



DP: This is Why We Exited Kenya Kwanza Coalition
 The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP), associated with former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi, has formally exited the Kenya Kwanza coalition led by President William Ruto. On March 7, the party's National Secretary General Dr Jacob Haji and National Chairman Esau Kioni submitted a notice to the coalition secretariat and the Registrar of Political Parties, signaling their intent to withdraw from the ruling coalition. Page 18

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News>>Murang'a MP Asks Public To Be Tolerant Of Different Political Stances


P. 8. Murang'a Woman Representative Betty Maina has called upon Murang'a residents to be tolerant of leaders from the region who have taken different political positions, saying it was their right to do so.

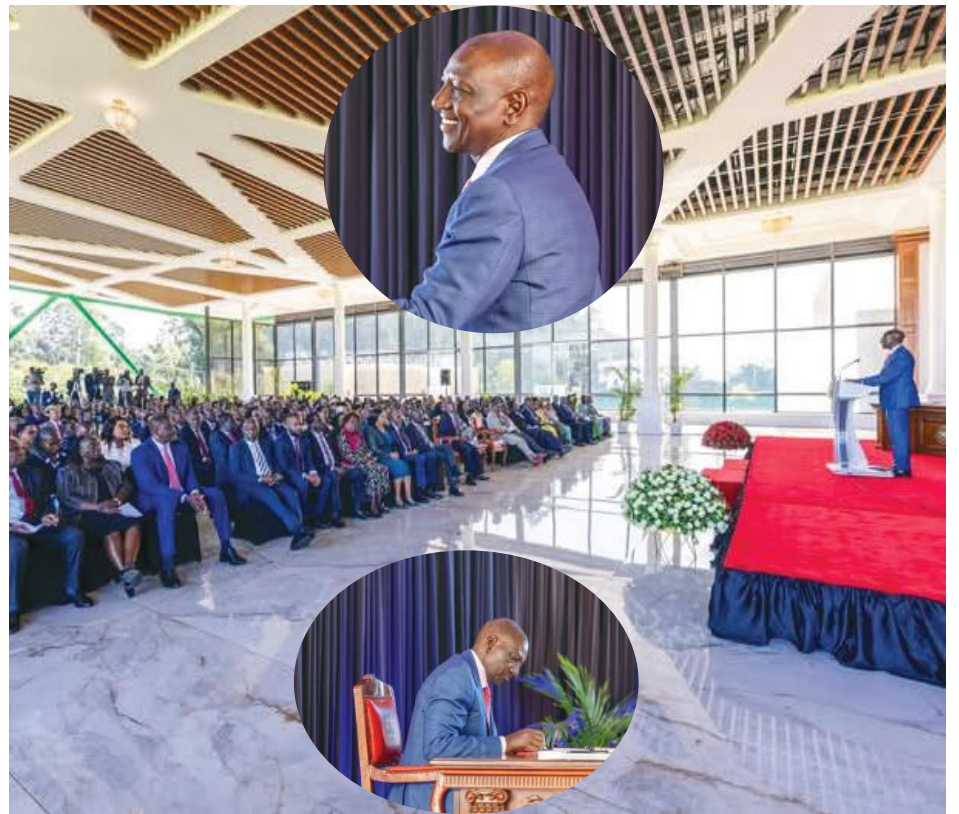


News>>New Coffee Marketing System Bringing Transparency - CS Oparanya

P. 12. The government has said that the direct settlement system is good for the coffee farmers as it has brought transparency in the value chain.

Focus On Service Delivery, Ruto Tells New Team

 President William Ruto has advised new Cabinet Secretaries and Principal Secretaries to focus on service delivery to Kenyans and not the sideshows that usually come with high office. The President urged them to concentrate on delivering on the mandate in their respective ministries and State departments and not to be swayed by any distractions. Presiding over the swearing in ceremony of two CSs and 14 PSs at State House, Nairobi, on Thursday, the President said: "There is too much noise out there, but you must keep your eye on the ball. Do not be distracted."



President William Ruto addressing dignitaries who attended the swearing in ceremony at State House on Thursday.

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Next Edition Will Be On Monday

President Ruto Presides Over Swearing In Of Two New CSs And 14 PSs


By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures


President William Ruto, accompanied by his deputy Prof Kithure Kindiki, Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Administrative Secretaries, senior government security officials, Members of Parliament, friends and relatives of the new entrants in the broadbased government presided over the colourful ceremony at State House, Nairobi.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times



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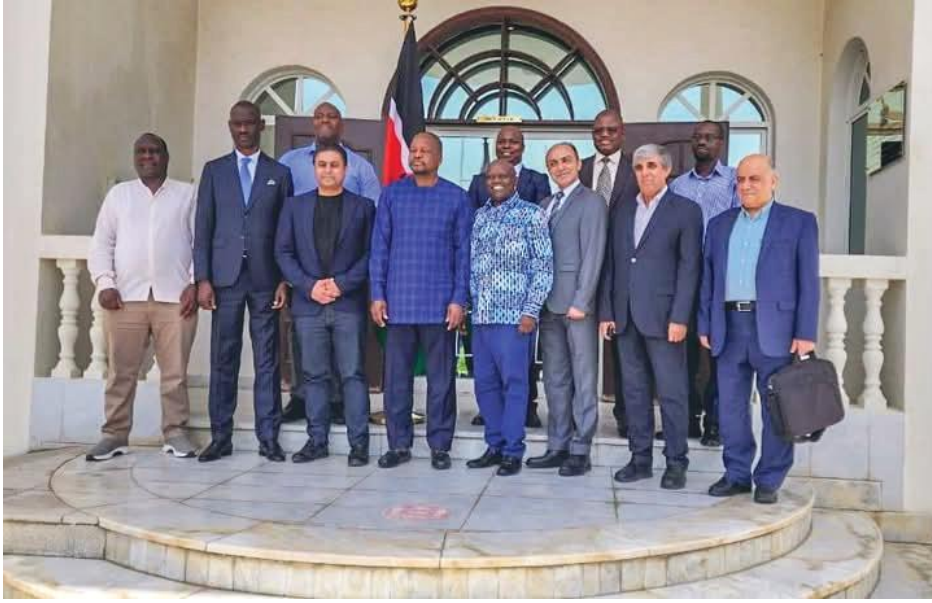
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has engaged Iranian business delegation to unlock tea trade ban. The CS, alongside the Kenya Tea Development Agency - Holdings Limited National Chairman Chege Kirundi, KTDA Group CEO Wilson Muthaura and the Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the UAE Kenneth Milimo Nganga held a meeting with Iranian Business Groups to deliberate on lifting the current ban on Kenyan tea exports to Iran. The discussions also focused on exploring expanded trade opportunities not only with Iran but across the broader Middle Eastern and Central Asian regions. Kenya, as the world's leading exporter of black tea, is committed to strengthening bilateral trade ties and ensuring our high-quality tea reaches global markets. Reopening access to Iran's robust market could be a game changer for tea farmers and the entire tea value chain.



The Nyeri National Polytechnic in partnership with the Ministry of Education's State Department for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Schneider Electric and the Ujima Foundation. This collaboration aims to strengthen training and development initiatives by providing state-of-the-art Electrical and Automotive equipment, supporting the TVET Greening Energy Programme. The polytechnic Chief Principal Dr David Mwangi hailed the initiative saying it would also boost the calibre of workforce that the institution will be producing.



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Finsco Africa, John Mwaura and Head of Mortgage Finance at Co-operative Bank, Japheth Ponda have signed an agreement during the partnership launch of the two institutions. The partnership, effected at the Co-op Bank Mortgage Centre in Upper Hill, Nairobi aims to empower homeownership, promoting the initiative of "One Plot, One Home at a Time." During the ceremony, CEO of Othaya town headquartered GTN TV Crispus Wanjohi and Editor in Chief John Kahi Gathua were in attendance with their media outlet also expected to collaborate with the two institutions in various TV programmes.



Former Tana Water Works Development Agency chairman Wanyaga Gathaka (pictured) is proposing that unveiling of a new political party by former DP Rigathi Gachagua be done at the historic Ruring'u stadium near Nyeri town. He says the new party deserves to be launched at the stadium, which carries deeply rooted in Kenya's political history. Nyeri County has long stood as a pillar of leadership in this country. It is the birthplace of great leaders like President Mwai Kibaki, whose legacy of economic reform and good governance still shapes Kenya today. The county has consistently produced other bold, visionary leaders who've played a key role in national development. The former Nyeri Municipality Mayor further says the stadium itself is more than a venue as it is a historic ground once visited by Kenya's first Prime Minister, Jomo Kenyatta, and has remained a powerful symbol of political awakening and national unity. Launching at the stadium will honour the past while setting the tone for a bold future, Gathaka, who has declared his interest in the Nyeri Town parliamentary seat added.



Detectives based at DCI Kasarani have apprehended two men who have been pulling off an online con by posing as stunning females offering professional massage, only to massage away their clients' valuables instead. The suspects, Alex Mugo Wachira and Simon Chomba Mbogo, have been luring unsuspecting clients by advertising "professional massage services" online. But instead of a relaxing massage, victims are met with a not-so-soothing surprise. One such victim, perhaps dreaming of scented oils and spa music, reported the ordeal to the Kasarani Police Station. Enticed by what seemed to be two attractive women offering top-tier massage sessions, he made his way to their supposed spa residence along Lumumba Drive, Kasarani. However, moments into the "massage," things took a sharp turn. The two whipped out knives, revealing their true identities and zero massage knowledge. Under duress, the victim was forced to transfer Sh280,000 to the suspects' phone number, robbed of his valuables before being unceremoniously thrown out. Investigations were initiated, and through forensic leads, the two were arrested while having a good time at a chilling spot in Kamiti prison area, probably using the stolen cash.



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Farmers' First Mantra Gains Momentum As KTDA Chairman Chege Kirundi Implements New Growth Strategy

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Kirundi is focused on restructuring and enhancing operational efficiency across the tea supply chain, seeks to achieve better returns for the country's smallholder farmers, address long-standing inefficiencies and position Kenya as global leader in the tea market.
- He says his ultimate aim is on improving the farmer livelihoods by aligning KTDA's operations with sustainable practices by achieving a balance between profitability and environmental and social responsibility.

The new Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) chairman Chege Kirundi has hit the road running and is currently putting in place mechanisms to make his new initiative of farmers' first a reality

In just a few weeks since taking office, Kirundi has held meetings with senior management and recently all the 71 factory unit managers to strategize on how to roll out the road map to make sure farmers get maximum benefit from their investments

This is the first kind of a meeting held by the board and management since the new tea reforms in 2020.

He came in with a strategic vision that when fully implemented will see tea quality and volumes increase dramatically and in the process farmers' incomes will also improve greatly.

Kirundi is focused on restructuring and enhancing operational efficiency across the tea supply chain, seeks to achieve better returns for the country's smallholder farmers, address long-standing inefficiencies and position Kenya as global leader in the tea market.

He says his ultimate aim is on improving the farmer livelihoods by aligning KTDA's operations with sustainable practices by achieving a balance between profitability and environmental and social responsibility.

Kirundi noted that climate change is reducing yields and quality of tea, ageing tea bushes, declining acreage under tea owing to land subdivision.

KTDA and its farmers contribute to about 60 per cent of all locally produced tea.

He said his strategy aims at repositioning KTDA on a long term sustainability trajectory with particular em-

phasis on addressing climate change challenges, enhancing value addition and expanding market opportunities especially in the African continent.

And in a bold new move to tackle the tea hawking menace threatening to cripple the multi-billion tea industry, Kirundi has met KTDA directors from West of Rift Valley where the menace is widespread.

Kirundi who has vowed to stomp out the menace - recently banned by the government - discussed strategies to revitalize tea farming in the West of Rift and how the tea hawking menace can be completely eradicated.

After the government outlawed the tea hawking practice that has negatively impacted KTDA factories in the West of Rift.

With the government ban on the disastrous tea hawking menace and a fresh team at the helm of the KTDA, Kenya's tea industry and especially the farmers are approaching the future with confidence.

He said his plan is to enhance farmer incomes by revising the allocation of profits from KTDA's subsidiaries and reducing input costs.

Farmers have welcomed the positive messages coming from the government and the industry and their key wish is that politics be kept out of the tea industry and the ban on hawking be implemented fully.

As the demand for tea continues to grow globally and local consumption increases an equivalent growth in returns is projected ensuring that the sector remains profitable going into the future.

The tea industry remains a critical pillar of the national economy and supports thousands of farmers directly



KTDA Chairman Chege Kirundi addressing stakeholders.



Some of the tea sector stakeholders in one of the meetings recently convened by the KTDA under the leadership of Chege Kirundi..

and many other players along the value chain.

Tea exports continue to be a major stabilizing factor of the Kenyan currency and the economy at large.

These gains that have been built over the years mainly by the farmers who have ensured proper crop husbandry so as to maintain the high quality of tea - that fetches premium prices.

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Creating Dreams Using Your Imagination; Your Mind Is Your Enemy Or Your Weapon

Never Underestimate Your Role In Making Desired Changes In Your Life



By: Mary Karau Ngethe
@themtkenyatimes

You can use your imagination to change any part of your life. It means you can always improve yourself. I believe that any one has the impressive ability to take away something negative you are thinking and replace it with a desired thinking. Sometimes, you just have to give yourself the permission to take the brakes off.

Your subconscious can take over your life. If you tell your mind something over and over again, it stops being an imagination and it becomes a reality.

It is then deposited in the subconscious mind, and it becomes your default mode. If a child speaks English at home, her default language of communication even outside home is English. She has to think twice before speaking a vernacular. English has been set in her subconscious mind.

It is the default language. Likewise, If you start a business at a young age and you fail, you tell yourself over and over again you cannot succeed in business. Every time you start another business, the subconscious mind reminds you that you cannot succeed. And your imagination goes to sleep, and your default mode works for you to see failure in everything you do regarding the business. The cooker blows out, and instead of using your imagination to look for a technician, your subconscious mind tells you "This is proof you are in the wrong place" And you start planning on closing. The following week the chef runs away, and the subconscious mind reminds you even further "Told you, you are in the wrong place" If you fail to Re-Set your mind, to re-program the mind to stop listening to the subconscious mind, then you will close in 6 months or less.

Go against the default message. That is why most start-up businesses never go past one year. Most of us do not want to go out of the comfort zone and use our imagination, which has a God given capacity to create solutions to every problem.

The successful people have learnt this life secret. Problems do not mean "free", they mean "fight" 90 % of human beings choose Flee, because they do not want to get out of the comfort zone and think. That is why some young adults whose parents are strong, supportive, inspiring and positive get mentorship and coaching to succeed. Even when they are about to give up on a project their mentors



help them to persist until they succeed.

"Such parents have learnt the secret and they use it to coach and mentor their children whether in business or in the professional career growth or even in school" says Mary, the author of this article who has experience in this space. She is a mother to adult children, a woman who learnt the secret late in life, (but is very grateful to God to have learnt it) and a practitioner as well as a guru of the secret. She wishes to share the secret to whoever is willing to listen to her podcasts on YouTube, or read her work published in the Mt Kenya E-Newsletter every Saturday. Her book on her journey in the secret is soon to be launched.

Mary teaches that If you tell yourself "Am afraid of heights" you will be afraid of heights. Or if you keep saying, "I am weak in math" you will be getting Es and Ds in math, whether you attend a good school or your teacher is the best. You brain is coded D and you will get D, until you decode! May be when you were six years in grade one, you had a teacher who gave you a bad experience and branded you weak in math. You have carried the code all the way to university and chosen to major in social studies because of math. And may be your brain is wired to be an engineer. D in math has become your default mode. Yet you have never challenged your mind to ask it (your-

self) one question: "Why did you become weak in math, what happened, when?" Be informed that if your brain was wired for Math related courses, you will always feel incomplete. This can even lead to drug abuse or other self-inflicted deviate behaviors. That is why self-awareness discovery is so crucial in the life of every human being.

This article is about creating awareness on the power of the mind to create the world you desire, or to pull yourself further and further away from the world you desire.

Psychologists and clergy have continued to tell people about this truth. Yet people still continue in self-pity, at times feeling like they have been cursed or taken to the black powers. Others blame their childhood scars to continue lamenting about their life situations. Others till blame their cultural past. Because of mind-set. Yet, for Christians all they need to do is read the Bible and live the word of God. Am sure the Muslims have verses that advise people the secret of life. Indians have mastered this art. That is why you see Indians hanging dried mango leaves at the door of their shop. Because they believe the dry leaves will attract customers. Throughout the day they expect customers, behave like customers will come. They rarely complain because they have conditioned their minds "So long as the leaves are hang at the door, God is in control" So they

never tell themselves "This is a bad-luck business, let me close doors and go" They persist. They attract what they talk, walk, behave and finally it comes, even if it takes 2 years.

The clergy of Pentecostal churches have mastered this mind-management. They preach success every Sunday, every lunch hour, until their worshipers attract success. Catholics have the Novena. They repeat the same prayer request, same way for 21 days (more or less but constant prayer for the number of days. Same prayer, same time), and then it comes. If only they can learn to use this model daily to attract success in all areas of their life. But Lo. We run to novena when there is a problem. But for Indians it is a way of daily life. God has said "Be still and know I am God" Talk the prayer, walk the prayer, and God will come. Of course, if it is not God's will to answer yes, He will "reveal to you" and remove the need for a yes. "Because you are still enough to listen to His voice" So you have no place for self-pity, complaining or being envious.

Mary Karau Ngethe is a Certified Professional Mediator and the Program Director, Central Kenya Development Network (CKDN). She can be reached on +254 722 652 111 or marykaraungethe@gmail.com

Worth Noting:

- Go against the default message. That is why most start-up businesses never go past one year. Most of us do not want to go out of the comfort zone and use our imagination, which has a God given capacity to create solutions to every problem.
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Murang'a MP Asks Public To Be Tolerant Of Different Political Stances

By: Purity Mugo
@themtkenyatimes

Murang'a Woman Representative Betty Maina has called upon Murang'a residents to be tolerant of leaders from the region who have taken different political positions, saying it was their right to do so.

The MP who was speaking at Mugeka in Gatari ward, Kiharu constituency, castigated leaders from the region who are hostile towards each other for being in different political camps saying they instead should prioritize delivering their mandates.

She called for tolerance among leaders and the public when taking sides saying those in the government and those in the opposition can serve the community in different capacities and emphasised that it was okay for different leaders from the same region to be on opposing sides saying it is common in all other regions across the country.

"As a region we cannot put all our eggs in one basket, it is good to have some of our people elsewhere," she said.

She maintained that all leaders have a right to make political decisions based on their personal political plans and knowledge and called upon leaders to deliver services to the people saying the people will judge leaders based on their actions and not based on what they said or who they supported.

"A political decision should be personal and what really concerns the public is development and service delivery, that is what the people will not forget," Maina said.

Maina averred her commitment towards supporting president William Ruto's government for the remainder of the term noting that this will ensure the region receives its fair share of national development.

"Let us not shut down some leaders, let us welcome all of them if that is what will ensure our region is not left behind," she said.

"As we respect the decisions of those who have decided to have a different political stance, let those of us in government stay in government if it benefits the people," she added.

She asked leaders to make the best use of the present time and deliver on their promises instead of just waiting



Murang'a Women Representative Betty Maina and nominated MP Sabina Chege issuing cheques at Gatari area. Photo/Courtesy.

for 2027.

The Women Representative who was speaking at a National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) Inua Mama Mashinani event issued several cheques to various women groups from across Gatari Ward.

The beneficiaries include Gataigu Women's Group who received Sh 150000, Kangai by Hope Women's Group; Sh.150000, Muga Disabled Self-help Group Sh. 100000 and

Munyu Women Group; Sh. 150000 among other groups.

The NGAAF funds are non-refundable and are given to registered women's groups consisting of at least 100 members each.

Area Member of County Assembly, Gathe Wa Njeri, on his part, called upon the women groups to utilize the funds for economic empowerment which is their intended purpose.

Nominated MP and former Mu-

rang'a Women Representative Sabina Chege, who was also present called for unity among leaders from Murang'a county saying they will be more impactful if they work together.

"Let us all unite and set aside our selfish interests so that we can deliver development to the people." She said noting that the leaders will individually go back to seek votes from the residents at the right time.

Gusii Youth Bunge Sacco Launches 5-Year Strategic Plan To Drive Growth And Resilience

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themtkenyatimes

Dr. Moronya Asha Hezbon, the Chairperson of the Gusii Youth Bunge Sacco a society that operates in both Kisii and Nyamira counties has officially launched a five-year strategic plan aimed at serving the financial needs of its members and fostering sustainable growth.

Speaking during the launch of the plan, which covers the period from 2025 to 2030, Dr. Moronya highlighted the importance of collaboration in achieving Sacco's goals.

"We have had a number of stakeholders here with whom we are collaborating to ensure that the growth of the Sacco remains on a positive trend," he stated.

Moronya acknowledged the support and partnership of key institutions such as the World Bank, through the National Agriculture Value Chain

Development Project (NAVCDP), as well as the Cooperative Insurance Company and the Cooperative Bank. These partnerships, she emphasized, are crucial in propelling the Sacco to greater heights.

County Executive in charge of Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Marketing Cyrus Masenge Nyabicha, commended the initiative, calling it a critical roadmap.

He emphasized the county government's commitment to supporting SACCOs and ensuring their growth and development.

"This strategic plan is a great stride towards ensuring that SACCOs like Gusii Youth Bunge Sacco can remain afloat amid the tough economic times ahead. It gives them a clear roadmap to navigate the future strategically," said Nyabicha.

He further assured that the County Government remains fully committed to collaborating with SACCOs to help them grow and become more resilient.

"When you formulate a strategic



Dr. Moronya Asha Hezbon, the Chairperson of the Gusii Youth Bunge Sacco and County Executive in charge of Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Marketing Cyrus Masenge Nyabicha during the launch of Gusii Youth Bunge Sacco Strategic plan. Photo/Elizabeth Angira

plan, it gives you a roadmap through which you remain sustainable as an organization," he added.

Dr. Moronya reiterated that the primary goal of launching the strategic plan is to anticipate and mitigate un-

foreseen challenges that may arise.

Referring to the past funding cuts by USAID, Dr Moronya noted that they have witnessed cases where many U.S.-funded programs in Kenya and across Africa were suddenly stopped.

"That is why it's crucial for organizations to strategically position themselves. When such donor funding stops, those with a clear plan and strong foundation are able to remain stable and sustainable," he said.

Focus On Service Delivery, Ruto Tells New CSs And PSs

By: PCS



Worth Noting:

- The Principal Secretaries are Mr Boniface Barasa Makokha (Economic Planning), Ms Carren Ageng'o Achieng (Children Welfare Services), Mr Aden Abdi Millah (Shipping and Maritime Affairs), Mr Fikirini Jacobs (Youth and Sports), Mr Michael Lenasalon (Devolution), and Cyrell Odede Wagunda (Public Investments).

- Others are Ms Regina Okoth Omban (Trade), Dr Jane Kare Imbunya (Public Service), Mr Stephen Isaboke (Broadcasting), Prof Shaukat Ali Abdulrazak (Science, Research, and Innovation), Ms Judith Pareno (Constitutional Affairs), Mr Ahmed Abdisalan Ibrahim (National Government Coordination), Dr Fredrick Ouma Oluga (Medical Services), and Dr Caroline Wanjiru Karugu (East African Community).

- Present were Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and other leaders.

President William Ruto has advised new Cabinet Secretaries and Principal Secretaries to focus on service delivery to Kenyans and not the sideshows that usually come with high office.

The President urged them to concentrate on delivering on the mandate in their respective ministries and State departments and not to be swayed by any distractions.

Presiding over the swearing in ceremony of two CSs and 14 PSs at State House, Nairobi, on Thursday, the President said: "There is too much noise out there, but you must keep your eye on the ball. Do not be distracted."

The new Cabinet Secretaries are Mr Geoffrey Ruku (Public Service) and Mrs Hanna Wendot Cheptumo (Gender).

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Present were Deputy President Kithure Kindiki, Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and other leaders.

President Ruto said the new appointees reflect the broad-based government, which has brought the face of Kenya together to contribute to nation building.

"It is the coming together of the willing, not to serve the parochial interests of few leaders, but the greater good of Kenya," he said.

The President said the many transformative programmes he has initiated since coming to office in 2022 require the support of all citizens.

"I have made the conscious decision to implement decisions that need to move Kenya forward irrespective of the price to be paid," he said.

Over the years, the President pointed out, opposing political formations have had the same transformative programmes in their manifestos, but



Dr Caroline Karugu taking oath of office as Principal Secretary for East Africa Community..

lack of political will to implement them has seen them die on paper.

He pointed out that the ruling Kenya Kwanza and its 2022 General Election rival, Azimio La Umoja led by former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, proposed the Affordable Housing Programme in their manifestos.

By implementing the programme after coming to office, President Ruto said 240,000 housing units are under construction countrywide, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs for the youth.

"It is possible that this will be the largest infrastructure development project Kenya has ever undertaken," he said.

Similarly, he said Universal Health Coverage rolled out through Social Health Authority would make healthcare accessible to many more Kenyans than during the National Hospital Insurance Fund.

On education, he said the government has sorted out the issues plaguing the Competency-Based Curriculum and employed 76,000 new teachers in just two years.

On agriculture, he pointed out that the government has dealt with cartels in the fertiliser distribution chain, and those who had long unjustly benefited from exploiting tea, coffee, and milk farmers.

President Ruto said the government is in the final stages of reforming the



New Cabinet Secretaries Geoffrey Ruku and Hanna Wandet Cheptumo listening to President Ruto after being sworn in.

sugar sector, which would assure farmers of higher prices and also earn them a bonus.

On infrastructure, he said: "We have begun settling long-overdue payments to contractors. We recently released KSh60 billion and the contractors are returning to site. This will revive stalled road projects countrywide."

The President called on the new members of the Executive to serve with diligence and honour, and to shun corruption.

He announced that he had referred the Conflict of Interest Bill back to

Parliament for reconsideration.

"We have to get a piece of law that will help us manage, and eventually, eliminate matters of corruption," he said.

Further, he reminded the new CSs and PSs that they were taking office at a time of high public expectations, adding that failure is not an option.

"Our only valid response to criticism and demands is to perform our duties in a manner that increases public confidence in the government," he said.

Kewopa Backs Full Implementation Of Persons With Disability Act, 2023

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

Members of the Kenya Women’s Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) have pledged their full support for the implementation of the Persons with Disability Act, 2023.

In a meeting with the Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC) advocacy organization, the women lawmakers led by Machakos MP. Joyce Kamene called for concerted efforts in the alignment of laws, budgets and oversight mechanisms to ensure the success of the Act’s rollout.

“As women leaders, we are ready to champion this agenda in Parliament and in our communities but we cannot do it alone. We need the full partnership of government agencies, civil society, the private sector and most importantly, persons with disabilities themselves at the centre of this work,” Kamene said.

Speaking during the meeting, WCC officials led by chairperson Mrs.

Veronica Njuhi urged KEWOPA to advocate for regular performance reporting on employment quotas and healthcare access, among other key performance indicators.

“Data collection and transparent reporting will be key to measuring and driving progress. We ask that you help us institutionalize this,” Mrs. Njuhi said.

WCC also emphasized the importance of incorporating PWD voices from rural and marginalized areas in the implementation process, noting that the grassroots perspective will help tailor solutions that are both practical and inclusive.

While expressing their concerns, Women MPs committed to initiating mentorship programs for PWDs on empowerment to take up political leadership roles and improve their representation in governance.

While expressing their concerns, the caucus of Women Parliamentarians also urged WCC to do their own audit of unemployed but qualified PWDs in various fields and share it with KEWOPA to aid enforcement of at least



5% of all jobs in both public and private sectors to be reserved for PWDs. On budgetary allocations, the Executive Director of KEWOPA, Ms. Mercy Mwangi urged WCC to be alert and monitor the budget making process, starting with the Budget Policy Statement to ensure adequate allocations

are made for disability programs. Notably, the Persons with Disability Act 2023 received overwhelming support from both the National Assembly and the Senate and is awaiting the President’s assent, affirming Parliament’s commitment to advocating the rights of PWDs.

Once enacted, the act is expected to harmonize Kenya’s Disability Law with the 2010 Constitution, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the international best practices and overall inclusive delivery of services.



Angaza Awards: Voting Continues As D-Day Fast Approaches



By: Purity Gachuhi and Lucy Nyambura

@themkenyatomes

With less than two months to the D-Day, different entrants of Angaza awards are encouraging their fans to support their bids.

The 1st Edition of Angaza Awards (Mt Kenya Region Edition) purpose is to recognize achievements and talent, promote innovation, and celebrate the drive, spirit and diversity of our community’s impactful men and women.

The Angaza Awards 2025 aims to create a platform for marginalized men and women, ensuring that we shine a light upon them.

By amplifying the voices of our community frontiers from diverse

backgrounds, the industry remains dynamic and responsive to changing audience preferences and global trends.

Angaza Awards is a subsidiary of Angaza Hope Foundation, led by the Founder Mr Theuri David with 4 other Directors ,who are from different professions.

Angaza Hope Foundation is a community based charitable organization with our Mission “Holistic empowerment impacting livelihood and the society.

It’s our vision that we shall impact lives through spreading love hope and empowerment and giving forums and platforms to celebrate achievements in the community.

The Angaza Awards aims to celebrate excellence in all fields in the community by recognizing outstanding accomplishments and contributions. It brings together top professionals, organizations and innovators for an evening of celebration, networking and recognition.

As evident from a recent case study , our community is blessed to have talents that if not nurtured or given a

platform, face the danger that has got a hold of the society through drugs and alcoholism among other bad things. Through community forums, community outreach, and organizations like ours , the government has stood in the gap to reform our community through projects, initiatives and creating awareness to fight the menace.

With Angaza Awards we aim to recognize and celebrate individuals from the grassroot and create a platform where outstanding talents are embraced.

The Awards gala will be held on 6th June in Nyeri town with the theme “Empower Talent, Celebrate excellence, Bring light”. This theme promotes the idea that our community deserves to be heard and valued. We plan that Angaza Awards will happen annually.

Being our first edition, our Target audience will be both men and women living and residing in Mt Kenya Region across different fields and professions. We will utilize social media platforms to engage with the audience. Through public partici-



pation, the public is given a chance to nominate men and women whom they feel have been positively impacting our society and deserve to be recognized.

Purity Gachuhi is the Director in charge of Communications while Lucy Nyambura is the Director in charge of Operations and Marketing

Suspected Killer In Kiambu Double Homicide Arrested

By: DCI

Detectives from the DCI Homicide Directorate have arrested Samuel King’ara Kimani, a suspected serial killer linked to the harrowing murders of two young women in Thika, Kiambu County.

The first case unfolded on March 17, when 22-year-old Rosemary Njeri Ndekei vanished minutes after heading to Thika town to shop for clothes. Her disappearance sparked concern, leading to a missing person report being filed at Thika Police Station by her boyfriend and relatives.

Tragically, the following day, members of the public discovered the lifeless body of a young woman in a coffee plantation in Karibaribi area.

Without identification documents, the decomposing body was transported to General Kago Mortuary for

identification and autopsy.

Two days later, the body was identified as that of Rosemary by her family, confirming their worst fears.

Upon autopsy, the government pathologist confirmed the cause of death to be manual strangulation and blunt force trauma to the head, clear signs of a brutal homicide.

The second incident occurred on March 31, when 20-year-old Hellen Wambui Ndung’u, a student at Gitumba Vocational Training College, disappeared after being sent by her mother to buy foodstuffs at Ngorongoro Trading Centre, still in Kiambu.

And just like in the case of Rosemary, the following day her body was discovered in a bush, partially covered with soil. The body had no visible injuries, and neighbours identified her as the missing girl.

Determined to unravel the mystery behind these pattern of murders, detectives from the Homicide Directorate joined forces with their Thika

counterparts in a painstaking probe.

Utilising forensic leads and the Exchange Principle, the team trailed and arrested the prime suspect, Samuel King’ara Kimani, at Dry area of Ngomongo on April 14, 2025.

The investigation uncovered a chilling pattern: in both cases, the suspect accosted the victims at isolated pathways, thereafter dragging them into the depths of sprawling coffee plantations, where he sexually assaulted them before ruthlessly taking their lives and holing up without a trace.

King’ara was arraigned Wednesday where detectives were granted custodial orders to complete investigations.



Samuel King’ara Kimani

New Coffee Marketing System Bringing Transparency - CS Oparanya

By: Felix Njenga
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “If farmers feel that they need to be deducted something from the 80% they write to the cooperative movement and say they want a certain percentage to be deducted for factory operations as the 20% they are giving out is too low,” he said.
- The CS said that cherry fund has no any problems as long as a farmer has taken their cherry to the factory and has gotten documentation and a farmer can go to any cooperative branch and get a minimum of Sh 40 per kilo of coffee.
- “Farmers have gotten sh 7.6 billion of cherry fund which will help them in their daily activities as they await added money after auction of their coffee,” he said.

The government has said that the direct settlement system is good for the coffee farmers as it has brought transparency in the value chain.

Speaking at Ndumberi stadium in Kiambu sub county Wycliffe Oparanya Cabinet Secretary for Cooperative Development and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises during a coffee sensitization forum said that from July 80 per cent of the money will be going directly to the farmers pocket.

“In the reforms that we have put up farmers will now be getting their money through their accounts and the leaders have agreed and seen that the returns have increased and farmers are happy,” Oparanya said.

He said when the coffee is sold it is a must farmers get 80% and cooperative societies and other stakeholders to share 20%.

“If farmers feel that they need to be deducted something from the 80% they write to the cooperative movement and say they want a certain percentage to be deducted for factory operations as the 20% they are giving out is too low,” he said.

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“Farmers have gotten sh 7.6 billion of cherry fund which will help them in their daily activities as they await added money after auction of their coffee,” he said.

He said China has increased consumption of coffee hence coffee prices will increase giving farmers good returns.

He said that the reforms that the government has brought to the coffee sector includes removing brokers who used to manipulate prices and has made regulations of all stakeholders to stick to what they do.

“When we make decisions it is because we have seen what is happening in the sector and have seen the wrong doings,” he said.

He called on farmers to embrace coffee farming as a business and increase their coffee production as it has been overtaken by other countries in the East Africa.

“One coffee tree here in Kenya is producing 2.5 kilograms of coffee, in Uganda one coffee tree is producing 10 kilograms while in Tanzania one coffee tree is proving 15 kilograms how are we going to make money if production is low. It is time farmers took coffee farming serious and take it as business and increase produc-

tion,” he said.

He said that the cooperatives has only received KSh2 billion of the KSh6.8 billion promised by President William Ruto to offset debts which has been a challenge of who to be paid first saying that they will pay out once the whole amount is channelled by treasury.

“In the supplementary budget we have included that the whole amount be put and once it is released we will channel the money to pay out debts,” he said.

Patrick Kilemi Principal Secretary for Cooperatives said that the direct system is a better option for the coffee farmers as the law requires that 80% of the money gotten from sale of coffee to go to the farmers pocket and 20% be retained at the factory level to help in their operations.

“We want transparency in the value chain and law provides that the money goes direct to them,” he said.

He said that revitalization of the coffee sector through the cooperative movement remains top priority under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

“The ongoing reforms in this sub-sector are unlocking new economic opportunities and enhancing financial sustainability for our local farmers,” he said.

Gathoni Wamuchomba, Githunguri Member of Parliament who was also present said that coffee farmers want activities of coffee be devolved at the factory level so as to reach farmers easily.

“Factory managers have the capacity to deal with farmers and operations,” she said.

She said that the direct settlement system will cripple down operations of factories as there is no money going to the factories since the money is being wired directly to the farmers.

“Coffee farmers are receiving money via M-pesa which is a good thing but how will factories operate, how are bills going to be paid, how will the security officers guarding factories be paid,” she pondered.

She recommended that money after sale of coffee be channeled directly to the factories.

She said that farmers have rejected a levy imposed on coffee brokers saying that it will go further to raid their returns.

She further said that regulations made by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) that coffee factories using river water be paying for the use of the water is retrogressive and should be removed.

She noted that coffee theft is still



CS Wycliffe Oparanya addressing coffee stakeholders at Ndumberi, Kiambu on Thursday.



Some of the stakeholders who attended the Ndumberi meeting on Thursday

rampant and government should form a special police unit that will be guarding factories and coffee.

She said that coffee factories are still waiting for the KSh6.8 billion offered by the President to offset their debts.

“We have waited for long now of the money promised to offset debts that have crippled factories. We want the money released immediately,” she said.

She called on government to help Komothai coffee Mill which is the biggest mill in Kiambu to have capacity so that it can be milling all the coffee in the county and build a big warehouse for storing coffee.

Machua Waitthaka Kiambu MP said that coffee farmers are happy as they have gotten good returns on their coffee.

“Farmers are happy as last year the coffee farmers were paid as low as Sh 40 for their coffee this season they have reaped big as they were paid over Sh 145 and we wait it to rise to over Sh 300,” he said.

He however said that farmers have

reported to him that the cherry fund is not working well for them and it is not reaching them on time and government should work on it so it helps farmers.

James Kinuthia a coffee farmer said that as farmers they do not want to be paid via M-Pesa since some of them are old and are prone to their money being stolen and cannot access a loan.

He said that they have not received the subsidized farm inputs since to access them is a problem as the NCPB is in Thika which is far from the farmers and want the inputs be brought to their factories for easier access.

Joseph Ndungu a farmer said that the regulations which was imposed on through gazette notice be revoked failure to which they will be forced to withdraw from the Nairobi coffee exchange.

Government Suspends Mediheal Transplants, Orders Five-Year Audit

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Aden Duale, has ordered the immediate suspension of all kidney transplant procedures at Mediheal Group of Hospitals. This announcement has come amid mounting concerns over alleged ethical violations and clinical malpractice at the facility's Eldoret branch.

Speaking at a press briefing at Afya house in Nairobi, Duale disclosed that the Ministry of Health has appointed an independent expert committee to conduct a comprehensive audit of all kidney transplant services at Mediheal hospitals over the past five years. The committee will consist of professionals drawn from both public and private healthcare institutions, medical regulatory bodies, and relevant professional associations.

"This committee will focus on governance structures, clinical protocols, ethical standards, and patient safety systems, their report is expected within 90 days," said Duale

The move follows a fact-finding

mission launched in December 2023 by the Ministry, which included a multidisciplinary team of transplant specialists, ethicists, representatives from regulatory bodies, and academic experts. However, Duale noted that the team's final report was not submitted due to disagreements among its members over key recommendations, thereby stalling further action.

In addition to the audit, he announced the suspension of two senior officials in the Ministry Dr. Maurice Wakwabubi, Acting Head of Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Services (KBTTTS), and Dr. Everlyne Chege, who chaired the December probe, appointing Dr. Martin Sirengo in an interim capacity to oversee KBTTTS operations during the inquiry. The decision, he said, was necessary to avoid any conflict of interest and ensure the integrity of ongoing investigations.

"Patients currently under care at Mediheal or those seeking transplant services are advised to seek treatment at other licensed facilities including Kenyatta National Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Aga Khan University Hospital, and others listed by the Ministry," continued to state Duale.



Cabinet Secretary for Health, Aden Duale, addressing the media at the Ministry's offices, Afya house Nairobi.

Further tightening oversight on foreign medical professionals, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) has been directed to suspend the issuance of new licenses to foreign doctors with the exception of those from East African Community member states, until current

guidelines are reviewed. KMPDC has also been tasked with auditing all foreign medical licenses issued to date, and must present its findings within 90 days.

The Health CS further stated that his Ministry remains resolute in defending the rights and dignity of all

patients, affirming committed to restoring professionalism, ethical standards, and public trust in Kenya's healthcare system.

Dr. Ouma Oluga Takes Over As Principal Secretary For Medical Services

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

Dr. Ouma Oluga has officially assumed the role of Principal Secretary (PS) for the State Department for Medical Services, taking over from Mr. Harry Kimtai in a formal handover ceremony witnessed by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health, at Afya House in Nairobi.

"I call on all Ministry officials to remain firmly anchored in the values enshrined in Chapter 10 of the Constitution, including transparency, accountability, and integrity. It is important to uphold these principles in policy implementation, financial management, and service delivery. This is key to building an efficient, responsive, and people-centred health system," said CS Duale.

He further emphasized the need for unity of purpose and collective support for the new leadership, in ad-

vancing the rollout of SHA.

"There's need for unity in advancing the rollout of the Taifa Care Model and the operationalization of the Social Health Authority (SHA) under the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) framework. I affirm my Ministry's commitment to restoring order in the health sector and ensuring affordable, accessible health care for all," added Duale.

Dr. Oluga, a seasoned medical practitioner and former Secretary General of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU), and now incoming PS for Medical Services pledged to build on his predecessor's work while ushering in reforms aimed at strengthening the healthcare delivery system.

I pledge to deliver for the people of Kenya and I will drive forward the implementation of UHC, a flagship priority under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). There's need to rebuild public trust in the health system and



Incoming PS for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga, taking over from Outgoing PS Medical Services Mr. Harry Kimtai, witnessing is Health CS Aden Duale, at Afya House in Nairobi.

uphold the values of patriotism, sustainable development, dependability, and reliability in service delivery," he remarked.

Outgoing PS Mr. Kimtai, who has served in the position since 2019, expressed confidence in Dr. Oluga's ability to steer the department for-

ward.

"It has been a fulfilling journey, and I believe Dr. Oluga brings a wealth of experience and energy that will benefit the Ministry and the Kenyan people," he affirmed.

Attended by PS Public Health Mary Muthoni, DG for Health Dr

Patrick Amoth, Chief Executive Officers of State Corporations under the Ministry, and Directors of various technical departments, the event marked a significant transition in the leadership of one of the country's most critical health portfolios.

The Value Of Bread



A few years ago, we— a group of young people from Uzbekistan — were studying at one of the universities in Russian cities. The university building wasn't too far from our dormitory. We could walk there, although we sometimes used public transportation.

One day, when we had more free time because our first class was canceled, my friend Muminjon and I decided to walk. The streets were busy, full of people rushing to their work. No one paid attention to anyone else.

As we were walking along the sidewalk, suddenly, our eyes caught sight of a piece of white bread lying on the ground. Muminjon immediately ran over, picked up the bread and said, "Oh, what a shame — someone threw bread on the ground!" He gently dusted it off, kissed it, and touched it to his eyes as a sign of respect before handing it to me. I did the same, then placed the piece of bread on a branch between some nearby trees.

As we continued on our way, a voice called out behind us, "Rebyata, wait a minute!" We turned around and saw a man—around 50 or 55 years old—walking quickly toward us through the crowd. He seemed emotional, and my friend and I were surprised. His clothes were neat and tidy, and his chest was decorated with medals.

When he got closer, he asked, "Where are you from?"

"We're from Uzbekistan, from the city of Namangan," we replied.

"I thought so! I figured you weren't from around here," he said, his eyes lighting up. "I've heard the song 'Namanganskie Yablaki' (Namangan Apples)," he added with a smile.

That song was very popular at the time, even in Russian, and had become a real hit. He asked, "Is it true that there are more apples in Namangan than even in Michurinsk?"

We told him that not only apples, but many other fruits grow in abundance in Namangan, and that it's also known as the city of flowers.

"My name is Nikolai, but you can just call me Uncle Kolya," he said. "I'm a military training instructor at the school down the road. I'm on my way to work now. But what you just did really touched me — it lifted

my spirits. It's so good to see young people like you. Ah, boys... boys... We truly know the value of a piece of bread."

He sighed deeply, took the piece of bread we had just placed among the branches, put it in his bag, and continued: "Just imagine," Uncle Kolya said, "how many people once longed for even a single piece of bread!"

It was during the chaotic years of the Second World War. Everything was in flames. The fascist invaders had occupied villages and towns, displacing people. Both adults and children were starving. Even one piece of bread was a treasure. Everywhere, bread was rationed and distributed by cards—each person was allowed only 30 to 50 grams a day, no more.

Our battalion was on the front lines. We liberated a small village in Belarus from the fascists. Just then, a boy—about 9 or 10 years old—ran up to us and led us to his home. Three soldiers and I followed him into a house where a woman, around forty years old, lay weak and exhausted. She was the boy's mother. She hadn't had even a pinch of salt for days—starvation had taken a toll on her.

The invaders had stolen everything they had. They had been boiling and eating potato peels to survive. Witnessing their suffering filled us with even more hatred toward the fascists.

My fellow soldiers took hardened bread, crackers, and canned food from their pouches and placed them beside the woman. She took a piece of bread, touched it to her eyes, cried, and said to her son:

"Take it, Grishenka, eat it and fill your stomach."

But the boy replied:

"No, no, Mommy, you eat it. You haven't eaten anything for days!"

Seeing this, our soldiers were more determined than ever to drive the fascists out of our motherland.

"I was a witness to such events," said Uncle Kolya. "Watching what you boys just did reminded me of those painful times.

He then looked around at the people who had passed by the bread on the ground without a second thought and said, "Oh people, people! Have you really forgotten those difficult years so quickly?"

As we said goodbye to Uncle Kolya, he gave us his address.

"Come visit my home sometime," he said. "I'll host you as my guests and tell you more stories from the war."

As we parted ways with someone who had lived through the horrors of war, his words kept echoing in our ears. For a brief moment, it felt as if we had been transported back to those dark days of suffering.

We deeply felt that one must always appreciate the value of everything—especially bread, this priceless blessing. Even a single piece of bread should be respected and never wasted.

Makhmudjon SOLIYEV

Mayor William Sunday A Senior Inspector For Research And Training



1. Who are you?

I'm Mayor William Sunday also known as Tr. Sunday Mayor. I hold M.A. Ed and work for ministry of Education as senior inspector for research and training.

2. Where are you from?

I'm a south Sudanese. I come from Aluakluak in Yirol, lakes state.

3. What your book category?

Would describe my book category as fiction. I write historical fiction.

4. Why did you write?

Call myself an observer of social happenings and that's what informs my writing.

5. What inspired you?

I read a lot and that comes from my literature lesson when I was in school in Kenya. The reading of set books for my KCSE pushed me to go beyond just reading them and I became interested in writing.

6. Who is your illustrator?

I don't have specific one. my two books have different illustrators.

7. Do you have fans?

I do people have who love my writing, if they are the ones u refer to as fans.

8. How are sales?

Not bad. The country is battling hunger, it is understandable to choose food over a book. Survival first then knowledge or entertainment later.

9. What are your future plans?

Write more fictions, but also branching into academic writing. I'm educationist and I'm very passionate about improving our education in the little way I can.

10. How is the book industry?

It needs a lot of work and investment. We need to write about this country or else the coming generations will have absolutely no idea where they are born into. A lot of young people prefer TikTok videos than reading. But there is hope.

11. Any awards yet?

Not yet. Perhaps it's because I'm not in it for money. I have not invested in advertising or promotions of my books yet.

12. Who is your role model?

My role model is Ngugi wa Thiongo, John Kiriakos in that order.

13. When did you begin writing?

I started writing in 2010, unfortunately the manuscript is still sitting somewhere in my email because I forgot the password first then the entire email. It was about my uncle who died in 2008, assassinated in Nairobi.

14. Where did you publish?

Two different local printing companies: Ganesh and Digi printers.

15. What can you say to upcoming author?

They need to do a lot of work. IA is tempting and people are not reading stories. If they are writing for money, then they should be prepared for disappointment.



DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

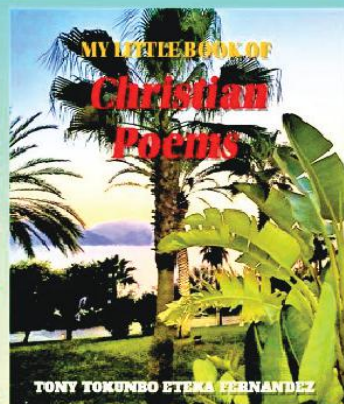
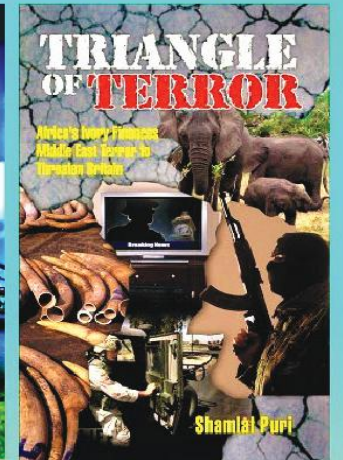
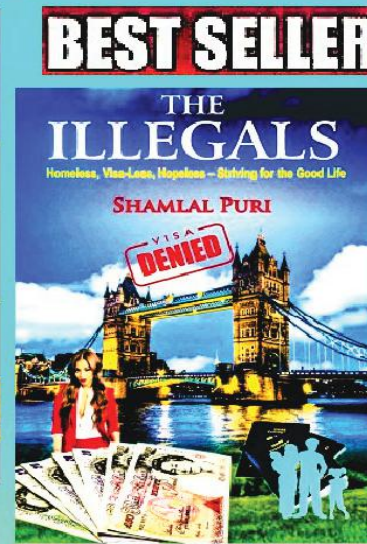
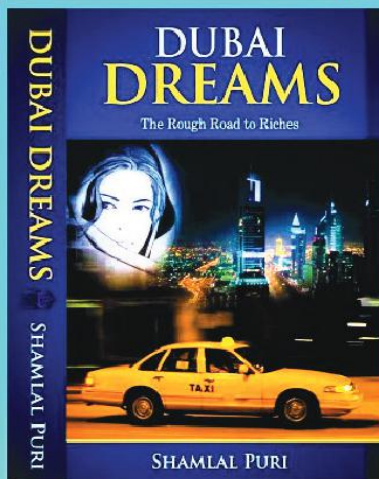
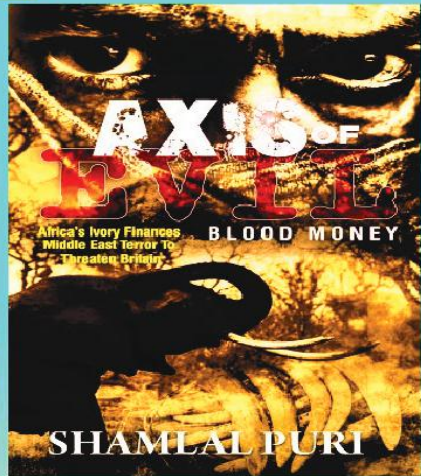
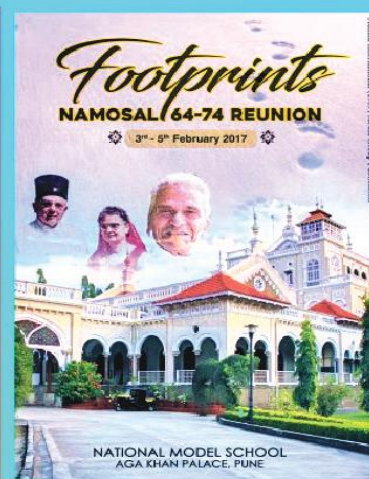
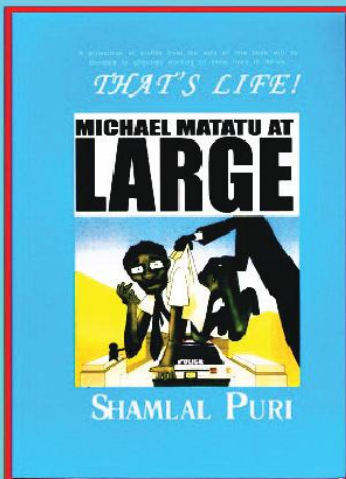
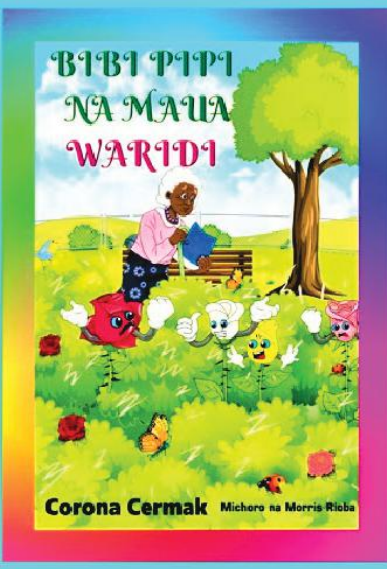
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BUSINESS

Unlocking African Trade Through The Power Of Air Cargo



By: Peter Musola
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

In a continent where land transport can be slow or inefficient and maritime routes often bypass key inland markets, air cargo offers a crucial link to regional and global supply chains. It connects farmers to export markets, empowers SMEs through e-commerce platforms, and integrates manufacturers into just-in-time global supply chains, effectively transforming geographical distance into a competitive advantage.

From Nairobi to Amsterdam, from Accra to Guangzhou, the freighters and aircraft of carriers like Kenya Airways are conduits of possibility, not just for people, but for goods. Consider fresh flowers from Naivasha - Kemya reaching European florists in under 24 hours, sensitive pharmaceuticals transported across the continent with required precision, or urgent medical supplies delivered in times of crisis.



When most people think about aviation, they imagine passengers boarding planes, business travellers in transit, or families reunited. What they rarely consider is what lies beneath—the tonnes of goods that move through the belly of aircraft, silently powering global trade and driving economic transformation.

However, the numbers tell a compelling story. According to Boeing's World Air Cargo Forecast (WACF) (2022 -2041) - a biennial addendum to the Commercial Market Outlook, air cargo represents less than 1% of total trade volume but accounts for over 35% of trade by value globally. Yet, this sector's strategic importance often goes underappreciated.

Africa's aspirations—be it through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), food security targets, or digital transformation agendas—essentially hinge on the free and fast movement of goods. Air cargo, therefore, is not merely a logistics function for the continent; it is the lifeblood of modern commerce, a vital trade facilitator, and an economic equaliser.

In a continent where land transport can be slow or inefficient and maritime routes often bypass key inland markets, air cargo offers a crucial

link to regional and global supply chains. It connects farmers to export markets, empowers SMEs through e-commerce platforms, and integrates manufacturers into just-in-time global supply chains, effectively transforming geographical distance into a competitive advantage.

From Nairobi to Amsterdam, from Accra to Guangzhou, the freighters and aircraft of carriers like Kenya Airways are conduits of possibility, not just for people, but for goods. Consider fresh flowers from Naivasha - Kemya reaching European florists in under 24 hours, sensitive pharmaceuticals transported across the continent with required precision, or urgent medical supplies delivered in times of crisis.

In 2024, African carriers recorded an 8.5% increase in cargo volumes, with capacity growing by 13.6% according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This growth was largely linked to the continent's agriculture exports, especially perishables. As fresh produce fuels this growth, this unseen world of air cargo deserves a front-row seat in conversations about Africa's economic growth.

To advance regional trade and meet growing demand for air cargo services across Africa, the Middle East,

and Asia, Kenya Airways expanded its cargo operations in the year ended with the addition of two Boeing 737-800 freighters and investments in infrastructure such as Pharma cold room which is certified by IATA(-CEIV) and Cold storage facility for perishable cargo. These strategic interventions resulted in a 25% increase in cargo capacity and expanded the airline's operational reach to key destinations, including the Middle East, India, Eldoret (Kenya), and several cities in West Africa.

However, realizing the full potential of air cargo in Africa requires a concerted effort. Governments, regulators, and private sector actors must align to prioritize its development. This necessitates investing in airport infrastructure, digitizing customs processes, harmonizing regulatory frameworks, and providing support for local producers to scale to international markets. Fundamentally, it means treating cargo as a strategic lever of trade.

Furthermore, building a robust air cargo ecosystem demands a focus on capacity building. Skilled manpower, from handlers and logistics experts to data analysts, is essential. As demand grows for integrated, tech-enabled logistics solutions, Africa must pro-

actively train a workforce ready to seize these opportunities. This is not solely about aircraft; it's about people, skills, and systems working harmoniously to deliver excellence.

Environmental sustainability is another critical dimension. As global cargo demand increases, so too does scrutiny on emissions. Airlines are increasingly adopting sustainable practices, including fuel-efficient routing, digitised documentation to reduce paper waste, and exploring green partnerships.

Ultimately, the conversation about air cargo transcends mere freight. It is primarily about trade and Africa's ability to compete and thrive in the global marketplace. It is about empowering our entrepreneurs with the tools they need to scale, ensuring that a farmer in Kenya or a designer in Lagos can reach customers in Dubai, London, or New York.

If we are truly serious about unlocking Africa's economic potential, then we must be equally serious about investing in the systems that move its goods—and air cargo must be a central pillar of that investment.

The Author is Mr Peter Musola the Head of Cargo Commercial at Kenya Airways

Hollywood's Fading Charm In China And Why U.S. Tariffs Are Making It Worse

By: Xinhua writer Zhang Yunlong

BEIJING, (Xinhua) -- Once the king of China's silver screen, Hollywood now finds itself sidelined, as local blockbusters surge and Washington's tariffs against the rest of the world add fuel to shifting audience sentiment.

According to data released this week, Chinese animated feature "Ne Zha 2" has scored a thunderous success, raking in 15.2 billion yuan (about 2.11 billion U.S. dollars) at China's box office in just 12 weeks.

In stark contrast, the top-performing American film so far this year, "A Minecraft Movie" from Warner Bros., has just crossed 150 million yuan and failed to break into China's top 10 films of 2025. That continues a sobering trend: 2024 marked the second consecutive year in which no Hollywood title cracked the one-billion-yuan mark, a symbolic threshold once routinely surpassed.

The sharp contrast highlights the deepening decline of Hollywood's influence in the world's second-largest movie market. Analysts say U.S. tariffs and trade restrictions are only accelerating the slide.

CREATIVE DECLINE

Industry data tells the story. American movies' share of China's annual box office revenue has plunged from 36 percent in 2018 and 30 percent in 2019 to just 14 percent in 2024, according to figures from box office tracker Maoyan, obtained by Xinhua.

That fading influence extends beyond box office numbers. "American blockbusters aren't drawing much of a crowd anymore," wrote one Weibo user nicknamed "SurfaceMe," blaming a mix of lackluster quality and declining favorability amid tariff and trade tensions.

"The appeal, emotional resonance, and cultural impact of Hollywood films are fading among Chinese audiences," said Rao Shuguang, president of the China Film Critics Association. "Creatively, Hollywood has grown conservative, leaning too heavily on Marvel and other franchise fare. The visual spectacle remains, but viewers are experiencing aesthetic fatigue. And on a deeper level, American stories often feel disconnected from Chinese life, making it harder to generate empathy or emotional response."

According to a China Film News report, original Hollywood productions accounted for just 18.6 percent of all U.S. studio releases in 2024, a dramatic decline from 40.9 percent in 2000. In contrast, sequels, reboots, adaptations and spinoffs now account for 81.4 percent. This cost-efficient

but creatively cautious model has dampened Chinese viewers' expectations for high-quality cinematic content, it says.

DWINDLING FAVORABILITY

But Hollywood's creative slump is only part of the picture. Industry insiders point to another force hastening its fall in China: the long shadow of Washington's aggressive tariff policy and its downstream effects on public sentiment.

Film is part of the broader U.S. services sector, where the United States has traditionally maintained a significant trade surplus with China. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. service exports to China grew more than eightfold between 2001 and 2023, with the annual surplus peaking at nearly 40 billion dollars. Film and other IP-driven content have long been a key part of that advantage.

"U.S. politicians fixated on manufacturing trade deficits are overlooking the billions America has earned through services," said Ming Jinwei, a Beijing-based commentator and widely followed blogger. He warned that weaponizing tariffs could backfire by undermining America's winning sectors.

"Irrational U.S. tariffs could trigger a chain reaction, as IP-driven cultural industries are 'cross-media, integrated and long-chained,'" said Chen Xuguang, director of the Institute of Film, Television and Theatre at Peking University. Washington's tariff policies risk triggering a ripple effect, with audiences drifting away from Hollywood films and potentially other U.S. cultural exports tied to major IP, he said.

REPERCUSSIONS

Washington's trade restrictions and tariff escalations against China are already being felt in the reception of American cultural exports here. Franchises like Transformers, Fast & Furious and even Marvel, once guaranteed box office juggernauts, are now performing inconsistently -- or outright poorly -- in China.

"It's been rare for an American film to cross the 100 million yuan mark in China in recent years -- unless it's something truly special," said Dong Wenxin, a film critic and manager of a cinema in Jinan, Shandong Province. "They're getting beaten not just by Japanese anime but also by European arthouse and regional Asian surprises."

Tastes are shifting. Japanese animation continues to draw steady crowds,



Worth Noting:

- Industry data tells the story. American movies' share of China's annual box office revenue has plunged from 36 percent in 2018 and 30 percent in 2019 to just 14 percent in 2024, according to figures from box office tracker Maoyan, obtained by Xinhua.
- That fading influence extends beyond box office numbers. "American blockbusters aren't drawing much of a crowd anymore," wrote one Weibo user nicknamed "SurfaceMe," blaming a mix of lackluster quality and declining favorability amid tariff and trade tensions.
- "The appeal, emotional resonance, and cultural impact of Hollywood films are fading among Chinese audiences," said Rao Shuguang, president of the China Film Critics Association.

while European and Southeast Asian films are gaining ground. This year's surprise hits, Italy's "There's Still Tomorrow" and Britain's "National Theatre Live: Prima Facie," have exceeded expectations. Thailand's "How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies" became a breakout sleeper last year.

Looking ahead, Dong said China's film market is likely to forge even closer ties beyond the United States to meet the increasingly diverse audience needs. And Beijing is already moving in that direction.

A recent film agreement with Spain calls for deepening collaboration on co-productions, film festivals and mutual screenings, signaling that

China is broadening its cultural partnerships.

The irony is stark: Washington's trade restrictions and tariff moves, designed to protect American industries, may end up crippling one of the country's most impactful exports -- its cultural influence, analysts say.

"U.S. tariffs don't just tax goods -- they tax appeal," said Ming. "And in today's global entertainment economy, once that appeal wanes, even the strongest cultural influence may have to struggle to endure."

DP: This Is Why We Exited Kenya Kwanza Coalition

By: James Wanjiku
 @themkenyatimes

The Democratic Party of Kenya (DP), associated with former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi, has formally exited the Kenya Kwanza coalition led by President William Ruto.

On March 7, the party's National Secretary General Dr Jacob Haji and National Chairman Esau Kioni submitted a notice to the coalition secretariat and the Registrar of Political Parties, signaling their intent to withdraw from the ruling coalition.

The letter read: "The Democratic Party of Kenya, vide this letter, hereby gives a thirty (30) day notice to exit the Coalition as stipulated in the Termination Clause (8) in the Coalition Agreement."

Speaking to the media at his Kagege home in Othaya, Nyeri County, Kioni said the 30-day notice period lapsed on April 7, thus cementing the party's official exit from the coalition.

Kioni explained that party members

had resolved to terminate their working relationship with President Ruto's administration, which had been established ahead of the August 9, 2022 General Election.

"We have no business with the Kenya Kwanza coalition. The Democratic Party is now operating independently. We are used to standing on our own, even in the past," said Kioni.

"Working with the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) is no longer feasible because we do not see any benefit in remaining part of the Kenya Kwanza coalition," he added.

Kioni also noted that the DP would evaluate potential political alignments ahead of the 2027 general elections.

"Members felt betrayed by the Kenya Kwanza coalition and decided to leave. We have no ties with them anymore, and we wish them luck," he said.

Muturi, who initially served as Attorney General in Ruto's first Cabinet before being appointed Public Service CS, was later dismissed from the Cabinet. He was replaced by Mbeere North MP Geoffrey Ruku



Former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi

in a reshuffle that followed a series of disagreements with the Kenya Kwanza leadership.

Muturi had joined the coalition

through the Democratic Party in May 2022, shortly before the last general election, under a formal agreement that made the DP a constituent party

of Kenya Kwanza.

Tourism CS Rebecca Miano Advocates For Community-Centric Ecotourism As The Cornerstone Of Sustainable Travel

By: John Kariuki
 @themkenyatimes

As Kenya charts its course toward a future where travel and conservation go hand in hand, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Rebecca Miano, has emphasized the pivotal role of community-based tourism in redefining the country's tourism narrative. CS Miano, a staunch advocate of ecotourism, is dedicated to ensuring that tourism in Kenya is not only economically viable but also deeply rooted in sustainable, community-driven practices that uplift local communities while conserving the country's rich natural and cultural heritage.

"Tourism is not just about the destinations, but about the people who inhabit them," CS Miano asserted. "Community tourism enables us to amplify the voices of local communities, showcase their unique traditions, and ensure that the fruits of tourism directly benefit the grassroots."

Through ecotourism, travellers are invited to move beyond the typical sightseeing experience and instead engage deeply with the cultures and environments they visit. This immersive approach allows visitors to connect with Kenya's vibrant communities, learning about their traditional practices, cultural rituals, and time-honored ways of life that have been passed down through generations.

"Simple actions can make a profound impact," CS Miano continued. "It's as easy as hiring a local guide, dining at a community-run restaurant, purchasing locally crafted souvenirs, or visiting a community-managed cultural village. These small gestures allow travellers to experience authentic Kenya and, in turn, contribute directly to the local economy."

This form of tourism not only provides economic empowerment to rural and marginalized communities but also promotes a more responsible, regenerative form of travel that respects both people and place. By supporting local enterprises, travellers

ensure that the economic benefits of tourism are reinvested in the community, creating a sustainable cycle of growth that supports both conservation and cultural preservation.

"Through these experiences, we build long-lasting relationships between the traveller and the community," CS Miano explained. "What's more, these exchanges foster mutual respect, deepen understanding, and encourage the preservation of Kenya's biodiversity and heritage for future generations."

Under the banner of Magical Kenya, CS Miano continues to advance policies that intertwine sustainability with economic opportunity. Her leadership has seen a rise in initiatives that not only bolster Kenya's position as a global tourist destination but also ensure that tourism development is aligned with environmental sustainability and community welfare.

By promoting ecotourism, Kenya is positioning itself as a model of sustainable travel—where the interests of the traveller, the community,



Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Rebecca Miano

and the environment are inextricably linked. As CS Miano envisions, the future of tourism is one that ensures

inclusive growth, cultural integrity, and conservation are at its core.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Orphan To Entrepreneur: Brian Otieno's Journey Of Resilience And Hope At Rongo University

By: **Nathan Mburu**

In the vibrant hills of Kitere, nestled in the heart of Migori County, sits Rongo University, an academic sanctuary for thousands of young Kenyans pursuing their dreams. Among them is Brian Otieno, a 22-year-old orphan whose life story is nothing short of inspiring. With nothing but determination and a vision for a better future, Brian has turned tragedy into triumph through hard work, self-discipline, and an innovative spirit.

Brian was born in 2002 in Kendu Bay, Homa Bay County, the second-born in a family of four. His father passed away when he was only eight years old, leaving his mother to raise the family singlehandedly. Tragedy struck again when Brian was just 14—his mother succumbed to illness, plunging the family into even deeper uncertainty. With both parents gone, Brian and his younger siblings were taken in by their aging grandmother who lived in a humble home in the village. Life was difficult. The family depended on small-scale farming and occasional support from neighbors and local well-wishers to survive. Brian often walked long distances to school without shoes, went without meals, and studied late into the night under the dim light of a kerosene lamp.

Despite the hardships, Brian's determination never wavered. He knew that

education was his only escape from poverty. Through sheer resilience, he excelled in his studies, and his strong performance in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) earned him a place at a provincial boarding secondary school. Though school fees were a constant struggle, he managed to push through with the help of teachers, local leaders, and donors. In 2021, Brian sat for his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations and emerged with a strong B+ grade. His excellent results earned him an admission to Rongo University to study a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Resource Management, a course that aligned with his desire to transform the farming practices he had seen struggle in his rural community.

When Brian joined Rongo University in September 2021, he carried with him not just a few belongings, but an unwavering belief in his future. However, he quickly realized that university life came with new financial demands: rent, food, learning materials, and other personal expenses that exceeded what he could afford. Like many other students from poor backgrounds, he applied for a loan from the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). But rather than spend the funds carelessly, Brian made a bold decision. Using Ksh. 25,000 from his first HELB disbursement, he started a small poultry

business.

With the money, Brian bought 50 one-day-old chicks and constructed a simple wooden chicken coop on a small rented plot near campus. He used part of the funds to purchase feeders, drinkers, vaccines, and high-quality feed. With no prior experience in poultry farming, he turned to YouTube tutorials, online agricultural forums, and sought advice from university lecturers and agriculture students. It was a bold move, but one rooted in necessity and vision.

Balancing his studies with the demands of farming was no small feat. Brian would wake up before dawn to feed and clean the chicken coop before heading to lectures. In the evenings, he returned to check on the flock, sometimes staying up late to complete assignments after tending to the birds. The journey was not smooth, he faced challenges like disease outbreaks that wiped out several chicks and fluctuating feed prices that strained his finances. But he persevered. With every mistake came a lesson and Brian used each setback as an opportunity to grow both the business and his knowledge.

Over time, his venture began to thrive. He expanded from 30 to over 150 chickens per cycle. Today, Brian supplies chicken meat and eggs to fellow students, mama mboga, and local eateries around Rongo. The proceeds help him pay rent, buy food, afford educa-

tional materials, and save for future investments. His entrepreneurial spirit has not gone unnoticed. In 2024, he was invited to speak to first-year students by the university's Department of Agriculture, where he shared his experience of turning a student loan into a source of income. Many students left the session inspired and motivated to pursue similar paths of self-reliance.

As Brian approaches his final year of university, his dreams have only grown bigger. He plans to register his poultry business and scale it into a full-fledged agribusiness. His ultimate goal is to establish a model farm and agribusiness training center in Homa Bay County, where he can empower other youth with practical skills and opportunities in agriculture. He envisions a future where young people in rural areas no longer migrate to cities in search of jobs, but instead build thriving enterprises at home.

Brian's story is one of grit, hope, and unwavering determination. It is a testimony that even the most difficult circumstances can be overcome with the right mindset and a clear purpose. In a



world where many university students misuse their HELB loans on leisure and luxuries, Brian chose a different path, one that not only sustains him but also serves as a beacon of hope for others.

"I may not have parents to support me," he says, "but I have a purpose that drives me. I believe that even from nothing, something great can rise."

As the sun sets behind the hills of Rongo, the soft clucks from Brian's chicken coop echo quietly, a humble reminder that greatness often starts in the most unexpected places.

The Power Of Perseverance: How Wendy Mujumbe Brought BBC's Roncliffe Odit To NIBS Technical College

By: **Benjamin Kariuki Nyambura**

In a world where most dreams are silenced by the first "no," Wendy Mujumbe chose a different path. Her story is one of resilience, faith, and a fire that refused to die out. For an entire year, Wendy chased a vision many considered impossible — getting renowned BBC journalist Roncliffe Odit to speak to journalism students at NIBS Technical College.

It wasn't just a wish. It was a mission.

Wendy, a passionate media student with a clear sense of purpose, first reached out to Roncliffe Odit in early 2024. Like many aspiring journalists, she admired his work, his voice, and the stories he told that shaped how people see the world. But what set

Wendy apart wasn't just admiration — it was action.

Email after email. DM after DM, Phone calls, . Most went unanswered. But Wendy didn't stop. Where others saw silence as rejection, she saw it as "not yet." Her determination wasn't just about meeting a media icon; it was about inspiring her fellow students, bringing them face-to-face with excellence, and proving that even the seemingly untouchable can be reached.

"I believed if I kept knocking, eventually the door would open," Wendy said with a smile that spoke volumes.

After a year of persistent effort, Roncliffe Odit finally responded. Impressed not just by her consistency, but also by her clear vision and unwavering drive, he agreed to visit

NIBS Technical College and address the journalism students.

When he finally walked into the college, the air was electric. Students gathered in anticipation, phones ready, eyes wide with excitement. And Wendy? She stood at the front, her heart full, not just because her dream had come true, but because she had created a moment that would impact dozens of lives.

Roncliffe's talk was nothing short of powerful. He shared his journey, the ups and downs of journalism, and most importantly, he spoke directly to the students' hearts — reminding them that persistence, curiosity, and authenticity are the most powerful tools a journalist can carry.

For many in that room, it was a turning point.



Wendy Mujumbe's story is a reminder that dreams are not handed out — they are chased, fought for, and eventually earned. Because sometimes, all it takes is one person who refuses to give up to create a ripple that changes everything. And

on that day at NIBS Technical College, Wendy became more than just a student — she became a symbol of what's possible when you simply don't give up.

Silent Suffering: The Agony Of Men Raising Children Who Aren't Theirs



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Introduction

Across the globe, a silent epidemic festers in the shadows of society's most sacred institution: the family. It is a crisis rarely spoken of, a pain often carried alone; men unknowingly raising children who are not biologically theirs. This phenomenon, known as paternal discrepancy or misattributed paternity, is more common than many would like to believe. In a world that often regards motherhood as sacrosanct and places the burden of proof on men, the emotional, psychological, and financial fallout of such revelations can be devastating.

This article explores the factual basis, emotional ramifications, societal dynamics, and policy implications surrounding this issue. Drawing from research, expert opinions, real-life testimonials, and legal frameworks, this piece aims to illuminate a largely ignored male agony; with the hope of triggering a conversation long overdue.

A Hidden Crisis: The Statistics of Paternal Discrepancy

Paternity discrepancy refers to the situation in which a man is incorrectly identified as the biological father of a child. Studies conducted across various populations have found that rates of paternal discrepancy range from 1% to as high as 30%, depending on the demographic and the circumstances under which paternity testing is done. A 2005 study published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* found that about 3.7% of children in the UK were born from paternal discrepancy, while some studies in parts of Africa have reported rates up to 30% in certain communities where paternity testing is more routine (Anderson, 2005).

The implications of these numbers are staggering. In millions of households around the world, men are potentially raising children they believe to be their own, without ever being informed of the possibility otherwise.

Emotional and Psychological Fallout

The emotional betrayal associated with discovering that a child is not biologically one's own is akin to a profound grief. Some psychologists note that 'misattributed paternity is a unique form of betrayal, as it often intertwines love for the child with anger toward the partner and a shattered sense of identity.'

Men in such situations frequently experience a range of psychological consequences, including depression, anxiety, feelings of emasculation, and even suicidal ideation. The betrayal cuts deep not only due to the biological falsehood but also because of the broken trust between partners.

Many men also express deep moral confusion; they may still love the child but feel manipulated into a parental role under false pretenses. These emotional wounds are compounded by societal expectations that stigmatize men who choose to withdraw from fathering roles upon discovering the truth.

Legal and Financial Injustice

In many jurisdictions, men who are not the biological fathers of children are still legally obligated to pay child support if they have acted as the presumed father, and more especially if children bears their surnames. This legal principle, known as the 'presumption of paternity,' is based on the idea that a man who has taken on the fatherly role, regardless of biology, has an ongoing duty to the child.

For instance, in the United States, courts in several states have ruled that even DNA evidence proving non-paternity does not necessarily absolve a man of financial responsibilities if he has previously acknowledged paternity or failed to contest it within a specified period. This often leaves men financially entrapped, paying support for children to whom they have no biological connection.

This legal stance has come under criticism for prioritizing child welfare and maternal rights over the factual truth and the rights of men. While the intent is to protect children from abandonment, critics argue that this legal approach undermines the very principle of justice.

Paternity in Africa: Culture, Custom, and Crisis

In the African context, the concept of paternity is deeply rooted in cultural norms and traditional understandings of family. In many Afri-



can societies, fatherhood transcends biological connection and is instead tied to social responsibility, marriage, and communal identity. This phenomenon, often termed as 'social paternity,' places value on the man who raises the child over the one who biologically fathers them.

While this has historically fostered inclusive family structures and helped mitigate the stigma surrounding infertility or premarital conception, it has also created a social climate where the biological truth is often ignored or suppressed. In many communities, questioning a child's paternity is considered taboo, an act that can bring dishonor not only to the woman but also to the man, the extended family, and the community.

Furthermore, the bride price system prevalent in many African cultures creates a contractual expectation that a man will assume full responsibility for the woman and her children, regardless of biology. Once lobola (bride price) has been paid, the children born within that union are culturally regarded as belonging to the man, even if they are not his by blood. This cultural norm often leaves men voiceless and powerless, especially in situations of deception.

A study conducted in Nigeria by the Lagos State University Department of Sociology revealed that nearly 11% of paternity tests conducted during custody disputes or immigration processes revealed cases of misattributed paternity. However, societal norms discouraged most men from pursuing the truth unless prompted by medical necessity or legal battles. This reluctance is often

rooted in fear of social backlash, loss of dignity, and the emotional cost of confrontation.

In Southern Africa, particularly in South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana, anecdotal and investigative reports have highlighted a growing trend of men seeking paternity tests in secret. These men often face criticism from both family and society for harboring doubt. The woman's fidelity is closely guarded by cultural norms, and any challenge to her honor is seen as an attack on the family itself. Thus, the man is left isolated, struggling with his suspicions in silence.

Religious influences also play a significant role. Churches and mosques in Africa often promote the sanctity of family and discourage actions that may lead to separation or public scandal. In practice, this means that even when paternity fraud is uncovered, men are advised to forgive and continue providing, further embedding the norm of silent endurance.

Additionally, poverty and economic dependence complicate the matter. In many rural areas, women who become pregnant outside of wedlock may seek to attach themselves to men who can provide for them and the child, even when the biological father is unknown or unwilling. This dynamic leads to intentional misrepresentation of paternity, which is rationalized by survival needs.

Thus, while African cultures have long emphasized the collective raising of children and a broader definition of fatherhood, the modern context, infused with Western legal systems, changing gender roles, and increased access to DNA testing, is

exposing the cracks in this ideal. The silence around paternity fraud is no longer sustainable in a world where biological truth can be determined with scientific precision.

The Societal Double Standard

Imagine if women routinely gave birth to children and were later told that the infants were switched at birth in the hospital. The outrage would be immediate and global. Yet, when men discover that they have been misled into fatherhood, society often responds with indifference - or worse, scorn.

Popular culture has perpetuated the stereotype of the 'deadbeat dad,' painting men as shirkers of responsibility. However, there is no cultural equivalent for women who knowingly mislead men into assuming fatherhood for a child not biologically theirs. Terms like 'paternity fraud' are rarely used in mainstream discourse, and when they are, they are often met with discomfort or dismissal.

Namibian newspapers have reported several cases where men unknowingly raised children who were not biologically theirs, highlighting the emotional and financial toll of such discoveries.

Statistics from Namibia's Office of the Judiciary further illustrate the prevalence of false paternity claims. Between January 2018 and April 2021, 130 cases were referred for

Silent Suffering: The Agony Of Men Raising Children Who Aren't Theirs

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paternity testing at the Windhoek Magistrate's Court, with 54 fathers found not to be biologically related to the children they were supporting. Similar cases were recorded in Katima Mulilo, Walvis Bay, and Rundu, where men were falsely accused of fathering children, only to later discover the truth through DNA testing. These revelations have sparked discussions on the need for accessible paternity testing and legal reforms to protect men from undue financial and emotional burdens.

Would you like to explore how these cases have influenced societal perceptions of fatherhood in Namibia?

There is a societal expectation for men to simply 'man up' and continue their role, irrespective of the deception. This double standard perpetuates male suffering and discourages open conversations about paternity, truth, and fairness.

Real Stories, Real Pain

Haufiku (name changed), a 42-year-old father from Okamatapati (name changed), discovered through a routine medical test that his 10-year-old son was not his. "It broke me," he says. "Every memory felt tainted. But the worst part was that I had no legal recourse. I had to keep paying child support, and I wasn't even allowed to talk to my son about it. I was even given a restriction order that I will cause harm to him and every time I have to see him is in presence of the police."

Sipho Gumede (not his real name) of Etomba (not real name) village was forced to leave his job to deal with the emotional trauma after discovering that two of his three children were not his. "The betrayal wasn't just from my wife. It was from society. People told me to stay quiet, to think of the children. But who thought of me? I even hate my parents as I speak because they did not want me to take a legal action against my wife."

One notable case involved Phillipus Amunyela, who raised two children for seven years before learning through paternity tests that he was not their biological father. His experience, shared in *The Namibian*, revealed the heartbreak and financial strain men endure when they unknowingly take responsibility for children based on trust and societal

expectations.

Hangula Haiduwa (not real name) of Tsumeb was married to Ndeshipanda Hamunyela (not real name) for the past 15 years and they have four children. When society started talking, Haiduwa decided to do the paternity test and just to realize that among the four children, he only has one child - the third child, while the first, the second and the fourth child were not biologically his. "This the most painful and useless part of my whole being as a man," he says. "I do not know the father or fathers of these children, and I do not want to know, but this woman is an animal. The fact that I have one child among the four shows that I can bear children. The other funny thing is the fact that we live in the same roof for all those years, but when, why did this happen?" He asks in pain.

These stories are not anomalies - they are the quiet cries of a vast, voiceless community of men who are silenced by societies.

Case Studies: Consequences of Misattributed Paternity

The emotional shock and social implications of discovering misattributed paternity have led to extreme consequences across the globe, including murder, suicide, divorce, and lifelong trauma.

South Africa

In a widely publicized case in 2019, a man from Mpumalanga reportedly killed his wife and two children before taking his own life, after discovering that none of the children were biologically his. The man had requested DNA tests after overhearing a family argument. The police report cited emotional distress and betrayal as the cause of the violent act.

Namibia

A 2022 case in Windhoek saw a man petitioning the court to remove his name from a child's birth certificate after DNA testing proved non-paternity. The man had supported the child for 14 years. The legal battle sparked national debate on the rights of deceived men. While the case did not result in violence, it was cited in Parliament during discussions on family law reform.

Botswana

In Gaborone, a 2020 incident saw a man stabbing his wife during an argument prompted by the revelation of paternity fraud. She survived, and he was arrested. Court records showed that the man had been pay-

ing school fees and upkeep for two children who were not his. The presiding judge described the case as a tragic reflection of societal silence on paternal rights.

Kenya

In 2018, a Nairobi man jumped off a bridge after posting a suicide note on social media where he disclosed that his three children were not biologically his. He had discovered the truth during a hospital emergency that required a blood transfusion. This sparked online campaigns in Kenya advocating for routine paternity testing and legal reform.

Nigeria

A 2021 social media campaign known as #DNAtrend highlighted hundreds of Nigerian men discovering they were not the biological fathers of their children. One viral case involved a Lagos banker who killed his wife and himself upon confirming that all four children in their marriage were fathered by another man. The tragic incident led to public outcry and calls for mandatory paternity verification.

United Kingdom

In the UK, a case in 2016 involved a man who successfully sued his ex-wife for damages after discovering that their 12-year-old daughter was fathered by her former lover. While the case did not result in violence, it did underscore the rarity of legal recognition for emotional and financial damages in such circumstances.

United States

One of the most cited cases occurred in 2003 in Texas, where Carnell Smith, after discovering that he was not the biological father of a child he supported for over ten years, led a successful campaign for 'paternity fraud' legislation. Though Smith's case did not involve violence, several other U.S. cases, especially those involving child support and custody battles, have ended in murder-suicide scenarios. The American Psychological Association has cited paternal deception as a trigger for male suicide and domestic violence.

The Moral Dilemma

Paternal discrepancy presents a complex moral dilemma. Should the love and bond developed over years be severed over the truth? Is it right for a man to abandon a child he has raised, simply because he discovers he's not the biological father? The



answers are not straightforward.

However, the argument for transparency remains paramount. Men deserve to know the truth about their biological connection to the children they raise. Love, while powerful, should never be based on deception. The right to informed consent must apply equally in parenthood as it does in medical ethics or marriage.

Solutions and Policy Recommendations

To address the issue effectively, multiple layers of intervention are necessary:

Mandatory Paternity Testing at Birth: Governments should consider implementing optional or even mandatory paternity testing at birth. This would prevent disputes later and ensure all parties begin parenthood on a foundation of truth.

Legal Reform: Laws must evolve to reflect the importance of biological truth in parental responsibility. Men who discover misattributed paternity should have a legal avenue to challenge financial obligations and seek damages where intentional deception occurred.

Support Services: Emotional support, counseling, and legal ad-

vice should be readily available to

men dealing with the discovery of non-paternity. This includes establishing helplines and support groups.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Societal narratives must change. Awareness campaigns that highlight the emotional toll of paternity fraud can help reduce stigma and validate male experiences.

Conclusion: A Call for Truth and Fairness

The issue of men raising children who are not biologically theirs is more than a personal tragedy; it is a societal blind spot. It raises urgent questions about truth, responsibility, and fairness in modern parenthood. As we strive for equality and transparency in every other domain, we must not leave paternity behind.

Men deserve the truth. They deserve the right to choose how they father, just as women deserve the right to choose how they mother. Anything less is not just unjust - it's inhumane.

It is time we acknowledged this pain, not as an anomaly, but as a systemic failure demanding redress.

Former Spy Chief Warns of Instability Over VIP Security Withdrawals

By: James Wanjiku
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Former National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS) Director Esau Kioni has raised the alarm over what he terms a dangerous trend of withdrawing State security from certain leaders, warning it could plunge the country into instability.

Kioni said the frequent complaints by public figures about the removal of their security details are a red flag that should not be ignored by President William Ruto's administration. "If the government continues to withdraw security from VIPs, it will lead to an outcry not just among leaders, but from ordinary Kenyans as well," Kioni cautioned.

"The public will begin to question, 'If even VIPs aren't safe, what will happen to the rest of us?' That kind of fear can escalate quickly."

Kioni, who served as a security advisor to the late President Mwai Kibaki, emphasized that such moves send the wrong message, potentially eroding public trust in the government's ability to protect its citizens.

"I hope President Ruto, in his capacity as Chair of the National Security Council, listens to these concerns and takes the necessary steps," he said. "If ignored, this issue could easily spiral into a broader national security crisis."

The former spy chief urged the country's security agencies to offer the President candid advice on the implications of revoking security for high-profile individuals.

"The relevant security organs must step up and advise the President that this approach is not only unsustainable but also dangerous," he said. "This is not about politics, it's about safety."

Kioni criticized leaders in both the Executive and Parliament who, he said, appear to celebrate when their political rivals are stripped of State protection.

"Those who are mocking others today could be the victims tomorrow," he said. "If you're used to State security and it's suddenly removed, that's often the first warning sign that your life could be in danger."

Citing past cases, Kioni hinted at incidents where harm befell leaders after their security was withdrawn, although he declined to give specific examples.

"We've seen such things happen before. I personally know of cases where serious consequences followed. Unfortunately, when things go wrong, it's the government that ends up bearing the blame," he said.

His comments come in the wake of recent complaints from several high-profile politicians alleging that their security details have been unceremoniously removed.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is among those who have voiced concern.

In a recent letter addressed to Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, Gachagua demanded the immediate reinstatement of his security, saying his life was in danger.

He claimed that his personal safety had been compromised.

Former Public Service Cabinet Secretary Justin Muturi said that his security had been withdrawn without explanation.

"I feel exposed," Muturi said. "This is not just about me, it sets a worrying precedent."

Githunguri MP Gathoni Wamuchomba and Trans Nzoia Governor George Natembeya have also alleged that their security has been scaled down, adding their voices to a growing chorus of concern.

However, some political analysts



Esau Kioni addressing the media at his Kagere home in Othaya, Nyeri County.

speculate that the moves may be politically motivated, especially as tensions rise ahead of future elections.

Kioni warned that the government's current approach risks creating a climate of fear and uncertainty.

"When people in leadership begin to feel unsafe, that uncertainty trickles down to the general population," he said. "What starts as a political issue can quickly morph into a national security nightmare."

He called on all stakeholders, including Parliament and civil society, to take the matter seriously and push

for a consistent, non-partisan approach to State protection.

"We must not allow political differences to interfere with the safety of public servants," Kioni said. "Security should be based on threat assessment, not political loyalty."

As the debate continues to heat up, eyes are now on President Ruto and his security team to address the growing concerns and ensure that national security remains intact for all, regardless of political alignments.

Green Guardian: Mahamud Yeamin's Visionary Path To Youth Empowerment And Environmental Renaissance

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

In an era marked by urgent calls for environmental restoration and social equity, M.A. Mahamud Yeamin, a dynamic force from Bangladesh, stands as a global beacon of change. As the Founder, Director, and COO of Shishu Ullash Organization—an international youth-led platform—Yeamin's unwavering commitment to sustainability, education, and youth empowerment is transforming lives across continents.

At the heart of Yeamin's work is a deep-rooted passion for the planet. A recognized climate and environment specialist, Yeamin has built an inspiring legacy through actions, not just words. His journey is woven with milestones—removing over 55% of plastic waste across 35 countries, es-

tablishing 25 schools, and securing access to clean water in African regions—each a testament to his belief that change begins with bold action and compassionate leadership.

With a presence in 115 countries, Yeamin leads a network of over 12,000 global changemakers, including 8,000+ youth leaders. His reach is as vast as his vision: from crafting green education systems and championing women's rights to advocating for climate finance and renewable energy. Under his leadership, Shishu Ullash has become a sanctuary of innovation and collaboration, fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious leaders.

Yeamin's impact doesn't stop on the ground. As a TEDx speaker, researcher, international speaker, and global SDG trainer, his voice echoes in high-level forums, including the United Nations. He has conducted over 50 groundbreaking research studies and completed 380 trans-

formative projects in 100 countries within a single year—a staggering achievement that underscores both his dedication and capacity for change.

His work is guided by a unique philosophy: that education, leadership, and communication are the cornerstones of sustainable development. Through training and mentoring, Yeamin empowers young minds to become problem-solvers, change agents, and guardians of the Earth. Whether discussing climate finance in Europe or sustainable agriculture in South Asia, he brings local knowledge to global stages, crafting practical solutions rooted in community wisdom.

Recognized both nationally and internationally, Yeamin's accolades mirror his impact. But for him, awards are secondary to the transformation he sees in people and places. "My success lies in the smiles of children drinking clean water, the



M.A. Mahamud Yeamin.

young girl who now leads a climate campaign, and the forests slowly healing," he shares.

M.A. Mahamud Yeamin's journey is more than a story—it's a movement. One that dares to dream of a world where the environment is protected, youth are empowered, and equity is

no longer an aspiration but a lived reality. As the world faces complex challenges, Yeamin continues to rise—a true Green Guardian leading humanity into an era of environmental renaissance and resilient hope.

Kenya Water Institute Strengthens International Collaboration to Boost Water Harvesting Capacity



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes



County Government of Machakos representatives, Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) officials, and the Gansu Institute of Water Conservancy representatives.

Worth Noting:

- The Institute boasts several strengths that underpin its collaborative efforts. KEWI has a multidisciplinary team of experts and operates as a national strategic institution with a mandate that extends locally and internationally. It is well-equipped to implement multinational programs and has a proven track record in international training, having hosted professionals from 13 African countries on Non-Revenue Water (NRW) management. The first cohort was trained in 2024, with a second scheduled for November 2025, and Malawi is set to join upcoming training sessions.

- KEWI is recognized across Africa as a benchmark for capacity development, with countries such as Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Tanzania consulting the Institute for expertise. The organization enjoys strong support from the Kenyan government and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation.

The Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), a state corporation under the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MWSI), continues to play a pivotal role in advancing water sector standards through human resource development, research, and consultancy. Established under the Kenya Water Institute Act No. 11 of 2001, KEWI is mandated to promote excellence in the water sector, contributing to Kenya's vision of achieving a clean, secure, and sustainable environment by 2030.

Despite Kenya receiving approximately 354 billion cubic meters (BCM) of rainwater annually, only a fraction—55.4 million cubic meters—was harvested and stored in the 2021/22 financial year. This stark underutilization highlights the urgent need for enhanced water harvesting and storage strategies to optimize available resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

KEWI has prioritized training, research, and innovation to equip water sector professionals with cutting-edge skills and knowledge. The Institute's efforts extend beyond na-

tional borders, emphasizing capacity building, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and gender equality. KEWI's role in developing a pool of competent professionals is critical for delivering technical, advisory, research, and training services that address the sector's evolving challenges.

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KEWI is recognized across Africa as a benchmark for capacity development, with countries such as Namibia, Somalia, South Sudan, and

Tanzania consulting the Institute for expertise. The organization enjoys strong support from the Kenyan government and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation. It manages major projects like the African Development Bank (AfDB) funded sanitation program and collaborates with bilateral partners including NUFFIC, JICA, and DANIDA.

Furthermore, KEWI maintains robust frameworks and working relationships with various institutions, positioning it well to implement crosscutting programs both nationally and internationally.

A notable recent development is KEWI's partnership with China's Gansu Academy for Water Conservancy (GAWC), supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. This collaboration aims to share China's extensive experience and expertise in rainwater and runoff harvesting to improve water supply for households, agriculture, and rural development across Eastern Africa.

The Chairperson of the KEWI

board of directors Patrick Musili, spoke on the partnership which began with an online training session conducted by GAWC for technical personnel from the region. This was followed by an international training hosted at KEWI from December 5th to 19th, 2023. The second phase took place in Lanzhou City, Gansu Province, China, from June 27th to July 16th, 2024. Strengthening the ties further, KEWI's senior management visited Gansu on October 13, 2024, for a week-long workshop to discuss future collaboration prospects.

Through these initiatives, KEWI is reinforcing its commitment to enhancing water harvesting capacity, fostering international cooperation, and advancing sustainable water management practices that are vital for Kenya's water security and environmental sustainability.

Maureen Gakii A Dedicated And Passionate Journalist



By: Alfred Lobawoi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:
“I remind myself why I chose this path—whether it’s the impact of storytelling, giving a voice to the voiceless, or shedding light on issues that matter. I believe in the power of media to spark change, so I’d aim to influence global conversations in a way that promotes empathy, awareness, and action.”

writing, feature stories, broadcast production, and digital media. My journalistic journey is guided by integrity, curiosity, and a deep commitment to ethical reporting.

Beyond journalism, I am a firm believer in lifelong learning and continually work to sharpen my skills through workshops, collaboration with fellow media professionals, and staying updated on global trends. I’m also passionate about using media as a tool for positive change, especially in underrepresented communities.

2. What motivated you to become who you are now

From a young age, I was deeply curious about the world around me. I found myself drawn to stories—those told at home, on radio, in newspapers, and on TV. I was fascinated not just by the events themselves, but by the way they were told. I realized early on that information holds power, and I wanted to be part of the force that informs, educates, and empowers people through truth.

Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the impact that media can have on communities—how it can expose injustice, spotlight everyday heroes, and give a platform to those who often go unheard. This inspired me to pursue journalism not just as a career, but as a calling. I wanted to become a voice for the voiceless, to ask the hard questions, and to tell stories that matter.

What keeps me going today is that same passion: the belief that journalism, when done right, can drive change, uphold democracy, and bring people together through understanding and awareness.

1. Briefly tell us who you are and more about you

My name is Maureen Gakii, a dedicated and passionate journalist with a background in Journalism and Media Studies. I am driven by the power of storytelling and the impact of truthful, well-researched reporting in shaping societies and giving a voice to the voiceless. With a sharp eye for detail and a strong command of language, I specialize in uncovering stories that matter—whether in politics, human interest, or community development.

As a media professional, I thrive in both field reporting and newsroom environments, constantly seeking to inform, engage, and inspire audiences through compelling content. I possess a solid foundation in news

3. What does your ideal day look like

My ideal day as a journalism student starts early with a positive mindset and a plan for the day ahead. I begin by reviewing the latest news updates and trending stories to stay informed and inspired—this helps me think critically and stay connected to the world around me.

After a healthy breakfast, I head to class, where I engage in discussions about media ethics, news writing, broadcast techniques, and the role of journalism in society. I enjoy participating in conversations that challenge my perspective and sharpen my skills as a future media professional.

Midday is usually filled with assignments or fieldwork—maybe



Maureen Gakii

I’m out conducting interviews for a story, working on a group documentary project, or editing a piece for the campus publication. I love the hands-on experience, the thrill of chasing leads, and the opportunity to put theory into real-world practice.

Afternoons are dedicated to writing or working in the media lab, editing audio or video pieces, or attending workshops and guest lectures. I take time to refine my work, seek feedback from my lecturers or peers, and constantly look for ways to improve my storytelling.

In the evening, I unwind by reading articles from my favorite journalists or catching up on current affairs programs. I might also work on my blog or personal portfolio,

building a body of work that reflects my growth and passion. An ideal day as a journalism student is one filled with learning, creativity, and a growing sense of purpose. It’s about developing the skills, confidence, and curiosity needed to one day become the journalist I aspire to be.

4. What is the favorite aspect of your work

What I love most about being a journalism student is the ability to tell real stories that have meaning. I enjoy giving people a platform to share their experiences, struggles, and triumphs—especially those whose voices are often overlooked. It’s incredibly fulfilling to know that through my words or lens, I can inform, inspire, and even influence

change.

I also enjoy the hands-on nature of journalism. Whether it’s conducting interviews, researching topics, editing audio-visual content, or writing a compelling feature, every day is a chance to learn something new and sharpen my craft. The dynamic and fast-paced nature of the work keeps me constantly curious and motivated.

Above all, I value the power of truth and storytelling. Journalism gives me a sense of responsibility and purpose—and being a student of

Maureen Gakii A Dedicated And Passionate Journalist

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it means I'm part of something bigger than myself.

5. What is the hardest part of what you do

Constant Pressure to Be "On". You're expected to always be alert, curious, and ready to chase a story—there's little room to "switch off." You live in a mental state of always thinking: "Is this newsworthy?" That mental fatigue builds up

Balancing Theory with Real-World Chaos. You study media ethics, law, and writing techniques in class—but the real world rarely plays by those rules. Learning to bridge that gap between what you're taught and what actually happens in the field is frustrating and confusing.

Burnout from Over committing. Most journalism students don't just study—they write for the school paper, freelance, intern, do social media gigs, run podcasts or YouTube channels, and juggle side hustles. The hustle culture is real, and it's draining.

Getting People to Talk (and Trust You). Convincing sources to open up—especially on sensitive topics—can feel nearly impossible. You learn that not everyone wants to be part of your story, and you're constantly questioning how far you should push.

Dealing with Gatekeepers and Elitism. Sometimes you realize certain opportunities go to people with better connections, better gear, or more polished accents. That kind of implicit bias or class divide in journalism can feel disheartening.

Doubt in the Future of Journalism. The media industry is unstable—layoffs, shrinking newsrooms, AI, clickbait trends—and as a student, you can't help but ask, "Am I working this hard for a dying industry?"

6. Have you ever incurred challenges in your work. Please tell us about it.

Yes, I've encountered various challenges in my work. One of the most significant has been adapting to the fast-paced nature of the media industry. Deadlines can be tight, and there's often pressure to produce accurate, engaging content quickly. Balancing speed with accuracy has been a key challenge.

Another major obstacle has been navigating misinformation and ver-

ifying sources. In a digital age where anyone can publish content, ensuring credibility and reliability of information takes a lot of effort and critical thinking.

I've also faced situations where access to information was restricted—either due to uncooperative sources or sensitive topics. This taught me the importance of persistence, ethical reporting, and creative storytelling to still deliver valuable content to my audience.

7. How do you foster yourself to keep moving

To keep myself moving forward, I focus on purpose and passion. I remind myself why I chose this path—whether it's the impact of storytelling, giving a voice to the voiceless, or shedding light on issues that matter. That sense of purpose fuels me even when challenge

I also invest in continuous growth—reading widely, learning new media tools, attending workshops, and staying open to feedback. Surrounding myself with like-minded, driven individuals helps too; their energy keeps me motivated.

Most importantly, I practice self-compassion. I allow room for mistakes, knowing they're part of the journey. Progress doesn't always come fast, but consistency, discipline, and belief in my vision keep me moving.

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

Yes, I do advertise my work, especially because visibility is crucial in the media and journalism field. I use several strategies to promote what I do: Social Media Presence:

I share my work on platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, or even TikTok, depending on the audience. I post links to articles, behind-the-scenes moments, and short videos that give a glimpse into the stories I cover.

Networking:

I connect with other professionals in the industry, attend events, and join relevant groups. Word-of-mouth and collaborations often help spread my work organically.

Portfolio Website or Blog:

I maintain a personal website where I showcase my best work, making it easy for potential clients or employers to see my skills and experience at a glance.

Pitching Stories:

Sometimes I pitch my ideas to media houses or platforms with a larger audience, which helps my work



Maureen Gakii

reach more people and strengthens my brand as a creator or journalist.

Branding:

I try to keep a consistent tone, look, or theme in how I present myself and my work. This helps people recognize my style and trust my content.

9. What advice would you like to give someone that wants to be you

To the world: I would use my voice and platform to amplify stories that matter—stories that challenge injustice, inspire unity, and promote truth. I believe in the power of media to spark change, so I'd aim to influence global conversations in a way that promotes empathy, awareness,

and action.

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

To the nation: I'd strive to be a bridge between the people and the truth. Whether by highlighting social issues, celebrating local heroes, or holding leaders accountable, I'd work toward building a more informed, empowered, and united society. My work would encourage civic participation and national pride rooted in truth and progress.

To myself: I would continue to grow—mentally, emotionally, and professionally. I'd aim to live a life

of purpose, constantly learning, evolving, and staying true to my values. Fulfillment, for me, comes from knowing I'm making a difference, however big or small, while staying grounded in who I am

11. If someone wants to check your work and what you do, where can they find you? Your handles?

If someone wants to check out my work and see what I do, they can find me on the following platforms:

TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, X, @Maureengakii (rinekikie)

Sports >> *Mikel Arteta's Arsenal side came of age as they dethroned Champions League kings Real Madrid with ease to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2009.

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Arteta's Arsenal Come Of Age With Madrid Masterclass



Mikel Arteta..

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal side came of age as they dethroned Champions League kings Real Madrid with ease to reach the semi-finals for the first time since 2009.

A commanding 3-0 first-leg victory last week, lit up by two stunning Declan Rice free-kicks, laid the foundations in London.

But a 2-1 win in the cauldron of the Santiago Bernabeu to complete the job on Wednesday was a significant milestone for Arteta's rising stars.

Arteta's only major trophy in five and a half years in charge remains the 2020 FA Cup, just months into his reign.

But the Spaniard has transformed a sleeping giant back into serial contenders for major honours.

"I sensed before I signed for the club that we were on an upwards trajectory," said Rice, who rejected the advances of Man-

chester City to join Arsenal for a club-record £105 million (\$139 million) in 2023.

"This club is going to do special things in the coming years. We all fully believe in it, we have full trust in this manager — he's unbelievable."

Despite never winning the competition, Arsenal were part of the Champions League furniture during Arsene Wenger's reign — between 2000 and 2017 they were ever-present in Europe's elite competition.

But when that run came to an end, they spent six seasons without Champions League football. Slowly, Arteta rebuilt Arsenal back into a force around a core of promising talent now coming into their prime.

Not for the first time in his young career, Bukayo Saka did not let a missed penalty on the big stage affect him.

The winger's early spot-kick

was saved by Thibaut Courtois, giving Madrid belief that another miraculous Champions League comeback was on for the Spanish giants.

But the England international extinguished that hope with a sumptuous dink over the giant Belgian goalkeeper 25 minutes from time to give Arsenal the lead on the night.

William Saliba's error that allowed Vinicius Junior to pull Real level tarnished an otherwise flawless display over two legs in which he shut down his French international team-mate Kylian Mbappe.

— Rice 'immense' —

But even then Arsenal were unflustered and quickly snuffed out any Madrid momentum.

Full-backs Myles Lewis-Skelly and Jurrien Timber locked down the threat of Vinicius and Rodrygo Goes out wide and Gabriel

Martinelli scored in stoppage time to seal the second-leg win.

Rice won the midfield battle against his England team-mate Jude Bellingham with a virtuoso performance that sealed a second man-of-the-match award in the two-legged tie.

"Tonight he was immense," said Arteta. "In the moment that the game was 50-50, he got on the ball and turned the game."

In the past two seasons, Arsenal have narrowly failed to topple all-conquering Manchester City in the Premier League title race.

They are on course to finish second for a third consecutive year as Liverpool close in on the title.

But the Champions League offers Arteta the chance to deliver the eye-catching piece of silverware that his project is still missing.

"It's such a special night for this club, it's a historic night for this club," said Rice.

"We have an objective in this competition. We want to play the best teams and we want to win this competition."

One of Arteta's former clubs as a player, Paris Saint-Germain, await in the last four of a wide-open competition.

None of the clubs remaining has won the competition for at least a decade as Barcelona face Inter Milan in the other semi-final.

"It's the third time in our history that we've done what we've just done (reaching the semi-finals)," added Arteta.

"So we need to build on that. We are really hungry, we want more. It's a really young team that is very determined.

"And all these experiences, including me for sure, is going to help us a lot to try to achieve something big."

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Santos forward Neymar left the field in tears after injuring his leg just 34 minutes into his first start in the Brazilian Serie A Championship this season.

Santos' Neymar Leaves Pitch In Tears After Injury



Neymar

Santos forward Neymar left the field in tears after injuring his leg just 34 minutes into his first start in the Brazilian Serie A Championship this season.

The 33-year-old, who returned from six weeks out with a thigh injury against Fluminense on Sunday, was handed a start against Atletico-MG on Wednesday.

The former Barcelona forward was wearing a special number 100 shirt to commemorate his 100th appearances at Santos' Vila Belmiro stadium.

But, after gesturing towards the bench following Alvaro Barreal's

goal to put the home side 2-0 up, Neymar sat on the field to await medical attention.

It was quickly decided that he could not continue and a clearly-emotional Neymar was taken off the field on a buggy, holding the left-thigh area that had kept him out for the previous six weeks.

Neymar was consoled by his own team-mates, as well as former Brazil team-mate and Atletico-MG forward Hulk.

"It's still too early to give any definitive answer, we don't have a diagnosis yet," said Santos coach

Cesar Sampaio.

"Now we really have to pray that it's not something that will keep him out for a long time."

The former Paris St-Germain forward has made eight appearances for Santos and scored three goals since returning to the club from Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal.

Neymar, Brazil's record scorer, has not played for the national side since October 2023 – when he tore his anterior cruciate ligament.

The forward was named in Brazil's squad for the World Cup qualifiers against Argentina and

Colombia but was forced to withdraw following injury.

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Mooch Simon; A Poet, Author, Actor And Public Speaker



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

1. Who are you?
My name is Mooch Simon. A poet, Author, actor and public speaker.

2. Where are you from?
I am from South Sudan.

3. What's your book category?
Play.

4. Why did you write?
I write because I want to change the narratives.

5. What inspired you?
Becoming an author inspired me at my younger age.

6. Who is your illustrator?
Publishing companies.

7. Do you have fans?
Yes I do.

8. How are sales?
My sales are good.

9. What are your future plans?
My future plans are to publish and sale more books

10. How is the book industry?
It is slowly growing in South Sudan context.

11. Any awards yet?
I won African honoree Award 2023 and JSA best writer of the year 2023

12. Who is your role model?
My role model is Patrick Lumumba.

13. When did you begin writing?
I began writing in 2016.

14. Where did you publish?
I published my first ever book in Kenya with Elong'o publishers.

15. What can you say to the upcoming author?
I need the upcoming authors write things they won't dislike in five years ahead.



Worth Noting:

- My name is Mooch Simon. A poet, Author, actor and public speaker.
- Becoming an author inspired me at my younger age.
- My future plans are to publish and sale more books
- I won African honoree Award 2023 and JSA best writer of the year 2023
- I need the upcoming authors write things they won't dislike in five years ahead.

