



Two Palm Sundays: Should African Churches Celebrate Palm Sunday Differently From Ethiopia?
 Christianity, with a history spanning over two millennia, has evolved into a mosaic of denominations and traditions. From Roman Catholics and Protestants in the West to Eastern Orthodox Christians and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, each branch enriches the faith with unique practices.

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News>> Water Firm Decries Huge Maintenance Costs Of Infrastructure Over Silting

P. 8. Thika Water and Sanitation Company (Thiwasco) has decried huge maintenance costs of infrastructure damaged as a result of silting during rainy seasons.



News>> Farmers Urged To Effectively Tackle Coffee Diseases For Increased Production

P. 12. Poor management and control of common coffee diseases are to blame for poor production and low quality of cherry.

DP Kindiki: All Parts Of Country Will Be Developed

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has assured Kenyans that no region will be segregated in development agenda being championed by President William Ruto. Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki said every part of the country will benefit from development spearheaded by the government, assuring that no community will be discriminated against.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki, Narok County Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu and other leaders arrive at Mutenkuar Primary school grounds for the Sunday service

STORY ON PAGE 9



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President Ruto Joined Mourners In Final Send-Off Of Raila Odinga's Longtime Aide

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto over the weekend, joined thousands of mourners during the burial of ODM party leader Raila Odinga's long serving aide George Nyang'ira Oduor in Siaya county.



Editor's Desk

The Mt Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Vihiga County Government has launched an eye health strategic plan aimed at providing affordable, quality and sustainable services to the residents. Governor Wilber Ottichilo, who spoke during the event at the County Referral Hospital, said they have partnered with Christian Blind Mission (CBM), the Kenya society for the blind, the German corporation GIZ and the Visual Impact Society, Kenya (VIP-K) to bring this objective to fruition. Ottichilo pointed out that the County Referral Hospital in Mbale town has an operational eye clinic, in addition to the Sabatia eye hospital, making the county stand out in its efforts to offer eyesight care services to the people. He highlighted that the VIP-K has so far undertaken sensitization and awareness creation, capacity building for the health staff and the equipping of health facilities since the year 2022. The Governor outlined the salient proposals in the plan as including human resource development, eye health infrastructure, health products and technologies, health information management systems and research.



The Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation concluded a successful tour of ongoing projects under the Water and Sanitation Development Program (WSDP) in Kilifi and Mombasa Counties. In Kilifi, the PS inspected progress at the Kilifi Distribution Project, which is currently at 63% completion, and the Kilifi Ablution Block, standing at 60%. These projects are key in improving access to clean water and sanitation services for residents in the area. The tour continued to Mtwapa, where the PS visited the Mtwapa Distribution Project and the Mtwapa Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant, which is currently at 18% completion. These initiatives aim to address the growing sanitation needs in fast-urbanizing areas. In Mombasa County, focus shifted to last mile connectivity, with site visits to Kisauni, where works are at 87%, and Nyali, currently at an impressive 98% completion. These projects are crucial in ensuring households are connected to clean and safe water. The PS commended the implementing teams for their dedication and urged for timely and quality delivery to ensure that communities benefit fully from the investments.



Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni joined the Departmental Committee on Health for a key stakeholder engagement on the Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) Bill, 2024. The Bill seeks to formally anchor KIPRE in law as a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency. The PS underscored KIPRE's critical role in preclinical biomedical research, including vaccine and drug development, reproductive health innovations, and the fight against antimicrobial resistance. She emphasized the institution's contributions to public health, environmental conservation, and One Health initiatives. She urged stakeholders to share their views on the Bill and called on Parliament to support its passage, noting that it would provide a strong legal and operational foundation for KIPRE to advance Kenya's health research and UHC agenda. The PS was accompanied by KIPRE Director General Dr Gichuhi Mwethera and Board Members Prof Johnson Kang'ethe and Prof Isaac Jumba.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina, through his foundation, named after him over the weekend organised a Darts tournament that saw about 40 players take home different cash prizes. The tournament dubbed, "County Tour Darts Tournament", held at the Othaya CDF hall attracted players from various parts. In the picture, the MP is seen trying his hand in the game whose theme was, 'Empower Through Sports'. Top winners were Wilson Kaimenyi and Agnes Cherotich in men and women categories respectively.



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President Ruto Emphasizes Need To Protect Learners As He Weighs In On Butere Girls Controversy

By: Irene Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- President Ruto made it clear that such incidents should not be allowed to compromise the well-being and future of Kenyan students.
- “We are investing in education because education is what sharpens our human capital, the most important asset that we have as a nation. That is the reason why we are deploying resources in our schools, in our TVETs, in our universities because we want to harness the potential that exists in our human resource,” the President noted.

President William Ruto has broken his silence on the ongoing controversy surrounding the actions by police against students from Butere Girls High School during their attempt to perform the play *Echoes of War* at the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival in Nakuru County.

Attending an interdenominational church service in Elgeyo Marakwet, the President emphasized on the clarion call for the protection of learners across all educational institutions in the country as an important human capital for the future.

The Head of State insisted that safeguarding children from exploitation and harmful influences must be a national priority, even as his administration continues to invest heavily in the education sector.

“We must equally protect all our children from pedophiles, from drug peddlers, and from those who want to corrupt our children and teach them to hate their parents or their teachers, or their leaders, or their nation. We must protect children from those ones,” the President stated.

Without directly naming Butere Girls, where the students were barred from rehearsing, and were forced to begin their performance earlier than scheduled which sparked outrage.

President Ruto made it clear that such incidents should not be allowed to compromise the well-being and future of Kenyan students.

“We are investing in education because education is what sharpens our human capital, the most important asset that we have as a nation. That is the reason why we are deploying resources in our schools, in our TVETs, in our universities because we want to harness the potential that exists in our human resource,” the President noted.



President William Ruto

The President also issued a call to action to educators, school administrators, and policy managers to be vigilant in their roles, ensuring that learning institutions remain safe, nurturing, and free from external negative influences.

“Teachers, instructors, and the managers of our education must make sure that every child in every school, TVET, college, or university gets the best opportunity,” Ruto stated.

President Ruto stressed that his government is open to support an inclusive educational environment that caters to diverse strengths from academics to the creative arts, sports, and technical fields but it must be enshrined on inclusivity.

“Every child deserves the best opportunity to be the best they can be. Those

who are good in academics, others are good in sports, others are good in the creative economy, others are good in arts. We must, as a nation, make sure that all children get the best array and buffet of what they can become,” he affirmed.

Education Cabinet Secretary Migos Ogamba refuted claims that the government prevented Butere Girls from performing the ‘*Echoes of War*’ play in Nakuru county.

The Education Cabinet Secretary pointed out that the school’s management violated the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) regulations by inviting former United Democratic Alliance (UDA) Secretary General Cleophas Malala, a non-teacher, to direct the play.

Already, the Kenya Human Rights

Commission (KHRC) has filed a petition in court seeking to compel the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival Committee to allow students from Butere Girls’ High School to stage their play.

The commission argues that the actions of the respondents constitute a violation of their constitutional duty to promote, protect, respect, and fulfill the rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution.

“The aforementioned absurd and malicious treatment has only been discriminatorily meted out against the Butere Girls, as all other schools have performed or are due to perform with their chosen props and décor and before an audience,” read the court papers.

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Water Firm Decries Huge Maintenance Costs Of Infrastructure Over Silting

By: Muoki Charles
@themkenyatimes

Thika Water and Sanitation Company (Thiwasco) has decried huge maintenance costs of infrastructure damaged as a result of silting during rainy seasons.

The company's Managing Director Moses Kinya said whenever it rained, muddy soil deposits ended up in the water collection points, posing a major financial challenge in treatment.

Speaking during a tree planting exercise at the Maryhill catchment area, the MD said the company has embarked on an aggressive re-forestation programme, targeting to plant 10,000 trees annually on its water catchment areas to address the problem.

"Whenever it rains, the company incurs huge costs to maintain its infrastructure at its water treatment plant, damaged as a result of silting. Sometimes, we are forced to interrupt water supply to improve the infrastructure as well as to clean the water,"

said Kinya.

He at the same time highlighted plans by the company to increase water supply to residents saying bids to expand the infrastructure have been advertised and soon, works would commence.

The company has been relying on archaic infrastructure for water supply that was set up decades ago and which has been unable to meet the demand, leading to water rationing during dry spells.

It generates about 40,000 cubic metres of water daily against a demand of 60,000. The new infrastructure will come as a boost as the town seeks to achieve a smart industrial city status.

The company also expects to benefit from additional water from the multi-billion Karimnu 11 mega dam in Gatundu North Sub County, which has been supplying water to Ruiru, Juja and Nairobi.

The Chairman Thika Business Community Alfred Wanyoike appealed to traders to support the greening as the town gears to become an industrial smart city.



Thika Water and Sanitation Company officials briefing journalists.

KEG Elections Postponed, New Dates To Be Announced Within 30 Days

By: Muraya Kamunde
@themkenyatimes

Kenya Editors Guild (KEG) elections have been postponed due to lack of quorum.

The elections which were set for Saturday and Annual General Meeting (AGM) failed to proceed after it did not meet the 2/3 threshold.

The executive council is set to meet and issue new dates for the KEG presidential elections within the next 30 days.

KEG had earlier in the week announced Veteran journalists Zubeidah Kananu and Yvonne Okwara has the two contestants for the presidential seat in the much anticipated elections.

KEG Returning Officer, Advocate Sophie Kaibiria said the nominations

were thoroughly vetted and approved in accordance with the Guild's Constitution and the KEG Elections Policy Guidelines dated March 3, 2025.

Kananu, who is the incumbent president and the first woman to hold the position, is seeking re-election.

She will face off against Okwara, an anchor at Citizen TV.

Incumbent Zubeidah Kananu (left) and Yvonne Okwara were the two contestants for the presidential seat.



No Part Of The Country Will Be Left Out In Development Progress - DP Kindiki

By: MKT Correspondent

[@themkenyatimes](#)



Worth Noting:

- “The Ruto administration is instituting fairness and equity in distribution of national resources to make sure every community, every county and every place in this country is treated equally and has an equal opportunity to get access to government opportunities and resources,” he said.
- The Deputy President spoke yesterday during an interdenominational Church Service held at Mutenkuar Primary School in Kilgoris, Narok County.
- He stated that Narok county has benefitted immensely from last-mile connectivity, affordable housing, modern markets and other key projects to improve the lives of residents.
- “The government is ensuring that as we share national resources across all the 47 counties, the 290 constituencies, 1450 wards because all Kenyans deserve equal treatment for we all belong here,” DP emphasized.



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki addressing the gathering at Mutenkuar Primary school grounds yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has assured Kenyans that no region will be segregated in development agenda being championed by President William Ruto.

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki said every part of the country will benefit from development spearheaded by the government, assuring that no community will be discriminated against.

The DP noted that every county, constituency and ward deserve an equitable share of the government’s resources promising to assist President Ruto to serve all Kenyans equally.

“The Ruto administration is instituting fairness and equity in distribution of national resources to make sure every community, every county and every place in this country is treated equally and has an equal opportunity to get access to government opportunities and resources,” he said.

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day during an interdenominational Church Service held at Mutenkuar Primary School in Kilgoris, Narok County.

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“The government is ensuring that as we share national resources across all the 47 counties, the 290 constituencies, 1450 wards because all Kenyans deserve equal treatment for we all belong here,” DP emphasized.

He added, “In Narok, the government is constructing eight modern markets, affordable housing projects, roads and extending electricity to every village among others.”

Prof. Kindiki said every section of the nation will get its fair share of national cake geared at improving socio-economic development of the country.

“Elections are over. The govern-

ment is serving all. There will be no discrimination in any part of Kenya because of how people voted. I thank the President for extending his hand to Raila Odinga and we are now working together to develop the country without discrimination,” he reiterated.

The DP said he has ensured diversity in his office affirming the promise to assist the President to deliver on the government’s agenda.

“Every community is well represented in the office of the Deputy President. We have Maasai, Turkana, Mijikenda, Kikuyu, Borana, Rendille, Kalenjin and others because it’s a national office. It doesn’t belong to one tribe,” he disclosed.

At the same time, the DP said the government has guaranteed freedom of expression but warned against misusing it to destabilize the country.

“Freedom of expression is guaranteed by the government but we must be careful not to endanger the stabil-

ity and unity of our nation through inciting utterances. It is possible to air views without endangering the stability and security of our country.

The peace, stability and unity of Kenya takes precedence over other issues. Construction of roads, electricity connection and other development activities cannot happen if there is no peace and unity,” he said.

The DP was accompanied by among others; Narok Governor Patrick ole Ntutu, National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah, MPs Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris), Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West), Johana Ng’eno (Emurua Dikir), David ole Sankok (EALA), President’s Aide Farouk Kibet, Members of Narok County Assembly, community leaders and hundreds of local residents.

Institutions Created By African States In Championing Peace Processes Should Be Respected Says Mudavadi

By: OPCS Press Service

Worth Noting:

- Kenya continues to play a key facilitative role for South Sudan, we are ready to support Sudan, we are engaged in the eastern DRC process, we have been at the centre of conversations for Somalia, and so many other areas that have had challenges, Nairobi remains a base for positive dialogue.” said Mudavadi.
- Speaking in Antalya, Turkiye at the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum, the Prime CS said Kenya’s contribution to Africa’s peace processes is anchored on dialogue and mutual understanding of the challenges that need to be resolved.
- He emphasized that Kenya remains to be a respecter of the African institutions including the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, IGAD calling on African States to remain steadfast and encourage processes that will result into win-win solutions.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi with the other panelists during the discussions..

Kenya has called for the reinforcement of African-led processes through institutions established by African States in finding solutions for peace and stability.

Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said Africa needs sustainable conflict resolution mechanisms in advancing peace initiatives that will bring normalcy in conflict prone nations.

Mudavadi emphasized that Kenya will continue to be actively involved in the continental peace processes as part of its pivotal role as a neutral arbiter.

“Africans want to engage meaningfully amongst themselves and also with the rest of the world. We must be very careful that we do not create a new scramble for Africa, that can generate more problems like in the past. It is essential that the institutions created by the African nations are respected.” Noted Mudavadi.

“Kenya continues to play a key facilitative role for South Sudan, we are ready to support Sudan, we are engaged in the eastern DRC process, we have been at the centre of conversations for Somalia, and so many other areas that have had challenges, Nairobi remains a base for positive dialogue.” said Mudavadi.

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is anchored on dialogue and mutual understanding of the challenges that need to be resolved.

He emphasized that Kenya remains to be a respecter of the African institutions including the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, IGAD calling on African States to remain steadfast and encourage processes that will result into win-win solutions.

“Kenya hosts the United Nations headquarters for the global south in Nairobi, where in the near future it will be upgraded to be the regional logistics and humanitarian hub. This is very significant keeping in mind the role the UN plays in conflict resolution and humanitarian interventions. We want to ensure that symbolically, Nairobi continues to play its role as a centre for progressive conflict resolution.” explained Mudavadi.

“Resources are scarce and in particular resources channeled to conflict interventions are so limited even from the international community. Africa should therefore mainstream its efforts through recognized institutions that have structures for us to have a more coordinated approach to conflict resolution.” urged Mudavadi.

Mudavadi participated in a panel discussion on the “Horn of Africa: Risks and Opportunities” where he reiterated that Kenya stands for a unified Sudan and its appeal is to encourage dialogue for all parties to be brought

on the negotiations table in resolving the crisis.

He said Kenya will continue to support the humanitarian initiatives in Sudan noting that Nairobi’s significance in the supply of essentials that are helping the people of Sudan cannot be underestimated.

“At no time has Kenya facilitated the formation of a parallel government or a government in exile for the people of Sudan. At no time has Kenya said that it will be supporting a divided Sudan. We have hosted both sides at one time or the other and what happened in Nairobi was a conversation by a section of the Sudanese civil society and civilian population including political parties that are aligned to the RSF and they had their own conversation, came up with their charter and if you look at the charter there is nowhere a parallel government is formed.” explained Mudavadi.

“We are encouraging to have a platform where the civilian component of Sudan and the civil society of Sudan, can also have space to sit on the table and be involved in the talks to bring peace in their own country.” he noted. The Prime CS said Kenya is helping to facilitate dialogue in Sudan in a similar manner other countries are engaging the warring factions in the Sudan conflict,

He said the ultimate goal is to enable the Sudanese people form their government through their own mecha-

nisms and institutional order.

“There were talks in Paris a year ago about Sudan, you cannot say that France was dismembering Sudan, as we speak there is a meeting being planned in the UK on Sudan, you cannot say that is to dismember Sudan through London talks, we stand for one Sudan, we want the people to dialogue and Kenya is encouraging a process that will result into a win-win solution because largely it has been seen that the military solution will not work.” warned Mudavadi.

On the eastern DRC crisis, Mudavadi also the Foreign and Diaspora Affairs Cabinet Secretary lauded the merging of the Luanda and Nairobi processes saying this will help have a targeted approach towards resolving the conflict.

He explained that the Luanda process under President João Lourenço focused on inter-state mediation between Rwanda and DRC Congo while the Nairobi process under retired President Uhuru Kenyatta was an intra-DRC conversation to bring all factions within the Democratic Republic of Congo including the M23 and other groups to the dialogue table.

Over 5,000 Kenyans Certified Through Recognition Of Prior Learning Programme

By: Chris Mahandara

@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- The initiative, spearheaded by the Directorate of RPL within the State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), is designed to validate and accredit the skills of individuals working in the informal sector who have long been overlooked by formal education systems.
- RPL Director Stanley Maindi said that through the policy, the government was working with national polytechnics to carry out assessments and issue certificates at different levels to eligible Kenyans.
- He said the institutions have been tasked with evaluating candidates based on their practical competencies and knowledge, aligning them with the National Qualifications Framework.
- This, he said, was in line with the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which aims to ensure those at the bottom are empowered through certification to get formal employment or bargain for better perks.



More than 5,000 Kenyans have received official certification from recognized institutions through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme.

This achievement comes a year after the RPL policy was enacted in March 2024, paving the way for millions of Kenyans with experience and competencies acquired outside traditional classrooms to gain national recognition.

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This, he said, was in line with the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which aims to ensure those at the bottom are empowered

through certification to get formal employment or bargain for better perks.

“The certificates we are issuing through RPL are the same as those issued to those who go through the formal education system. The goal is to ensure that Kenyans with skills and competencies but who did not get a chance to go to class are assessed and awarded certificates, which they can even use to advance their studies,” he said.

Speaking at Kisumu National Polytechnic, where certification assessments are currently underway, Maindi underscored the importance of the programme in unlocking new economic and professional opportunities.

“Kenya continues to receive requests for workers with different skills to work abroad. Like recently, there was a request for meat cutters to go and work in slaughterhouses. Since we don’t have such a course in our formal education system, we are now able to look at the skills required and assess individuals working in the sector so that we give them certificates to take up the job offers,” he said.

He added that through partnerships with development partners, the Directorate has trained its eyes on the 15 million Kenyans working in the informal sector to ensure they are assessed and certified.

The campaign, he said, targets food and beverage, masonry, carpentry, building and construction, CCTV technology, electrical installation, solar PV installation, electrical alarm system technology, engine technology, autobody repair and spray painting, fashion design, and fisheries technology.

“The candidates are assessed not just on what they know, but on what they can do. The assessment is both oral and written because some of the candidates cannot write. Where need be, we do oral tests in mother tongue. This approach ensures that certification is truly reflective of their real-world abilities,” Maindi added.

He said to ramp up the programme, officers from the RPL Directorate would be making onsite visits targeting government programmes and institutions where a good number of Kenyans in the informal sector have been engaged.

“We are targeting the Affordable Housing Programme, county integrated markets, and Blue Economy projects. Our plan is to engage the contractors so that we assess those working with them and issue them with certificates,” he said.

Maindi said the minimum cost for the exercise was Sh5,500 for those visiting the various institutions awarding the certificates. This, however, was likely to vary depending on the nature of tests

undertaken, he said.

“When they come to an institution like Kisumu National Polytechnic, for example, there are costs involved. For example, if it is electrical installation, the institution must buy the materials required for the tests. So, the cost can go beyond the Sh5,500,” he explained.

Maindi urged Kenyans in the informal sector to take advantage of the initiative and take up the tests in order to secure certificates.

He said beneficiaries of the programme have already begun to experience the ripple effects of formal certification.

Maindi said a recent tracer study carried out by the Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) revealed that the majority of those who have transitioned to formal employment using the certificates were performing above par.

“Many have reported increased employment prospects, eligibility for government contracts, access to further education, and greater respect within their trades,” he said.

Farmers Urged To Effectively Tackle Coffee Diseases For Increased Production

By: Bernard Munyao and Catherine Kamunyo
@themkenyatimes



Some of the stakeholders during the Saturday forum..

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during Coffee Farmers Open Day held in Murang'a on Saturday, Alworah mentioned coffee berry disease (CBD) and coffee leaf rust (CLR) as common diseases that have dwindled coffee production and affected cherry quality.
- During the event that brought together agricultural experts, researchers, and coffee stakeholders to equip farmers, Alworah outlined specific ways farmers can employ to curb the spread and damage caused by the diseases.
- She explained that coffee berry disease, which is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum kahawae*, affects developing berries, leading to black lesions and premature fruit drop.
- The scientist added that the disease thrives in cool and wet conditions, especially during the flowering and early fruiting stages.

Poor management and control of common coffee diseases are to blame for poor production and low quality of cherry.

A plant pathologist working with Coffee Research Institute (CRI) Getrude Alworah has said farmers have to intensify efforts in combating two most destructive diseases that have been affecting coffee production in the country.

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The scientist added that the disease thrives in cool and wet conditions, especially during the flowering and early fruiting stages.

"The disease is a major cause of low yields among Arabica coffee growers in the country," she noted.

To combat CBD, Alworah recommended planting disease-resistant coffee varieties such as Ruiru 11 and Batian, which were developed by CRI to withstand attacks from the fungus. "These varieties not only reduce losses but also require fewer chemical inputs, making them suitable for both small- and large-scale farmers," she added.

"Another key strategy involves timely and proper fungicide application. Farmers are advised to apply copper-based fungicides before the onset of the rains when the disease is most likely to spread," the scientist continued.

According to Alworah, fungicides should be sprayed at specific stages of berry development to provide maximum protection.

She emphasized the need to follow the right dosage and seek professional guidance for effective results.

Alworah further noted regular pruning and canopy management were also listed as crucial measures.

"Overgrown coffee trees with dense foliage create humid conditions that favor fungal growth," she stated.

Alworah urged farmers to prune

their coffee bushes regularly and manage shade trees to improve airflow and sunlight penetration within the farm, which naturally suppresses disease development.

She observed that field sanitation is equally vital, encouraging farmers to maintain clean coffee fields by removing fallen berries, pruned branches, and other plant debris that may harbor disease-causing organisms.

"Proper disposal of infected plant material reduces the chances of reinfection and disease persistence in the following seasons," she remarked.

On coffee leaf rust (CLR) which is caused by the fungus *Hemileia vastatrix*, Alworah warned that it was becoming increasingly common, especially in lower altitude areas.

She noted that CLR causes orange-yellow powdery spots on the underside of coffee leaves, leading to premature leaf fall, reduced photosynthesis, and lower yields.

"Similar to CBD, using resistant varieties like Ruiru 11 and Batian is one of the most effective ways to manage CLR," she said, adding, "These varieties have been bred to tolerate the rust fungus, and their adoption can significantly reduce the impact of the disease on production. Shade control is also a critical component of CLR

management."

Alworah explained that high humidity, often caused by excessive shading, encourages the spread of rust spores.

Farmers were also advised to manage their shade trees properly by thinning and pruning them to lower humidity and allow sunlight to reach the coffee plants.

Alworah emphasized the importance of walking through the farm at least once a week to inspect for early signs of disease.

"Early detection allows for quick action, such as removing affected leaves or applying targeted treatments before the infection spreads," she said.

She urged farmers to take advantage of training and extension services, encouraging them to work closely with local agricultural officers and to attend forums like the coffee expo for continuous learning.

The event was seen as a timely intervention, especially as climate change continues to make coffee bushes more vulnerable to diseases.

With the right knowledge and practices, farmers now have renewed hope in restoring productivity and protecting the future of Kenya's coffee industry.

Institutions Created By African States In Championing Peace Processes Should Be Respected Says Mudavadi

Contd from page 10

He said the adopted joint approach between the East African Community, EAC and the Southern African Development Community, SADC is a one initiative with a common goal towards bringing normalcy to the eastern DRC.

“The resolutions passed by all the Heads of State, including the Head of State for Rwanda and the one for the Democratic Republic of Congo, is that we want an immediate cease-fire and all parties to be on the table to talk. This includes discussions with all groups that are inside DRC and are having challenges.” noted Mudavadi.

He defended the mission that Kenyan troops were involved in saying it was under the sanctions of the EAC which Kenya is a member state.

“The mission was an EAC process sanctioned even by the DRC govern-

ment itself, so the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) was not a Kenyan force, it was an East African Community Force in DRC and DRC is a member of EAC the same way Kenya is a member. Kenya has not violated anything; it is a distortion that we need to correct.” said Mudavadi.

“Kenya is a peace builder and peace initiator. We are not peace breakers and whoever is trying to distort Kenya’s position is mischievous and Kenya does not support any division in DRC or any other country.” he added.

Mudavadi also revealed at the summit that Kenya played a critical role in the Somalia peace process cautioning parties that are reluctant to embrace regional led peace processes and agreements as a let down to the advancements of peace initiatives within Africa.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi making his contribution.

The Mt. Kenya Times



Victim Of Envy



- My son, I saw your music teacher Alisherjon. He praised you a lot. I was so happy, I can't even describe it. "Rakhimjon has a sweet voice. He needs to be nurtured. He must find a good mentor," he said. Rukhsor, who had just come from the kitchen, hugged her youngest son - a tall, handsome boy with black eyes and black hair falling over his forehead.

- If you become a great singer, I'll finally see Tashkent, thanks to you, my son.

- God willing, mom! Once I get into school, the first thing I'll do is take you around the big city. I've dreamed about it for so long. But... I wonder if they'll even accept me into the conservatory?

- They will, my son, they will. Once they hear your voice, they'll be captivated too.

- Mom, you're exaggerating. There are so many others like me...

- It doesn't matter. God has created everyone with their own share of blessings, my child...

After graduating from school, Rakhimjon couldn't go to Tashkent. What would his mother's meager earnings be enough for? He enrolled in a music college. With the help of his mentor (teacher), he learned to sing ghazals with mastery.

- You'll soon be able to perform even the most difficult songs easily, my son, - said his mentor Ghani aka, proud of his student's talent.

In his final year, Rakhimjon won first place at the regional Youth Festival by performing "Karo Ko'zim" and "Kelmedi," songs based on Navoi's ghazals. One of the judges, a well-known singer who introduced himself as Muslim, an older, broad-shouldered man, embraced Rakhimjon and said:

- My son, you have a bright future. Here's my address. If you come to Tashkent, find me. I'll help you get admitted.

That day, Rakhimjon's joy was boundless. It felt as if he was walking on air. As soon as he got home:

- Mom, congratulate me, - he said. - I got first place. In a few months, we'll go to Tashkent. If I succeed there too, I'll get into the conservatory without even taking exams.

- I learn from my smart boy. May no harm come to your voice, my child. May God protect you from all evil.

- May your words come true...

Mukhsinjon, who had taken second place at the festival, was seething with envy.

- All my efforts, all my hard work, gone in vain? I also dream of singing on the big stages of Tashkent...

Mukhsin couldn't sit still at home. Despite his mother's protests:

- Hey, where are you off to this late? ...he went to see his mentor.

- Is everything okay, Mukhsinjon? What's the matter? - the mentor asked when he opened the door. - I told you to rest for a day or two!

- Mentor, I also want to go to Tashkent. That's my goal.

- You heard your friend's performance yourself. He truly has a strong voice. But yours isn't bad either. God willing, next year it'll be your turn. I'll personally help you. Now go home and rest.

- No, mentor. If I said I'm going, I'm going. I want to enter school this year.

- Then... you'll need to convince Rakhimjon not to go. That's the only way the path will open for you.

- I'll convince him. I definitely will...

That night, Mukhsinjon remembered Rakhimjon's shining eyes and arms full of flowers on stage - and clenched his fists in anger.

- You'll never be this happy again, buddy!

The next day, a big celebration was held in a park in the city center. Teachers, students, and well-known musicians and singers gathered. It felt more like an event than a party. Everyone performed their favorite songs and shared funny stories.

When it was Rakhimjon's turn, he sang a song dedicated to his mother. There were cheers and applause. Even those who had come just to relax applauded when the song ended.

All glasses were filled. Rakhimjon said:

- Sorry, I don't drink.

- Come on now, this party is in your honor! Just one glass. You don't have to drink after this.

Rakhimjon didn't know what to do - everyone was looking at him. Embarrassed and helpless, he emptied the glass in one gulp.

- Now we trust you. You've become a real man!

But as soon as Rakhimjon swallowed the alcohol, his throat and then his insides began to burn, and tears welled up in his eyes. He felt uneasy. He couldn't sit any longer. Apologizing, he got up and walked toward a quiet corner of the park...

He didn't return.

He didn't even remember how he got home.

Seeing the state of her son, the mother's heart nearly burst with pain.

"What happened to you, my child?"

Rakhimjon was bedridden for a week. He had persistent pain and could not swallow anything.

He spent nearly two months in one of the city's major hospitals. Although there seemed to be some effect from the treatments, he couldn't recover. No one understood why this was happening... He became bored lying in the hospital and learned to make flowers from colored paper. He would give these beautiful flowers to the doctors, nurses, and other patients...

Rakhimjon was fading away.

"Take me home, mother... I won't get better." The day he returned home, he asked for the dutar (a traditional stringed instrument) that was hanging on the carpet.

"I want to play it..."

He tried to play along with the tune, but no sound came out. He dropped the dutar and began to cry.

"Will I never be able to sing again, mother? Why, why?! What happened to me? What happened?"

His mental depression and illness overwhelmed him. He became bedridden.

Meanwhile, Mukhsinjon was in Tashkent at that time. He had participated in a competition, and after getting a place, he was accepted into the university. He was extremely happy.

"Teacher, I have achieved my goal. I am very happy," he said on his way back.

"Now, study hard. Work hard. Seek knowledge."

"Of course."

"I heard your friend is ill. Have you heard anything about him?"

"I haven't heard anything today because I was

preparing for the competition, but I'll visit him as soon as I get a chance."

"Do that. He's very talented. I hope he gets better, may God help him."

"God willing..."

Mukhsinjon said this, but inside he thought, "He will never sing again, he won't get better either," and he was at peace with his own guilt, which was only known to God and himself.

No cure was found for Rakhimjon's illness. The elderly doctor his uncle had brought said that there might have been mercury mixed with alcohol. However, because it absorbed quickly into the blood, it would be difficult to confirm or treat. It was clear that someone had tried to harm him, but no one was found guilty.

On the day of his death, precisely on the 28th of October, Rakhimjon, still young and twenty years old, passed away...

There was no one who didn't mourn for him.

On that day, the rain poured relentlessly... Meanwhile, Mukhsinjon's reputation grew. He was invited to large gatherings and weddings.

He became more prosperous.

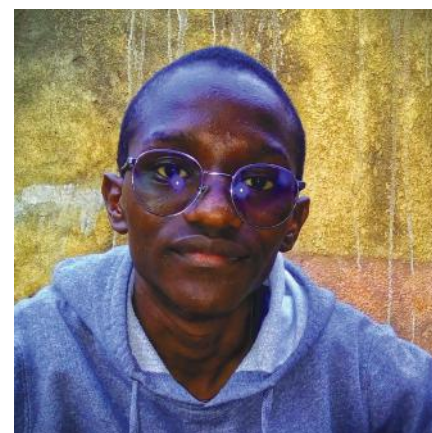
He bought a car. Tashkent was now within his reach.

On one of those days, in the late twenties of January, during a snowstorm, Mukhsinjon had a car accident while returning home from work. The car fell into a ravine... It's unknown what he thought in his last breath. But he had received the punishment that matched his crime.

It has been many years since that incident. Rakhimjon's mother also grew old and passed away. Yet the dutar and its picture still hang on the carpet.

Lobar RUSTAMOVA,
Member of the Union of Writers of
Uzbekistan

Poème- Déambuler



destin
Mais le destin est le contrôle par le succès.

J'en ai vu beaucoup se plonger dans les affaires du monde
Mais je plonge dans mon esprit
Je suis à la recherche de mon vide perdu
Je suis perdu dans mes pensées.

Par,
KEVIN

Dans le midiste de la crise
C'est mon chemin vers le succès
Le succès n'est pas déterminé par le

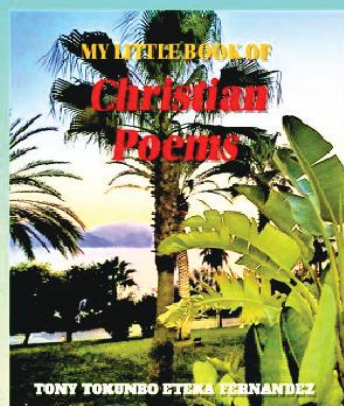
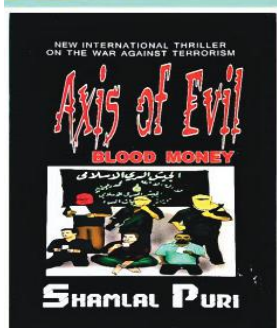
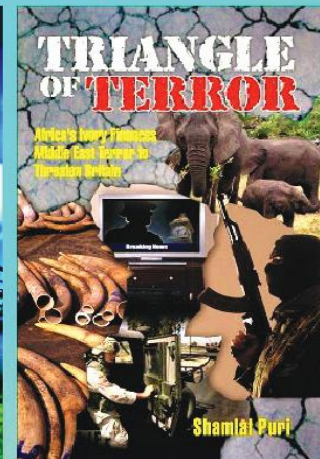
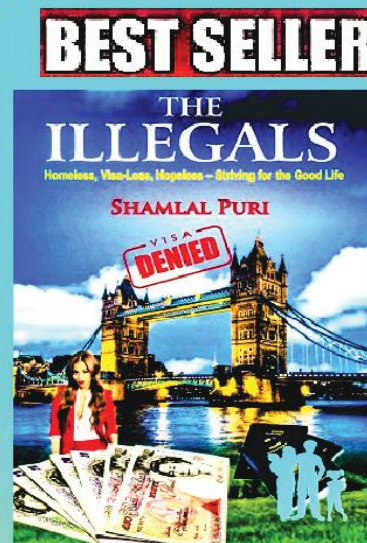
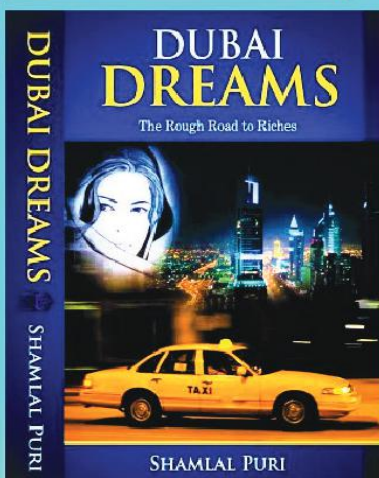
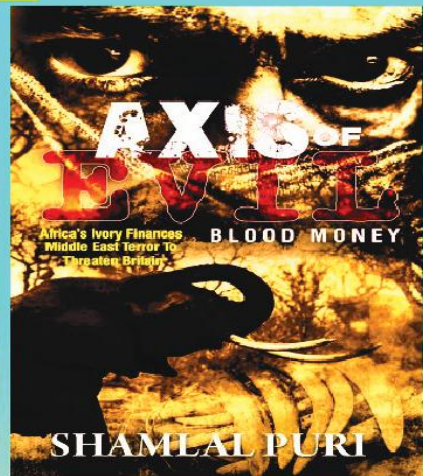
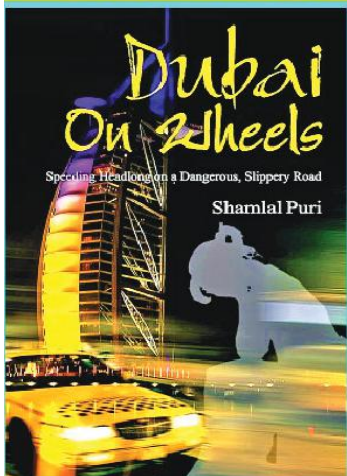
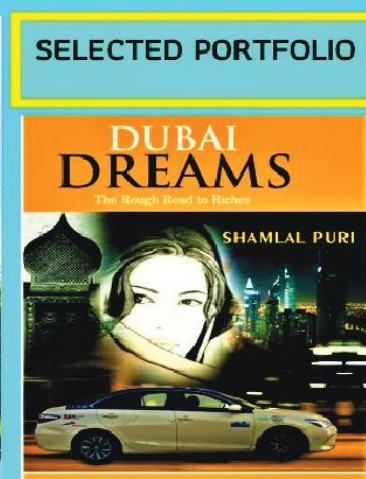
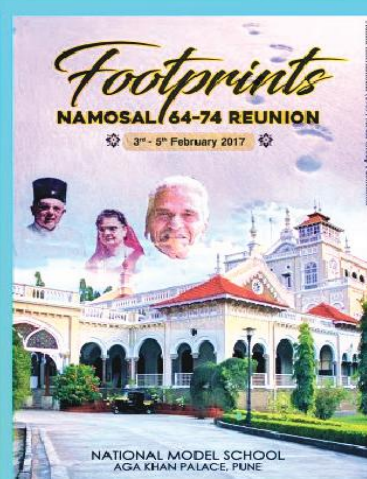
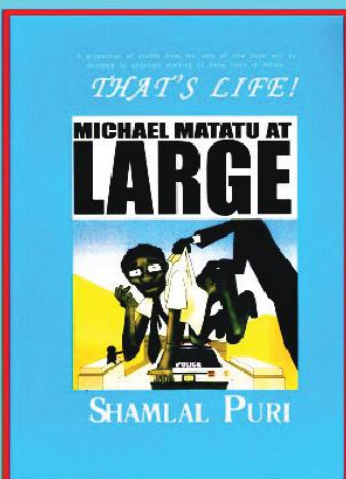
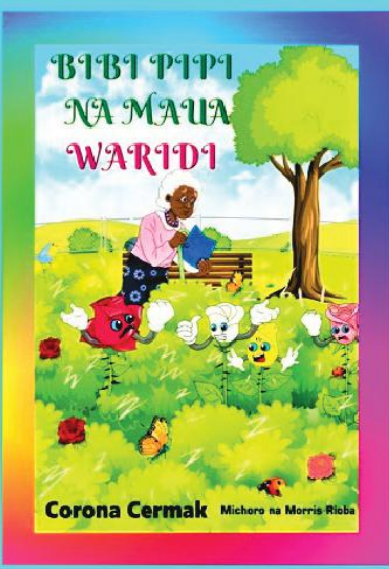
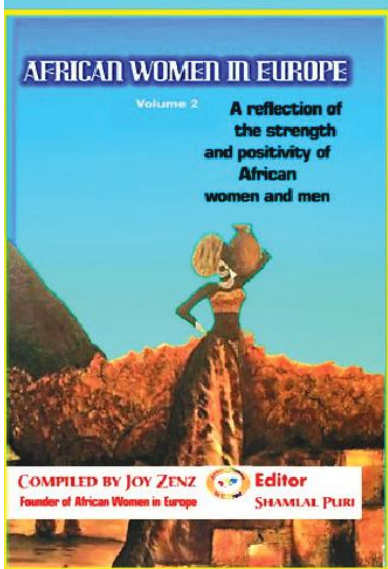
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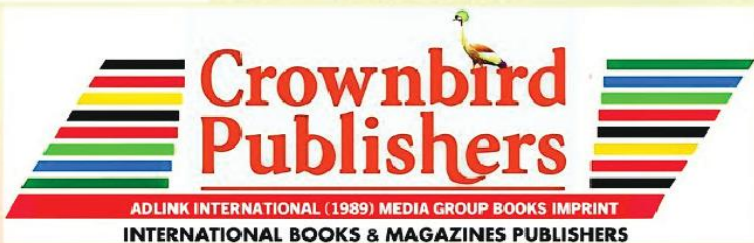
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HEALTH

Outrage As KEWOPA Calls For Shutdown Of Kisii Health Facility Over Maternal Death



By: Elizabeth Angira

Worth Noting:

- According to Bosibori, her daughter was left unattended for over 24 hours, despite being in visible distress.
- “They told her to keep walking around and exercising. When I questioned a nurse about her condition, she snapped at me, saying I was not qualified to ask.”
- “You’re not a nurse,” she said. But my daughter was clearly in pain,” Bosibori recalls.
- “They kept saying, ‘We’re trying,’ but I could see they were doing nothing,” she says. “My daughter screamed, then went silent.”
- “My daughter screamed, then went silent.”
- “Just like that. I watched her die right in front of me.”

As dawn broke over Kisii County, the cries of newborn babies echoed through the walls of Magena Dispensary. However, for Bosibori Ratemo, the only sound that haunts her from that day is the deafening silence that followed her daughter’s final breath.

“I watched my daughter die as doctors told me to step aside. They said they were attending to her,” Moraa says, tears streaming down her cheeks. Her voice trembles worn from grief and unanswered questions. Her daughter, 27-year-old Phanice Kerubo Ratemo, was full of hope as she prepared to deliver her first child.

A newlywed, she had come to the facility after experiencing labor pains. “We were told everything was fine. They asked us to wait,” Bosibori recalls.

However, what was supposed to be a moment of joy quickly turned into a mother’s worst nightmare.

According to Bosibori, her daughter was left unattended for over 24 hours, despite being in visible distress.

“They told her to keep walking around and exercising. When I questioned a nurse about her condition, she snapped at me, saying I was not qualified to ask.”

“You’re not a nurse,” she said. But my daughter was clearly in pain,” Bosibori recalls.

“They kept saying, ‘We’re trying,’ but I could see they were doing nothing,” she says. “My daughter screamed, then went silent.”

Just like that. I watched her die right in front of me.”

Outcry and Calls for Accountability

The tragic incident has sparked outrage across the country.

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) has since called on the Kisii County Government to urgently address the dire state of Magena Dispensary in Kenyena Sub-County.

Led by Kisii Woman Representative Dorice Aburi, the lawmakers decried the facility’s poor conditions citing inadequate staff, lack of medical equipment, poor lighting, and a general lack of infrastructure to support maternal health services.

Their visit came just days after Kerubo’s death went viral on social media, prompting a wave of anger from residents who blamed the facility’s management for negligence.

“This death could have been avoided



Bosibori Ratemo with Some of KEWOPA members in Kisii.

if the facility had even the most basic equipment required in a maternity wing,” said Aburi.

According to the postmortem done on the deceased, it was found that she succumbed to prolonged labor that she endured while waiting for the medical personnel to attend to her. Kisumu Woman Representative Ruth Odinga condemned the unhygienic conditions in the maternity ward and called for urgent government intervention.

“This mother was in pain for more than 24 hours.

She should have been referred to another hospital. This wasn’t just unfortunate it was negligent,” said Ms. Odinga.

She further urged security agencies to investigate the case and ensure those responsible face legal consequences.

Vihiga Woman MP Dr. Beatrice Adagala added her voice, calling on the Ministry of Health to conduct a comprehensive audit of the facility and advice on how to improve its infrastructure.

“We cannot continue losing mothers while giving life. The government must step up and equip this facility to protect women and children,” said Dr. Adagala.

Nominated MP Irine Mayaka said the facility is not equipped and the personnel responsible for the incident should be investigated and face the

law..

The Bigger Picture: A National Crisis

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 300,000 women die annually during pregnancy or childbirth. Over two million babies die within their first month of life, and an equal number are stillborn adding up to one preventable death every seven seconds.

The Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures campaign is now calling on governments and health policymakers to prioritize women’s health and end preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

A 2025 report by UNICEF highlights that Kenya has made progress in reducing maternal deaths, with mortality rates dropping to 530 deaths per 100,000 live births from 594. However, USAID’s 2024 report on Pre-

venting Child and Maternal Deaths still ranks Kenya fourth in Africa for maternal mortality.

“Forty percent of maternal deaths in sub-Saharan Africa result from postpartum hemorrhage and pre-eclampsia,” the report states. UNICEF also noted a decrease in maternal deaths due to abortive outcomes, from 9.6% (2003–2009) to 7.7% (2009–2020).

Seeking Justice, Finding Purpose

Bosibori is now seeking justice for her daughter and is urging the government to make dispensaries safe spaces for mothers.

“If my daughter’s death can save another woman’s life, then I will not remain silent,” she says with determination.

Her pain is now a rallying cry for justice, for reform, and for every woman whose voice was lost in the delivery room.





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Two Palm Sundays: Should African Churches Celebrate Palm Sunday Differently From Ethiopia?



By: Reported by Gitau wa Kung'u
(profgitauwakungu@gmail.com)

Worth Noting:

- A Gikũyũ proverb teaches, “Mũgeni nĩ rũũ” (A visitor is like a river). Rivers carve paths but cannot erode resistant rocks. Similarly, foreign influences shape cultures but should not erase core traditions. Has Western influence diluted or enriched African Christianity?
- Many Africans practicing Western Christianity face conflicts with church teachings when engaging in African traditions the Western doctrines condemn as evil. Practices like polygamy and dowry rituals are often deemed sinful. This tension highlights the challenge of reconciling Western ideologies with deeply rooted African values, prompting the question: Should the African Church redefine doctrines to resonate with its spiritual and cultural identity?



Palm Sunday

Christianity, with a history spanning over two millennia, has evolved into a mosaic of denominations and traditions. From Roman Catholics and Protestants in the West to Eastern Orthodox Christians and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, each branch enriches the faith with unique practices. While united in commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Western, Eastern, and Ethiopian Christians observe Palm Sunday in distinct ways.

This article explores these differences, examining liturgical calendars, rituals, and cultural expressions. It poses thought-provoking questions to the African Church: Should African Christians celebrate Palm Sunday differently from Ethiopia, the home of the world's oldest Bible? Should African doctrines better reflect African spirituality and heritage?

Ethiopia, Christianity's earliest strongholds, preserves profound spiritual heritage. Its traditions trace back to the 4th century and the ancient Ge'ez Bible, the oldest and most complete Christian scripture. This raises an important reflection: Are modern African churches aligned with their cultural and spiritual roots, or have Western interpretations overshadowed them?

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resistant rocks. Similarly, foreign influences shape cultures but should not erase core traditions. Has Western influence diluted or enriched African Christianity?

Many Africans practicing Western Christianity face conflicts with church teachings when engaging in African traditions the Western doctrines condemn as evil. Practices like polygamy and dowry rituals are often deemed sinful. This tension highlights the challenge of reconciling Western ideologies with deeply rooted African values, prompting the question: Should the African Church redefine doctrines to resonate with its spiritual and cultural identity?

The rejection by the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) of Pope Francis and the Church of England's permission of homosexual marriages serves as an awakening for African Christians. The clergy firmly rejected the blessing of same-sex unions, citing alignment with African cultural traditions and the Word of God.

This stance underscores the importance of preserving African values within Christian doctrines and highlights the Ethiopian Orthodox Church as a model for integrating spirituality with cultural heritage.

The liturgical calendar offers another striking difference. Western Christianity, predominant in Europe, the Americas, and parts of Africa,

follows the Gregorian calendar. Palm Sunday was celebrated yesterday. In contrast, Eastern Orthodox Christians and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church adhere to the Julian calendar, observing Palm Sunday on April 20.

Biblical wisdom reminds us: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” (Proverbs 3:1). Respecting these differences enhances understanding of diverse traditions. However, should African Christians follow Western or Ethiopian Christianity?

Calendar differences also reflect deeper variances in focus and ritual. Western Christianity links Palm Sunday to Lent's conclusion and the Passion narrative. Churches distribute palm branches (or substitutes like yew or willow), re-enact processions, and feature hymns and scripture readings.

Eastern and Ethiopian Orthodox traditions emphasize victory and peace, connecting Palm Sunday to Lazarus Saturday - Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Rituals include blessing palm or olive branches and hymns extolling Christ's humility and prophecy fulfillment. The Ethiopian Church reflects on Christ's triumph over death.

Another divergence lies in the Western Church's reverence for saints long dead, contrasting its criticism of African ancestor worship. This

paradox leaves African Christians grappling with reconciling cultural respect for ancestors with their faith. Integrating African ancestral philosophies, similar to Ethiopian practices, could enrich the African Church's spiritual authenticity.

African Christianity is uniquely vibrant, embracing dynamic worship styles, songs, dances, and doctrinal teachings. However, many elements echo Western ideologies instead of African philosophies. Concepts like community harmony and care for creation could reshape doctrines to align with African values.

Why should African churches celebrate Palm Sunday differently from Ethiopia, the only country that was never colonized, and the only nation preserving one of Christianity's earliest expressions?

Could adopting Ethiopia's calendar and philosophies deepen African churches' spiritual connection and cultural identity, and honor ancient roots while cultivating a uniquely African expression of faith?

By adopting Ethiopia's traditions, African churches could honor shared history and enrich their identity, presenting a uniquely African expression of faith.

Proverbs 22:28 warns: “Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors.” African Christianity MUST preserve their African heritage.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When The Lights Go Out: The Silent Crisis Facing Exam-Season Students

By Mishael Kayiya

Students in Rongo University are facing a huge crisis as they are doing their end of semester examination (which kick started on 10th April 2025). They are facing frequent cases of power shortage due to unreliable electricity thus hindering their academic activities and daily activities.

Rongo university, a world class institution in Migori, is suffering the constraints of “failed KPLC” which results to power shortage amid examination period. Being a rainy season, it has worsen the situation whereby after every rainy moment, the power goes off. This has been evident through this semester.

For example, on 11th April 2025, there was no electricity in Rongo University and its neighborhood. What’s more devastating is that Kenya power Lightning company didn’t mention

Rongo University nor Migori county in its list of planned power maintenance on 11th April 2025. Sadly enough there is no report from KPLC concerning power shortage on Friday 11th April 2025.

Students are now suffering and have to toil in order to access E-Learning materials. On top of that, they can’t access online resources nor print necessary documents for the projects and assignments since Wi-Fi and cyber operate depending on electricity. This hinders students who are preparing for exams since power is essential in solving such cases.

In addition to that, students have to make ends meet in order to purchase candles for lighting their houses. Some usually use flashlight for their mobile phones. When power isn’t stable their phone batteries run low and so do the laptops leaving them stranded. This has so far affected who did their ex-

ams on April 11th 2025. This derails students from accessing PDF stored in laptops and mobile phones imposing a challenge as they are revising for exams.

Lastly, this happens at least expected time. This affects local businesses operating at night like grocery business. Darkness discourages people to purchase essential products during night hours. Furthermore, most payment is cashless which depends on mobile payment and sometimes most phones go off in absence of power.

However they may be a lasting solution to this crisis. KPLC should rectify this issue in conjunction with ministry of energy in Migori county. Additionally, they may install backup generators in all residents in absence of power. This requires immediacy in order to rescue academic programs in Rongo university. As the saying goes a stitch in time saves nine.



Kisakye Jovine’s Happiness Within Us—A Poetic Treasure That Resonates Deeply

By Nze Dez

In a world that often races past the beauty of life’s simplest yet profound moments, Kisakye Jovine’s debut poetry anthology, *Happiness Within Us*, emerges as a soulful pause—a reflective, heartfelt exploration of what it truly means to be alive. Through fifty unique poems, complemented by contributions from friends, the collection weaves an intricate tapestry of themes that touch the heart and stir the spirit.

What sets this book apart from many contemporary works of poetry is its incredible balance of universal resonance and deeply personal intimacy. Each poem is crafted with precision, clarity, and an emotional depth that allows readers to find themselves in the verses. From the joyous embrace of nature’s wonders to the complexities of the human spirit, every page reflects an unwavering dedication to understanding life’s multilayered beauty.

The anthology begins with themes that ground the reader in the physical and emotional landscapes of Uganda. Kisakye’s love for her homeland shines brilliantly in her depictions of

nature’s resilience and grandeur. Poems like “Forests” and “Mountains” capture the breathless wonder of the world, while others like “Rain” and “Rivers” celebrate the life-sustaining forces that connect us all. Her words flow like the rivers she writes about—fluid, reflective, and deeply nourishing to the soul.

As the collection progresses, Kisakye transitions seamlessly into the realms of introspection and emotional exploration. Themes such as “Shadows,” “Solitude,” and “Echoes” delve into the complexities of human emotion, unearthing layers of vulnerability, courage, and self-discovery. These poems do not shy away from the darker aspects of life but instead illuminate them with empathy and understanding, offering readers a space for reflection and healing.

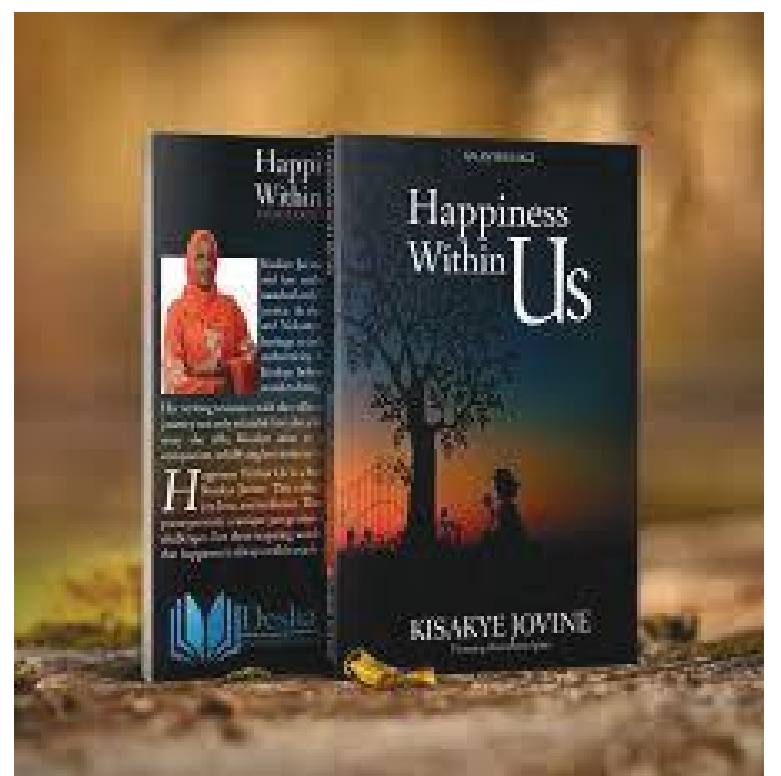
One of the most striking aspects of *Happiness Within Us* is its ability to inspire. Poems like “Courage” and “Resilience” serve as beacons of hope, encouraging readers to rise above challenges and embrace the strength within themselves. Kisakye’s writing is a gentle reminder that happiness is not something ex-

ternal to be sought but rather something intrinsic that resides within each of us, waiting to be discovered.

The collaborative spirit of the book is a testament to Kisakye’s generosity and commitment to uplifting others. By featuring the poems of friends at the end of the anthology, the author transforms her work into a shared celebration of creativity. These contributions not only add richness and diversity to the collection but also underline the message that art thrives in community and collaboration.

The language throughout the book is lyrical, vivid, and deeply evocative. Kisakye employs poetic devices with ease, from metaphor and imagery to rhythm and rhyme, creating an experience that feels as much like a journey as it does a conversation with the soul. Her words, while steeped in cultural specificity, transcend geographical borders, speaking to universal themes of love, hope, and resilience.

Happiness Within Us is not merely a book of poetry; it is an experience, a companion, and a mirror. It invites readers to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the happiness that often gets buried beneath the weight of daily life. For those seeking solace,



inspiration, or simply the beauty of well-crafted verse, this anthology offers all that and more.

Kisakye Jovine has crafted a work of art that will resonate with readers for years to come. *Happiness With-*

in Us is a celebration of life in all its complexities, and it is a must-read for lovers of poetry and anyone who seeks to find the happiness within themselves.

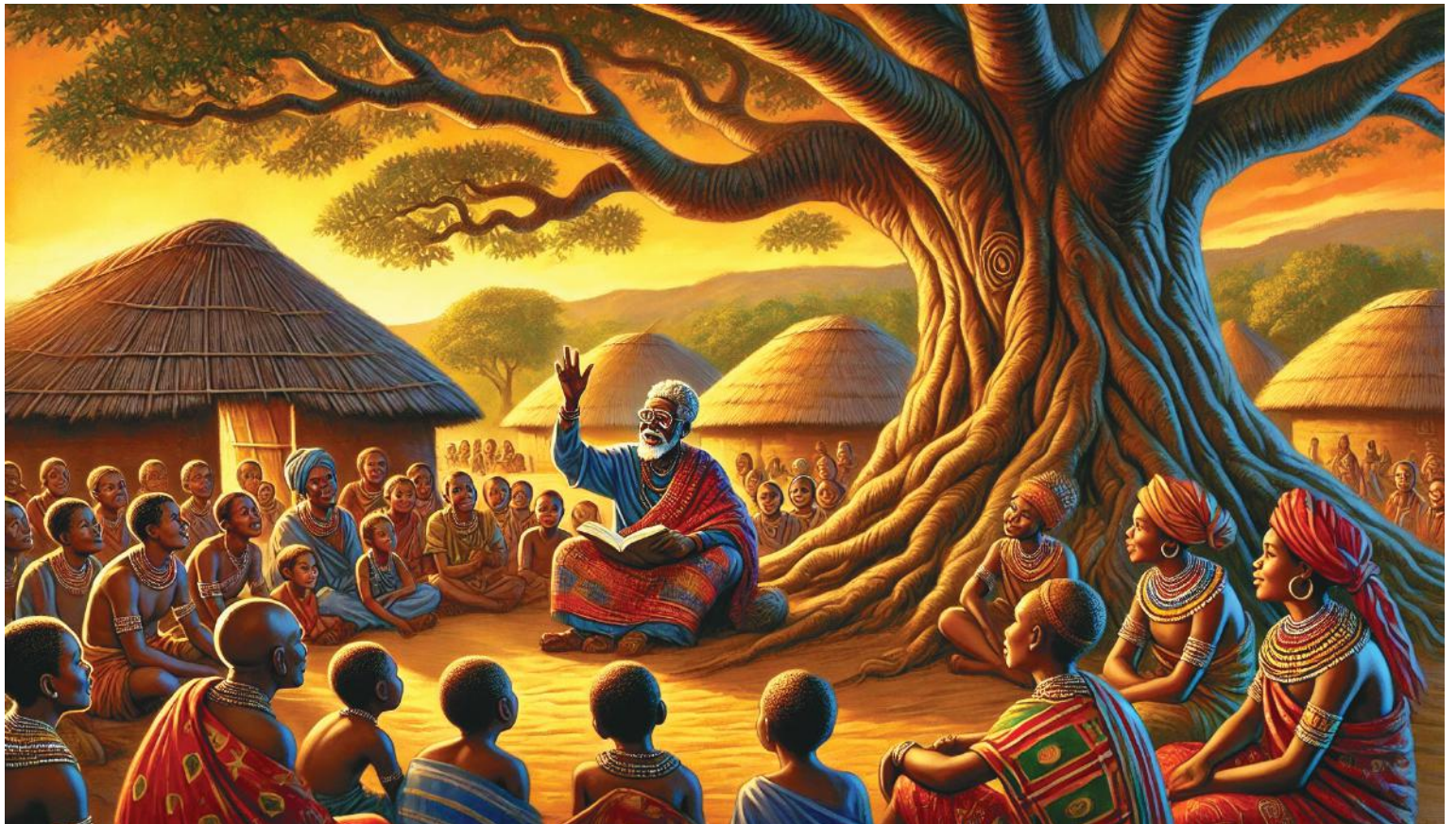
The Erosion Of African Traditions: A Cultural Critique Of Western Ideologies And The LGBTQ+ Agenda



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In traditional African societies, the family is not only a private institution but the very core of the community. The concept of Ubuntu, “I am because we are”, reflects the deeply relational nature of African life. People exist within the context of family, lineage, and community.
- Marriage in Africa has always been oriented toward procreation, the continuity of bloodlines, and inter-family alliances. Sexuality, therefore, is not just a private matter but a socially meaningful act with communal implications. Among the Shona of Zimbabwe, the Himba and Ovawambo of Namibia, the Maasai of Kenya, and many others, deviation from heteronormative structures has historically been rare and often viewed with suspicion.



African Traditions

Introduction

Africa is undergoing a profound transformation, not just politically or economically, but culturally and morally. As the continent opens itself more to the global community, it increasingly finds itself at odds with certain imported ideologies that conflict with its long-standing traditions. One of the most divisive of these is the global LGBTQ+ movement, which advocates for the recognition and normalization of non-heteronormative sexual orientations and gender identities.

While the conversation surrounding LGBTQ+ rights is framed globally as a human rights issue, many Africans view it as a threat to their cultural identity and societal cohesion. The African continent, diverse in ethnicity but largely united in traditional values, sees family and procreation as foundational elements of its social fabric. The rising pressure to accept and integrate Western ideologies concerning sexuality and gender identity is thus being met with concern, resistance, and calls for a cultural reckoning of the African originality.

This article presents a cultural critique rooted in African values, historical consciousness, and moral sovereignty. It argues that the widespread acceptance of LGBTQ+ ideologies without proper introspection is a form of modern cultural colo-

niaлизм and could have long-term consequences for Africa’s future.

1. African Cultural Foundations: Family, Identity, and Communal Life

In traditional African societies, the family is not only a private institution but the very core of the community. The concept of Ubuntu, “I am because we are”, reflects the deeply relational nature of African life. People exist within the context of family, lineage, and community.

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Unlike in the West, where individualism prevails, African identity is collective. Thus, any shift in fundamental societal norms, such as the redefinition of gender or sexuality, touches not just the individual but the collective psyche and societal structure.

2. The History of Cultural Intrusion: From Colonialism to Modern

Influence

Africa has a painful history of cultural invasion. From the 15th to the 20th century, European colonial powers imposed their political, religious, and social systems upon African nations. Language, education, governance, and even religious beliefs were restructured to reflect European ideologies.

Now, in the 21st century, a new kind of cultural pressure is emerging - ideological neocolonialism. In the name of human rights and inclusivity, Western countries and global institutions are promoting value systems that often clash with African worldviews.

Former Ghanaian President John Evans Atta Mills once boldly rejected foreign aid tied to the adoption of LGBTQ+ laws, saying, “We are not going to accept aid with strings attached, especially if it goes against our values.” This sentiment has been echoed in Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, and Namibia, where laws restricting same-sex marriages and the promotion of LGBTQ+ ideologies have been upheld by overwhelming public support.

3. Media, Aid, and Conditional Diplomacy: Subtle Tools of Influence

The LGBTQ+ agenda is being promoted not just through diplomacy but also through media, education, and international aid. Hollywood,

Netflix, and popular music have become vehicles for normalizing values that were once considered taboo in African contexts.

In education, Western textbooks are increasingly being introduced into African curricula, some of which include content on gender fluidity and same-sex relationships. In some cases, development aid is made conditional upon the adoption of LGBTQ+-friendly policies. The EU and certain UN agencies have placed pressure on African governments to align with global “inclusivity” standards.

In 2014, the United States cut aid to Uganda after it passed an anti-homosexuality bill. This raises a crucial question: Should Africa be coerced into adopting values contrary to its cultural and moral heritage in exchange for financial support?

4. Science, Biology, and Cultural Interpretation

Advocates of LGBTQ+ rights often cite scientific studies suggesting that sexual orientation and gender identity may be influenced by genetics, hormones, or early environmental factors. However, there is no scientific consensus that these traits

The Erosion Of African Traditions: A Cultural Critique Of Western Ideologies And The LGBTQ+ Agenda

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are innate or immutable. More importantly, even if such biological influences exist, culture has always played a decisive role in shaping behavior.

For example, aggression may have biological roots, but societies set norms around violence. Similarly, biological predispositions do not mandate cultural endorsement. African societies, like all others, have a right to interpret and respond to scientific findings through the lens of their moral and social frameworks.

Leading psychologist Dr. Paul McHugh, former psychiatrist-in-chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital, argued that transgender identities are psychological conditions, not biological destinies. Likewise, the American College of Pediatricians has warned against early gender transitions, noting the long-term mental health risks involved.

Africa must critically assess scientific claims without blindly adopting the moral conclusions drawn by other cultures.

5. African Spiritual and Religious Perspectives

Religion plays a major role in African society. Christianity and Islam, which account for the majority of religious affiliations on the continent, both affirm the traditional family structure and condemn same-sex relations.

Even indigenous African religions, long before colonial contact, emphasized fertility, family, and cosmic balance. Among the Igbo, Zulu, and Dinka, ancestors are revered, and one's duty to the lineage is considered sacred.

To adopt LGBTQ+ norms is not only to challenge present-day customs but to disrupt ancestral continuity. It is not merely a shift in policy; it is a rupture in the spiritual and metaphysical understanding of life.

6. Human Rights or Ideological Warfare?

The claim that opposition to LGBTQ+ ideologies is a violation of human rights ignores the complexity of cultural sovereignty. Human rights must be contextualized. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights explicitly recognizes the right of communities to preserve their culture, traditions, and values. Thus, there is no need to ignore this fact that communities need to respect and preserve their cultures, values, norms and traditions in which they believe.

Moreover, if human rights are to



Former Ghanaian President John Evans Atta Mills once boldly rejected foreign aid tied to the adoption of LGBTQ+.

be truly universal, they must not be defined solely by Western norms. Cultural relativism - a recognized concept in anthropology - holds that moral systems are not universal but shaped by cultural context.

It is therefore problematic to present LGBTQ+ advocacy as the sole marker of human progress while dismissing African traditions as backward or primitive practices. Let the western nation practice LGBTQ+ if they feel that is right for them and let Africans be Africans.

7. The Impact on Youth and the African Family

One of the gravest concerns about the normalization of LGBTQ+ ideologies in Africa is their impact on the youth. Children are being exposed to confusing messages about identity at a very young age. In some countries, educational programs encourage children as young as five to question their gender or sexual orientation.

This has led to psychological distress, identity crises, and family disintegration in parts of the West. African societies, which depend heavily on strong family units, cannot afford to import ideologies that undermine parental authority and community cohesion.

In South Africa, the only African country with legal same-sex marriage, traditional communities con-

tinue to report cultural dissonance, generational conflict, and increased moral confusion among youth. South Africa needs to revisit this law and see to it that Africa is Africa.

8. Media Representation and the War for Narrative

Western media often portrays African resistance to LGBTQ+ ideologies as hateful or ignorant. However, this is a distortion. African voices are not calling for violence or persecution; they are calling for the right to maintain their cultural norms without foreign interference.

The African story must be told by Africans. We must reclaim our narrative from those who misrepresent cultural preservation as bigotry. Just as the West celebrates its diversity, Africa must be allowed to celebrate hers without interference or coercion of another nation or organization.

9. The Way Forward: Dialogue, Not Dictation

This article does not advocate for hatred, exclusion, or violence against anyone, regardless of sexual orientation. Rather, it calls for respectful dialogue. Africa must engage with global conversations on its own terms; not as a passive recipient but as a sovereign contributor.

African leaders must invest in cultural education, traditional institutions, and value-based media. We

must teach our children the richness of their identity and the reasons for our moral codes. International relations must be rooted in mutual respect, not moral coercion and disrespect of other nations and their cultures.

Conclusion: Africa Must Define Her Future

The LGBTQ+ debate is not merely about rights, it is about the soul of Africa. Will we define ourselves by our traditions, values, and communal wisdom, or will we yield to foreign ideologies that see our ways as inferior?

Africa must rise, not in hatred, but in conviction. Let us preserve our cultural heritage, protect our children, and chart a path that is both modern and authentically African. We can engage the world without losing ourselves. We can be global without being Western.

Let Africa be African.

Sports >> * Ambrose Rachier has been re-elected as Gor Mahia chair following a closely contested elections at Nyayo Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

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Echoes Of Mugabe? Rachier Re-Elected Gor Chair



Gor Mahia chairman Ambrose Rachier. PHOTO/timothy Olobulu.

Ambrose Rachier has been re-elected as Gor Mahia chair following a closely contested elections at Nyayo Stadium on Sunday afternoon.

The city lawyer garnered 658 votes against his sole challenger, immediate former treasurer Dol-fina Achieng', who earned 456 votes.

Rachier first took the reins at K'Ogalo in 2008 and has over-

seen considerable success at the club, including nine Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League titles, and one domestic cup crown.

Sunday's re-election potentially extends his reign to 2029, during which time he would have clocked 21 years in power.

Ocholla dislodged Meanwhile, Nikanor Arum

was elected secretary general after defeating incumbent, Sam Ocholla.

Arum garnered 582 votes against 501 for Ocholla who last November had also contested for the FKF presidency.

Sally Bolo won the vice chair's post, garnering 610 votes to defeat Victor Mbaka who earned 488 votes.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Former world half marathon record holder Geoffrey Kamworor rolled back the glory years with victory at the Rotterdam Marathon in the Netherlands.

Kamworor Roars In Rotterdam For First Win In Four Years



Former world half marathon record holder Geoffrey Kamworor in action at the London Marathon. PHOTO/COURTESY

Former world half marathon record holder Geoffrey Kamworor rolled back the glory years with victory at the Rotterdam Marathon in the Netherlands.

Kamworor showed a clean pair of heels to cut the tape in 2:04:33, ahead of Ethiopian pair of Chala Regasa (2:05:06) and Chimdessa Debele (2:05:26) in second and third respectively.

The win was Kamworor's first in the marathon in over four years,

having last tasted victory at the New York Marathon in 2019.

The 32-year-old has struggled with a series of injuries since then. Sunday's race was his second this year after the Barcelona Half Marathon in February during which he clocked 58:44 to finish second.

Double delight in Rotterdam

It was an unforgettable afternoon for Kenya in the Dutch city as Jackline Cheronno soared to suc-

cess in the women's race.

The Paris Half Marathon champion crossed the finish line in a personal best of

Ethiopian duo of Aminet Ahmed (2:22:14) and Azmera Gebru (2:22:15) came second and third respectively.

The victory was Cheronno's second after she clocked 1:07:16 to win the Paris Half Marathon, last month.

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Beyond The Runway: University Models Redefining Confidence And Success In Kenya

“My passion since I was a young girl has always been getting into a modeling stage, although I heard a problem with being shy.” says Valentine Achieng Akinyi, a journalism student and Miss Rongo University 2023/2024.

“I have always kept pushing myself towards modeling, although I did not take it seriously until I joined university in 2021. Since then I have done every modeling gig around the school and in Migori county, in 2023 I was able to win Miss Rongo University for 2023/2024.”

This victory has boosted her confidence and self-esteem, helping her to interact more with people and society at large. “The interest to interact with people and learn more about modeling and what it is all about has helped me realize that it’s all about society, sharing idea and also doing charity work with the persons in modeling.” says Ms. Achieng while smiling

Miss Rongo loves to engage with other students during her free time. “I enjoy more team building, and getting that opportunity to share ideas, thoughts on new fashion and getting to learn from other models.”

“When preparing for a photoshoot, I mostly choose depending on the weather, occasion and also the purpose of the shoot but for the runways we are always given time to plan for the show and sometimes clothes to choose from.”

She explains that one of the biggest challenges is finance, to buy the clothes for the runways and maintaining good health and skin. “Some runways requires expensive wears while others cheap, this is very hard thus to balance money given by parent in terms of buys clothes and also for basic needs, and also time management used to be difficult but these days am holding on buy having specific times for practice and classes and also assignment time”

According to Miss Rongo social media has been at the front in helping her get new cut walking styles, fashion and also interact with models from outside the county. “I always have social media on my what to do list each day, to learn new tricks and new fashion every time.”

Future of modeling will be full of competition due to improved technology, with young kids being trained as little as 10-year-old how to do cut walks and also having good fashion test, She advises young girls to be themselves, and love their body, color, and size despite what may happen.

“Do not try to be like someone else, that will kill your self-esteem, just be you and remember that we have different categories of modeling, join it and do not compare yourself with anyone

else.”

Miss Rongo appreciates the university for the support but urges the national government to do more in supporting of modeling talents at the grassroots level. “I love how our University gives us support in modeling, like they funded us with registration fees and also with outfit during an event at The Kenya Universities Performing arts and film association in 2023 but for the National government they need to do more in helping university modeling, they only focus on National and forget about us at the grassroot level.

“I’ve always seen modeling as an avenue for self-expression, a way to tell stories and an art through fashion,” says Debora Maroria, a Law student and Model at Kisii University. “It is never just about beauty, but about the confidence and empowerment that comes with it.”

Life she says is a constant balancing act. “I have taught myself the art of balancing the demands of law school with the unpredictable schedule of modeling. It is all about time management and setting priorities, I love studying law, I love playing hockey, and I love modeling. All these are parts of me, and I’ve learned to make time for each.”

Her journey in modeling has been full of opportunities and awards, “I have been able to win varies awards such as the Miss Kisii untamed 2022 and also Miss Face of Kisii 2023 which have helped me interact more with other upcoming models and also developed models.”

With the success comes the challenges in the modeling career which is the widespread misconceptions about the industry, “People often associate modeling to prostitution particularly in Kenya, which is a huge misconception, it is disheartening because modeling is an art form that should be respected.” Says Maroria

She adds, “There are also scammers who exploit young models, promising them fame and fortune but delivering nothing but disappointment.”

Discrimination based on skin color remains an issue in the modeling world. “Light-skinned models tend to be prioritized, thus there is often pressure to conform to these standards, which can be discouraging for darker-skinned models like myself.”

“Despite these pressures, I remain commitment to authenticity and also learned how to handle the pressure by embracing who I am,” as she smiles.

She gives a word of thought to all upcoming models “I advise young aspiring models to be themselves, not to emulate anyone. Beauty is diverse, and the world is slowly recognizing that.”

For her, legal studies provide a solid foundation for her future. “Modeling is a passion, but law is my career,” she asserts. “I see education as a valuable asset that will allow me to make a difference beyond the world of fashion, both in the courtroom and in Modeling, because it is not just an activity but a potential career path that could shape my future”

She adds that Modeling has provided opportunities she never imagined and chances to network with influential individuals, including government officials. “Modeling has widened my network significantly and given me a platform to give back to society.” Emphasizes the law student

Through her modeling career, she has participated in various charitable initiatives, ‘It has been a pleasure to visit orphanages and women’s prisons across the country, as they allow me to use my platform for something greater than myself.”

Debora is optimistic about the future of modeling in Kenya. Despite the challenges to overcome, she believes that the industry is on the brink of significant growth “The Kenyan modeling industry will be much better in the future, because the government has started to recognize the importance of supporting the arts, including modeling.” Says as she smiles

“This support will open up new opportunities for young models and help dispel some of the negative stereotypes that still plague the industry. I hope to see more diversity and inclusivity, with models of all shapes, sizes, and skin tones being celebrated.”

To young girls aspiring to enter the modeling world, “Be yourself. Don’t try to copy anyone or conform to standards that don’t reflect who you are, remember that authenticity is key to success, not just in modeling, but in life. Stay true to who you are, and the right opportunities will come your way.” Concludes Debora Maroria, a Law student at Kisii University

“I started training with a friend and that is how I got interested and into modelling,” Ochieng Elsie Terry, Public Health student at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, reflects on what began as a casual activity quickly became a passion.

She admits it has not been easy but she has managed to shine all through, “I have been able to win various Modeling awards such as, Miss Face of Siaya 2023/2024, Miss Tourism seme 2023/2024, Miss Valentine Nyanza 2023/2024, Miss Kitenge Kenya 2024/2025, Miss Kitmikayi 2023/2024 and also Miss Ending Triple Theater Advocate 2024/2025”



Photo of Valentine Akinyi Achieng, model at Rongo University .

As she moved forward in her career, she realized the weight that comes with being a model. “Holding titles brings a lot of pressure,” she admits. “People expect you to maintain a certain image, and that can be tough sometimes.”

But beyond the pressures of maintaining an image, she has also had to confront the negative stereotypes surrounding models. “People think ‘models are hoers’ and that is a label we’re constantly fighting, it is frustrating because It is so far from the truth, but we still have to deal with the stigma.” Adds Ochieng Elsie Terry

Continues to point out that beyond the stereotypes, there are deeper issues in the industry. “There is a lot of corruption, you see it in how opportunities are handed out, sometimes based on connections rather than talent and this becomes discouraging for those of us trying to make it purely through hard work.”

“I have focused on doing training and making changes where necessary, it is the only way to grow and stay competitive in this industry, Despite the challenges, I am committed to the craft and remain determined to succeed. I make sure I am creating time for what I am

passionate about no matter how tough things get, I remind myself why I started.” Adds Ochieng Terry

In terms of career prospects, she believes modeling can be a rewarding path. “Modeling is a good career, and it really pays, you just need to believe in yourself, be serious, and passionate about it for you to get the best results.” she states confidently

When asked about institutional support for young models, she is less optimistic. “With the government, I am not really sure what they are doing, but for our school, I have not seen a lot support for us to develop our passion,” she says. “It is disappointing because we need more resources and opportunities to showcase our talent.”

Even with the ups and downs, Miss Ochieng remains hopeful about the future. “If Lupita Nyong’o did it, and that’s proof it is possible, It may not be easy, but with hard work and the right opportunities, success is within reach.” Concludes Miss Ochieng Elsie Terry

By: Athuman Said And Aggrey Karani
Communication And Media Personalities