated many students. She is also a social worker and she took out many girls from depression. She is a girl with millions of dreams.

Suhag Sharma

White And Black Cloud



(Fairytale) 🌤️🌧️

Sometimes it is there, sometimes it is not, there is a bunch of clouds in the wide sky. The clouds gathered in groups, they went to the river to bathe in the seas, immersed themselves in the water, splashed each other with water, laughed and had fun, and before leaving, they took the water until it rose. Following each other's footsteps, they rose to the sky and flew towards the deserts towards all the lands. They chased each other, sometimes spread out, sometimes clustered in one place. They were watching the ground from the top, watching the people watching them. Every time they put one or two drops of rain on their faces.

- Come on, let's get tired of our water drops, what are they doing! - they said to each other.

And people look at the clouds:

- Come on, cloud, let it rain! Good for free! - they said.

"Okay," said the clouds.

- Come on, show yourselves! - people said.

"Here, here, here," they said, the clouds collided with each other, Flashed lightning, and rained heavily.

"It's raining, it's raining," they said, running out into the streets and running joyfully under the rain.

Seeing the joy of children and adults, White and Black Clouds quarreled.

- He said that I brought dew and rain, that's why they praise me more, - Black Cloud.

- Why now, I helped you too! said White Cloud.

"Even if you weren't there, I could have done it myself," said Black Cloud.

In this way, two clouds in the sky are

Fighting. Lightning was born from their quarrels. The sky was filled with rumbling voices. The light of the lightning came across the earth.

- Oh, there's lightning! It is necessary to take shelter as soon as possible! Children and adults rushed to enter their homes. Can hurt a bit faster! Saying this, they quickly entered the house and waited for the thunderstorm to pass. After a while, everything calmed down. The weather has also cooled down a lot. At one point, a joyful voice of a child was heard:

- The first snow, the first snow has fallen. I was the first to see... It's snowing! Neighboring children who heard his voice screamed from the windows of their houses.

Soon everyone went out into the street. They are laughing happily in the snow. The stork snow falling from the sky dazzled everyone. Where did the snow come from?

After White and Black Clouds argued, White Cloud showed his strength. The black cloud is pushed aside. His anger made the air even colder. The rain turned into snow. He began to fall to the ground. Thus, the White and Black Clouds shared the same joy with everyone.

Author: 🌈Robiya Chaman

Kashkadarya
Target.

Robiya Jabborova Norkulova.

(Daughter of Robiya Chaman)

She was born on February 13, 1969 in a simple peasant family in the Shirkent neighborhood of Kovchin village, Karshi district, Kashkadarya region.

He worked as a primary education teacher at the 20th school in Nishan district.

Several of his students have been contributing to the development of our country in various professions. "For their contribution to art" by the "Maple leaves" creative union in the city of Shymkent, Republic of Kazakhstan. with the chest medal "For International Services" by the same union Awarded "Chaman Children's Folklore" leader

At the same time, his work was appreciated and he was awarded with a badge named after Abdulhamid Cholpan for his contribution to literature.

Choriyeva Sevinch Chotbori Arts



I was born Choriyeva Sevinch Chotbori daughter on August 11, 2005 in the town of Karashina, Dehkanabad district, Kashkadarya region. Currently, I am a 2nd-year student of pharmaceutics at the Public Health Technical College named after Abu Ali Ibn Sina



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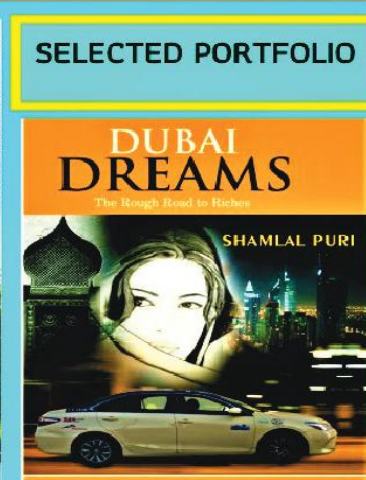
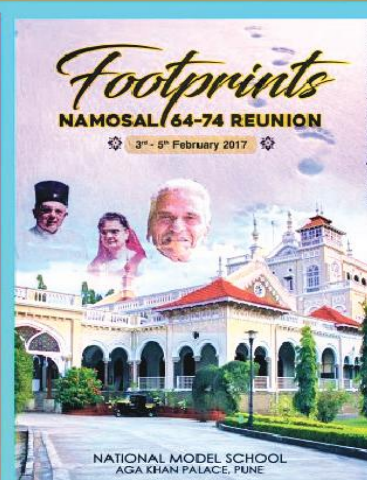
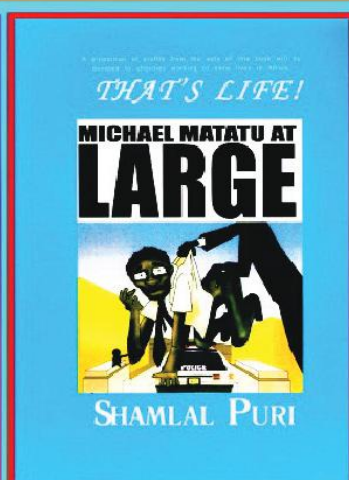
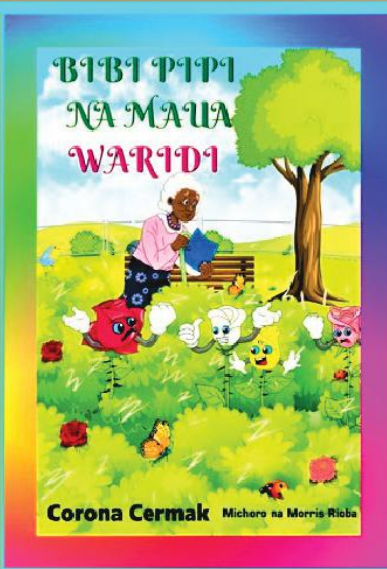
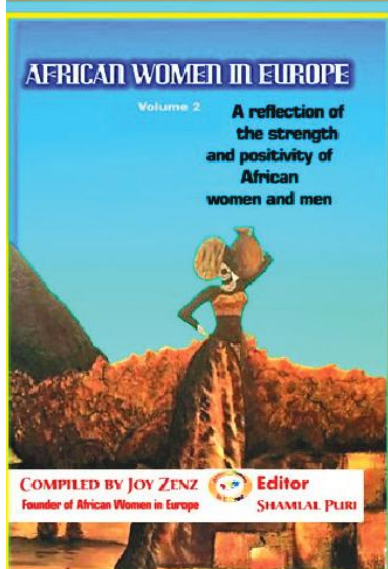
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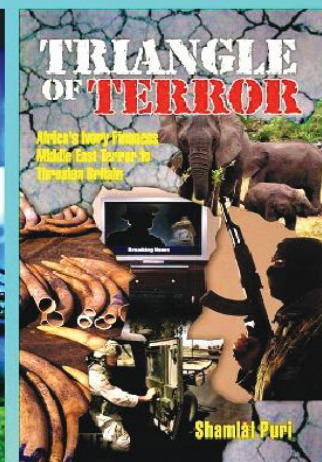
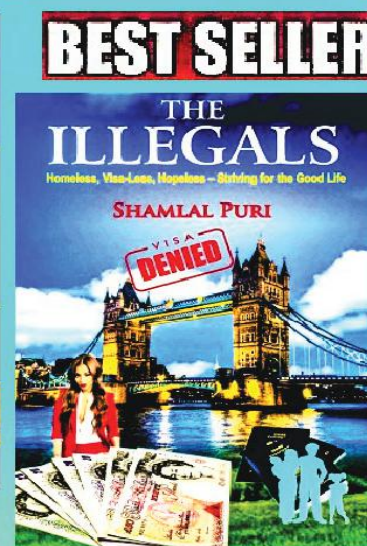
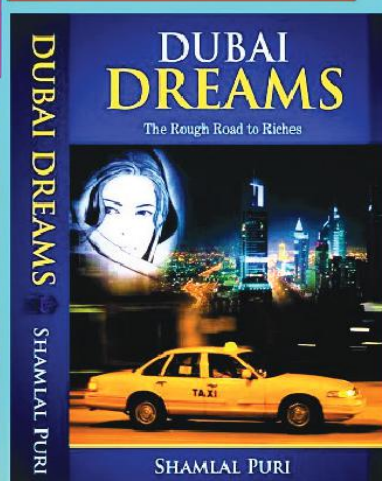
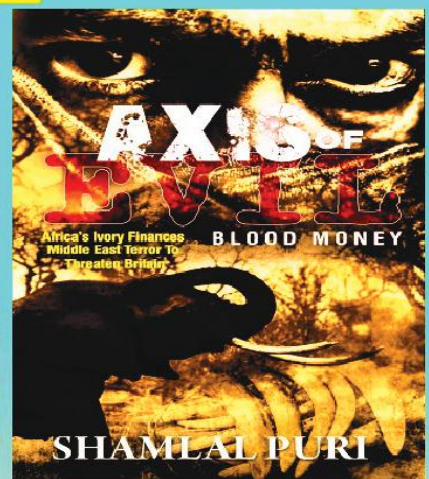
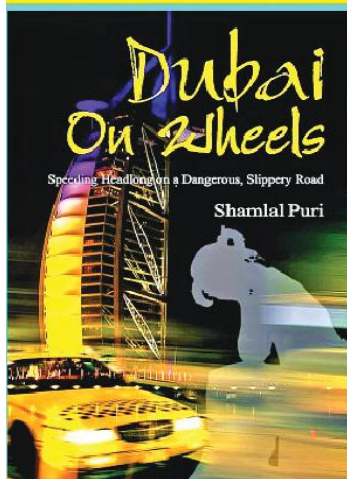
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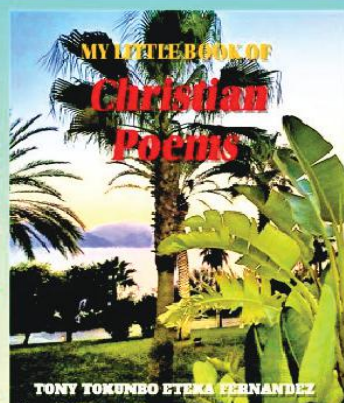
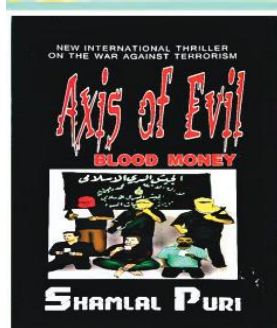
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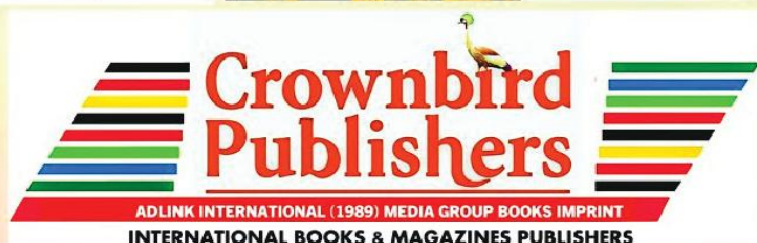


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Partnership Aims To Boost Revolutionised Farming Across Kenya

By: Raymond Wanjohi
@themtkenyatimes

Tupande One Acre Fund has joined forces with the MasterCard Foundation and the Council of Governors (CoG) to revolutionize farming across Kenya.

The initiative focuses on empowering 300,000 farming families across 34 counties by promoting high-value crops, modern farming techniques, and access to market opportunities.

Speaking about the initiative, Ms Yael Hartmann, Global Director of Government Relations and Policy at Tupande One Acre Fund, highlighted its transformative goals.

“We are focusing on high-value crops such as vegetables and tomatoes while ensuring farmers can aggregate their produce for better market prices,” she said.

Technology is a critical pillar of the partnership, with an emphasis on inspiring young people to venture into farming.



Partnership Aims To Boost Revolutionised Farming Across Kenya

“In Nyeri, for example, we currently work with over 7,500 farming families. During the long rains, we distributed over Sh32 million worth of high-quality farm inputs,” Ms Hartmann added.

She was speaking at White Rhino Hotel in Nyeri town yesterday during a conference attended by hundreds of youths and farmers.

CoG Vice chairman Dr Mutahi Kahiga expressed optimism about the

program, emphasizing the need to involve youth in agriculture.

“Our aim is to bring the youth into farming. They’ve been largely excluded from agriculture, yet they are the future,” the Nyeri County Governor said.

Through this partnership, young people will access affordable credit, high-quality seeds, farm inputs, and training in modern farming techniques.



Ms Yael Hartmann, the Global Director of Government Relations and Policy at Tupande One Acre Fund, addressing the media. Farmers across 34 counties in the country are set to benefit from a transformative partnership spearheaded by the Council of Governors (CoG), Tupande One Acre Fund and the MasterCard Foundation. PHOTOS BY RAYMOND WANJOHI.

The program is supported by county governments, which will play a vital role in its rollout.

“This initiative is a game-changer. In counties like Nyeri, where coffee and tea farming thrive, youth often avoid these crops due to their long-term nature. By promoting short-term, high-value crops, we are

providing them with viable options to earn quick returns,” Dr Kahiga noted.

The program aims to make agriculture more attractive to younger generations, ensuring sustainability and growth in Kenya’s agricultural sector.

Kamukunji To Tackle UHC Challenges As MPs Meet To Discuss Transition To SHIF

By: MTK Correspondents
@themtkenyatimes

Members of Parliament are today expected to gather for a Kamukunji at Parliament Buildings to deliberate on the pressing issues surrounding the implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programme.

This consultative meeting, convened by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Wetang’ula, aims to address concerns raised by the public through their elected representatives.

“I have received and acceded to a request by the Cabinet Secretary for Health seeking to engage with all honourable members on various matters relating to implementation of UHC programme,” said the Speaker as he called for the informal meeting, popularly known as

Kamukunji.

At the center of the discussion will be the transition from the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) to the newly established Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

The Health Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Deborah Mulongo, alongside other key players in the health sector are expected to provide insights into the progress and challenges of this SHIF.

“Several Members of Parliament voiced concerns of the electorate over teething problems the implementation of the UHC programme was facing” he added.

For many Kenyans, UHC represents the promise of accessible and affordable healthcare. However, initial hurdles in the implementation of SHIF have sparked widespread concerns. Stories of delays in accessing healthcare services and confusion over the new scheme’s modalities have dominated public discourse.



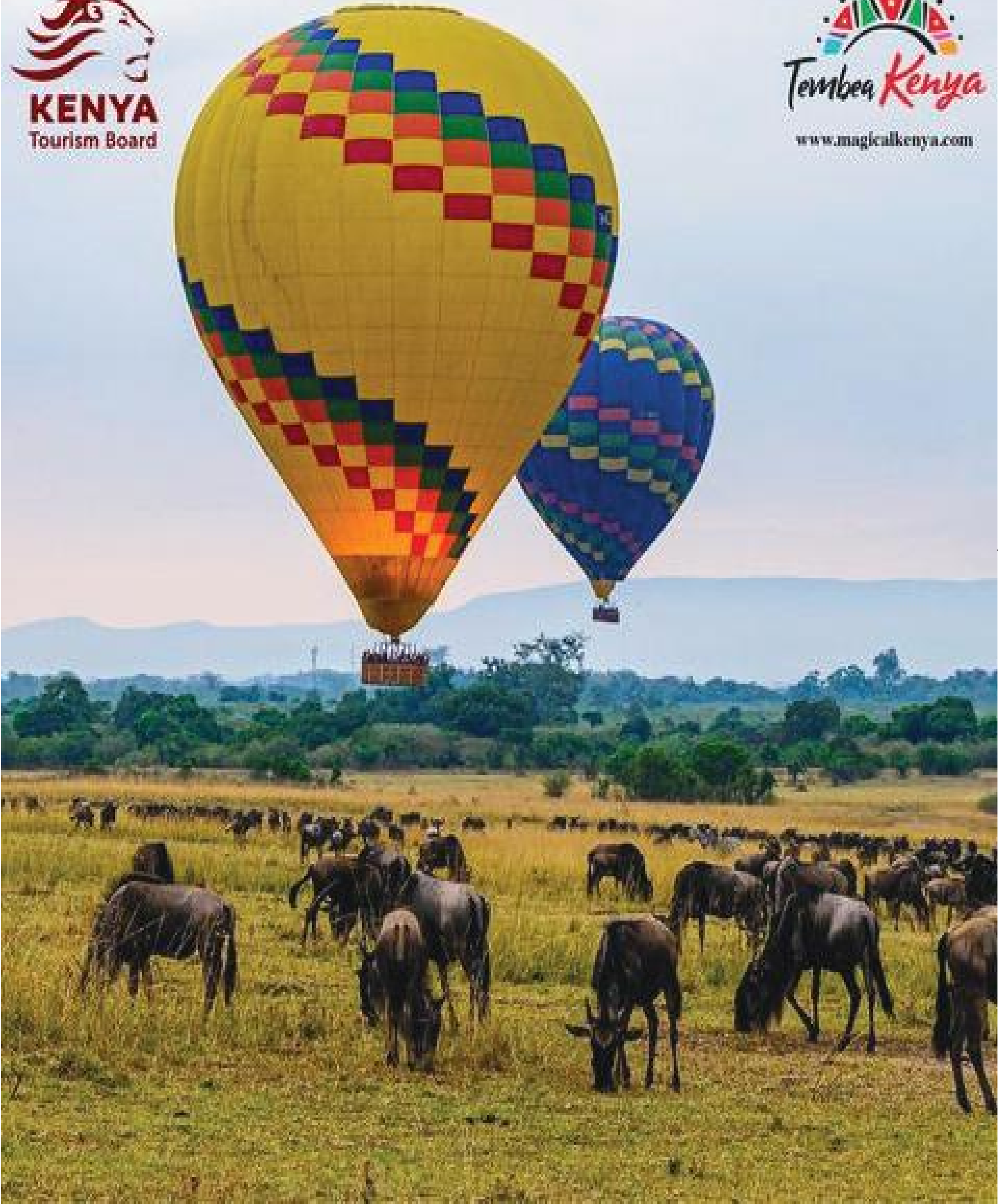
Elected leaders are now stepping up to ensure these teething problems do not derail the government’s ambitious health reforms.

The Kamukunji presents an opportunity for MPs to seek clarity on the new system and advocate for solutions that reflect the needs of their constituents. “Our people need assurance that these reforms will work for them,” said one MP who

has been vocal about the challenges facing rural communities.

Stakeholders anticipate that the meeting will shed light on critical issues such as funding mechanisms, accessibility for vulnerable groups, and strategies for smooth implementation. As Kenya continues its journey toward achieving UHC, the outcome of this Kamukunji could set the tone for the future of healthcare in the country.

For millions of Kenyans, the stakes are high, as healthcare remains a cornerstone of their wellbeing and a critical determinant of national development. The voices raised in Parliament on Tuesday will resonate far beyond the walls of the August House, symbolizing hope and accountability for a healthier and productive nation.



The Gig Economy: How Can East African Youths Position Themselves?



By: Daniel Tusiimukye K'abaasa
danidalimonite@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- Despite its potential, the gig economy in East Africa is not without challenges. Limited access to technology is a significant barrier, as many young people lack reliable internet connections or affordable devices.
- While internet penetration is improving across the region, these technological gaps prevent large portions of the population from fully participating in the gig economy. Additionally, there is a skills gap, with many young people lacking the technical and soft skills needed for gig work.
- Proficiency in areas like coding, digital marketing, content creation, and effective communication is crucial for success in the gig economy, yet these skills are not always readily available to the average youth.



In recent years, the gig economy has transformed the global labor market, introducing flexible, short-term contracts and freelancing as viable alternatives to traditional employment. With its youthful population, growing digital infrastructure, and strong entrepreneurial culture, East Africa is well-positioned to tap into the opportunities of this new economic model. However, to thrive in the gig economy, East African youth must adopt strategies to overcome challenges and position themselves as competitive players on a global scale.

The gig economy is a labor market defined by temporary, flexible jobs where individuals work as independent contractors or freelancers rather than full-time employees. Digital platforms such as Upwork, Fiverr, and Uber connect workers to clients or employers worldwide, enabling remote collaboration in various fields like graphic design, programming, writing, and transportation. In East Africa, the gig economy is growing steadily, particularly in countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda, where increased internet penetration and smartphone usage provide a gateway to new opportunities. The region's young population—over 60% under the age of 25—faces significant unemployment challenges, with millions of youths entering the labor market annually. The gig economy offers an alternative for this demographic, providing them with ways to earn a livelihood outside the constraints of traditional employment.

One of the primary opportunities presented by the gig economy is access to global markets. Digital platforms allow East African freelancers to compete on a global stage, offering their services to clients from anywhere in the world. A graphic designer in Nairobi can collaborate with a client in New York, while a software developer in Kigali can work on a project for a company in Berlin. This global reach also opens the door to earning foreign currency, often at rates significantly higher than local markets can offer. The flexibility and independence of gig work also make it appealing to young people, who can choose their own schedules and select projects that align with their interests and goals. This adaptability is particularly important for those seeking to balance work with education or family responsibilities.

Another major advantage of the gig economy is its emphasis on skill development. To remain competitive, freelancers are encouraged to continuously upgrade their skills, whether through online courses, workshops, or hands-on experience. This culture

of self-improvement not only benefits individual freelancers but also enhances the overall skills pool within the region. Furthermore, gig work can act as a springboard to entrepreneurship. By building a portfolio of work and cultivating client relationships, freelancers can transition into starting their own businesses, scaling their operations, and creating job opportunities for others.

Despite its potential, the gig economy in East Africa is not without challenges. Limited access to technology is a significant barrier, as many young people lack reliable internet connections or affordable devices. While internet penetration is improving across the region, these technological gaps prevent large portions of the population from fully participating in the gig economy. Additionally, there is a skills gap, with many young people lacking the technical and soft skills needed for gig work. Proficiency in areas like coding, digital marketing, content creation, and effective communication is crucial for success in the gig economy, yet these skills are not always readily available to the average youth.

Language barriers also pose a challenge, as English dominates most global gig platforms. For those in non-English-speaking regions or with limited language proficiency, accessing high-paying opportunities can be difficult. Payment systems present another hurdle, as receiving payments from international clients remains a challenge due to restrictive banking systems, high transaction fees, and limited access to platforms like PayPal, which are unavailable in many East African countries. The informal nature of gig work also leaves freelancers without social security benefits, health insurance, or legal protections, making them vulnerable to exploitation, job insecurity, and low pay.

To overcome these challenges and fully harness the potential of the gig economy, East African youth must adopt strategic approaches. Investing in education and skills development is a crucial first step. Young people should focus on acquiring marketable skills in fields with high demand, such as software development, graphic design, data analysis, and content writing. Online platforms like Coursera, Udemy, and Google's free certification programs offer accessible learning opportunities. Governments and private sectors can also play a role by investing in vocational training and digital literacy programs to equip the youth with the necessary skills.

Collaborating with local support networks can provide additional re-



sources and mentorship. Tech hubs, co-working spaces, and incubators such as iHub in Kenya and Norrsken in Rwanda are already supporting young innovators and freelancers. These spaces offer opportunities for networking, collaboration, and resource-sharing, which are critical for building a successful freelance career. Developing a professional online presence is another essential strategy. Building strong profiles on platforms like LinkedIn, Fiverr, and Upwork, as well as creating portfolios that showcase skills and past projects, can help freelancers attract clients and build trust.

Financial and business management skills are equally important. Treating gig work as a business means understanding how to budget, save, and invest earnings wisely. Learning to negotiate contracts, set fair rates, and manage taxes will enhance professionalism and ensure long-term sustainability. Advocacy for better infrastructure and policy support is also vital. Governments must recognize the gig economy as a critical driver of employment and economic growth. Investing in digital infrastructure, promoting digital payment systems, and developing policies to protect freelancers from exploitation will create a more enabling environment. The private sector can also support freelancers by offering tailored products such as affordable internet packages, freelancer-friendly loans, and accessible digital wallets.

Community and collaboration are key to success in the gig economy. Freelancers can benefit from forming cooperatives or joining online communities, where they can share resources, exchange knowledge, and collaborate on larger projects. This collective approach can also help them negotiate better rates with clients and access more significant op-

portunities.

Governments, too, have a role to play in fostering a thriving gig economy. By investing in internet infrastructure, offering tax incentives, and revising outdated labor laws, they can create an enabling environment for freelancers. Private companies, especially in the banking and telecommunications sectors, can support freelancers by addressing barriers such as limited payment systems and expensive data costs.

The rise of the gig economy in East Africa has already produced success stories. Kenyan freelancers have gained global recognition for their expertise in content writing and transcription services, while Ugandan developers are working on international app development projects. Platforms like Ajira Digital in Kenya aim to empower young people by connecting them to digital work opportunities, demonstrating that with the right tools and mindset, East African youth can thrive in the gig economy.

The gig economy represents a significant opportunity for East African youth to redefine employment and achieve financial independence. However, success requires a proactive approach—investing in education, leveraging technology, and building professional networks. Governments, the private sector, and communities must also work together to address systemic barriers and create an ecosystem where young freelancers can flourish. As the world increasingly shifts toward remote and digital work, East African youth must seize the moment, positioning themselves not just as participants in the gig economy but as leaders and innovators shaping its future.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop Looking at Us as If We Are Beggars,” says Nguvu Change Leader Josephine Mwende born with Cerebral Palsy

On International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PWD), she proposes a Charter of 5 demands to #DIS-ABLETHESTIGMA for persons with disabilities

In November, news articles cited a 2023-24 report by the National Council of Administration of Justice to hail Kenya’s progress in supporting persons with disabilities (PWDs), improving their access to justice and reducing their marginalisation in society. The report also sheds light on the work done by the criminal justice system, government agencies, and advocacy groups to minimise societal stigma suffered by PWDs. As the founder and CEO of AbleRise Africa Society, Josephine Mwende, a Nguvu Change Leader born with Cerebral Palsy and mother of a 7-year-old has consistently advocated for inclusivity and equality for PWDs.

On December 3, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), she wants to once again remind Kenyan lawmakers that a lot more work needs to be done before all citizens can access their fundamental rights with equal ease. She says, “The problem is that on this day we tend to amplify disability matters and then, everything goes back to normal. We still have counties without disability representation and persons with disability still struggle to access education, health and employment.”

Elaborating on this year’s IDPD theme, “Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future,” she has put forth a charter of five key demands which include:

Systemic sustainable inclusion of PWDs that becomes an integral part of policies, programs, and societal norms.

Immediate implementation of updated disability laws, such as the Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected effectively and consistently.

Comprehensive representation of PWDs in governance, particularly at the county level, to ensure their voices are part of decision-making processes.

Awareness campaigns to break attitudinal barriers and address societal stigmas and stereotypes, promoting the view of persons with disabilities as capable, equal contributors to society.

Equitable access to employment opportunities and inclusive workplaces, to ensure economic independence and empowerment for PWDs.

As she says, “Sustainable inclusion entails long-term, systemic, and ho-

listic change to ensure that PWDs are included in all aspects of life. Inclusion should be embedded into the design of all programs to ensure their longevity and self-sufficiency.”

Josephine has rooted her activism in her lived experience as an expectant mother who was turned away from one hospital after another during the time of delivery just because she had cerebral palsy. “This experience made me realise the trauma women with disabilities and particularly cerebral palsy go through. This is largely due to misconceptions that such women cannot or should not bear children due to the perceived risks,” she recalls.

To protect other women from the humiliation and pain that she went through, she also initiated a petition to call on the Ministry of Health, the Office of The Ombudsman and the Office of The Governor of Nairobi County to direct the public hospitals in Nairobi County to operationalise a toll-free hotline where people can report discrimination. The petition also sought special consultation rooms for women with disabilities, including cerebral palsy and awareness programs to sensitise cadres of staff to the needs of cerebral palsy patients.

Josephine is also a staunch critic of dehumanising, deficit-based language which is widely used to describe PWDs and says, “Focus should be on empowering individuals and shift the narrative from pity or charity to rights, agency, and equality. Stop looking at us as if we are beggars. Accessibility, equity, and respect for diversity must be woven into the fabric of all policies, programs, and practices in Kenya.

“Discussing Kenya’s Vision 2030 on Disability Awareness Creation, she adds, “The vision is very futuristic but the reality is different especially in terms of funding gaps when it comes to disability inclusion implementation. We have had a new disability act on the shelf for years which is yet to be fully implemented.”

Renewing her call to #DIS-ABLETHESTIGMA, she concludes, “I hope to be the first woman with cerebral palsy to represent PWDs in the Government and do everything in my capacity to ensure that their voices are heard and the dignity and respect they deserve are accorded to them unstintingly.”

Best Regards,
Rachel D’souza



Josephine Mwende Kamene- Nguvu Change Leader

African Minds Held Hostage By Foreign Faiths A Gospel Of Slavery Masquerading As Salvation



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- In 2023, Kenya allocated over \$1.5 million for pilgrims to Mecca while drought-stricken regions in Turkana begged for food. Tanzanian Christians fasted for rain, but it was foreign NGOs, not God, who brought water. What irony that in a land blessed with natural riches, the faithful hunger for miracles from distant lands. How can a continent as resource-rich as Africa beg for blessings when the soil beneath our feet is gold waiting to be mined—not by invaders, but by us?
- We celebrate Israeli and Arab ancestry as if the blood flowing through our veins is poison. “Blessed are the Israelites,” our pastors preach. “Chosen are the Arabs,” our imams proclaim.



Why do we glorify foreign gods while our ancestors are treated as outcasts? Why do we, the children of a rich continent, kneel before foreign idols as if our land were barren of greatness? In the grand masquerade of religion, Africa wears a mask that does not fit. We bow to a borrowed faith, clutching imported scriptures while our heritage is trampled underfoot. We pour our wealth into foreign lands, paying spiritual debts we never owed. Why are we building their heavens while our paradise crumbles?

Religion, the self-proclaimed beacon of morality, has done more to dim the light of Africa than any colonial master could. Look around: Africans pray for salvation in the name of Jesus and Allah, yet their prayers are answered with poverty, strife, and a continent teetering on the brink of despair. Is it divine will, or are we simply victims of a grand deception? The year 1884 echoes in our ears—Berlin Conference—when European powers partitioned Africa like a butcher’s feast. They took our land, but we surrendered our minds. Christianity and Islam marched hand in hand with colonialism, planting churches and mosques where traditional shrines once stood. In 2023, Kenya allocated over \$1.5 million for pilgrims to Mecca while drought-stricken regions in Turkana begged for food. Tanzanian Christians fasted for rain, but it was foreign NGOs, not God, who brought water. What irony that in a land blessed with natural riches, the faithful hunger for miracles from distant lands. How can a continent as resource-rich as Africa beg for blessings when the soil beneath our

feet is gold waiting to be mined—not by invaders, but by us?

We celebrate Israeli and Arab ancestry as if the blood flowing through our veins is poison. “Blessed are the Israelites,” our pastors preach. “Chosen are the Arabs,” our imams proclaim. But cursed are the ancestors who built Great Zimbabwe, those who channeled the Nile before Egypt rose. When did our heritage become the devil’s playground? In the Bible, Ham’s descendants—supposedly Africans—were cursed. But the real curse is our willingness to believe it.

Our leaders, too, are complicit in this spiritual enslavement. Presidents, ministers, and bureaucrats jostle to be seen as righteous in the eyes of foreign gods. In 2018, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari led a delegation to Saudi Arabia for the annual Hajj pilgrimage, spending over \$15 million. Meanwhile, Boko Haram ravaged villages back home, unchecked and unchallenged. Can we not see the hypocrisy? Why are we more devout than the lands that gave us these religions?

Africa, why do you pray for heaven while you live in hell? In Europe and the Arab world, religion has evolved, adapted, and become a tool for progress. But in Africa, it remains a shackle. In 2020, France declared itself a secular state, tightening its grip on religious influence. Yet, here we are, in 2024, still measuring holiness by how many churches or mosques we build instead of how many schools or hospitals we fund. Who benefits from our piety? The same foreign powers who once enslaved us now sell us salvation, and we buy it eagerly.

Religion has dulled our senses, pacified our rebellions, and made us blind to the chains we wear. We no longer rebel against injustice; we fast and pray. We no longer fight for our rights; we kneel and wait for deliverance. We give, we tithe, we sow seeds of faith in foreign soil while our own fields wither. Our collective mindset echoes the words of Karl Marx: “Religion is the opium of the people.” But for Africa, it is more—a sedative that lulls us into complacency.

Consider the paradox: European countries that once forced Christianity on Africa are now post-religious, thriving in secularism. They focus on science, innovation, and progress. Meanwhile, we chant their hymns, fast during Ramadan, and fund pilgrimages to Jerusalem and Mecca, while our children sit under trees for classrooms. In 2022, Ghana’s President Nana Akufo-Addo sought divine intervention to combat corruption. Imagine praying for integrity while the nation’s coffers are plundered.

We have become caricatures of faith, clinging to a salvation that is not ours, rejecting the gods of our ancestors, and forsaking the wisdom they left us. Why do we not see our ancestors as the chosen ones? Why do we not honor their legacies? Ethiopia, the only African nation never colonized, maintained its faith in its own identity. It is no coincidence that Ethiopia remains a symbol of resilience and pride.

Let us not mistake my words for an attack on personal faith. Believe if you must, but do not let belief be a barrier to critical thought. Religion should be a guide, not a master. Yet

in Africa, it is the latter. It is time we asked ourselves: what have we gained from this blind devotion? If prayer were the key to prosperity, Africa would be the richest continent on earth. Instead, we remain the poorest, the most indebted, the most exploited.

Why do we not turn our prayers inward? Why do we not seek to create our heaven on this earth? Africa could be the Eden the world envies, but first, we must break free from the chains of spiritual dependency. We must reclaim our identity, our dignity, and our destiny. Let us stop exporting our wealth in the name of foreign gods. Let us invest in ourselves, in our children, in the soil that has sustained us for centuries.

We must rise with the spirit of our ancestors, those who resisted foreign rule, those who believed in the power of the African spirit. Let us not wait for heaven to descend upon us. Let us build it with our own hands, on our own land, with our own wisdom. For if we do not, we will forever be slaves to gods who do not know our names.

The time has come, Africa, to rewrite our story. Not as beggars waiting for miracles, but as architects of our destiny. Let us forsake the gods who enslaved us and embrace the gods within. Heaven is not a distant promise; it is a vision we must create here, now, on the continent we call home. Shall we not, then, reclaim our paradise?

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

Benefits Of Using Digital Technologies In Education In Geology Classes



By: Fayzullayeva Dilafruz,
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Annotation: The relevance of the chosen topic is associated with the need to rationally organize the educational process, to ensure the use of different information systems, to pay more attention to the activity of students in the lesson, to develop critical thinking.

Keywords: geography, study, presentation, student, teacher, course, work experience, information.



Worth Noting:

- Changing blackboard to white and chalk to marker doesn't change anything, which means it can't be a way to encourage modern students to gain knowledge and develop skills to succeed in the labor market. Currently, digital technology has swept the world and people are making changes in all areas of their lives. Their appearance empowered students and faculty.
- The use of digital technology saves time in the classroom when explaining new material, inspires teachers to explore new teaching methods and approaches, increases motivation to learn, and as a result, the quality of teaching activity and knowledge increases. Geography plays an important role in the formation of the scientific worldview. It gives a holistic view of the world and forms a common culture.

Today, creating the digital industry of the future requires launching the digital transformation of the country by increasing the level of human capital development, rapid digital transformation in education. Today's classrooms are vastly different from those of a decade ago, and classrooms are equipped with computers, iPads, tablets, smartboards, and other types of educational technology. Researchers admit that no one area can be more important than education for the development of the state.

The concept of development of the higher education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 provides for the implementation of several activities for the introduction of digital technologies and modern methods into the education process [1]. In particular, the individualization of educational processes based on digital technologies, the development of distance education services, the widespread introduction of webinar, online, blended learning and flipped classroom technologies [2] were discussed.

It is known that "blended learning", "flipped classroom" technologies are forms of organization of the educational process, which include aspects that form the student's skills and competencies for creative and systematic thinking, independent decision-making, organization of scientific activities. At the same time, these forms of training are based on independent education, which form the skills of self-organization, the ability to constantly continue in development, clearly set goals, perspective.

As elsewhere in the world, Uzbekistan has seen the emergence of a seven-screen generation of digital generation - TVs, computers, tablets, tablets, phablets, smartphones and smartwatches. As a result of having such a dense digital environment and constant interaction with it, the thinking and information processing processes of today's students are fundamentally different from previous thought and informa-

tion processes. The digital generation cannot and should not be taught in the same way that our parents learned. In the training of this generation, blackboard and white chalk will not be used.

Changing blackboard to white and chalk to marker doesn't change anything, which means it can't be a way to encourage modern students to gain knowledge and develop skills to succeed in the labor market. Currently, digital technology has swept the world and people are making changes in all areas of their lives. Their appearance empowered students and faculty.

The use of digital technology saves time in the classroom when explaining new material, inspires teachers to explore new teaching methods and approaches, increases motivation to learn, and as a result, the quality of teaching activity and knowledge increases. Geography plays an important role in the formation of the scientific worldview. It gives a holistic view of the world and forms a common culture.

Geography teaches how to combine information from multiple sources and use a geographic map for communication.

Geography has a wide range of tools for stimulating students' learning and cognitive activity: the content of academic subjects, the use of various teaching tools, active forms and methods, integration and strengthening of the practical orientation of the school with other subjects. A person receives a lot of information 89% by sight, about 10% by hearing. Non-standard lessons are a great opportunity to learn topics with the help of visualizations: work with computer tasks such as presentations, interactive maps, online tests, syllabi.

Conducting non-standard classes requires the use of unusual structures that differ as much as possible from traditional forms of organizing geography lessons for educational activities.

They add more variety, increase

interest, help improve the educational process. To successfully develop absolutely any activity, including education, we need the cognitive interest we get in non-standard classes.

Digital technology can be used at any stage of the classroom, to learn new material, to check homework, to reinforce and summarize topics.

The use of digital technologies in geography lessons will help to: - improve the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process; - Increasing interest in education - Activation of students' cognitive sphere - control over teaching and learning outcomes;

For fun exercises and assignments in the classroom, you can use the LearningApps.org program, which allows you to quickly and most importantly, accurately, create geography assignments on a variety of topics in a playful way. The e-learning materials can be used with an interactive whiteboard or as individual exercises for students.

Students complete tasks with interest: they find a pair, make chronological lines, fill in the gaps in the text, make crossword puzzles, geographic races, find a puzzle, and so on.

This program is very convenient to use to check the nomenclature in grades 7-11. Consider the example of nomenclature for Class 9 when one student is working with a map on a whiteboard and the other student is working with a nomenclature on a computer.

The administrative-territorial structure of the Republic of Uzbekistan, where in the program we can include separately the Republic of Uzbekistan, the regions and the republics. The screen presents a map and flags on specific objects, and the children's task is to correctly match the flag and the name of the object.

If a student has made a mistake, the program will highlight that mistake with a red color, and there is an opportunity to think and cor-

rect it, so that the teacher can work with groups of students, create quick exercises in class, mark homework, receive hyperlinks from students. Checking the completion of the task, the introduction of new information and communication technologies into the educational process will help to prepare students with the highest quality.

The use of multimedia in the learning process in any subject is an attempt to introduce intensity into the educational process, optimize it, motivate students to study any subject, implement developing educational ideas, as well as offer one of the ways to improve educational abilities. Increase the pace of lessons, independent work.

Information and communication technologies contribute to the development of logical thinking, culture of mental work, the formation of students' skills of independent work, and also have a significant impact on the motivational sphere of the educational process.

Broadening the scope of ICT inclusion in higher education in general is a requirement of the time. Experts from all over the world admit that in the future, the need for IT specialists will only grow. In his address to the Oliy Majlis of January 24, 2020, the head of state put forward a proposal to implement the project — One million programmers. Therefore, we, too, should be disconnected from world development, despite existing shortcomings and obstacles, to strive to train highly demanded skilled personnel through the introduction of ICT.

Based on the foregoing, we propose the following: - to take steps in the way of education and professional learning, to ensure that the country does not lag behind technogenic achievements, it is necessary to massively develop competencies in the use of information and communication technologies among all citizens of our country; - It is necessary to have at least one laptop for every family in the country.

LSK President And Agnes Kagure Celebrates Namibia's First Female President

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyetimes

The President of the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), Faith Odhiambo, has lauded the election of Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as Namibia's first female president, describing it as a historic milestone for African women in leadership.

Reflecting on the legacy of African women leaders, Odhiambo highlighted their roles as revolutionary and visionary change-makers. "The history of African women in leadership tells a tale of many revolutionary and visionary change-makers," she stated.

Congratulating the new President, Odhiambo expressed her pride in this achievement for Namibia and the African continent. "H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah joins the growing class of extraordinary African women leading societies and nations to hope and prosperity. It is a proud day for Namibia and a proud day for Africa,"



Nairobi businesswoman cum politician Agnes Kagure .



The President of the Law Society of Kenya Faith Odhiambo.

she remarked.

Odhiambo urged the new president to lead with distinction, paving the way for future generations of women in leadership. "Congratulations, madam President. May you blaze a trail worthy of the honour you have

received from the people of Namibia," she concluded.

This marks a significant moment not only for Namibia but for Africa's continued journey toward gender equality and empowerment in governance.

Similar sentiments were made by Nairobi businesswoman cum politician Agnes Kagure who said she was thrilled by the outcome.

"Congratulations H.E Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on your election as Namibia's first woman President; a

loud shattering of the glass ceiling closer home," Kagure said, adding, "I'm hopeful for more women presidents, including yours truly in Kenya. Wishing you a transformative tenure. Congrats."

Philia Mission Kenya Calls For Collective Action In The Fight Against HIV/AIDS

By: Raymond Wanjohi
@themkenyetimes

As the world continues with the battle against HIV/AIDS, a global organization has called for renewed commitment and collective action in the initiative, especially focusing on the well-being of men and boys.

Philia Mission Kenya Executive Director Joseph Otieno has observed that men and boys, integral to family and community structures, are notably less likely to access vital health services, including HIV testing and treatment.

Supported by Gilead Sciences and various partners, Mr Otieno underscored the importance of addressing the unique challenges faced by this often-overlooked demographic.

This year's theme, "Promoting the Health and Well-being of Men and Boys," seeks to spotlight their critical yet underserved role in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Social stigma and ingrained norms contribute to their vulnerability, leav-

ing them at risk of undiagnosed conditions and late-stage disease.

Mr Otieno also drew attention to three interconnected threats that endanger future generations: HIV/AIDS, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and teenage pregnancy.

While medical advancements have reduced HIV/AIDS mortality, new infections persist, particularly among young men and adolescents.

Meanwhile, Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) not only harms survivors but also perpetuates cycles of trauma within communities. Teenage pregnancy disrupts education and deepens poverty, increasing the risk of HIV transmission among young girls.

"Addressing these challenges requires more than just health interventions. It demands a comprehensive approach that involves communities, families, and all sectors of society," Mr Otieno said in his address while marking this year's World AIDS Day.

Philia Mission Kenya has responded by enhancing access to HIV testing and treatment, promoting life skills and healthy relationships through



Event held in Nyeri town to mark this World AIDS Day. PHOTOS BY RAYMOND WANJOHI..

workshops, and collaborating with schools and parents to reduce teenage pregnancy rates.

Mr Otieno emphasized that sustainable change relies on collaboration between government agencies, civil society, health providers, and local communities.

"We cannot do this alone. Our success depends on partnerships that foster shared solutions and empower individuals," he said.

The Executive Director urged stakeholders to encourage prevention through education and open dialogue, support equitable access to treatment for all, and strengthen collaborative efforts that lead to lasting impact.

Mr Otieno further called for all Kenyans to become "ambassadors of change" advocating for a future where men and boys, free from the burden of HIV/AIDS, SGBV, and teenage pregnancy, can live healthier,

fuller lives.

"Together, we can break the silence, dismantle stigma, and secure a brighter, healthier future for all," he noted.

As communities reflect on this powerful message, the hope for an AIDS-free world by 2030 grows stronger, reminding us all that progress requires unity, compassion, and persistent action.

Family Bank Celebrates 40 Years Of Transforming Lives And Driving Economic Growth In Kenya

By: John Kariuki
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Established as a building society in 1984, Family Bank opened its doors with a vision to empower underserved communities with access to financial services.
- “Our mission was simple yet bold: to create a bank that could reach those who were unbanked, offering them a pathway to opportunities and financial empowerment. We believed in the potential of ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things when given the right support. Today, I am incredibly proud to see how this vision has blossomed beyond what I could have imagined,” said Family Bank Founder T.K Muya
- From providing accessible loans to smallholder farmers, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES) and individuals to pioneering mobile banking services, Family Bank has continually evolved to meet the needs of its clients.



Central Bank of Kenya Chair Andrew Musangi (R) joins Former Family Bank Board Chair Dr. Wilfred Kiboro (L) ,CEO Nancy Njau, Board Chair Lazarus Muema & Founder T.K. Muya during the Bank's 40th anniversary celebrations commemorating four decades of success and growth.

Family Bank has celebrated four decades of empowering communities, fostering economic growth, and championing financial inclusion in Kenya.

Since its inception, the Bank has played a pivotal role as a leader in the sector by providing access to capital to individuals, businesses, and communities across the country.

Speaking during the anniversary gala dinner celebration, The Central Bank of Kenya Chairman, Andrew Musangi, commended the Bank and its leadership for their sustained resilience and being an advocate for financial inclusion in the sector.

“It fills me with a lot of pride to see Family Bank now competing among the industry’s top players. From starting with a loan of just KES 400,000 to a tier two and speeding to tier one bank, is nothing short of amazing. With the year-on-year growth trajectory, I implore you to continue to aim for more growth,” he said.

Established as a building society in 1984, Family Bank opened its doors with a vision to empower underserved communities with access to financial services.

“Our mission was simple yet bold: to create a bank that could reach those who were unbanked, offering them a pathway to opportunities and financial empowerment. We believed in the potential of ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things when given the right support. Today, I am incredibly proud to see how this vision has blossomed beyond what I could have imagined,” said Family Bank Founder T.K Muya

From providing accessible loans to smallholder farmers, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES) and individuals to pioneering mobile banking services, Family Bank has continually evolved to meet the needs of its clients.

Family Bank Chief Executive Officer Nancy Njau reflected on the Bank’s remarkable journey of growth, innovation, and commitment to financial inclusion.

“Over the past 40 years, Family Bank has transformed from a building society into one of Kenya’s most trusted financial partners. We have been at the forefront of driving inclusive economic growth and development in Kenya for the last four de-

cadec. Our journey has been one of transformation and impact. Today, we stand as a key player in Kenya’s financial services sector, offering innovative banking solutions that enable economic progress, especially for MSMEs which represent 80 per cent of our customer base. This milestone is not only a testament to the trust and loyalty of our customers but also to the dedication of our employees, and our unwavering commitment to driving financial access and innovation,” she said.

Family Bank has expanded its branch footprint from one branch to 95 branches across 32 counties in Kenya, proudly serving over 1.7 million customers with a total asset base of KES 158.3 billion and a deposit base of KES 119 billion as of 30 June 2024.

“As we look to the next 40 years, there are no limits to innovation. The future is shaped by AI, big data, digital transformation, ESG values, ecosystem banking, innovation, and strategic partnerships. At Family Bank, these are our core priorities, and our goal is to evolve into a one-stop financial hub for our customers,” said Family Bank Chairman

Lazarus Muema.

As part of its commitment to technology-driven solutions over the years, Family Bank pioneered digital banking in Kenya by introducing smart card technology, launching mVisa across Africa, and innovating the mobile banking app, PesaPap, which processes over 90 per cent of the Bank’s transactions. These solutions have revolutionized customer experiences by making banking more accessible and convenient.

In attendance during the gala dinner event was also the Former Family Bank Chairman Dr. Wilfred Kiboro, Family Bank Board Directors, Executive Committee, staff and The Family Group Foundation Board Directors.

Africa's Digital And Green Future: Kenya Launches Digital, AI Skilling Centre And Greentech Hub



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- This Centre is already operational, with its inaugural cohorts of civil servants undergoing training through hybrid in-person and online sessions. In collaboration with UNDP, Microsoft, Google, and other international and national stakeholders, the Centre aims to equip 100,000 civil servants with cutting-edge digital and AI skills.
- Participants from Kenya, Uganda, Cape Verde, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Nigeria are among the first to benefit from this initiative, with plans to expand to other African nations next year. The Centre's curriculum emphasizes tailored training and mentorship, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship while enhancing governance and public service delivery.
- Expected outcomes include improved efficiency in public services, data-driven decision-making, and enhanced cybersecurity awareness.



Ms. Vera Obonyo, Deputy Director, KSG e-Learning and Development Institute (eLDI) issuing her address

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at positioning Africa at the forefront of digital and green innovation, the Kenyan government, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Timbuktoo Africa Innovation Foundation, has unveiled two transformative projects: the Africa Centre of Competence for Digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skilling and the Timbuktoo GreenTech Hub. The launch took place at Konza Technopolis on Friday, December 6, 2024.

The dual initiatives, spearheaded by the Ministry of Information, Communications, and Digital Economy (MICDE), represent a significant stride in advancing Africa's inclusive digital and green transformation. These efforts aim to address systemic challenges, drive innovation, and support the continent's push toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries and redefining the future of work globally. According

to Goldman Sachs, annual AI investments are expected to hit \$200 billion by 2025, with the global market projected to exceed \$1 trillion by 2028. Recognizing this potential, the Africa Centre of Competence for Digital and AI Skilling has been established at the Kenya School of Government.

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ery.

Expected outcomes include improved efficiency in public services, data-driven decision-making, and enhanced cybersecurity awareness. By embedding digital fluency across the public sector, the initiative seeks to position Africa as a global competitor in the digital economy and a hub for technological innovation.

The Timbuktoo GreenTech Hub, also unveiled at Konza, is set to revolutionize Africa's green economy. By fostering green innovation, creating jobs, and addressing systemic environmental challenges, the hub aligns with SDG 7, which emphasizes affordable and clean energy.

The GreenTech Hub aims to generate practical solutions to climate change while driving economic transformation. With a focus on sustainable development, it provides a platform for green entrepreneurs and innovators to tackle the continent's pressing energy and environmental challenges.

Speaking at the launch, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for ICT and Digital

Economy, highlighted the importance of these initiatives in addressing Africa's unique challenges. "Today marks a pivotal moment in our journey toward a digitally inclusive and green future. Through these transformative hubs, we are equipping Africans with the skills and tools to lead in innovation and sustainability," he said.

The partnership between Kenya, UNDP, and the Timbuktoo Africa Innovation Foundation underscores the importance of regional and global collaboration in driving sustainable growth. These initiatives not only empower individuals but also pave the way for Africa to play a leading role in global technological and green transformations.

The launch of the Africa Centre of Competence for Digital and AI Skilling and the Timbuktoo GreenTech Hub signals a new era of opportunity for the continent. By harnessing digital technologies and green innovation, Africa is poised to leapfrog into a future of sustainable prosperity.

Second Mediation Meeting On The County Governments Additional Allocation Bill Ends In Impasse

By: PSCU

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Worth Noting:

- “I hold the view that we need a new Bill to discuss the conditional additional funds to the Counties, minus the RMLF. That is where we need to start. Because RMLF is sub judice and we don’t discuss matters that are active in court,” proposed the Soy MP David Kiplagat.
- Senators however insisted that the matter in court was filed by governors who enjoy the right to file such matters with undue interference from the Senate.
- Senators further argued that the issue of RMLF can be isolated to pave way for the debate on the contentious issues in the Bill so that the counties can receive the money to serve the people.

The second meeting of the Mediation Committee drawn from the National Assembly and the Senate on the County Governments Additional Allocation Bill, 2024 ended yesterday with no notable progress made. Members of the National Assembly insisted that the mediation should be stayed until the court case filed by the Council of Governors challenging the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) is heard and determined. “Can we agree that the Senate side should see whether there could be some talks between the Committee Members and Governors, so that we make progress. Because this Bill can actually die in one minute in the House, depending on how we manage it. And that’s what we are trying to avoid, that we take it there then in one minute its dead, and then we have to wait for six months,” said Makali Mulu from Kitui Central constituency. Throwing a spanner in the works, the National Assembly Members further proposed a new Bill to be drafted excluding RMLF. “I hold the view that we need a new Bill to discuss the conditional additional funds to the Counties, minus the RMLF. That is where we need to start. Because RMLF is sub judice and we don’t discuss matters that are active in court,” proposed the Soy MP David Kiplagat. Senators however insisted that the matter in court was filed by governors who enjoy the right to file such matters with undue interference from the Senate.



Some of the mediation committee members during yesterday’s session.

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Senators further argued that the issue of RMLF can be isolated to pave way for the debate on the contentious issues in the Bill so that the counties can receive the money to serve the people. In his closing remarks, Ndindi Nyoro from Kiharu constituency and one of the Mediation Committee Co-chair, noted that the Bill is sub judice and can only be discussed when the court case has been dispensed with.

“The proposal of the National Assembly team is that we are running around a circle, because discussing this Bill is sub judice. We propose that the next meeting be held when this matter is not sub judice. Let there be mediation in a matter that has no court case,” said Nyoro. However, his Co-chair and Senator Tabitha Mutinda disagreed with the position arguing that a majority of the members of the committee had agreed to make progress and discuss

issues in the Bill that are not subject to court proceedings. “Six members present have agreed that we proceed without RMLF and it is important we make progress. This Bill is time bound,” she said. But her observation was rejected by members of the committee drawn from the National Assembly. The Committee adjourned with a promise to reconvene on notice.



Ndindi Nyoro.

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Tabitha Mutinda.

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BREAKING NEWS

Sports >> *France star Kylian Mbappe has referred his former club Paris Saint-Germain to the disciplinary committee of the French league in a row over unpaid wages and bonuses, a source close to the body told French news agency AFP.

Mbappe Takes PSG Wage Dispute To French League Committee



France's forward Kylian Mbappe kicks the ball during a training session at the Home Deluxe Arena Stadium in Paderborn, western Germany, on June 23, 2024, during the UEFA Euro 2024 football championship. (Photo by FRANCK FIFE / AFP).

By AFP

France star Kylian Mbappe has referred his former club Paris Saint-Germain to the disciplinary committee of the French league in a row over unpaid wages and bonuses, a source close to the body told French news agency AFP.

The league (LFP) source said a hearing will take place on December 11 over PSG's refusal to pay 55 million euros owed to the striker, who moved to Real Madrid in June.

PSG were ordered by the LFP to pay Mbappe the sum owed from

his time at the Parc des Princes but said in October they would refuse to do so on the basis that the player had agreed in August 2023 to waive the money.

Last month the French Football Federation rejected Qatar-owned PSG's request to reconsider the order to pay Mbappe, saying it was submitted a day late.

According to the French league's statutes, PSG could face a fine or a ban on signing players.

However, it is understood that PSG are confident that the LFP cannot have the final say on the case and that it would have to go before an industrial tribunal.

The origins of the conflict go back to an agreement between the parties in August of last year.

At that point, the France captain had been sidelined from the PSG squad for refusing to extend a contract that was due to expire in June of this year.

Such an extension would have at least allowed PSG to pocket a transfer fee if Mbappe left, but in the end he joined Real under freedom of contract.

According to that agreement, Mbappe was prepared to waive 55 million euros in different bonuses if he left for free at the end of the 2023/24 season.

However, the validity of the agreement -- which the player himself alluded to before the media in January -- is contested by Mbappe's entourage.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Liverpool have been used to second best during Pep Guardiola’s era at Manchester City, but a 2-0 victory over the crisis-hit champions left little doubt over who are the team to beat in this season’s Premier League title race.

Liverpool Flip Script On Man City To Take Commanding Premier League Lead



Liverpool’s Egyptian striker #11 Mohamed Salah shoots but fails to score during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on December 1, 2024. (Photo by Adrian Dennis / AFP)

Liverpool have been used to second best during Pep Guardiola’s era at Manchester City, but a 2-0 victory over the crisis-hit champions left little doubt over who are the team to beat in this season’s Premier League title race.

Goals in either half from Cody Gakpo and Mohamed Salah at Anfield on Sunday did not do justice to the scale of the Reds’ domination as City succumbed to a sixth defeat in a seven-game winless run.

Arsenal and Chelsea are now Liverpool’s closest challengers, nine points behind, with City 11 back and almost certain to finally lose their grip on the English top flight after an unprecedented four consecutive titles and six in the past seven seasons.

Guardiola reminded the Anfield crowd of that fact by raising six fingers when taunted with chants of “sacked in the morning”.

The Catalan’s defiance, though, could not mask the fact that City have rested on their laurels, while Liverpool have stepped up a level under Arne Slot.

Slot appeared to have the impossible job of succeeding the much-

loved Jurgen Klopp.

The charismatic German brought Liverpool back to the top of English and European football. His title triumph in 2019/2020 was the club’s first for 30 years and the only blot on City’s dominance in recent times.

In contrast to Alex Ferguson’s departure from Manchester United and Arsene Wenger’s exit at Arsenal, Liverpool have turned a legendary figure leaving into a positive.

Klopp did much of the groundwork himself, rejuvenating the squad over his final 18 months in charge with the signings of Gakpo, Alexis Mac Allister, Dominik Szoboszlai and Ryan Gravenberch.

Slot’s only summer signing, Federico Chiesa, has barely featured due to injury.

But the injection of fresh blood, mixed with the experience of title winners in the prolific Salah, captain Virgil van Dijk, Andy Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold has proved a winning combination.

Slot has been keen to give Klopp’s legacy credit, but the Dutchman

deserves his due for the small details that have produced a run of 18 wins from his first 20 games in all competitions.

‘A great day’

Robertson and Alexander-Arnold’s narrower positions have left Liverpool less vulnerable in transition and contributed to them having the best defensive record in the league.

Gravenberch has shone since being transformed into a holding midfielder, while Gakpo is finally delivering on his potential under his compatriot.

Slot has also managed to keep Liverpool’s momentum rolling despite constant speculation over the futures of Salah, Van Dijk and Alexander-Arnold, all of whom are out of contract at the end of the season.

“City are a fantastic team, four times champions in a row and they have quality to punish any team,” said Van Dijk. “So, overall, it has been a great day.

“It’s game-by-game and stay calm. But games like this, when you win it like this, is always a good feeling.”

It is not just the Premier League

that Slot has so far bent to his will.

Liverpool are also top of the Champions League with a perfect record from five games, including a memorable 2-0 win over Real Madrid on Wednesday.

Victory over City capped a dream week, but the former Feyenoord boss was still keen to use the English and European champions as the benchmark for his side’s aspirations.

“Real Madrid and Manchester City have been and are so good, with managers that have won so many trophies, so it is always nice to come out of those situations as a winner,” added Slot.

“But they were able to win every single three days. We understand what we want to achieve is more than this winning once or twice, even against these big teams, if you want to win big things.”

December may only be a day old, but already it is hard to see beyond Liverpool matching Manchester United’s record tally for 20 English top-flight titles come May.

AFP

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Parenting During This Festive Season



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi

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Worth Noting:

- Christmas is considered the season of giving. Have you talked to your kids about it not be found giving what is not meant to be given. You may have to make sure you have good time with your children to explain this to them. It does not have to be a whole day but create time. Even have them see you for sure. Even take them somewhere and exercise the giving spirit. Either in the streets or in an orphanage. That way they will understand the real meaning of giving when it comes to give.

- Another this parents should understand this festive season is spending more time with their children. There is a difference between spending money and spending time. Parents and care givers should understand that spending time rather than spending money is what is important.



Kids in December holiday in Kenya

The festive season is drawing nearer. It is important for us parents to be more careful and vigilant when it comes to parenting. Our hustles, partying, shopping and even entertainment should not go against the parenting procedures or we might be enjoying the festive season and losing the credibility of being good parents.

When we think of holidays, either school holidays or even this Christmas festive season instead of getting relief and even relaxation we opt to understand that we are now in control of our children. It is usually the hard time for parents and mostly even keep asking when schools will open. Some parents are fed up with their kids that they even send them to their parents in upcountry for the season. It is not bad. But what is your bond with your child if you can't stay with him or her for just a while and get to learn her both psychological and mostly emotional.

Children tend to avoid parents because most of them are not there for them. This in mind parents should use this festive season to connect with their children. Learn a lot when it comes to their children's behavior.

Mostly the teenage group and those in the adolescent. I tell you this without any regrets that most teenage pregnancies are announced after a festive season. So parents should be careful when it comes to parenting this festive season.

Christmas is considered the season of giving. Have you talked to your kids about it not be found giving what is not meant to be given. You may have to make sure you have good time with your children to explain this to them. It does not have to be a whole day but create time. Even have them see you for sure. Even take them somewhere and exercise the giving spirit. Either in the streets or in an orphanage. That way they will understand the real meaning of giving when it comes to give.

Another these parents should understand this festive season is spending more time with their children. There is a difference between spending money and spending time. Parents and care givers should understand that spending time rather than spending money is what is important. It is a self-explanatory statement but it is often forgotten this time of the year. Most parents think presents and

giving their kids money is all. Yes! Presents are good and they make the children happy and calm but this season remember this children are growing and they commit it to their memory and even recalls when they are adults. Hence, make sure they have good memories of present parents' not just mere present gifts they won't have use of when they grow.

You should understand that perfect families do not exist. Every family has their untold stories. With this in mind do not let this control the festive season mostly in the eyes of the little ones. Understand that all things passes, either good or bad. So for the sake of the sanity of your children live the moment and be future focused.

Since we cannot ignore this festive season or make it go away, we can deal with the situation by making specific plans with our families. The times are tough economically. Yes! But things can work out by assessing the priorities. We can make changes where necessary. We can decide what traditions to uphold and which to set aside this year. We can choose to openly acknowledge the grief to our children and even the family at

large. By being open they won't see as if you are just ignoring things. They will understand.

As parents we can think about some very special gifts. To ourselves we can grant the gift of accepting by realizing that it is just for a moment and things will surely get better.

Lastly to those that do long distance parenting. I know this can be really hard particularly this time of the year but make sure you plan ahead and have something positive to do this festive season. You may not be able to be there with your children but plan your arrangements early and use the technology to keep your communication open and positive. Kids these days are extremely happy to use phones, texts or email. It is not the same during our days. It is the best thing and you will have something to share when you see each other. Allow them to communicate, share photos, messages and any other information. Listen to them and this will help them a lot. This can be the most positive thing you can do to yourself and to your children

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