



The Displacement Of African Naming Traditions: A Silent Erasure Of Cultural Identity

Across African societies, names have long been more than just identifiers, they carry deep cultural, spiritual, and historical significance. Each name tells a story, linking individuals to their ancestors, communities, and destinies. However, this sacred tradition is steadily eroding as Western naming conventions overshadow indigenous African practices.

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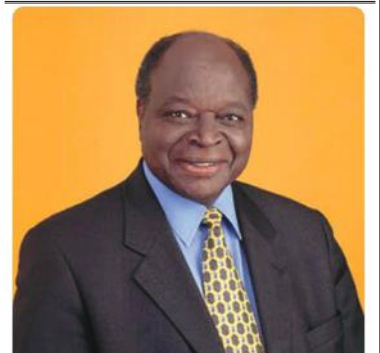
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News>>Former PCEA Moderator Presides Launching Of Educationist's Memoir

P. 8. Retired PCEA Moderator Dr. Jesse Kamau presided over launching of memoir of educationist and pioneer Moi Forces Academy in Nyeri over the Easter holiday.



News>>Mwai Kibaki: What He Taught Us And What His Wisdom Means To All The Counties

P. 12. As we commemorate the third year of Kenya's third President Mwai Kibaki's passing, let's pause and reflect on the powerful lessons he bequeathed us.

Ruto Urges Governors To Cede Fight For Roads



President William Ruto has urged county governors to step back from the ongoing tussle over control of the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF), asserting that the national government is better positioned to manage infrastructure development efficiently.

Speaking during an interdenominational Easter service in Ntulele, Narok County, President Ruto emphasized that overlapping responsibilities between the national and county governments in road infrastructure development have resulted in delays, inefficiencies, and unnecessary political tensions.



President William Ruto

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President Ruto Joined Narok County Leaders For An Easter Sunday Service

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday joined the leadership of Narok County led by Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu for an Easter Sunday Service. The special service took place at Ntulele area in Narok East constituency.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua over the Easter holiday hosted grassroots leaders from Meru County where his mother, the late Martha Kirigo hailed from. The visit, at Wamun- yoro in Mathira brought a crucial opportunity for them to share insights and updates regarding the launch of a new political party next month where the former DP briefed them on the preparations we have made thus far, highlighting his commitment to representing the aspirations and needs of the people.



KCB Foundation Director, Ms. Mendi Njonjo, and KCB Group Head of Sustainable Finance, Mr. Eric Naivasha paid a courtesy visit to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Dr. Deborah Barasa, to explore potential areas of collaboration aimed at advancing environmental sustainability in Kenya. The meeting covered a range of important initiatives, including environmental conservation through tree planting, advancing energy transitions in schools and institutions to reduce pressure on natural resources, promoting green entrepreneurship, and creating green jobs. The collaboration also supports the Government's efforts in achieving the targets outlined in Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the partnership reaffirms the shared commitment to climate action and sustainable development for the benefit of all Kenyans.



A multi-agency team deployed to crack down drug traffickers operating from the Northern Frontier District to the Capital have nabbed a suspected trafficker, Jane Njeri Muigai, in whose possession was discovered 294g of Cocaine concealed in her private part. The arrest followed the interception of a Nairobi-bound bus from Moyale, at a roadblock manned by the team. Exhibiting behaviour signaling to "the guilty ones are always afraid", female law enforcers isolated the 28-year-old for a thorough search, thereby confirming their suspicion. The suspect was booked at Moyale Police Station, as anti-narcotics officers take up the matter to instigate legal processes.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale held a bilateral meeting with Africa CDC Director General, Dr. Jean Kaseya, to deepen collaboration on improving the timely detection and reporting of public health threats in Kenya, the Eastern region, and across the continent. The meeting underscored the importance of coordination in addressing complex health challenges and unlocking shared opportunities for progress. Hon. Duale also updated the Africa CDC on Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) implementation under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), emphasizing the country's commitment to advancing health security across the region. Africa CDC, the public health arm of the African Union, supports Member States in strengthening disease preparedness and response. Public Health Principal Secretary Ms. Mary Muthoni joined the CS in the meeting.



The Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare convened to deliberate on a significant petition submitted by Ms. Beatrice Likwop, advocating for the rights and welfare of individuals with both visible and invisible disabilities. The matter was presented before Senators Gloria Orwoba, Crystal Asige, and Beth Kalunda. The session was chaired by Senator Julius Murgor and featured a response from the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, Mr. Joseph M. Motari, who addressed the concerns outlined in the petition. Ms. Likwop's petition shed light on the distinct and often overlooked challenges faced by persons with non-visible disabilities — conditions that may not exhibit outward physical signs but significantly impact daily life. In his remarks, PS Motari acknowledged the importance of the petition and reiterated the government's commitment to recognizing invisible disabilities, as enshrined in the Constitution, the Persons with Disabilities Act (Cap 133), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



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How Some Kenyans Spent Their Easter Holiday



Former Interior Cabinet Secretary Dr Fred Matiang'i being received at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by leaders led by Jubilee party Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni.



Othaya Constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina yesterday joined Christian faithful in celebrating Easter Sunday in different areas including Africa Independent Pentacostal Church of Africa (AIPCA) churches of Gitugi and Gituiga in Mahiga ward as well as other worshipping centers in Gura area of Karima ward and Karuthi in Chinga ward where he joined in fund raising for various activities.



Interior PS Dr Raymond Omollo and his Medical Services counterpart Dr. Ouma Oluga held a consultative forum with youth representatives from all 35 wards of Kisumu County to engage on matters of empowerment, inclusion and security. They explored strategies to amplify youth voices in governance, enhance community policing structures and strengthen programs that equip young people with productive skills for self-reliance and meaningful participation in national development.



Jubilee party spokesperson and former Ndaragwa Member of Parliament Jeremiah Kioni yesterday joined faithful at Imaroro area in Kajiado County where he noted that in the spirit of Easter, they reflected on the power of faith to bring communities together.



Nominated Member of Nyeri County Assembly Ms Anita Thumbi who is also expected to try her hand as the Nyeri County Women Representative in 2027 yesterday joined faithful in various churches across Othaya, Nyeri Town and Tetu constituencies.

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Government Allocates Sh500 million For Propagation And Distribution Of Coffee Seedlings

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo

@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Kilemi, speaking in Murang'a where he met coffee farmers on Friday, noted Coffee Research Institute (CRI) and New KPCU will be entrusted with responsibility of propagating seedlings of high yielding coffee varieties.
- He stated that coffee production in the country is still low compared to other neighbouring coffee producing nations.
- "Last year, Kenya produced 50,000 metric tons while Uganda produced 400,000 metric tons and Ethiopia produced 750,000 metric tons of coffee.
- We want our farmers to plant recommended coffee seedlings as we target to increase our production by more than ten times. Properly planted and well nurtured coffee can produce more than 40 kilos per bush," said Kilemi at Ihura stadium.

The government has allocated Sh500 million in the supplementary budget to facilitate propagation and distribution of coffee seedlings to farmers.

Principal Secretary for state department for cooperatives Patrick Kilemi said the programme aims to increase production, with 20 million coffee seedlings earmarked for distribution to farmers across all coffee growing regions annually.

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We want our farmers to plant recommended coffee seedlings as we target to increase our production by more than ten times. Properly planted and well nurtured coffee can produce more than 40 kilos per bush," said Kilemi at Ihura stadium.

Old coffee bushes, the PS said, are to blame for low production, saying a coffee bush can only be properly productive for a period of 20 years.

He noted that government has revitalized coffee sector and farmers have been receiving lucrative prices from their coffee.

"The reforms government is implementing in coffee sector are bearing fruits. We managed to remove cartels at Nairobi Coffee Exchange as we separated licensing of millers, buyers and brokers," he added.

To increase production of coffee, Kilemi averred that government is also streamlining distribution of subsidized fertilizer to farmers.

He remarked that New KPCU has been mandated to source fertilizer from National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) and take it to coffee factories where farmers can access it easily.

"The New KPCU has also been mandated to distribute chemicals which government has subsidized at about 40 percent so as to control diseases and pests that affect coffee production," noted PS.

He said revitalization of coffee will greatly contribute to country's GDP, observing that average price of a kilo of coffee in some areas currently is more than Sh100.

"Worldwide, coffee is number two



PS Patrick Kilemi.

after oil. Value of coffee trade in world is estimated to be around 600 billion US Dollars. Kenya in 2023 got Sh33 billion from coffee. Well natured and managed coffee can see returns from cherry surplus income realized from tea," stated PS.

Government, Kilemi observed, targets to generate Sh1 trillion from coffee in near future, saying returns can only be achieved by cooperation with farmers for increased coffee production and attaining required cherry quality.

Meanwhile, PS said government is working to replace aging pulping equipment in all coffee factories with modern machines.

He noted that old machines have occasioned farmers to incur losses and also interfered with coffee quality.

PS further announced that government has factored Sh6.8 billion in budget to clear coffee debts, saying this will see an increment of farmers' income.

"After verification of accrued coffee debts by societies, it was established the needed amount is Sh6.8 billion which has been factored in next financial budget. By August, debts will be cleared and farmers will be relieved from financial burden," remarked Kilemi.

On his part, Murang'a governor Irungu Kang'ata said his administration will set aside some funds in next financial year to support farmers.

Funds, he said, will facilitate farmers to increase production, saying from next month, a team from county government will tour USA and China to search for a market for Murang'a coffee.

"We are delighted as coffee factories in Murang'a this year have paid farmers at average of Sh115 per kilo. This is a landmark payment," said Kang'ata.

He added that some factories like Wanjengi paid Sh141, Kahuhia main Sh122, Ngwethe Sh120, Kaganda

Sh119 and Muthuru Sh116 per kilo.

"In recent past, a kilo of coffee was being paid at Sh20 and we laud government for revamping coffee sector which will ensure farmers have more income," he added.

Governor said his administration has taken various measures to support coffee farming in county, noting that already they have trained cooperative leaders.

Farmers led by Francis Ngone asked government to drop Direct Settlement System (DSS), saying move will affect operations of cooperative societies.

DSS, Ngone said, should be done away with and farmers continue receiving their payments from their factories.

"Government needs to reconsider DSS; farmers deliver their coffee to factories and being paid directly will see factories fail in their operations," he added.

Former PCEA Moderator Presides Launching Of Educationist’s Memoir

By: James Gatama
@themtkenyatimes

Retired PCEA Moderator Dr Jesse Kamau presided over launching of memoir of educationist and pioneer Moi Forces Academy in Nyeri over the Easter holiday.

Dr Kamau graced the colourful ceremony in launching the memoir by long serving educationist Samuel Mwaria Munuhe, 85, at PCEA Ruring’u church near Nyeri town.

The educationist is also a long serving church elder besides being a farmer and a counsellor.

He started his career as a P3 teacher after training at Teachers Training college in Tumu Tumu in mid 1950s.

In the memoir, the former Principal of Moi Forces Academy notes that a tutor at the college, Washington Muya employed him as a house



Mzee Samuel Mwaria Munuhe after the memoir launch on Saturday..

boy but almost immediately ensured Mwaria got enrolled as a P3 teacher course.

He qualified as a teacher and taught in many PCEA church sponsored primary schools. They included Tumu Tumu, Ichuga and Ruthagati.

While in teaching service, he pursued his High School education through correspondence before joining varsity for a bachelor of education degree. As a graduate teacher, he taught at Kanjuri, Ruthagati, Upper

Hill and Alliance Boys high schools.

In mid 1980s, he became pioneer Principal of Moi Forces Academy in Eastleigh and he was among educationists, top military commanders and the then commander in chief to start Forces Girls Academy in Lanet.

But owing to politics of the time which among others merit was compromised in those two learning institutions, he opted to be transferred to Kagumo Teachers College, Nyeri as an administrator in charge of aca-



Former PCEA Moderator Dr Jesse Kamau (right) launching the memoir as the writer looks on.

demographic programmes.

Intrigues and undercurrents at Moi Forces Academy even devastated his health to a great deal.

Following his retirement from public service at Kagumo Teachers College, Mwaria was engaged by PCEA as Hospital Administrator at Tumu Tumu mission hospital before being transferred to sister medical facility, Chogoria hospital, the best mission hospital in East Africa.

Finally, he retired and is now a pensioner at his Skuta home near Nyeri town.

Despite the fact that he was close to the centre of power while at Moi Forces Academy, he was allergic in seeking State favours.

Some of his former students include former Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi, Kirinyaga County Governor Ann Waiguru and Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale.

Seven Chinese Nationals Convicted Gor Illegal Mining In West Pokot

By: The DCI

Seven Chinese nationals have been convicted by the Kapenguria Law Courts for engaging in illegal mining activities along the Wei-Wei River in Sigor, Pokot Central Sub-County.

Their arrest followed an operation conducted on February 12, this year, by officers from the Mining Investigations Unit alongside officials from the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, in an effort to crack down on unlicensed mining activities.

The enforcement team stormed a site and discovered ongoing mining activities in blatant disregard of the law.

Seven individuals, Wang Youping, Xian Zhenming, He Zhouming, Wang Xiadodong, Zhao Zhenwei, Guan Qiang, and Deng Chun were arrested on-site.

At the site, there were six lorries used for ferrying the rock and soil particles scooped, a water cooler, two excavators, two bulldozers, one

caterpillar, two high-powered generators, and a still container used as a store of equipment.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the seven came to Kenya and started mining activities in West Pokot without License or any supporting documents from the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs.

Two of the suspects, Xian Zhenming and Deng Chun, were found to be unlawfully present in the country without work permits or alien registration certificates.

Samples collected from the site for analysis at the Government Mining laboratory confirmed the minerals to be Quartz.

The case proceeded swiftly, and on April 17, all the seven accused appeared before Principal Magistrate Court at the Kapenguria Law Courts. They each pleaded guilty to the charges brought against them and were convicted on their own pleas.

For engaging in unauthorised mining activities, each of the accused was fined Sh3,000,000, with a default penalty of one year in prison. Furthermore, for working in Kenya

without a valid permit, they were fined Sh400,000 or face an additional year in prison if unable to pay.

The court handed down further penalties for Xian Zhenming and Deng Chun, who were convicted of being unlawfully present in the country. Each was fined Sh200,000, with a default sentence of six months’ imprisonment. Upon completion of their respective sentences or payment of fines, the two are to be repatriated to China.

All sentences are to run consecutively.



Ruto Urges Governors To Cede Fight For Roads, Cites Inefficiencies By Counties

By: Correspondent

President William Ruto has urged county governors to step back from the ongoing tussle over control of the Roads Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF), asserting that the national government is better positioned to manage infrastructure development efficiently.

Speaking during an interdenominational Easter service in Ntulele, Narok County, President Ruto emphasized that overlapping responsibilities between the national and county governments in road infrastructure development have resulted in delays, inefficiencies, and unnecessary political tensions.

“The national government has the resources and technical capacity to deliver roads. It is wasteful for counties to construct a few kilometers of murram roads [that are] washed away by rains,” Ruto stated.

His remarks come amid mounting

pressure from Governors and Senators for a share of the RMLF for counties to implement road maintenance projects that respond to local needs.

Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa is among the county chiefs leading the push for RMLF funding that the National Assembly has insisted remains under the national budget.

Sh10.5bn

Adding his voice to the ongoing debate, Barasa called on Members of Parliament to pass legislation allowing county governments to directly control the RMLF, contending that it is unconstitutional for the national government to manage funds meant for local infrastructure without involving counties.

“The MPs are frustrating devolution,” Barasa said during a public function in Malava Sub-county on Thursday.

“We have a right to claim close to Sh10.5 billion for counties to implement road maintenance projects more



President William Ruto/FILE.

efficiently.”

Governors have demanded control of resources meant for sub-national roads including the restructuring of road agencies to conform to devolved functions.

The Kenya Roads Board collects the Roads Maintenance Levy—set

at Sh25 per litre of petrol and diesel— and distributes it to national road agencies, including the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), and Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA).

The Council of Governors (CoG)

Kang’ata Announces Dates For Murang’a Investment Forum In Boston And Washington

By: Correspondent

Murang’a County is set to host two investment conferences with the Kenyan community in the US.

Governor Irungu Kang’ata says the conference will focus on investment opportunities available in the county, particularly in the healthcare sector and nursing.

The two events are slated to be held in Washington DC and Boston.

“The first round of meetup will be conducted in Washington on Saturday, April 26 at 33350 20th Avenue, Federal Way, WA 98003, from 2pm, while on Sunday, April 27, a meetup will be held at KCIC-Pacific Highway, Federal Way, at 2pm, while another one will be conducted the same day at 33350 20th Ave, Federal Way, WA 98003,” read a digital poster on the County’s social media account.

The second meeting is set to be conducted in Boston State on Saturday, April 27, at St. Mark’s Anglican Community Church, 70 James Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

The climax of the two events will be an investment conference that has been themed ‘Unlocking Murang’a as an Industrial Hub’. It will be conducted on June 13-14, 2025 at Thika Greens Golf Resort, Murang’a.

Murang’a Governor Irungu Kang’ata



Mau Mau Veterans Seek Compensation From British Government

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Mau Mau veterans in Narok County are now calling on the government to push the British government to expedite compensation for the few remaining freedom fighters so they can enjoy the fruits of their struggle before their sunset years.

Wanjiku Wagachoka, 102, recalled her youthful days when she secretly carried food to the caves and forests where warriors fighting for the country's freedom were hiding.

She painfully remembered that her husband was shot dead in the struggle just days after they were married, leaving her a widow to date.

The promise by the British government to compensate all Kenyans who suffered torture during the colonial era had brought hope to her family, who looked forward to enjoying the fruits of their sacrifice.

However, she lamented that the promise has taken longer than expected, and her weakening body now brings fear that she may not live to see the compensation.

"We have waited patiently for the money we were promised by past regimes, but in vain. I struggled to raise my children single-handedly, hoping that we would one day be compensated," she said.

Her sentiments were echoed by Pastor Mark Montoro, who noted that Mau Mau fighters continue to live in deplorable conditions despite their role in liberating the country from colonial rule.

Montoro urged the county government to construct a museum on land where Mau Mau fighters were buried in mass graves.

"A museum is important to teach future generations about our past. They should know and appreciate that their forefathers fought for the country's freedom. This will help build patriotism," he said.

The Mau Mau Original Trust Na-



Wanjiku Wagachoka

tional Vice-Chairman, Daniel Kamau, praised the national government for its continued disbursement of the Older Persons Cash Transfer programme, which has supported many elderly citizens.

However, he also urged the government to maintain pressure on the

British government to deliver the long-awaited compensation.

"Recently, all Mau Mau groups came together to form one united front to expedite compensation. Our forefathers suffered under the colonial government, and it's only fair that we receive compensation while we are still

alive," he said.

The Mau Mau Original Trust has been lobbying for compensation from the British government for all Kenyans tortured during the colonial era.



Community Health Assistants In Nakuru Trained On Electronic Community Health Information System

By: MKT Correspondents
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Ms Ncece noted that the emphasis on the ‘Medicines and Commodity Tool’ was crucial as the component is regularly evaluated and refined to ensure that it meets the needs of Community Health Promoters (CHPS) and communities.
- She indicated that the retraining being supported by implementing partners USAID Tujenge Jamii alongside Amref is aimed at strengthening the capacity of CHAs in managing and documenting health commodities effectively through the digital platform.
- Speaking during inauguration of the exercise, the Chief Officer noted that eCHIS is a key component of the national strategy to digitize community health services in Kenya, aiming to improve data accuracy, consistency, and timeliness.



Over 60 Community Health Assistants (CHAs) in Nakuru are undergoing re-orientation on the use of the Electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) in a move aimed at improving data quality, streamlining processes, and enhancing healthcare delivery in community health.

In October 2023 the National Government rolled out eCHIS, a digital platform designed to support community health workers in collecting, managing, and analyzing health information, ultimately leading to better decision-making and improved health outcomes.

The reorientation according to Nakuru County Chief Officer for Public Health Ms Joyce Ncece focuses on updating health workers on the latest features, functionalities, and best practices of eCHIS with an emphasis on the use of the ‘Medicines and Commodity Tool’ component integrated into the larger eCHIS platform.

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Speaking during inauguration of the exercise, the Chief Officer noted that eCHIS is a key component of the national strategy to digitize community health services in Kenya, aiming to improve data accuracy, consistency, and

timeliness.

She noted that the digital platform facilitates better data collection, analysis, and reporting for community health workers, supervisors, and health system managers.

The CHAs are also being sensitized on effective ways to supervise and support Community Health Promoters (CHPs) who are kitted with essential tools and supplies to enable them to carry out minor treatments, screen clients, and make timely referrals to their linked health facilities.

Ms Ncece explained that proper application of the ‘Medicines and Commodity Tool’ will help in effective management of medicine and commodity supplies, contributing to better healthcare delivery and informed decision-making.

“This specific tool within eCHIS is designed to help health workers manage the flow of medicines and other essential supplies used in their work. It allows them to track inventory, order supplies, and manage distributions efficiently,” explained the Chief Officer.

She noted that the tool facilitates accurate recording and reporting of medicine and commodity usage, enabling better tracking of stock levels and trends, adding that health workers need to be proficient in managing supplies to ensure they have the necessary tools and resources to serve their communities effectively.

The Chief Officer indicated that initiative is part of Governor Susan Kihika’s broader goal to enhance community-level healthcare, increase access to basic medical services, and strengthen the role of CHPs in disease prevention

and early intervention.

While noting that by having real-time data on supply levels, health workers can make informed decisions about ordering, restocking, and allocation of resources Ms Ncece said the reorientation will empower health workers to better manage their medicine and commodity supplies, ultimately improving the quality of healthcare services provided to the community.

“Medicines and commodities have already been dispatched to all public healthcare facilities in Nakuru. Proper documentation and follow-up on their usage will be crucial to ensure accountability and effective service delivery. The orientation is also emphasizing the importance of accurate reporting within eCHIS to track health trends and support decision-making at all levels,” the Chief Officer elaborated.

The key features of the tool include the ‘Electronic Inventory Management’ which enables Community Health Promoters (CHPs) to track their inventory of medicines and commodities, ensuring they have what they need to provide services and ‘Data Collection and Reporting’ which allows for the collection and reporting of data on commodity use, consumption, and stock levels, providing valuable insights into the supply chain.

It is also kitted with ‘Decision Support,’ which provides CHPs with data to make informed decisions about ordering, dispensing, and adjusting stock levels, optimizing resource utilization.

Ms Ncece noted that by integrating commodity management into eCHIS, the system can help identify areas for improvement in the supply chain, lead-

ing to better efficiency and reduced waste.

With better access to essential medicines and commodities, she observed CHPs can provide more effective and timely care to their communities.

eCHIS also aims to streamline data collection, reporting, and management of various aspects of community health, including the use of medicines and commodities.

Prior to the introduction of eCHIS by the Ministry of Health, the reliance on manual paper-based data systems resulted in poor data quality, limited accountability, misuse of health data, high healthcare delivery costs, and inefficient data utilization for decision-making.

Ms Ncece noted that by leveraging eCHIS, community health promoters can benefit from tools that enable them to record and share household and individual information electronically, monitor patient status and provide timely updates to supervisors, access electronic decision support to guide their work and facilitate faster referrals and patient tracking.

The Chief officer noted that the digital platform enables CHPS to minimize data duplication and improve communication.

“The eCHIS platform has led to improved data quality and accuracy for better decision-making, streamlined healthcare delivery and more efficient workflows, enhanced communication and collaboration among community health workers and better health outcomes for the community,” noted Ms Ncece.

Mwai Kibaki: What He Taught Us And What His Wisdom Means To All The Counties



By: Gachara Kamanga
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- When Kibaki assumed office in 2002, Kenya's economy was reeling. The national GDP growth rate had dipped below 1.5 per cent, and investor confidence was at its lowest. By 2007, under Kibaki's stewardship, GDP growth had soared to 7.1 percent. He introduced the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation, a plan that prioritised infrastructure, education, and institutional reform.
- Kibaki's government launched free primary education, which brought over 1.5 million previously out-of-school children into classrooms within the first year. This wasn't a PR gimmick. It was a policy rooted in the belief that education could transform lives. Today, the generation that benefited from that bold step is powering much of Kenya's workforce.



During President Mwai Kibaki's Memorial Lecture on April 11 at Nairobi, Serena: They are from Left: Joseph Munyao, Essau Kioni, Juddy Kibaki, Rigathi Gachagua, Mwai Kibaki Jr, Eugene Wamalwa, JB Muturi, Veronica Waithera Maina, Francis Muthaura and Dr Jacob Haji. Photo/Courtesy.

As we commemorate the third year of Kenya's third President Mwai Kibaki's passing, let's pause and reflect on the powerful lessons he bequeathed us.

My first encounter with Mwai Kibaki was in 1980 during a prize-giving day at Kagumo High School, where I was in Form Two. I remember how impeccably dressed he was, with his well-fitting belt standing out. He was just 50 years young.

Decades later, it is evident to all that Vision 2030, the brainchild of his leadership, laid the groundwork for Kenya's rapid growth during and immediately after his presidency. I was involved in designing Vision 2030 alongside former Nyeri Governor, the late Dr Wahome Gakuru.

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Kibaki's government launched free

primary education, which brought over 1.5 million previously out-of-school children into classrooms within the first year. This wasn't a PR gimmick. It was a policy rooted in the belief that education could transform lives. Today, the generation that benefited from that bold step is powering much of Kenya's workforce.

On infrastructure, Kibaki understood that tarmac could be a more effective tool for justice than fiery speeches. His administration expanded Kenya's paved road network by more than 4,000 kilometres. The construction of the Thika Superhighway was not merely a feat of engineering. It was a signal that connectivity was key to inclusion. That project alone improved trade, reduced commute times by over 60 per cent, and unlocked real estate investment across central Kenya. And while many leaders centralise power, Kibaki stood apart. He believed in strong institutions, not strongmen. He allowed the Kenya Revenue Authority increased independence, leading to a dramatic surge in revenue collection: from Sh183 billion in 2002 to Sh707 billion by 2012. Perhaps Kibaki's greatest gift to the nation was the example of restraint. He did not meddle in tenders. He did

not create personality cults. He did not use his office to settle personal scores. When he left the presidency in 2013, no corruption scandals bore his name. Instead, he left behind roads, schools, and policies that continue to serve the nation. That legacy speaks volumes.

Kibaki's public sector management approach lies in his extensive use of conceptual frameworks to address every developmental challenge. These frameworks connected actions and resources – whether human, community, natural, or financial – to measurable outcomes, prioritising equity for all rather than benefits for the privileged few. Sadly, the Kibaki NARC development framework approaches did not last long enough to take root in the counties' development planning. A sad example is the Nyeri County Integrated Development Plan (2023-2027), which does not contain a single outcome indicator to measure real change in the lives of people. The document does not contain any innovative development ideas or strategies.

Equally vital was the lesson from Kibaki that transformative change stems from deliberate policies, not fleeting political maneuvers.

Today, as Kenya's 47 counties chart their next chapter, we are once again drawing from his legacy. Not merely to remember, but to rebuild.

Nyeri, which is Kibaki's home county, continues to brim with potential. Yet it remains plagued by political inertia, disjointed planning, and misplaced priorities. We must therefore return to Kibaki's exemplary governance, not to idolise him but to internalise his model.

Kibaki taught us that visionary leadership does not need to shout. It needs to think, plan, and deliver. He showed us that respecting institutions is a foundation of stability, not a sign of weakness. He proved that policy, when grounded in data and executed with discipline, can outlast politics and transform generations.

As we confront the future, let us govern in a way that would have President Kibaki proud. Let us demand results, build systems, and silence the politics of distraction.

The writer, is a development expert who hails from Nyeri county where he is fondly referred to as Anko-G

Heavy Downpours In Murang’a Leaves A Trail Of Destruction

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

Heavy rainfall that has been witnessed in many parts of Murang’a County has left locals, especially traders and farmers counting losses. From Friday night, Murang’a town and its environs experienced heavy downpours that wreaked havoc in Mukuyu open air market.

Yesterday, the traders woke up to a rude shock after they found their merchandise, especially cereals, were destroyed by water that flooded the market.

The members of the business community blamed some individuals who they claim have constructed structures blocking the drainage system.

They decried that manholes were blocked by those undertaking construction without following stipulated guidelines thus causing water to flood the market leading to destruction of goods.

One of the traders, Peter Njuguna argued that the flooding had been caused by blocked manholes and sewer lines calling on the county government to unblock sewerage systems and evacuate those who have constructed structures on manholes.



Njuguna stressed that the county administration should reclaim the waterways from the individuals who grabbed them.

“The heavy losses incurred by the traders are blamed on the individuals who blocked the drainage system,” He added, lamenting the incurred losses will have a huge negative impact on the traders.

Mukuyu Chief Adams Kariuki led the residents to unblock the drainage resulting in the flow of the stagnant water.

“With the local leaders we shall move to ensure the drainage systems are opened to avoid flooding in the future,” said the administrator.

Elsewhere in Maragua area, farmers were counting losses after the rain water destroyed their crops.

One of the local farmers Felista Njoki said her vegetables were two weeks to maturity but unfortunately, they were swept away by raging water leaving her counting heavy losses.



“It is a major blow as I expected to take the produce to the market before the end of this month but floods have destroyed all my vegetables,” she decried.

In Kangema sub county, one home was forced to relocate after a landslide hit and destroyed one of their houses.

According to local authorities, a number of homes in the area are at risk of being hit by landslides with calls being made for those who live in landslide prone areas to relocate to safer grounds.

Infrastructure especially roads were not spared by the heavy rainfall as

the road connecting Kanyenyaini and Tuthu trading centres was rendered impassable after it was cut off by a landslide.

Murang’a director of meteorology Peter Mutu said many parts of the county will continue to experience heavy downpours in the next five days cautioning residents to be vigilant especially those who stay in landslide and flood-prone areas.

“Parts, especially in upper zones of Murang’a, will continue to experience heavy rains and I appeal to locals to be cautious of possible landslides,” he told KNA via phone call.

Kenya Highlands University Installs New Vice Chancellor

By: Hillary Kemei
@themkenyatimes

Kenya Highlands University Ag. Chancellor Dr. Daniel Ngeno has presided over the installation of Prof. Joseph Kiplangat as the new Vice Chancellor, describing him as a visionary and transformational leader with deep roots in academia and administration.

Dr. Ngeno noted Prof. Kiplangat has held various senior roles, including Acting Vice Chancellor at Africa International University and serving in the Ministry of Agriculture’s National Seed Quality Control Service. “Prof. Kiplangat’s vast experience, spanning over 40 years in both public and private sectors, positions him to guide Kenya Highlands University to greater heights, as his leadership aligns perfectly with our mission to provide quality, Christian-based education,” said the Ag. Chancellor. Dr. Ngeno commended the univer-

sity’s legacy of nurturing students with strong moral character and academic excellence.

“We are proud of the caliber of students who pass through this institution—young people who are committed to learning, guided by strong values, and prepared to serve,” said Dr. Ngeno.

Meanwhile the University has launched construction of a 2,400 capacity chapel, expected to cost Sh 25 million, reinforcing its commitment to spiritual development and community engagement.

The upcoming chapel is expected to become one of the most significant spiritual infrastructure projects in the South Rift region expected to serve not only students and staff but also host Christian groups and fellowships from across the country.

Speaking at the ground breaking ceremony, University Chancellor and Presiding Bishop of the Africa Gospel Church, Rev. Dr. Robert Langat, underscored the chapel’s role in advancing the institution’s



holistic mission.

“The construction of this state-of-the-art chapel will strengthen spiritual life within our university and provide a vital space for worship, reflection, and community outreach,”

said Dr. Langat.

Kenya Highlands University, a fully chartered institution sponsored by the Africa Gospel Church, offers a wide array of industry-aligned academic programs emphasizing timely

completion of studies and integrating Christian principles into every aspect of student life.

Write Whatever You Want



By: Naaz Ansari
Country India Uttar Pradesh badaun

Write whatever you want
We can't even want what we want

Someone has broken trust like this
We can't go back even if we want to

Someone gets entangled, someone
entangles
We are not the ones who can
understand

Their paths are difficult, ask them
We can't save them even if we want
to

Why should we take the curse of
outsiders?
Where are we that they can give us
blessings?

Whom should we call bad, whom should
we call good?
What's the benefit of saying it if they
can't stay with us?

How can we tell them? We should see
our own good
Only that which we can see with our
own eyes is good for us.

Best Methods in Teaching English to Primary Education Students



By: Abduaziz Baymatov Abdujabbarovich
Senior teacher of Jizzakh
State Pedagogical University

Teaching English to young learners in primary education requires a thoughtful approach that is age-appropriate, engaging, and interactive. Young children learn best through activities that involve play, movement, imagination, and routine. Below are some of the most effective methods used by educators worldwide to support English language learning in primary classrooms.

- 1. Total Physical Response (TPR)**
This method involves using physical movement to teach vocabulary and commands. Children respond to teacher instructions by acting them out, helping them connect language with action. For example, when the teacher says "stand up" or "touch your nose," students physically perform the action. This makes learning fun and reinforces understanding through movement.
- 2. Storytelling and Picture Books**
Stories help children learn new words, sentence patterns, and grammar structures in context. Using colorful picture books and storytelling sessions promotes listening skills and creativity. Teachers can enhance the experience with props, puppets, or acting out scenes to make the language more memorable.
- 3. Songs, Rhymes, and Chants**
Music is a powerful tool for language learning. English songs, nursery rhymes, and chants help students improve pronunciation, rhythm, and vocabulary. Repetition through singing makes it easier for children to remember new words and expressions while keeping them actively engaged.
- 4. Play-Based Learning**
Games and role-playing activities encourage students to use English in a relaxed and meaningful way. Language games like "Simon Says," "Bingo," or memory matching help practice vocabulary

and grammar while boosting motivation and participation.

5. Visual Aids and Real Objects (Realia)
Young learners benefit from visual support. Flashcards, posters, diagrams, and real-life objects make abstract vocabulary easier to understand. For instance, showing a real apple when teaching the word "apple" helps learners associate the word with the object directly.

6. Use of Technology
Interactive technology such as educational apps, animated videos, and language games enhances engagement and offers opportunities for independent learning. Tools like interactive whiteboards or tablets allow students to practice listening, speaking, and reading in a fun, digital format.

7. Routines and Repetition
Establishing daily routines with repeated English phrases helps children internalize useful language for everyday communication. Greetings, classroom instructions, and simple question-and-answer exchanges can be practiced daily to build confidence and fluency.

8. Differentiated Instruction
Every classroom includes students with different learning needs and language levels. Teachers should use varied strategies such as group work, pair work, and individual tasks to ensure all students can participate and learn effectively. This inclusive approach promotes equity and student success.

Conclusion
Effective English teaching in primary education focuses on creating a supportive and stimulating learning environment. Combining storytelling, music, games, visual aids, and technology keeps young learners motivated and helps them build a strong foundation in English. Teachers who adapt their methods to suit learners' interests and developmental stages contribute greatly to language acquisition and a lifelong love of learning.

Semia Kwaheri



Nakuaga nimetua, Agosti tutaonana,
Menifunza kufikia, malengo zilizofana,
Kujituma natilia, kunapokucha manana,
Ahsante semia, muhuri nimeiweka.,

Muhuri nimeiweka, sitaki tena uzembe,
Kini bado sijafika, nameza bado tembe,
Nilidhani utotuka, meisha haraka kumbe,
Ahsante semia, nakuvulia chepeo.

Nakuvulia chepeo, japo nimeinama
Mara nyingi sitakao, najikuta

nimesimama,
Nikikumbuka walao, najipea mayo wima,
Ahsante semia, naridhikia kijeshi.

Naridhikia kijeshi, nitawamisi wenzangu,
Kumbukumbu za ucheshi, tulizozianza
tangu,
Saizi nawashawishi, vikielea ni vyangu,
Ahsante semia, nitarudi niwezeke.

Nitarudi niwezeke, kwani wema havozi,
Niko nahisi upweke, wacha nitafula kazi,
Tukirudi unizike, nitakubali tetezi,
Ahsante semia, tuonane Agosti.

Mtunzi: Malengo Mugo Romeo
Lakabu: Morio
Chuo Kikuu cha Murang'a

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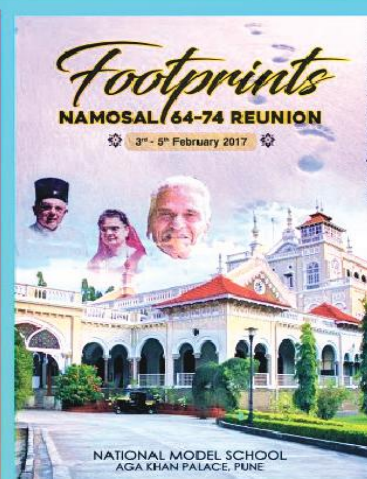
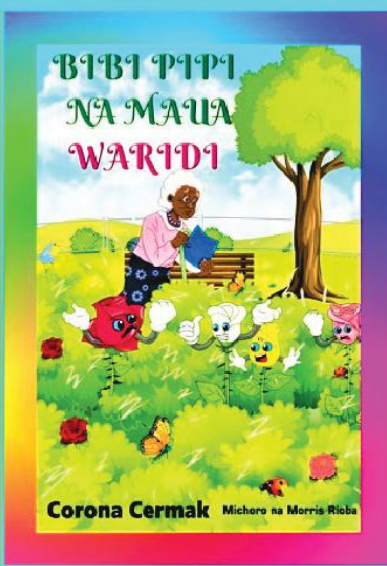
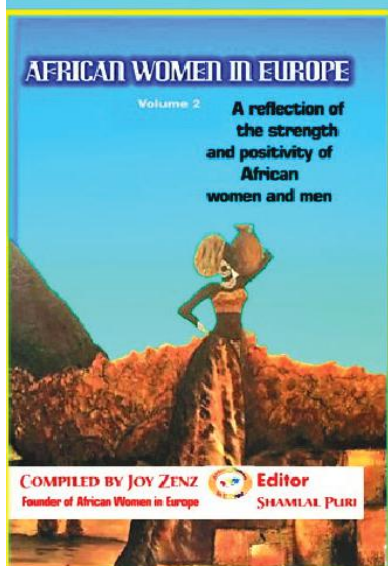
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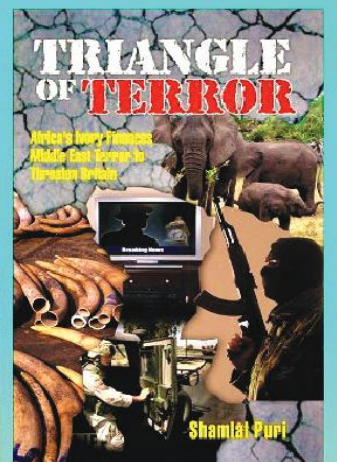
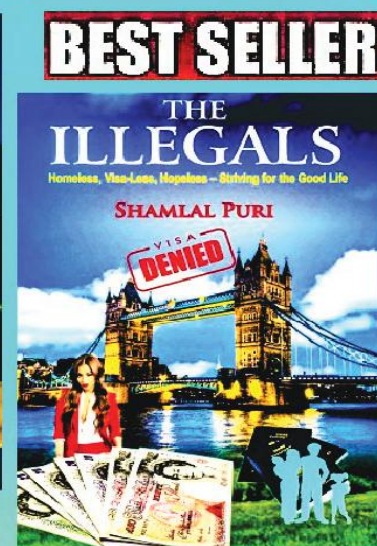
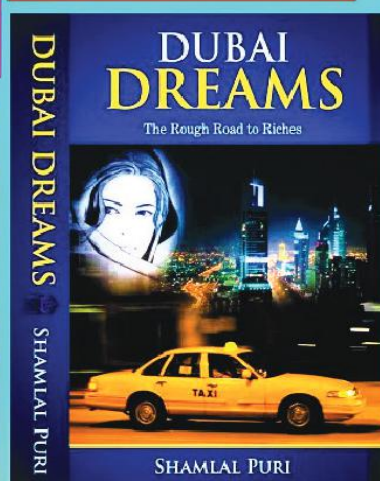
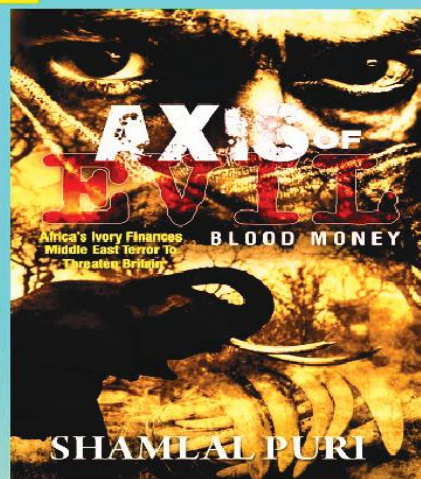
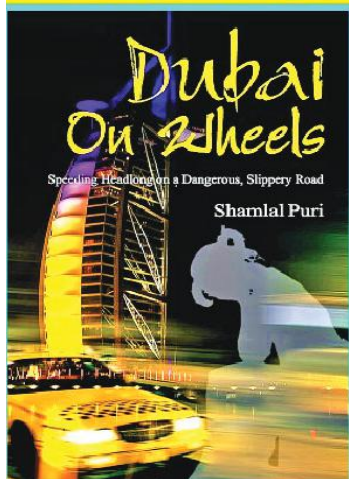
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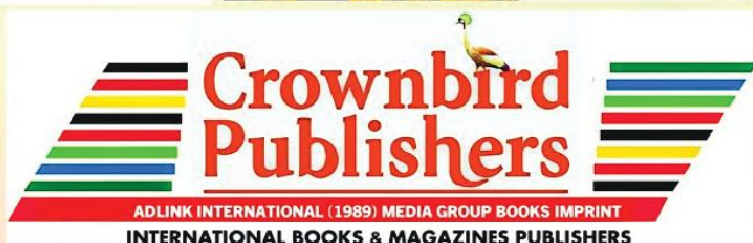
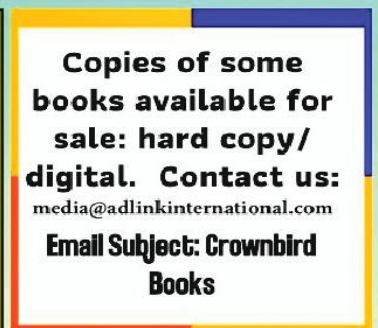
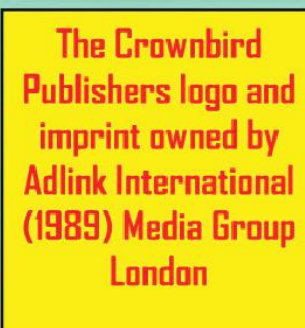
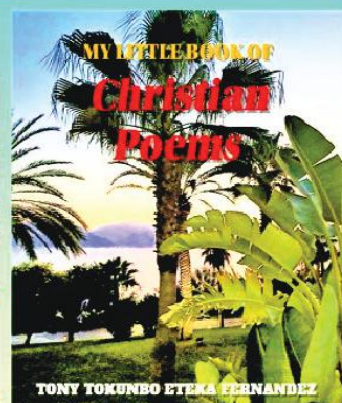
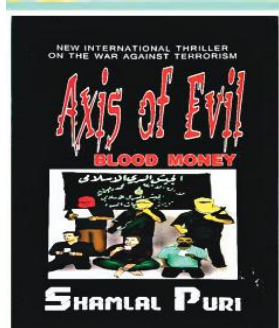
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AGRI-BUSINESS

ICRISAT Unveils Transformative Regenerative Agriculture In Africa's Drylands

By: Anita Omwenga
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

• ICRISAT Director General Dr. Himanshu Pathak, while speaking during the launch, said the Strategy will see Africa's drylands transformed into thriving hubs of sustainable agriculture, where innovative farming techniques and community empowerment drive economic growth, environmental resilience, and food and nutrition security for all.

• "The problems of drylands are becoming more and more severe. Drylands are not only thirsty—not only do they need more water, but they are also hungry. They need more nutrients; they need more organic carbon," said Pathak.

• He said in order to reduce reliance on chemical inputs, the strategy emphasises novel approaches that use microbial consortia for carbon sequestration, pest control, and nutrient cycling.



Africa's drylands cover approximately 43 percent of the continent, which are severely impacted by climate change and diminishing rainfall.

Those who call the drylands their home face severe hardships due to food and nutritional insecurity, harsh, unpredictable environments and conflict insurgencies in some semi-arid areas.

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has unveiled a Strategic Plan 2025-2030, a roadmap to transforming dryland agriculture, leveraging on innovative research and technology to address smallholder farmers' evolving challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and beyond.

Dubbed 'Microbial solutions for Advancing Nature-Positive and Regenerative Agriculture in Drylands,' the collection based on ICRISAT's decades of research offers research and practical innovations using beneficial microorganisms to restore soil health and boost crop yields.

Launched during the CGIAR Science Week 2025 at the United Nations, Gigiri, the strategy unveils a new ally in the quest for sustainable agriculture: microbes.

ICRISAT Director General Dr. Himanshu Pathak, while speaking during the launch, said the Strategy will see Africa's drylands transformed into thriving hubs of sustainable agriculture, where innovative farming

techniques and community empowerment drive economic growth, environmental resilience, and food and nutrition security for all.

"The problems of drylands are becoming more and more severe. Drylands are not only thirsty—not only do they need more water, but they are also hungry. They need more nutrients; they need more organic carbon," said Pathak.

He said in order to reduce reliance on chemical inputs, the strategy emphasises novel approaches that use microbial consortia for carbon sequestration, pest control, and nutrient cycling.

"The importance of microbial solutions in revolutionising agriculture has never been greater in light of the growing environmental problems and the pressing need for sustainable food systems," he said.

The Director said the Strategy will deliver science-based solutions that address the challenges of agricultural growth, hunger, poverty, gender inequality, and climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

"To address the problems of the drylands, we need new science and new technology," he said, adding that they have developed climate-resilient seed varieties that can be grown with less water and a limited amount of nutrients but can give a very high yield.

"Farmers who have the seeds, we will make sure that the seed that they plant has good agronomic practices,"

he added.

He said the Strategy has an emphasis on leveraging digital technology because today, almost every youth has a mobile phone, noting that Africa has a penetration of over 80 percent when it comes to mobile phones.

"We need to find a place in the drylands where youths can have jobs coming from delivery of seed, coming from value addition, coming from aggregation of these crops," he said, adding that mobile phones are able to get information on varieties, climate information and markets.

In his opinion, the Strategy is moving the whole value chain to a point where we start seeing even products coming from these crops, thus creating job opportunities.

"When we talk about markets, as we can show in digital agriculture, we need a lot of private sector partners. But even more importantly, our farmers will be transformed from subsistence to agribusiness," he said.

He said ICRISAT, along with partners in all the countries of Africa and also in one CGIAR, are providing solutions to some of these problems of drylands because of climate change, global warming, and degradation of soil, water and air, drylands are becoming more and more degraded.

"ICRISAT is working very closely with all of these stakeholders so that whatever knowledge and whatever new science we have now can be tak-

en quickly to the farmers," he said.

ICRISAT Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation, Dr. Stanford Blade, observed that the problems of drylands are intensifying, becoming fiercer and more frequent; hence the need to strengthen the research and science base.

Blade said ICRISAT has a germplasm bank of different types of crops in a number of areas, including the cereals of sorghum and millet and also of the grain legumes of chickpea, pigeon pea and groundnut.

"We work on developing these new crops. They might have more nutrition; they might be resistant to insects," he said, adding that the crops do well especially in the drylands where lands could be degraded and have to manage water more effectively.

He said that they think about the overall economic system as well and how they create new nutritional options for school feeding programs or high-density nutrient crops by supporting entrepreneurs who want to add value to other crops that we work with.

"We see this very much as an innovation agenda, but it's one that really will have an impact on the lives of people, not only on farms, but also on people that are involved in food processing and other aspects of food and agriculture in Africa," he said.

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The Displacement Of African Naming Traditions: A Silent Erasure Of Cultural Identity



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatiimes

Introduction

Across African societies, names have long been more than just identifiers, they carry deep cultural, spiritual, and historical significance. Each name tells a story, linking individuals to their ancestors, communities, and destinies. However, this sacred tradition is steadily eroding as Western naming conventions overshadow indigenous African practices. Today, many children in Africa are given names of European, Hebrew, Arabic, or biblical origins, often with little understanding, or no understanding at all, of their meanings and origins. Even more concerning, young Africans are actively renaming themselves, rejecting the names given to them at birth under the belief that indigenous names are satanic or backward. This shift reflects a troubling loss of African values, as naming traditions; once central to identity; are being abandoned in favor of foreign labels that hold no connection to African heritage.

Western influence, primarily through education, religion, and media, has played a significant role in reshaping how Africans perceive their names. Indigenous names, once tied to ancestry, societal status, and events of birth, have lost their prominence. In many African countries, people now struggle to explain the meanings of their own names, as foreign influences have stripped names of cultural depth. This phenomenon begs critical questions: Why has Africa lost its reverence for indigenous names? How does rejecting traditional names impact identity and communal belonging? Can this cultural erosion be reversed before African naming traditions disappear entirely? This article seeks to critically analyze the decline of African naming traditions, exposing the consequences of adopting foreign names and advocating for a revival of indigenous naming practices that restore cultural pride and identity.

The Historical Significance of African Naming Traditions

In traditional African societies, naming a child was a sacred act, symbolizing the child's role within the community and spiritual realm. Unlike Western practices, where names are

often chosen for aesthetic appeal, African names were imbued with deep meaning and were carefully selected based on circumstances surrounding birth. Many ethnic groups used names to reflect a child's destiny, lineage, virtues, or even ancestral guidance. For instance, among the Akan people of Ghana, names are traditionally given based on the day of birth, aligning children with celestial energies that guide their lives. In Yoruba traditions, names often carry spiritual or philosophical messages, ensuring that a child's name reflects wisdom and societal values.

Additionally, names were used to preserve history and honor ancestors. A child born after struggles in the family might be named "Nkosi-nathi" (God is with us) in isiZulu, while a child born during war might be named "Krigsman" (warrior) among certain African groups. A male child born during the night can be called "Haufik" in Oshikwanyama while female child can be called "Naufik". Male twins are given special names such as Nande and Hamalwa, Weyulu and Kanime, and so on. Female twins can be given such as Ndilokelwa and Ndatyooli, or Kaleninasho. A male child coming after the twins are called Shidute while a female child can be called Kalamba. Similarly, a male child whose legs comes first before the head is regarded as a king (just like twins) and thus is also given those names of twins and so as the female child whose legs comes first at birth. Remember, in a normal birth, a head of a child comes out first and any birth where legs emerge first is regarded as dangerous and those kinds are either regarded as kings or queens as they could have killed the mother at birth. A male child who was still in the womb and the father dies is named Shihepo and a female child is named Nehepo. So, names have several meanings, origins and so forth.

Naming ceremonies were highly communal, involving elders, spiritual leaders, and extended family members, reinforcing the idea that a name was not just personal, but a collective affirmation of identity. Parents did not choose names randomly but engaged in rituals to seek ancestral guidance in selecting the most fitting name. This ensured continuity of cultural heritage, allowing younger generations to carry forward the names and legacies of those before them.

Traditional Naming Ceremonies

Traditional naming ceremonies in Africa are deeply significant events that not only bestow a name upon a child but also affirm their place within the community, lineage, and spiritual world. These ceremonies vary across ethnic groups but share common themes of ancestral recognition,

spiritual blessings, and communal participation. Naming of children involves quite a number of things such as timing of the naming ceremony, role of parents, elders and ancestor connections, gifts and celebrations as well as rituals and symbolism in these ceremonies.

Modern influences, including Western education, religious shifts, and urbanization, have led to a decline in these traditions. Many African children now receive names without ceremonies, often choosing Western names over indigenous ones. Reviving naming ceremonies is vital for preserving cultural identity, ancestral connections, and communal unity, ensuring Africa's heritage remains strong.

The Rise of Foreign Naming Practices

Despite Africa's rich history of meaningful names, foreign influences have reshaped naming traditions, particularly through colonization, education, and religious conversion. During the colonial era, European missionaries imposed their naming conventions on Africans, often discouraging indigenous names and replacing them with Christian names. Colonial administrators favored English, French, and Portuguese names, treating African names as inferior and aligning those with foreign names with greater social privileges. As a result, many Africans were forced to abandon their traditional names to gain acceptance in colonial systems, effectively severing their link to ancestral identity.

Today, Western education continues this legacy, as African schools often prioritize foreign names over indigenous ones. Many formal institutions encourage students to adopt English or French names, reinforcing the notion that African names lack sophistication. Similarly, global media platforms overwhelmingly showcase Western and biblical names, causing young Africans to associate traditional names with outdated customs. Over time, this exposure leads to psychological conditioning, where Africans begin rejecting their own names in favor of Westernized identities. This loss of cultural self-perception has profound consequences, eroding communal values and diminishing African identity on a larger scale.

Religious Influence and the Stigmatization of Indigenous Names

One of the most troubling factors in the rejection of African names is the religious framing of indigenous identity as satanic or pagan. Across Africa, young people are actively renaming themselves after biblical prophets, rejecting names given to them at birth under the belief that traditional names do not reflect the will of God. Christian and Islamic



African Naming Traditions.

institutions, particularly those with fundamentalist teachings, have instilled the idea that African names are impure, demonic, or linked to ancestral curses. Many churches actively discourage congregants from using indigenous names, urging them to adopt biblical names like Elijah, Joshua, Isaac, and Daniel to demonstrate their faith.

This narrative has profound consequences, leading to spiritual alienation and the abandonment of African naming conventions. Entire generations now distance themselves from cultural identity, believing that embracing foreign names signifies moral superiority. In doing so, Africans erase centuries of ancestral heritage, severing ties to traditions that once bound communities together. The widespread dismissal of African names as pagan reveals the deeply entrenched biases created by colonial religions, making it essential for African societies to challenge these perceptions and restore cultural dignity to indigenous naming traditions.

The Psychological and Social Effects of Abandoning Traditional Names

The abandonment of African names has far-reaching psychological and societal impacts, particularly on young Africans who struggle to define their identity. A name is more than a label; it is a reflection of heritage, language, and self-perception. When people adopt foreign names that have no connection to their lineage, they risk losing cultural grounding and becoming alienated from their historical roots. Many Africans today cannot explain the meaning of their own names, as they were selected based on Western preferences rather than indigenous traditions. This disconnect fosters a crisis of identity, leaving individuals unaware of their own cultural significance.

Furthermore, the widespread adoption of Western names has led to a generational rupture, where young-

er Africans no longer engage with ancestral wisdom. In traditional societies, names were passed down to honor grandparents, warriors, and cultural figures, ensuring generational continuity. However, the preference for foreign names disrupts this cycle, erasing family legacies and diluting African heritage. If left unchecked, this trend will lead to a complete cultural void, where future generations have no connection to the rich traditions that once defined African identity.

Reclaiming African Identity Through Names

The systematic erasure of African naming traditions represents a deeper loss of cultural dignity and historical awareness. If indigenous names continue to vanish, Africans will gradually lose the ability to connect with their past, weakening the communal bonds that have sustained societies for centuries. The rejection of traditional names in favor of foreign religious and Western identities signifies a troubling departure from African self-definition, forcing Africans to conform to narratives that do not honor their heritage.

It is time for African societies to reclaim the power of indigenous names, restoring their significance within cultural spaces. Parents, educators, and religious leaders must play a role in reversing this trend by actively promoting traditional names, integrating them into formal institutions, and encouraging their use in public discourse. Naming ceremonies must be revived, ensuring that future generations carry names that reflect African identity, resilience, and wisdom. Without these efforts, Africa risks becoming a continent of lost names, where the essence of heritage is discarded in pursuit of foreign validation. The time for reclamation is now.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open Letter To COP30: Putting An End To Fossil Fuel Era

The Renew Our Power Gathering, held in Brazil from April 10th to 17th, 2025, brought together activists, indigenous, and traditional communities from around the world in a powerful display of global solidarity. This gathering resulted into a unified call for action following a delivered open letter addressed to the COP30 Presidency.

On April 10, 2025 last week, indigenous leaders from Brazil, the Pacific and Canada handed in civil society letter demanding the COP30 President-designate, Andrew Aranha Corran do Lago to put an end to fossil fuel era and move to a just energy transition at the COP30 office in Brasilia, Brazil.

Earlier this week April 15, 2025, dozens of people from around the world including climate activists, indigenous leaders and community leaders joined in unison to call for a direct response to their letter delivered to the COP30 president during the Free Land Camp last week.

This letter was signed by over 150 organisations and thousand individuals in an online petition fronting their demands towards a just energy

transition.

The letter, a testament to the growing urgency of the climate crisis, presented a clear and uncompromising demand for a swift and just transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy sources.

The activists and leaders, deeply concerned by the escalating effects of climate change and its devastating impact on human health, expressed their dissatisfaction with the COP's perceived lack of action. They argued that the COP, despite its focus on climate action, has remained largely silent during this critical period, a period they described as the "decisive decade" for climate action.

Their demands were varied, encompassing a comprehensive approach to a sustainable future and listed below are some of the demands in the letter.

First, they called for a supercharged expansion of renewable energy, while emphasizing not just the replacement and an end to fossil fuels but also the crucial need for affordable and accessible renewable energy for all.

Second, they demanded full funding for the energy transition, advocating for climate financing that prioritizes

grant-based and debt-free mechanisms to accelerate the process.

Third, they called for an immediate phase-out of fossil fuels, a critical step in mitigating the worst impacts of climate change.

Finally, they insisted on the inclusion and empowerment of indigenous and traditional leaders in COP decision-making processes, recognizing their invaluable knowledge and advocating for their rightful place at the table. This involvement in leadership at COP will enable power and equal voice in climate negotiations while pushing for climate justice.

These demands emphasized in general that the shift to renewable energy must be grounded in community-led initiatives, prioritizing local needs and empowering communities to shape their own energy futures calling for a paradigm shift in energy policy, moving away from top-down, centralized models towards decentralized, community-based approaches.

This shift, they argued, would not only accelerate the transition to renewable energy but also foster greater social equity, ensuring that the



benefits of clean energy reach all communities, not just the privileged few.

This month's gathering follows another open letter with over 250 signatories that was written and delivered by a coalition of organisations, advocates and citizens on 18th March, this year to UNFCCC and Brazilian COP30 leadership to address Fossil fuel lobby influence.

The Renew Our Power Gathering served as a powerful testament that

the fight for climate justice is not just about technology and individuals but also about social justice, demanding a world where everyone has access to clean energy and a healthy planet.

Mary Blessing Ahairiirwe
Volunteer- Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda
maryblessingahairiirwe@gmail.com

The Urgent Requirement For Increased Mental Health Care In Kenya



Mental well-being forms part of overall well-being but goes un-

ticed in most societies. The recent tragedies; the horrific tale of a police officer who worked in HomaBay and poisoned his children and his niece, confirm the need for enhanced mental well-being services. The tragedy serves to show the intricacy of the mental challenges and the total collapse of the systems in our societies in coping with such issues.

Mental illness diseases affect millions of individuals across the globe, at all societal levels. Mental illness is, however, greatly stigmatized, and this consequently means that victims get inferior care. The outcome is therefore a tragedy, such as the recent one. Such a tragedy is unfortunately not unique; it is a sign of a serious problem to which society and government need to give priority.

HomaBay case presents some very elementary questions about accessibility to mental care of those individuals having stressful lines of work, like policemen. Police officials

are exposed to traumatic situations very frequently, and if not provided with quality mental care, they would never be in a position to manage the psycho-emotional stresses. Mental illness, if left unchecked, can lead to catastrophic behavior. It is extremely important that the government offer complete mental health care to the public servants at large, where they are counseled and mentored.

In addition, mental health care does not have to be a specialty in some careers but extended to all citizens. Governments must ensure that they provide strong mental health infrastructure with facilities placed in community-based centers, call centers and outreach services. The programs can promote destigmatization of mental conditions and empower patients without judgment to access help.

Investment in mental health also comes in the form of additional mental health professionals. We still do

not have sufficient trained psychologists and counselors, especially in rural regions where there is no availability of resources. With additional professionals and by giving them adequate resources, we can ensure that the attention goes to those who need it on time and in the right way.

Public campaigns also constitute a focal intervention in mental health building. Public education concerning the identification of symptoms of mental illness and on how to induce them to report for treatment represents a good policy in establishing openness and acceptance conditions. Mental illness must be discussed by schools, workplaces, and community centers as a normal thing.

Also, incorporating mental health care within overall health care systems can make it more inclusive. Specialized treatment might not be received by the masses due to the stigma of mental illness. If we include mental health care as a stan-

dard part of healthcare, then we can get more people early on, rather than when they are severe.

The HomaBay disaster is a bitter reminder of the price of neglecting mental health care. The government owes itself to put mental health services at the top of its public health agenda. Investing in good mental health care will assist us in preventing such disasters from happening again and making our country a healthier country.

Finally, treatment of mental illness is not an individual concern but public concern which requires the active participation of everyone. The state, society, and individuals must unite to create a culture whereby mental health becomes a priority, there are services, and stigma does not exist.

Tonny Kyule Nyamai, Rongo University, Migori

Atong An Author and Medical Student At Upper Nile University



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

Worth Noting:

- Honestly, I didn't want the youth to lose their potential. My heart was just broken seeing how easily they get frustrated and turn to things that are very draining. They vent with negativity, and I wanted them to see positivity in the middle of all that negativity.
- Also, I wanted to reach out to my family because the sacrifices they made to see me in a better space than they are—that actually inspired me to continue from there and keep the legacy going. And then, you know, I didn't want the struggles of our martyrs and veterans to go in vain. I wanted to reach them too, so that we pick up from where they left and make our country a better place.

1. Who are you?
My name is Atong Kuol Malual. I'm a 22-year-old medical student at Upper Nile University who also happens to be the author of the book titled 13 Reasons Why Youth Are Stranded Today. Writing is a passion of mine. I'm passionate about reading and wanting to make an impact someday.

2. Where are you from?
I'm proudly from South Sudan.

3. What's your book category?
It's a self-guide. What Turning Results is all about it focuses on practical solutions and highlights 13 major issues that many youth face today.

4. Why did you write?
I wrote to reach the people that felt stuck. I knew that our emotions and thoughts are all connected, so I wrote to let people know that it's okay, and it's not only them that are going through it. I wanted to touch their voice and help them tap out of that stranded point they're in—without feeling like it's impossible. I want to serve as a guide to them.

5. What inspired you?
Honestly, I didn't want the youth to lose their potential. My heart was just broken seeing how easily they get frustrated and turn to things that are very draining. They vent with negativity, and I wanted them to see positivity in the middle of all that negativity.

Also, I wanted to reach out to my family because the sacrifices they made to see me in a better space than they are—that actually inspired me to continue from there and keep the legacy going. And then, you know, I didn't want the struggles of our martyrs and veterans to go in vain. I wanted to reach them too, so that we pick up from where they left and make our country a better place. They already gave us that space to thrive, to live free, without discrimination, hate, or torture.

6. Who is your illustrator?
My illustrator was literally the environment that I was in and the experiences that I'd gone through. So I literally drew and designed images from my book from that context. It's what drove it.

7. Do you have fans?
To be honest, it really showed that I had fans on my book launch when there was a massive turn-up. Yeah, I



do have my family, my friends, and I began writing during COVID. I 15. What can you say to the up-
is Atong Kuol Malual.

then a few that I'm able to impact. It's not about impacting a lot of people's lives.

8. How are sales?
Not bad, honestly. The first day I published, I was able to sell 100 copies within the first week. I just kept going.

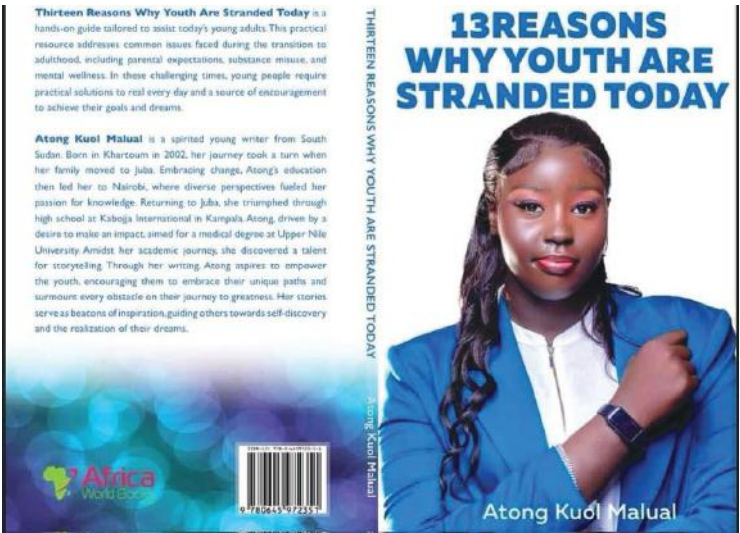
9. What are your future plans?
To reach more people and become a better author.

10. How is the book industry?
I'm new to it and I'm juggling it alongside medicine. But I'm learning as I go.

11. Any awards yet?
Not really.

12. Who is your role model?
My role model is my auntie who is a pediatrician doctor. She encourages me to want to work harder and become a better medical doctor.

13. When did you begin writing?



was just at it casually, and then my very first article was on Facebook. Surprisingly, I posted it on my page, and I was able to reach people, and I said, why can't I do this more often?

14. Where did you publish?
I published my articles with Dawn Newspaper, and my book was published with Africa's World Book in Australia.

coming author?
Do not fear. Your words could actually make an impact on a lot of people's lives. If you have that ability, reach for it and write more.

Gau Bol Gau An Author, A Life Coach & Mentor



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

1. Who are you?

I'm Gau Bol Gau, friends and family call me Mawar-Pei which is literally translated as "Brighter than moon". It's a name that reminds me of my dream and a mission in life to strive and live a life of purpose everyday.

I'm a storyteller, a conduit for positive change driven by a life mission objective to empower, uplift and impact others positively.

My life mission objective has led me to become a recognized and published author of two bestselling and highly inspiring books namely; "Don't Complicate Your Life" and "Creating A Lasting Legacy."

My two books are not just a literature work meant to fill up libraries, but they are conduits of hope, healing, inspiration and a blueprint for creating a lasting legacy that goes beyond our lifetimes on earth.

I'm also a Life Coach & Mentor providing guidance and mentorship to individuals to realise their full potentials. Nevertheless, I'm a Social Entrepreneur who engages in devising sustainable solutions to social problems in my country.

Occasionally, I'm a motivational speaker who inspires hope beyond tomorrow and resilience among young people of my age to look far beyond their circumstances and strive to achieve their innate dreams.

2. Where are you from?

I come from Warrap State, in the youngest and the most resilient nation of South Sudan, the land of great abundance rich in culture and history. My country's struggle against the Islamic and oppressive regime of the then Sudan has shaped my perspective and ignited my passion and dream for positive impact. My nation's pressing crisis inspires my unwavering dedication to inspiring, empowering people and effecting positive changes at my capacity.

3. What's your book category?

My books are generally Non-fiction, and more distinctively inspirational literature. I love to provide my entire readership and lovers of my literature with life-changing practical advice, insightful wisdom and unwavering thought-provoking ideas and encouragements to face life's complex challenges with hope and to achieve their desired dreams.

My books are meant to dig deep into the human hearts and awake the soul to find peace of mind, resilience and realise Lasting fulfillment and purposes.

4. Why did you write?

I started writing from my strong conviction and believe that I was born to

make a difference. So, I would say it wasn't just a choice, but an insatiable calling, heartfelt conviction to share my wisdom, experience and practical life-changing ideas with the world.

The conviction was clear that I should not write literature works that only entertain people, but to inspire lives, empower people and uplift individuals to the destination of their dreams. I believe that I was born to impact others positively, and this is my life mission objective. Thank you!

5. What inspired you?

I think my greatest inspiration came from the infinite wisdom that's found in the sacred pages of the Holy Scriptures. As a good reader of the Holy Bible, I have practically experienced firsthand the inspiring and transformative power of the Bible in my own life.

To me, Bible is the principal that shapes characters of men, cultivate resilience and foster self-discovery to find purpose and a dream to live beyond this world and this life. So, because of the Bible, I came to believe that writing a book that could simultaneously impact people's lives would really make a great difference in the world.

Eventually, I started writing books that would share my knowledge, experiences and wisdom to extend the transformative power to others beyond my generations and time.

6. Who is your illustrator?

I think, I work with a team of unmatched talents depending on the particular needs of every book I have published.

For example, in my first and second books "Don't Complicate Your Life" and "Creating A Lasting Legacy". The illustrations were made and designed by Samuel Kuot aka Jungle Preacher, and the iconic Publications Team. I highly appreciate and value every little contribution from everyone who has supported in bringing my books into existence. They all deserve a big thanks for their collaborative spirit and efforts.

7. Do you have fans?

While you call them fans, I call them "my amazing readership". Yes, I'm very blessed to have a numerous and supportive readership who value and read my literature on a profound level.

Their dedication and profound support has been a great fuel and energy for my writing career and success.

In fact, there is a high demand for my second book "Creating A Lasting Legacy" as we speak, unfortunately, the hard copies of this book are out of stocks. This tremendous demand for my book is very humbling and it ignites more inspiration to continue writing more books that inspire hope and empower my dear readership.

8. How is your sales?

The sales process especially in South Sudan has its own distinct set of challenges. There are handful infrastructure, economic crisis and a lack of recognised and well-established distribution mechanisms that can discourage accessibility.

However, despite these pressing challenges, I can undoubtedly confess that sales have been overwhelmingly successful. The fact that my books are out of stocks could be an incredible testament that genuine demands for good books are high and sales are successful.

Currently, there is a very high demand for my second book, and I'm trying to work on ordering for another mass printing for this book to meet the tremendous demand of it.

9. What is your future plans?

My future plans are tremendously intertwined with amazing power of the literature. I'm tremendously dedicated to invest a lot in my writing career.

I have witnessed firsthand the incredible power of written words that touch hearts, open the minds and eventually impact lives positively.

I'm currently working on my 3rd book project titled "Suicide Is Never A Solution." This book idea is driven by the prevailing concerns for the growing mental health issues plaguing our country and the world. In this book, I professionally aim at offering comfort, hope, resilience and practical life's strategies for individuals struggling each day with suicidal thoughts, reassuring them with the important value of life and the available potentials for healing and renewal. It's my greatest hope and wish that the book will serve as a lifeline for those grappling stressful despair and contribute to the mental health awareness and support.

10. How is the book industry?

The book industry in my country is faced by a numerous challenges. Some of the challenges includes; lack of infrastructure, inadequate access to material resources, and lack of support for South Sudanese writers.

Despite these challenges, I'm hopeful that my dedication to empowering and inspiring others through literature will keep me going.

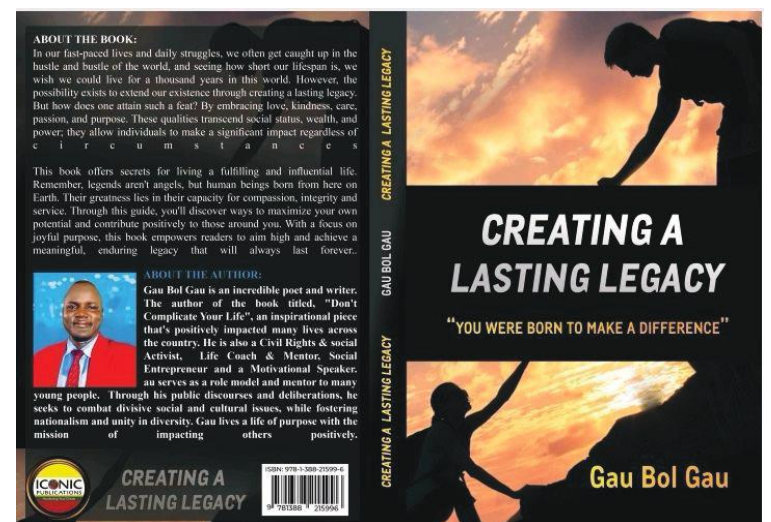
Currently, I'm very passionate and active in finding ways to promote literacy, provide guidance and support for my fellow upcoming writers and contribute meaningfully to the progress of literature landscape in my country South Sudan and beyond.

11. Any awards yet?

So far, I haven't attained any formal awards reasonably due to the inadequate or lack of well-established and fair award programs that recognize impactful writers and authors in South Sudan. However, I strongly believe that the best and genuine awards lie in the positive impacts I have created on the lives of my entire readership. There are a lot of inspiring Testimonies and stories I have received in my email and WhatsApp from too many readers whose lives have been touched and positively impacted by my books and writings. These Testimonies and stories are my greatest and most inspiring awards in my life, and these are the most enduring awards. There's nothing that makes me happy and satisfied than seeing that my words have inspired hope, actions and people's lives changed. That makes me happy and



Gau Bol Gau An Author, A Life Coach & Mentor.



humble.

12. Who is your role model?

Honestly, my perfect role model is Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. What makes him my role model is his down-to-earth humility, his uncompromising compassion, and his selfless services despite his unmatched power to save lives and perform extraordinary miracles makes him my incomparable role model.

I always try to emulate him by strongly remaining firm in my faith, being compassionate and committed to serving others with humility and love.

Besides Jesus, I undoubtedly admire and emulate anyone who portrays humility, compassion, love and consistency to their life pursuits.

13. When did you begin writing?

My passion for a writing career started back in 2018 when I was in form 3 at Standard Secondary School-Wau. At that time, I developed a restless connection with the written literature. I always find myself writing essays, crafting stories and sharing my thought-provoking ideas on my Facebook page. This deep connection and conviction birthed my love for writing and has paved the journey for my future dream as an author.

14. Where did you publish?

I have had a privilege of publishing

my two books in Uganda with Iconic Publications. This publication was made possible by the profound assistance and guidance of my good brother and friend Mr. Tong Lueth Maticok. Tong is an accomplished and respected author of "Poverty Robed Me" the best national selling book. His guidance and support during my publication process were very key in bringing my books into existence in the world of literature.

15. What can you say to the upcoming author?

I can say that writing is the most challenging thing in the world, but its rewards and its Legacy are very incomparable and countless. So, to everyone who wants to be a writer, I encourage you to embrace the passion, and cultivate persistence and patience.

I also want you to never underestimate your potential and dream. Give yourself time to hone your writing skills, seek mentorship and guidance from published authors.

Additionally, you need to read extensively and widely. This can help you to gain vast knowledge and insights.

Lastly, you need to keep in mind that writing is a gradual and deliberate process that requires consistency and dedication to continuous learning and improvement.

Thank you so much.

SPORTS NEWS

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Sports >> *As dawn broke on Saturday, I joined participants on a shuttle bus headed to the starting line. The air buzzed with excitement

The Over-21-Kilometer Half Marathon Course Struck A Perfect Balance: Challenging Yet Doable For Runners Of All Levels

As dawn broke on Saturday, I joined participants on a shuttle bus headed to the starting line. The air buzzed with excitement: runners casually swapped personal bests, debated elevation changes and craned their necks for glimpses of pale purple paulownia flowers that had been immortalized in viral videos. But for one group of competitors, the stakes were far higher. These machine competitors were set to face a grueling test of endurance as they competed in the world's first humanoid robot half marathon, held in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area (BDA) in the southeast of the city, where the Beijing E-Town innovation hub is located. The silicon racers would soon compete on the same physical route as human runners, though on separate tracks.

The race marked the first long-distance endurance test of these robots in an open environment. Each competing robot had to have a humanoid appearance and be capable of bipedal walking or running. The rules did, however, allow them to undergo maintenance, battery swaps and other procedures at the multiple supply stations set up along the route. At 7:30 a.m., the starting pistol blasted. Unlike the surge forward that is typically seen at the start of a marathon event, the crowd turned, smartphones aloft, to capture the robots making their first steps across the starting line. Cheers erupted as the androids hit the track, their every step met with shouts of encouragement.

A total of 20 teams from robotics companies, research institutes, clubs and universities participated. Though the robots varied in size, attire and running gait, all pursued the same goal: proving their mettle in this unprecedented trial. "Think of it as a car rally for robots," said Liang Liang, deputy director of the BDA management committee. The rules of the humanoid robot half marathon closely resembled those of a car rally, Liang noted. Teams combined AI autonomy with human oversight, tackling challenges no machine had quite faced before: uneven pavements, communication drops and the sheer unpredictability of the outdoors. "The event serves as a

validation, testing and demonstration platform, but more importantly, as a space for developers, enthusiasts and companies to exchange ideas," Liang said. In fact, this race was not without precedent. In 2011, five bipedal robots completed a full marathon in an indoor venue in Osaka, Japan. The roughly 40-centimeter-tall robot runners had to lap a 100-meter track nonstop over 400 times, taking several days to finish.

At the Beijing E-Town half marathon, the Tien Kung Ultra robot developed by the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Center crossed the finish line in just 2 hours and 40 minutes. Noetix's N2 came in second, while a robot designed by Shanghai-based firm DroidUp secured third place. This wasn't my first encounter with Tien Kung. Last summer, I visited the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Center and interviewed its general manager, Dr. Xiong Youjun. Humanoid robots are the culmination of AI technology and are poised to become the next disruptive product following computers, smartphones and smart cars. According to Xiong, they are expected to play a crucial role in various application scenarios, such as industrial manufacturing, public services, emergency rescue, health care, elderly care and national defense.

The global humanoid robotics industry is undergoing a period of rapid expansion, with Citi analysts forecasting that the market will reach a scale of 7 trillion U.S. dollars by 2050. And China, already a key player in the field, is expected to secure a notable share. Market projections suggest that by mid-century, China's humanoid robot market could be worth 6 trillion yuan (about 832.5 billion U.S. dollars), with an estimated 59 million units in operation. This enormous market scale and vast application scenarios provide China with relative advantages in developing AI. Characterized by high technology, high efficiency and high quality, the embodied AI robotics industry itself represents China's strategy for technology-led growth by unleashing "new quality productive forces." "This marathon tests our technology's maturity," Xiong said after Tien Kung Ultra



ROBOT: Robotic participant "Tiangong Ultra" (C) competes as engineers run alongside during the Beijing E-Town half-marathon and humanoid robots half-marathon in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area in southeast Beijing, China, April 19, 2025. (Xinhua/Li He).

claimed victory among the robot competitors, adding that the next step will be to continuously improve the robot's motion control and upper-body manipulation capabilities.

The veteran robotics insider firmly believes that the future will be a society of human-robot coexistence, where robots will truly enter households and become part of human life -- as our friends and good helpers. "This is the significance of this marathon for the future," he said. "Achieving this vision requires the collective efforts of all robot developers, engineers and tech companies." The race had its share of mishaps. Several robots toppled and crashed shortly after the start, some veered off course instead of running straight, and others malfunctioned midway through. Like marathoners battling cramps, the robots grappled with searing joint temperatures,

and where humans steadied their breathing, machines re-calibrated algorithms mid-stride.

Engineers regularly rushed to the scene like football team medics, performing quick repairs before the robots resumed running. Each reboot carried a deeper meaning: Watching the robots stumble, stand back up and continue running, the event commentator couldn't help but remark, "Like last week's wind and last night's rain -- without storms, there would be no rainbow." Originally set for April 13, the race was postponed due to Beijing's high alert for extreme winds last weekend. Friday brought another day of rain, though it had little impact on the

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GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Kenyan runners Charles Mbatha Matata and Susy Chebet Chemaimek triumphed in the men's and women's races respectively at the 2025 Beijing Half Marathon yesterday.

Kenyan Runners Dominate 2025 Beijing Half Marathon

BEIJING, (Xinhua) -- Kenyan runners Charles Mbatha Matata and Susy Chebet Chemaimek triumphed in the men's and women's races respectively at the 2025 Beijing Half Marathon yesterday.

Matata finished first in one hour and 25 seconds, seven seconds ahead of his compatriot Wisley Kipkemoi Yego, while Ethiopia's Getachew Masresha Kidie took the third place. "I really appreciate the opportunity to race in Beijing. The course here is good," Matata said after the race. "I was focusing on 59 minutes, which is my target time. The final result is not so bad and not so good." Chemaimek broke the course record in the women's race with one hour, nine minutes, and seven seconds, followed by Rispa Cherop of Uganda and Ethiopia's



Susan Chemaimak Makes History with Record-Breaking Win at Beijing Half Marathon 2025

Beriha Gebreyohanes Gebreslasie in second and third, respectively. The Beijing Half Marathon has a profound history of nearly 70 years. This year's race spans from Tiananmen Square to the Beijing Olympic Park, attracting a record 169,879 runners signing up for the lottery of 20,000 spots.

The Over-21-Kilometer Half Marathon Course Struck A Perfect Balance: Challenging Yet Doable For Runners Of All Levels

Contd from page 22

racecourse, fortunately. Among the spectators was 6-year-old Wang Zhao, who lives in Beijing E-Town. "I loved the dancing robots I saw on TV during this year's 'Spring Festival Gala,' and today it feels magical watching robots run just like humans," he said. "I saw robots running along the course. Some of the smallest ones were surprisingly fast, beyond what I'd imagined," runner Zhang Huihui remarked after the race. "I hope we can see robots at marathons every year, and watch them get faster and faster." Zhao Fuming, president of the Beijing Marathon Association, noted that more cities may follow suit by combining their industrial strengths and urban culture to

launch running events similar to the Beijing E-Town humanoid robot half marathon. "In the future, robots might not just compete as participants. They could also be featured in themed races, serve as security and first-aiders, and assist in event operations, becoming highlights of such competitions," Zhao said. Yet some critics online have dismissed the event as a carefully orchestrated tech spectacle rather than a bold innovation attempt. "The robots on the track behaved more like manipulated puppets than dynamic 'athletes,' which starkly contrasts with the marathon's spirit of independence and pushing limits," one commentator wrote in a sarcastic article. Yet isn't the ethos of perseverance, personal challenge and boundary-pushing embodied by marathons -- a symbol of human physical and mental endurance -- precisely what the human teams behind these robots continuously strive for and uphold?

When Tanzanian marathon runner John Stephen Akhwari limped across the finish line in last place at the Mexico City Olympic Games in 1968 with a bandage around his leg flapping in the breeze, people witnessed his "superhuman spirit" with their own eyes. "My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race. They sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race," Akhwari said. This quote has since made him one of the most memorable figures in Olympic history. Doesn't the organizers' motto, "To compete is victory, to finish is glory," resonate with Akhwari's story? Every small step these robots took on the marathon course represented a giant leap for China's technological breakthroughs. When the robots stood on the starting line, a competition of human wisdom began -- human imagination and dreams started running upon the sound of the starting pistol. On the shuttle bus home after the race, participants

took out their phones to share photos and videos they'd taken of one another. They video-called family members to show off their unique golden medals that can be unfolded into a robot shape, and watched competition footage and discussed whether their favorite robots had completed the route. I sent my wife a video I'd taken of a robot crossing the finish line. "They should give medals to those three staff members running alongside the robots too," she replied. "They finished the race as well." I couldn't have agreed more. The human escort, remote pilot and support engineer did run every step. Every 21-kilometer course will eventually be completed, but humanity will stay on the course of pioneering man-machine symbiosis -- where machines survive with us, and thrive through us.

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Uigizaji Umemchochea Brian Ibra Kupiga Hatua Si Haba



By: Alfred Lobawoi
@themkenyaintimes

**Nukuu
“Niliendelea na
kundi la uana-
habari na hata
kuigiza tofauti na
shule zingine nil-
ianza kushindana
na shule tofauti
hadi nikafika ki-
wango cha kitaifa
na nikapewa cheti
cha ‘best narrator’.
Hakuna jambo
linalonitia moyo
kama kumjengea
mtu siku yake.
Watu wengi hupit-
tia magumu kati-
ka maisha ya kila
siku, kwa hivyo ni
bora kuwapa saba-
bu ya kutabasamu
ili msongo wa
mawazo usiwaan-
dame.”**

1. Tueleze mengi kukuhusu.

Jina langu ni Brayo Ibra ama kijana Vibes home and Away; mzaliwa wa kaunti ya Narok.

Masomo yangu yalianza kaunti ya Nakuru, ambapo nikiwa darasa la sita nilianza kuigiza. Kilichonifanya nijijunge na uigizaji ni tangu nikiwa mtoto nimekua mwenye vituko na ucheshi mno hivyo basi kwa usaidizi wa mwalimu nikajiunga na chama cha kuigiza. Michezo hii ilinijengea jina na kunifanya nifahamike zaidi hadi nikafanywa mkubwa wa michezo yenyewe. Masomo yangu ya msingi niliyamalizia kaunti ya Narok shule ya Narianta Primary School. Kisha nikajiunga na shule ya upili ya St. Gabriel Boy's Lanet kule Nakuru hapa kwa mara ya kwanza nikaanza kutangaza na kujiunga na chama cha wanahabari, jambo ambalo najivunia hadi sasa.

Nikiwa kidato cha pili niliweza kufukuzwa kwa sababu ya kujiunga na kundi baya jambo ambalo liliadhiiri masomo yangu pakubwa. Hapa nilianza kujuta sababu ya kujiunga na makundi mabaya ila kwa bahati nzuri nilipata shule nyingine na kujiunga nayo. Niliendelea na kundi la uanahabari na hata kuigiza tofauti na shule zingine nilianza kushindana na shule tofauti hadi nikafika kiwango cha kitaifa na nikapewa cheti cha ‘best narrator’. Nilimaliza masomo yangu ya upili mwaka wa 2019. Nikaanza kujiunga na kundi la kaunti ya Narok la burudani nikafanya michezo kadha wa kadha.

Kanisa la katoliki pia liliweza kupiga jeki kukuza talanta yangu kwani bado nilijiandikisha kwenye kundi la kuigiza na nikapata cheti na bahati ya kwenda kaunti mingi kushindana kama vile Baringo, Nakuru, Meru na zinginezo. Hapo niliamua kusomea uanahabari ili niendeleo kukuza kipaji changu na nikajiunga na chuo cha kiufundi cha NIBS.

Isitoshe, najihisi kuwa nilizaliwa ili niweze kuburudisha watu kupitia burudani yenyewe, nifunze, nionye, niwatie watu ambao wamekata tamaa tumaini. Safari haijawa rahisi lakini wasemavyo ni kuwa, hata dhahabu lazima ipitie kwenye moto ili ing'ae. Sasa hivi niko karibu kutamatisha masomo yangu ya uanahabari na mimi bado niko kwenye kundi lile lile la kuigiza. Nimenoa makali ya kipaji changu na bado safari ni ndefu na niko tayari kusafiri. Ningetaka sana kupiga hatua na kuwa kama



Brian Ibra .

muigizaji Abel Mutua ama Njun-gush kwani hao ndio nawafuatilia sana. Sasa hivi mimi nafanya kipindi maarufu sana chuoni, ambacho ni NIBS Asubuhi kwenye Nibs Radio nikiamini kwamba bidii zangu hazitaenda kapa katu. Ipo siku hiyo nisiyojua itakuja mazuri.

2. Ni nini hasa kilikuchoea katika tasnia hii?

Kilichonivutia haswa ni ile hali ya kuwafanya watu watabasamu kila ninapoigiza. Hakuna jambo linalonitia moyo kama kumjengea mtu siku yake. Watu wengi hupitia magumu katika maisha ya kila siku kwa hivyo ni bora kuwapa sababu ya kutabasamu ili msongo wa mawazo usiwaandame.

3. Siku yako huwa vipi kunapokucha?

Siku yangu huanza saa kumi na mbili asubuhi pale ambapo mimi hupanga ratiba ya siku hiyo, masomo yangu huanza saa nne ila mimi huingia shule saa moja unusu ili niweze kuingia studio kupiga makasia ya kwangu. Napeperusha kipindi cha asubuhi ndani ya Nibs radio kipindi chenyewe ni Nibs Asubuhi. Huwa tunakiendesha kipindi chenyewe na Alfred Lobawoi. Kisha, baadaye mmi huanza masomo yangu saa nne hadi saa kumi na moja unusu, kisha naungana na wenzangu kufanya ma-

zoezi tofaouti kama vile mahojiano, kupeperusha vipindi hewani, kurekodi vipindi na uandishi wa vipindi na mambo mengineyo.

4. Ni kitu kipi kinakupendeza katika kazi yako?

Kinachonipendeza zaidi ni kupewa nafasi ya kuzungumza na kutangamana na watu tofauti. Hii hunisaidia kujikua na kujua mengi na hata kupata marafiki wapya kila siku.

5. Ni kitu kipi kigumu kwa yale ambayo unafanya?

Hisia zako za kibinafsi na za kazi ni hazifai kuchangia jinsi unaifanya kazi yako. Wanaokusikiliza wana tarajia uwe bora hata kama unayapitia magumu gani.

6. Umewahi kupata changamoto katika kazi yako? Tuambie kuhusu.

Kuna wakati nilikua naugua ila nilikua nalazimika kuigiza, ilikua vigumu ila mwisho wa siku lazima kazi ifanyike au sio?

7. Ni kitu kipi kinakusaidia kupambana na changamoto hizo?

Sasa hivi sauti yangu ni dhahabu kwangu hivyo basi lazima niichunge kivyovyote vile. Wakati mwingine maji ya ndimu hunisaidia kuhakikisha sauti yangu iko sawa.

8. Huwa unatangaza kazi zako? Tuambie hatua hizo inavyoku-

saidia.

Kipindi cha Nibs asubuhi sasa hivi kimekua na mashabiki wengi sana sababu ya kazi nzuri tunayoifanya na pia kukitangaza kwenye mitambo yetu ya kijamii. Pia kuwapa masha-biki wetu nafasi ya kupiga simu ama kutuma ujumbe mfupi imetusaidia kupiga hatua mbele.

9. Ni wosia upi utampa yule ambaye angetaka kuwa kama wewe.

Wasia siku zote ni ‘sio lazima utukane ili ujulikane’ pia ‘ ukiona umefanikiwa usione wenzako kama ghoighoi ni muda wao hujafika ila ipo siku na wao watafanikiwa.

10. Ukupatiwa nafasi ya kubadilisha ulimwengu na kujibadilisha wewe mwenyewe utalete mabadiliko yapi? Nikipata nafasi ya kubadilisha mambo hapatakua na makabila yoyote yaani sote tutakua sawa. Ukabila umeharibu mambo humu nchini na kukosanisha mandugu.

11. Kwa yule ambaye angependa kuona kazi zako, atazipataje?

Kwenye mitandao yote ya kijamii ni Brian Ibra, pia usikose kusikiza NIBS FM, Kipindi cha NIBS Asubuhi, upate burudani naye Alfred Lobawoi na mmi hapa Brian Ibra; Kijana vibes home and away shukran.