



The Goal Of Achieving Universal Electricity Coverage Must Be Accompanied By Stringent Safety Compliance
Kenya is inching closer to universal access to electricity with each new connection. The country is nearing the 10 millionth customer with the cumulative number of grid-connected customers standing at over 9.8 million as at December 2024, according to the Energy and Petroleum Statistics Report.

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News>>Kirinyaga County Intensifies Crackdown On Illicit Brews After Two Fall Ill

P. 8. The County Government of Kirinyaga has intensified its crackdown on illicit alcohol following yesterday's incident where two people were taken ill after allegedly consuming alcohol in Marura, Kangai Ward in Mwea.



News>>Murang'a Delegation To Search For Avocado, Tea And Coffee Markets In USA, China

P. 12. Two Murang'a delegations will embark on a mission to search for avocado, coffee and tea markets in the USA and China.

Pope Francis To Be Laid On Saturday

⚡ The Vatican has released the first images of Pope Francis lying in state in his open coffin, dressed in a red papal robe with the mitre on his head and a rosary in his hands. The photos were taken during the rite of certification of death, held last night in the chapel of Casa Santa Marta—the Pope's residence at the Vatican. Vatican News reported that "during the rite, the declaration of death was read aloud. The act was validated by Cardinal Farrell, and the ceremony lasted just under an hour."



Pope Francis lies in repose at the Casa Santa Marta chapel in the Vatican, dressed in red papal robes, with the mitre on his head and a rosary in his hands, as the rite of certification of death is conducted ahead of funeral preparations

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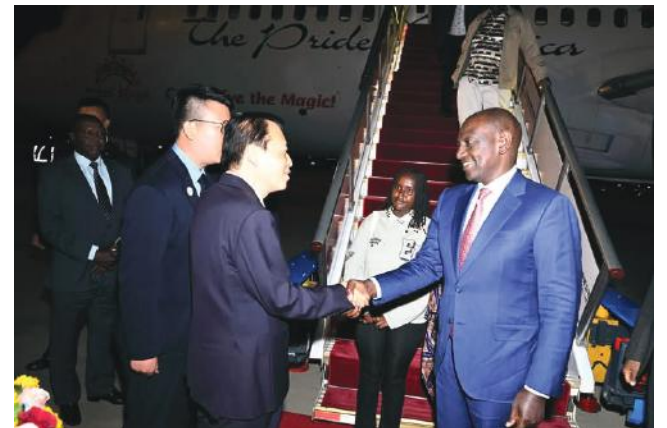
Kenya Tourism Board, showcasing the best of Kenya.

President William Ruto Arrived In China

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured During The President's Arrival In China

President William Ruto yesterday arrived in Beijing, China, for the four-day State Visit at the invitation of President Xi Jinping. The Head of State noted that the visit seeks to deepen and broaden the historical, economic and cultural ties that have defined the cordial relations between Kenya and China over the years. Highlights include a keynote at China's top university, Peking, which has a 32k student population and the signing of 20 sector-shaping Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs).



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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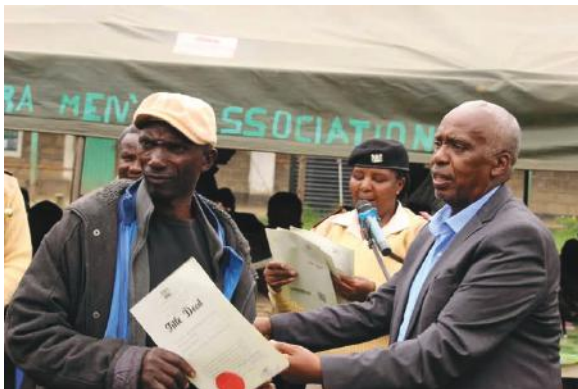
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinaniri yesterday officially opened a week long workshop on Model Tariffs & Pricing Policy and the Draft Finance Bill 2025. Attendees drawn from all County Departments together with Commissioners from the Commission in Revenue Allocation (CRA) will collectively look at tariffs as well as develop policies that will guide Nyeri County on its revenue projections and generation. Leading the CRA team was Commissioner Dr. George Midiwo, who also pointed out the importance of the exercise in determining the cost of providing services to Nyeri's citizenry. In addition, the exercise aims to step down various policies to be more Nyeri-specific. By the end of the workshop, the County will be in a much better position to strengthen and improve own-source revenue generation and collection, as well as expand its revenue streams.



Kieni constituency Member of Parliament Njoroge Wainaina alias Chieni (right) yesterday presided over handing over of Title Deeds to some of his constituents. At Mwachiri area in Kiamathaga Ward, the MP issued 246 Title Deeds to the land owners. He disclosed that another 520 locals will be getting theirs in a few months' time.



Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Dr. Deborah Barasa yesterday made her inaugural familiarisation visit to the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) at the conservation organization's headquarters at Karura, in Nairobi County. The CS, who was accompanied by State Department For Forestry Principal Secretary Mr. Gitonga Mugambi, was received by the institution's leadership led by Chief Conservator of Forests Mr. Alex Lemarkoko and KFS Board Vice Chairman Mr. Kunal Chowdhari. In a comprehensive briefing session held at the Forest Information Systems Boardroom, the Chief Conservator of Forests presented an overview of the Service's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and key challenges. The Cabinet Secretary later inspected the Forest Survey and Information Management Department and the Fire Command Centre, where she was briefed on efforts to strengthen forest monitoring and fire response capabilities. Addressing KFS staff, Dr. Barasa thanked the Service for their dedication in managing and protecting Kenya's invaluable forest resources and commended them for the successful completion of the nationwide public participation forums. Dr. Barasa challenged the Service to develop innovative strategies for internal revenue generation, including exploring forest-based enterprises, ecotourism, carbon credits, and strategic partnerships.



Acting on a tip from members of the public, Police Officers based at Kaloleni Police Station have nabbed 22-year-old Emmanuel Mwanyae at Nyalani village and seized four sacks of bhang. The suspect was placed in custody, undergoing processing as he awaits his day in court today. Meanwhile, the confiscated bhang is being detained as exhibit. #FichuaKwaDCI. Call 0800 722 203 to report anonymously.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday held a consultative session with the National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation, chaired by Ainabkoi MP Samuel Chepkonga, to review the Digital Health (Health Information Management Procedures) Regulations, 2025. The meeting focused on aligning the updated regulations with previous recommendations made during the prepublication stage, ensuring they effectively support the rollout of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The CS informed the Committee of the operationalization of the USSD code *147# to facilitate the transition of Kenyans from NHIF to the Social Health Authority (SHA) platform. The discussions also emphasized the importance of robust public awareness campaigns to promote understanding and uptake of SHA services, especially at the grassroots level. The CS was accompanied by Medical Services Principal Secretary Dr. Ouma Oluga, Director General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, Acting CEO of the Digital Health Agency Mr. Anthony Lenaiyara, and other senior Ministry officials.



Kakamega Governor Fernandes Barasa has announced plans to establish a bullfighting premier league from next year (2026). Speaking at Solyo Grounds, Shinyalu Constituency during the Second Edition of the Governor's Bullfighting Extravaganza, Governor Barasa said the winner of the league will be awarded Sh200,000. The governor said that the league will bring together top bulls from all 12 sub-counties in Kakamega as part of the county's broader strategy to promote local culture and grow the sports tourism sector. He noted that the initiative will support various economic sectors, including hospitality, transport and entertainment, while preserving the unique cultural identity of the region. The governor noted that the league is expected to run on a structured calendar with tournaments held across the county culminating in a championship event.

Kwale County government is harnessing the fisheries sector of the blue economy for sustainable livelihoods among the coastal communities. The coastal county in collaboration with the Kenya Marine Fisheries Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) project is advancing the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The KEMFSED project is implemented by the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries with support from the World Bank with the project duration being 2020-2025 with funding worth Sh10 billion.



The fishery infrastructure project is being implemented in the coastal counties of Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Lamu to enable fisherfolk to increase catches and improve livelihood activities in coastal communities. Governor Fatuma Achani says the project is making great strides towards building a climate-resilient aquatic food system. Achani says the partnership is slowly unlocking Kwale's fisheries potential and upgrading fishery infrastructure to overcome challenges and boost growth. She says the devolved government has distributed 60 modern fishing boats with outboard motor engines, fish finders, GPS gadgets, and advanced fish value addition equipment. Other distributed items include multifilament fishing nets, cooler boxes, flares, bond liners, life rafts and life jacket floats to small-scale fishermen in order to turn fishing into a profitable venture.



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Pope Francis's Funeral To Take Place On Saturday As Vatican Releases First Images In Open Coffin

By: Agencies

Worth Noting:

- Vatican News reported that “during the rite, the declaration of death was read aloud. The act was validated by Cardinal Farrell, and the ceremony lasted just under an hour.”
- This morning, cardinals are meeting in the Vatican to determine the date of Pope Francis’s funeral. The meeting began at 09:00 local time (08:00 BST, 07:00 GMT). They are also expected to decide when his body will be moved to St Peter’s Basilica to allow the public to pay their final respects.
- The late pontiff’s funeral arrangements will follow a closely observed process, guided by long-standing Vatican tradition.



Pope Francis lies in repose at the Casa Santa Marta chapel in the Vatican, dressed in red papal robes, with the mitre on his head and a rosary in his hands, as the rite of certification of death is conducted ahead of funeral preparations.

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Attention now turns to the College of Cardinals—the Catholic Church’s highest-ranking officials—who will soon convene in Rome to elect the next pope. The election, known as the conclave (from the Latin cum clave, meaning “with a key”), refers to the secretive, closed-door process of selecting a new pontiff.

There are more than 250 cardinals worldwide from over 90 countries, though only about 135 are eligible to vote. Cardinals over the age of 80 are excluded from the election. Of those eligible, approximately 110 were appointed by Francis during his decade-long papacy and are expected to carry forward his vision of a more inclusive church.

The conclave will be held in the Sistine Chapel, beneath Michelangelo’s iconic ceiling. Once all non-electors and officials have exited—signaled by the phrase extra omnes (“everyone out”)—the doors are locked, and the solemn deliberations begin. The process traditionally starts 15 to 20 days after the death of a pope.

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Meru MCAs Approved Nine Governor Mutuma's CECM Nominees

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themtkenyetimes

The new regime in Meru county has received a major boost after all governor Mutuma M'ithinkia's nominees for Member of County Executive Committee Members (CECM) were approved.

They were passed to serve in Governor Mutuma M'ethingia's county executive.

The MCAs agreed with the select committee on appointments chaired by assembly speaker Ayub Bundi.

The committee, after doing thorough vetting concluded that the nine nominees exhibited impressive knowledge of topical, administrative and technical issues touching on their respective dockets.

They also showed requisite abilities, qualifications and experience.

Patrick Mutuma, Leader of the Majority said Meru County is heading in the right direction to sanitize the county.

"I thank the governor for the nominees, they are the right people to deliver. I thank the house for the positive contribution," Mutuma who tabled the motion said.

Athwana MCA Jim Muchui said two

years have been wasted during the former Governor Mwangaza's reign urging the new cabinet to move with speed in setting the pace developing the county.

"We demand accountability when they are called. We expect a lot of cooperation. We call the governor to swear them in as soon as possible for developments delivery to Meru people. If one fails, we won't hesitate to impeach them," Muchui said.

Nkuene MCA Martin Makasi told the nominees to act like former CECMs who were ignorant and incompetent.

"We have no problem with them unless they become ignorant or fail to deliver. Stop feeling the warmth of the office seat but pay a visit to the villages to know their needs. There is work ahead. Mwananchi has no time for more fights. I will soon bring a supplementary budget," Makasi said.

Igoji West MCA Mutembei Mbiuki said he was extremely happy for the new CECMs.

"They are competent, academicians and very experienced people. No money was circulating within Meru because all contracts were awarded to foreigners. No one was from Meru. Let them focus on issuing tenders and contracts to residents of Meru. We have wasted a lot of time fighting, we



Athwana MCA Jim Muchui speaks to press on Tuesday. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

expect a lot of cooperation between the executive and assembly for the growth of this County," Mbiuki said. Kisima MCA Jenifer Murogocho and her Thangatha counterpart Elijah Kimathi who were staunch supporters of former Governor Kawira Mwangaza told the house she was pleased to support approval of the nominees

"We can never expect all people to move in one direction, there has to be checks and balances. We are here to protect our people from exploitation. We are to listen to the electorates who

brought us to this house. The wrangles were all over in Meru and we have to join hands. We need cooperation and togetherness to move ahead and prosper. I support the motion," Murogocho said as she contributed to the motion.

The successful nominees awaiting swearing in are; Monica Kathono for the Finance Docket, Jenaro Gatangu-gi who was the first Governor Peter Munya's CECM nominated is the Agriculture docket nominee while Lawyer Marius Maranya, Legal Affairs, Public Service management

and Administration.

Dr David Bariu is the nominee for Roads and Transport CECM, Dr Dennis Mugambi has been nominated as CECM in the Health Services.

Former Municipality MCA Elias Murega Julius, for the Sports docket, Rev. Dr Carol Kaberia is a nominee for Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives, Advocate Baptista Kanyaru Muriki will be in charge of water environment and natural resources and Dr Esther Rukunga has been nominated to Education, Science and Arts docket.

ODPP Call For Consolidated Efforts For Successful Prosecution Of Cases

By: Ann Salaton
@themtkenyetimes

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) in Narok town has called on justice stakeholders to collaborate to ensure criminal cases are successfully investigated, prosecuted and charged in court of law.

The Narok ODPP in-charge Gitonga Murang'a observed the police, local administrators; advocates and the witnesses have a role to play to give justice to the victims.

He condemned members of the public who push for their preferred charges saying the only office mandated by the constitution to draw charges is the ODPP.

Before the 2010 constitution, he recalled, the prosecutors were police officers; however, after the promulgation of the current constitution, the

prosecutors are professional lawyers who are well equipped to advise on the cases.

Thus, not all cases should go to court. This is why prosecutors advise on cases that should move on to criminal court, civil court, or the Alternative Justice System (AJS), continued Murang'a.

"Many cases like land cases should be moved to Environment and Lands Court where the concerned parties are advised and matters resolved. These matters should not be taken to criminal court," he advised.

"My office is the chief legal advisor to criminal matters. My work is to advise the police as they carry out investigations so that the cases can go through in court, but massive interference by the members of the public has led to cases flopping in court," he said.

This means all justice stakeholders have to work closely to get quick justice for their victims of injustice.

More so, the members of the public have a role to play to ensure they give enough evidence that will lead to arrest and proper investigation of cases.

"Our main challenge is that the witnesses give up easily and decline coming to testify in court, making it very difficult to proceed with the cases in court," he added.

He advised the public that if they are not satisfied with the court rulings, they should make a formal complaint to his office so that justice can be served.

The members of the public should also know that sometimes, the court judgment may not favour them and so, they should respect the decision made by the court.

The advice comes at a time when three people were arrested for being in possession of stolen goods, where the members of the public were pushing that the three be charged with robbery with violence.



Gitonga Mugambi

Kirinyaga County Intensifies Crackdown On Illicit Brews After Two Fall Ill

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The County Government of Kirinyaga has intensified its crackdown on illicit alcohol following yesterday's incident where two people were taken ill after allegedly consuming alcohol in Marura, Kangai Ward in Mwea.

The two men were initially treated at Njegas Health Centre then referred to Kerugoya County Referral Hospital for further examination.



An ambulance taking the patients from Njegas Health Center to Kerugoya County Referral Hospital for further examination.

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Sports, Culture and Social Services, Dennis Musyimi, under whose docket alcohol regulation and control lies, confirmed that the patients are in stable condition and dismissed earlier reports that they had gone blind.

"The allegations that the patients have gone blind have been confirmed as false by the doctor. They were examined, found in stable condition and have been taken to Kerugoya Referral hospital for further examination," said Musyimi.

In response, the County Government has launched investigations in the Kangai area to identify the source of the illicit brew and ensure those responsible are held accountable.

"The Mwea West Sub-county Se-

curity Team, in collaboration with county officials, has commenced investigations. We are tracking where the alcohol is being brewed and sold, and updates will be provided as action is taken," Musyimi added.

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure public safety, Musyimi said that the County Government has intensified enforcement of the Kirinyaga County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2024. This includes a comprehensive inspection of bars and other outlets to ensure compliance with licensing regulations, public health standards, and location guidelines such as proximity to schools.

"We are urging all bar owners to continue applying for and renewing

their licenses. Vetting is ongoing, and enforcement teams are conducting regular impromptu visits to ensure compliance," he said.

He warned bar owners against operating without valid licenses and emphasized that compliance with the Kirinyaga County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act 2024 is not optional.

"We have intensified operations against non-compliant outlets. The window for renewing alcoholic drinks outlet licenses is over and anyone caught selling alcohol without a license will be taken to court and prosecuted," he said.

As part of the strategy to curb the menace, the County has also been holding weekly review meetings,



CECM for Sports, Dennis Muciimi(middle), the Chief Officer for Sports Kepha Mugambi (left) and Kirinyaga County Alcohol Control Board Chairman, Maina Kihia address the media.

collecting and testing samples of alcoholic drinks to ensure quality and safety for consumers.

"We have been holding weekly meetings to review alcohol-related matters. Samples of alcoholic drinks are collected regularly for safety checks, and impromptu visits to outlets are ongoing to ensure they meet county standards," he said.

The CECM assured residents that the County government remains committed to eliminating illicit alcohol and safeguarding public health.

While signing the Kirinyaga County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act last year, Governor Anne Waiguru stated

that the act sought to protect the public from the dangers of consumption of illicit and substandard alcohol and provided for the formation of a Multiagency Sub County Alcoholic Drinks Control Committee that draws membership from the national and county governments among other stakeholders.

On his part, the Chairman of the County Liquor Board, Maina Kihia said that anyone found to be selling illicit alcohol will have their licenses revoked.

The Long-Term Success Of UN Tourism Is At Stake – We Must Restore Good Governance And Protect Core Values

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The election of the next Secretary General of UN Tourism marks a critical turning point for the future of global tourism.

There are only two different options:

One, is the path of stagnation: a push for an unprecedented third term, despite widespread criticism and growing concern within the global community. It's a path that has disregarded core United Nations values—including the regional rotation of the role of Secretary-General of UN Tourism.

The other path is a new chapter. A forward-looking vision rooted in more than 35 years of global tour-

ism experience—in both the public and private sectors, at the highest level. The vision of Gloria Guevara is shaped by proven leadership, through some of the most challenging crises the tourism sector has ever faced. Unlike other candidates, Guevara brings a level of international experience that is unmatched.

Guevara has worked with ministers, CEOs, NGOs, SMEs, academia and local communities across all five continents. That's why the support for her campaign is growing every day, with more than 200 global tourism leaders from public and private sector endorsing her vision, they have seen and validated her unmatched track record.

Guevara's mission is clear: to restore good governance and protect UN Tourism values, and to unlock the full power of tourism as a driver of sustainable development and

shared prosperity –

Gloria Guevara stated: "We cannot allow UN Tourism to remain mired in controversy and secrecy any longer. Member states must choose transparency over obscurity. Progress over inertia. Ethics over ego. We simply cannot afford another term of controversy, opacity, and unchecked power. This is our moment to chart a new course for global tourism. I invite you all, to a new era and I am ready with you to lead that change."

We simply cannot afford another term of controversy, and unchecked power. The long-term success of the organization is at stake.

We must choose to move forward and maximize the opportunities ahead with sustainable development, economic growth and positive social impact for communities around the world.



Gloria Guevara.

Government Set To Devolve Passport Issuance - CS Ruku

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyetimes

The government is considering decentralizing the issuance of passports to Huduma Centres countrywide to facilitate a wider reach of the service to Kenyans.

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes, Geoffrey Ruku says once the proposal is operationalized, immigration officers will be deployed at certain Huduma Centres to offer the crucial service at a time when Kenyans continue to increasingly seek jobs abroad.

“Passport application and issuance is one of the services that Kenyans ask whether they are offered at Huduma centers. We shall work closely with the Immigration department to synchronize the service and ensure the documents are processed at selected Huduma centers,” Ruku told journalists.

He spoke after making an impromptu tour of the Kiambu Huduma Cen-

tre in Thika town to assess service delivery. He had arrived at the facility as early as 7am where he found officers set and ready to offer services to Kenyans. He lauded them for their patriotism.

At the same time, the newly appointed CS said the government has undertaken to fast-track the processing of certificates of Good Conduct in the wake of concerns about delays in their issuance across the country.

He noted that applicants have had to wait for weeks and months after having their fingerprints taken, costing thousands of job seekers opportunities as the vital document which is issued by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is key in verifying an individual’s criminal record status.

“We shall collaborate with the relevant agencies to hasten the issuance of the certificates of good conduct because they are time bound as some are required by employers as part of mandatory background checks,” said Ruku.

While reassuring the public that his ministry would work closely with all government departments



Public Service Cabinet Secretary Geoffrey Ruku speaks to journalists at the Kiambu Huduma Center in Thika town yesterday.

to implement practical, timely, and citizen-centered reforms aimed at enhancing service delivery, he challenged the public servants to create an enabling environment for business and investment—whether local or international.

“I request all public servants to familiarize themselves with Article 232 of our Constitution which talks about the principles and values of public service so that we internalize what is in that Article while discharging our duties,” reiterated Ruku.

The CS further announced that thousands of driving licenses and birth certificates are lying in government offices uncollected and appealed to the owners to go for them.

Government, UN Women And Gender Advocates Call For Concerted Action To Curb GBV

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyetimes

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a widespread human rights violation, significantly impacting women and girls across Africa.

Despite legislative efforts, deeply rooted patriarchal norms and unequal power structures continue to perpetuate violence, discrimination, and systemic gender inequalities.

Additionally, GBV continues to manifest in many forms, including domestic violence, sexual harassment and economic disempowerment, limiting the full participation of women and girls in the society.

“The Regional Forum on Positive Masculinity and the Fight Against GBV will inform ratification and implementation of the African Union(AU) Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG) as well as positive masculinity,

“The landmark Convention, now ad-

opted by AU Heads of State and Government, is a critical step towards addressing GBV and advancing gender equality in Africa,” states Ms Anne Wang’ombe, Permanent Secretary, the State Department for Gender, and Affirmative Action.

Experts note that despite the progress made in policy, legislation, and advocacy, deeply entrenched patriarchal norms and unequal power structures continue to enable cycles of violence and discrimination hence the need to promote positive masculinity.

“Positive masculinity is a powerful tool in our collective journey towards gender justice. It calls on men and boys to reject harmful norms that equate manhood with dominance, aggression, or control,

“Instead, it promotes empathy, accountability and respect, and partnership. It also encourages men to become allies to foster healthier relationships” said Ms Antonia N’gabala Sodonon, the Representative for UN Women in Kenya.

She notes that advancing positive masculinity requires practical strategies to challenge harmful gender



Ms. Antonia N’gabala Sodonon, the Representative for UN Women in Kenya and Mr. Willy Buloso, Regional Coordinator, ECPAT International launching the Girls and Young Women-led Assessment Report on Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Tech-facilitated GBV Report during the The Regional Forum on Positive Masculinity and the Fight Against GBV.

norms and engage men and boys meaningfully.

Last month, the global community gathered at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)/Beijing+30 to review progress towards gender equality, 30 years after the Beijing Platform for Action. CSW69

recognised that engaging men and boys is central to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.

“I am happy to report that UN Women, the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and other stakeholders on Gender Equality and

Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) have already facilitated the first draft of the National Male Engagement and Inclusion Strategy,” Ms Sodonon maintained.

Seek Government’s Expert Services For Better Production, KALRO Chairman Urge Farmers

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge alias Wangũkũ has urged farmers country-wide to visit and seek expert advice from government offices on crops and animal husbandry.

Dr Mathenge, a renowned farmer from Nyeri County said both National and County governments have experienced experts, some who sit idle in offices but are ready and willing to help farmers boost production in various sectors.

He noted that with the right information, farmers will be able to increase both quality and quantities of their produce.

“Let us make use of these highly trained and expert officers in government offices. Walk in there and say chairman Wangũkũ has sent you and

present your issues. If you are turned away or not helped send me an SMS and we shall deal with the issue,” advised the KALRO Chairman who spoke from the organization’s Katu-mani centre in Machakos county.

He said at KALRO, one of the key strategy is to ensure farmers are well advised in a timely manner.

“We want to be in touch with the farmers constantly, so that we can provide them with relevant information and advise that will be of great use to them,” said Dr Mathenge.

He said Kenyan farmers are hard-working but sometimes lack crucial information that leads to poor harvest and even losses.

Dr Mathenge told farmers to always seek expert advice and not to depend on unverifiable information in their farming ventures.

“We have seen farmers lied to about many issues and gone ahead to invest capital while they should have sought expert advice from government offices. The government is here to serve us. Let’s make use of it. Go to those offices and seek information. Attend



KALRO Chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge (right) and other stakeholders listening to an expert during a field day organised by his organisation in Kieni constituency last month. Photo/Courtesy.

farmers’ field days and agricultural shows and learn from experts,” he observed.

He noted that during such a rainy season farmers need to be carefully advised on how to take care of their crops and livestock by continuously being informed.



Kenya Risks Collapse Or Renewal Amid Growing Impunity, Says Dr. Kinity

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- “When Kenyans fully grasp the destructive force of impunity, it will spark a national awakening and pave the way for redemption,” he said.
- Dr. Kinity argued that Kenya’s political system, which recycles discredited leaders across regimes, perpetuates economic plunder and human rights abuses. He pointed to a grim history of unresolved atrocities, from the 1969 assassination of Tom Mboya and the 1975 murder of JM Kariuki to the 2013 disappearances of Dickson Bogonko Bosire and Albert Muriuki, the 2016 killing of businessman Jacob Juma, and the 2017 death of electoral official Christopher Msando. The 2022 discovery of over 30 bodies in the Yala River, many suspected victims of extrajudicial killings, further highlights the ongoing crisis.

Kenya’s path to a just and prosperous future lies in ending a deeply rooted culture of impunity that shields corrupt leaders and fuels violence, advises Dr. Isaac Newton Kinity, a counselor, human rights defender and former Secretary General of the Kenya Civil Servants Union.

In a statement, Dr. Kinity declared that the nation’s persistent struggles, marked by rampant corruption, extrajudicial killings, and unresolved political murders, stem from its failure to hold political elites accountable.

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Dr Kinity highlighted a 2023 Human Rights Watch report implicating Kenya’s security forces in over 1,000 extrajudicial killings since 2010, with few perpetrators facing justice, “Those responsible often remain in power or walk free, emboldening further corruption and violence.”

The consequences of impunity, he noted, are stark, draining Kenya’s economy and eroding public trust. High-profile corruption scandals, such as the 2018 National Youth Service scandal, which saw KSh 9 billion vanish, and the 2020 misappropriation of KSh 7.8 billion in Kemsu COVID-19 funds, have crippled public services.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission reported in 2023 that only 5 per cent of major graft cases result in convictions, often due to witness tampering or judicial interference. A 2024 Afrobarometer survey revealed that 68 per cent of Kenyans distrust state institutions, citing impunity as a primary cause.

This distrust, coupled with impunity for past political violence, like the 2007-2008 post-election clashes that killed over 1,100 people, raises the specter of renewed unrest. The 2024 youth-led anti-tax protests, which left at least 50 dead, were fueled by frustration over unaccountable governance. Meanwhile, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights documented 174 abductions and 87 extrajudicial killings between 2022 and 2024, creating a climate of fear that stifles dissent.

Political leaders have offered conflicting responses to the crisis. President William Ruto, elected in 2022 on an anti-corruption platform, vowed to send



Dr Isaac Newton Kinity.

the corrupt to “jail or heaven.” Yet, his appointment of individuals under investigation by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, flagged in a 2023 parliamentary report, has drawn sharp criticism. In a July 2024 address, Ruto insisted his administration was “building a transparent government,” but offered no clear plan to resolve pending graft cases.

National Assembly Majority Leader Kimani Ichung’wah, defending Ruto’s reform agenda in 2022, emphasized reversing “state capture” to serve all Kenyans. However, his support for controversial 2024 cabinet appointments, including, recently, Hannah Cheptumo, deemed unqualified for the Gender Ministry, sparked accusations of enabling impunity. Ichung’wah brushed off critics, stating, “Leadership is about potential, not perfection.”

Opposition leader Raila Odinga, in a 2023 speech, accused the government of “institutionalizing impunity” through selective prosecutions and unchecked police brutality, calling for an independent judiciary to restore accountability.

However, upon forming the broad-based government, Raila has been silent on the impunity and other ills perpetuated by the Kenya Kwanza regime.

Religious leaders have been equally vocal, amplifying the call for justice. In November 2024, the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops accused Ruto’s government of perpetuating a “culture of lies” and failing to curb corruption and human rights abuses. Archbishop Maurice Muhatia declared, “Impunity is a cancer eating away at Kenya’s soul. Leaders must fear God and serve justice.”

The National Council of Churches of Kenya, led by Rev. Canon Chris Kinyanjui, condemned political interference in churches, citing a Sh5 million donation by Ruto aide Farouk Kibet to a West Pokot church in 2024 as an example of entrenching impunity.

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, through Chairman Hassan Ole Naado, urged the government in 2023 to prioritize justice for victims of extrajudicial killings, warning that impunity breeds resentment and risks radicaliza-

tion.

Dr. Kinity questioned how leaders tied to past crimes could deliver justice, pointing to recent parliamentary decisions that approved cabinet nominees who failed constitutional vetting standards, such as Stephen Isaboke, reassigned from the ICT Ministry due to conflicts of interest.

The 2024 anti-tax protests, which forced Ruto to scrap a Finance Bill and reshuffle his cabinet, signal a growing public demand for accountability. Drawing a biblical parallel, Dr. Kinity urged Kenyans to seek an untainted leader, as David was chosen for Israel.

“God foresaw Kenya’s struggles and likely anointed someone free from this mess,” he said. “Kenyans must reject those responsible for their suffering and open their hearts to divine guidance. Recycling figures from corrupt regimes ensures impunity thrives,” he said.

Murang’a Delegation To Search For Avocado, Tea And Coffee Markets In USA, China

By:Bernard Munyao
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Governor Irungu Kang’ata on the other hand will lead another team to search for markets in China from next week.
- Kang’ata has underscored the high-quality coffee produced in Kenya saying currently consumption of coffee by Chinese is increasing tremendously.
- He said representatives of farmers will accompany the county officials to meet possible buyers from the two countries.
- “In China, we will search for a market for both avocado and coffee. Murang’a currently is leading in production of avocado in the country and getting direct markets for our farmers will bring increased returns,” he said.
- He said China, with a population of 1.4 billion, is the second most populous nation globally and has recently started adopting the coffee taking culture.



Murang’a County Governor Dr Irungu Kang’ata addressing his supporters in the past.

Two Murang’a delegations will embark on a mission to search for avocado, coffee and tea markets in the USA and China.

One delegation led by Deputy Governor Stephen Munania will by the end of this week tour and meet various investors in the United States of America anticipating securing a market for coffee and avocado produced in Murang’a.

Munania’s delegation is slated to hold meetings in the States of Boston and Washington DC on Saturday and Sunday.

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The high population, he said, may turn the country into one of the biggest coffee markets globally.

He noted that coffee, tea and avocado are main cash crops in the county with thousands of locals depending on them.

“Farmers representatives in the delegation have been nominated by co-operative societies; they will help in getting the best markets from the two countries,” he remarked.

The current main markets for Kenyan coffee include Belgium, the United States, Germany, South Korea, and Sweden among others, most of whom buy the commodity through the Nairobi Coffee Exchange.

The governor underscored some measures his administration is implementing to increase coffee production, saying the current price of coffee has increased in the last few years.

Kang’ata observed that in the past year, Murang’a lagged behind Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Kiambu and Bomet in coffee payments but that it has since risen to the second position after Kirinyaga.

“The county has also been leading in the tea sector and raked in Sh17 billion in revenue last year while producing 33 percent of the avocados exported from the country,” he added.

Kang’ata further noted after the trip, the county government will hold an investment conference to bring together manufacturers and processors with the aim of showcasing investment opportunities available in the county.

“This conference will be held in June. We expect participants to include those engaged in value-addition of the various agricultural products,” he said.

The governor urged farmers to increase their production to earn more money from the efforts being put in place by both levels of governments to support them.

The county has an avocado farmers’ association that brings farmers together while the tea sector is managed by tea factories that contract KTDA as their management agency and the coffee sector is led through coffee cooperative societies.

Othaya MP Launches Hydraulic Press Machine For His Constituents

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyetimes

Othaya Constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima has launched a machine that will ease operations of some artisans in the area.

The MP noted that mechanical department evolves around skilled personnel who play a vital role in building, maintaining and repairing machinery, especially engines.

While commissioning the hydraulic press machine which he donated through his charity organisation; Wambugu Wainaina Foundation, the MP noted that the machine will be used to remove and install bearings, bushings, gears, ball joints, U-joints, pulleys, etc.

“It is easy to operate. You will be able

to create substantial pressure for your arbor and press-out jobs, with little effort,” he observed after commissioning it at Kiaraho-ini Artisans Jua Kali Association yard.

The press can also be used for electric motor and armature repair, installation and removal of pressure-fitted parts, and bending or straightening of metals both in vehicles and motorcycles.

The move comes as other several projects, through his foundation are ongoing in various parts of the Constituency.

These include building decent houses of underprivileged residents and settling school fees and hospital bills for the less fortunate.



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina while commissioning the hydraulic machine. Photo/Courtesy.

Government Shuts Down Church, Rescue 57 People In Rongo Town

By: George Agimba and Polycarp Ochieng
@themkenyetimes

Melkio St Joseph’s Missions of Messiah Church in Opapo-Rongo Town has been closed indefinitely following a series of alarming events and public outcry regarding an unknown number of deaths and illegal burials associated with the church.

In a dramatic turn of events on the eve of Easter Monday, a family came forward to claim the body of their father, whose burial was being planned to happen within the precinct of the controversial church. Church members insisted that they were honouring the deceased’s will.

The family, accompanied by police officers, stormed the church, rescuing 57 members, including the body of the deceased.

Deputy County Commissioner for Rongo, George Matundura, who spoke to the media about the situation, acknowledged receiving information, which prompted their action.

“We were informed of sick and injured individuals within the church, which is why we are here. We have successfully rescued 57 faithful from this facility,” he explained.

Matundura noted that the sick and

injured have been taken to receive medical attention, and the police have assumed control of the church facility.

He also revealed that two bodies were found at the location, and the cause of death is yet to be determined pending postmortem examinations.

The raid and rescue follow the Church officials’ denial of claims and rumors suggesting that multiple individuals had been secretly buried in the church compound in the past in a cult-like movement.

The church has faced controversies in the past, particularly concerning the burial of a GSU officer within its grounds. The officer, who died on March 27, 2025, was buried on March 28 following a burial permit obtained by his wife from local authorities, allowing interment according to the church’s doctrine.

Ms Jacinter Achieng, the daughter of one of the deceased, alleged that her father died due to assaults from locals and the family of the GSU officer who stormed the church a week earlier.

“My father, a staunch church follower, was in good health until the attack that left him injured and ultimately led to his death,” lamented Achieng.



Deputy County Commissioner for Rongo, George Matundura

She emphasised that her uncles took the body against her father’s wishes, as he had expressed a desire to be buried in the church compound.

“They took my father’s body by force, despite our advocate having his will stating he wanted to be buried here. I fear I will be haunted by him for not honouring his request,” she said.

Achieng urged the government to intervene and ensure her father’s wishes are respected, vowing never to attend a burial outside the church compound.

Similarly, a congregant from the church defended its practices amid accusations.

“Despite the accusations against us, we are simply practicing our faith, which is guaranteed by the constitution as freedom of worship,” she stated.

She refuted claims that the church prohibits members from seeking medical treatment, clarifying that health decisions are personal.

Furthermore, she asserted that all burials within the church compound are known to the government and are legally sanctioned by burial permits issued by local chiefs.

“We are being falsely accused of burying people here illegally. Every individual buried here is documented and authorised by the government through the burial permits,” she concluded.

The Amazing Leader Dr. Piya Ratna Maharjan



By: Anila Bukhari
Pakistan

Dr. Piya Ratna Maharjan is a renowned social, community development, and humanitarian worker from Kathmandu, Nepal. With extensive experience in youth development and international affairs, he has made a significant impact globally. As the International President of the International Youth Society (IYS) and Founder of Track Nepal, Dr. Maharjan has been a driving force for positive change.

A Leader with a Global Reach

Dr. Maharjan's work has taken him to various international platforms, including the World Economic Forum, World Humanitarian Forum, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UN Women, and the Parliament of World Religions. He has been a vocal advocate for peace-building, social and community development, and youth empowerment.

Empowering the Next Generation

One of Dr. Maharjan's most notable achievements is the founding of Metta Center, an orphanage school that has served over twenty years, focusing on the holistic development of orphaned children. His dedication

to education and social welfare has inspired countless young people.

A Champion for Sustainable Development

As a strong supporter of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Dr. Maharjan works tirelessly to localize social, economic, climate change, and environmental campaigns. His leadership roles in various organizations, including the International Youth Society and Track Nepal, have enabled him to make a meaningful impact globally.

A Legacy of Compassion and Service

Through his work, Dr. Maharjan has demonstrated a deep commitment to serving humanity. His affiliations with numerous organizations, including the United Nations World Peace Association and the Stockholm World Peace Committee, reflect his dedication to creating a more peaceful and harmonious world. Dr. Piya Ratna Maharjan's remarkable journey serves as an inspiration to leaders and individuals worldwide, showcasing the power of compassion, determination, and service to others.



We Are Our Duty To Protect Ecology



By: Mardonova Marjona Muxsin
Student of Bukhara Region Romitan District 1st Polytechnic College

Annotation:

This article is dedicated to the issue of pollution, which is threatening human life and ecology. Protecting ecology is our duty until we achieve clean air and a clean environment. Today, along with human progress, the negative impacts on the environment are also increasing. This article discusses our responsibility to fulfill this important task placed upon us.

Keywords: Ecology, greenery, renaissance, atmosphere, pollution, chemical substances, diseases

Introduction: ECOLOGY.

What do we actually understand by ecology? In today's renaissance era, due to many technologies and chemical substances, we are causing the destruction of Mother Earth. Many wastes are arising because of our negligence. Even plastic containers alone are becoming a threat to our

lives. Protecting ecology is our duty, and in order to restore greenery and revive ecology, we must take certain actions.

Main part:

First of all, we must participate in campaigns for planting seedlings. If we want to contribute to our homeland, we should wait for the planting season, which usually starts with the arrival of spring. The next step is to protect the environment. For example, when we hear the cheerful chirping of swallows, we realize that spring is near. By this, I mean that we should take care of the leaves left after winter and maintain trees, whether it is in streets, neighborhoods, cities, or villages, without forgetting our responsibility, and keep our surroundings clean and tidy.

By performing these two actions, we are indeed contributing to the protection of our homeland.

Finally, the third step:

We humans sometimes follow this rule, but sometimes we don't. It is important to sort our trash and dispose of it properly into waste bins. If we do this, we will create opportunities for healthier breathing and living. Due to unmanaged waste, nowadays, various serious diseases are emerging, some even leading to fatal outcomes for humanity.

Conclusion:

Dear fellow citizens, in this era full of development, new technologies, and chemical substances, it is crucial to protect ecology – for our own benefit. Protecting ecology is truly our duty.

Mahaba Pumbao Lao



Raha kwao wajengao,penzi pamwe hufaidi
Mahaba pumbao lao

4.

Hayana mkali 'wao',popote hubisha hodi
Halichelei komoo,uongo unapozidi
Ovyo haliitwi 'njoo',kiranga hukikaidi
Mahaba pumbao lao

5.

Ni la wawili ambaa,kawajalia Wadudi
Ndilo zela radhi zao,lisozazwa mazidadi
Viapo vyake ni 'ndio',ya mtima kuahidi
Mahaba pumbao lao

6.

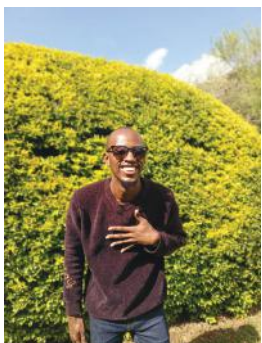
Beti tandatu mgao,pokeeni ni zawadi
Na nduzangu mtungao,sitaki kuki la ngwidi
Utungo wasema nao,nyonda wa mja wahedi
Mahaba pumbao lao

3.

Mshumaa uwakao,upepo haukaidi
Usipozingwa na hao,huba hubaki miadi

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NAIROBI🇰🇪

Nalilia Penzi Letu



Hata nipate simanzi, huwati kunioneya
Nalilia penzi letu, wewe ukanisikiya

Nilidhani ni kurunzi, mwanga utaning'ariya
Kadhani ni mkufunzi, penzi nitakufunziya
Kumbe mie mwanagenzi, sijui kwa kujendeya

Na hata wewe kimanzi, hutaki kunisikiya
Nalilia penzi letu, wewe ukanisikiya

Nilipokupea penzi, niliweza kukwambiya
Kwamba heri unienzi, katika hini duniya
Ila sasa ni majonzi, kwayo ulonitendaya
Kwani ulokuwa mwenzi, umebadili tambiya

Nalilia letu penzi, mwenzangu kanisikiya

Maneno yako kisunzi, hakika yamenitiya
Nikasalia mshenzi, wewe kinikarapiya
Hunioni ni mpenzi, peupe wanitaniya

Wanjohi. P. Mugambi (Dr)
Malenga Kitunguu Machoni

I Don't Talk To Ruto, Former CS Mithika Linturi Says

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “We have not spoken for ling. The last time we spoke was when we visited the State House together with Meru bishops. Why should the President lie that we talk? I also don't want his job,” Mithika said.
- He added that he does not want a state appointment and will look for his own job hinting he might vie for a political seat in 2027. Mithika was second in the Meru gubernatorial seat after he lost to former governor Kawira Mwangaza in 2022.
- The former Meru Senator who is known to shoot from the hip said Kenyans are tired of lies.
- He said the projects President William Ruto was launching in Meru are not his while others have not even commenced.



Former Cabinet Secretary Mithika Linturi when he was hosted by Weru TV on Sunday. Photo/Courtesy.

A former Cabinet Secretary has sensationally come out of guns blazing and fired salvos at President William Ruto for lying to Kenyans.

Former Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Mithika Linturi said he was not in talks with President William Ruto as he claimed a fortnight ago during his visit to Meru where he insinuated he would be offering state jobs to him and former CS Peter Munya.

This is after Meru governor Mutuma M'ethingia asked the President to give Munya and Mithika appointments.

During the tour, President Ruto said he talks to Mithika and will soon reward him with a state job.

“We have not spoken for ling. The last time we spoke was when we visited the State House together with Meru bishops. Why should the President lie that we talk? I also don't want his job,” Mithika said.

He added that he does not want a state appointment and will look for his own job hinting he might vie for a political seat in 2027. Mithika was second in the Meru gubernatorial seat after he lost to former governor Kawira Mwangaza in 2022.

The former Meru Senator who is known to shoot from the hip said Kenyans are tired of lies.

He said the projects President William Ruto was launching in Meru are not his while others have not even commenced.

“I respect Meru and am not going to be silent anymore permanently we have like minded people who are saying things are not going on well the like minded people are Meru residents on ground who are saying there is no Market in Kianjai, the people who use St Ann-Miomponi road are being lied to that the contractor is on the road while nothing meaningful has happened,” Mithika said.

He added the Maua sewerage system that was commissioned by President William Ruto was initiated by former Kitui governor Charity Ngilu when she was minister for water.

“I was the member of parliament when Charity Ngilu commissioned the project after I asked from former Prime minister Raila Odinga when we were in New York with him,” Mithika said.

The former Igembe South MP said he tried to mend his relationship with President William Ruto but it became

irreconcilable.

“I have known President William Ruto for about 20 years we have been friends with whom we met during President Moi's regime,” he said.

He said President William Ruto has done a mockery to the Kenyan constitution by agreeing with the broad-base government because there is no vibrant opposition to check the government and parliament has gone to bed with the executive making Kenyans suffer.

“Bringing the country together doesn't mean you bring the opposition to government who will defend the people the opposition mandate is to check the government,”

Mithika added that SHA is not working and Kenyans do not want housing tax.

“Parliament has gone to bed with executive for instance how did the legislators allow the housing levy yet those who are taxed are not going to own the house,” he added

He spoke in Meru on the vernacular TV station Weru TV over Easter holiday.

Asked why he is coming out to reveal such things when it's too late, he said they were not agreeing on all

things in the cabinet.

“Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua did not agree with the housing levy as he said there was no need of taxing people who are already paying mortgage,” he said.

He defended Rigathi Gachagua saying that he was defending the people and was always truthful and factual.

Mithika said he has been silent for nine months but now he was irked by lies and will now come out guns blazing.

He said it is not automatic that Meru will vote for President Ruto in 2027.

“I think we made a terrible mistake and we need to apologise to the people of Meru by supporting President William Ruto blindly without any agreements,” he said.

BUSINESS

Kenya Ramps Up Anti-Money Laundering Measures With Support From IMCTC



By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- “Kenya recognizes that effectively countering terrorism financing requires robust international cooperation, shared intelligence, harmonized legal frameworks, and continuous capacity development. It is in this context that we value our partnership with the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition a coalition of 42 nations committed to confronting extremism and violence in all its forms,” she continued to say.
- The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including representatives from government institutions, regulatory authorities, financial entities, and law enforcement agencies, the program aims to enhance the institutional capacity of IMCTC member states, with a focus on strengthening tools for detection, analysis, and response to financial crimes.

Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Defence Soipan Tuya has officially launched a four-day training program for combating terrorism financing and money laundering, Organized by the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) in Nairobi. This training is aimed at combating terrorism financing and money laundering, marking a significant step in regional and international efforts to address financial crimes linked to terrorism.

Titled “Countering Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering,” The multi-agency training seeks to strengthen IMCTC member states’ capabilities to detect, disrupt and dismantle illicit financial flows.

“The threat of terrorism continues to evolve, its impact devastating lives, destabilizing societies, and undermining development across the globe. Our region, too, has not been immune to its destructive consequences. While we have made significant progress in disrupting terrorist networks and degrading their capabilities, one area remains a persistent and strategic enabler of terrorism: the financing mechanisms that sustain these groups, terrorist financing fuels recruitment, planning, logistics, and operations,” said CS Tuya.

She further stated that without addressing the financial lifelines that sustain these networks, the broader counter-terrorism efforts risk being undermined, stating that the collaboration between Kenya and IMCTC directly aligns with the national strategy on counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering.

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Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Defence and Major General Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, Secretary-General of the IMCTC, during the official launch of the training program titled “Countering Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering” in Nairobi.

Major General Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, the Secretary General of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), highlighted that IMCTC was established with a clear vision aimed at coordinating international efforts against terrorism. “This Coalition was established with a clear vision aimed at unifying ranks to strengthen ideological, media, military, and financial capabilities in the fight against terrorism. As part of this strategy, the Coalition launches initiatives to build capacities and train professionals working in counterterrorism fields. Today, under the umbrella of international cooperation, we celebrate the launch of this strategic initiative specifically focused on countering terrorism financing recognizing that fighting terrorism goes beyond military dimensions. It requires tackling financial flows, raising legal awareness, and tracking suspicious transactions,” he stated.

He also underscored that terrorist financing has become the lifeline of extremist groups, and countering it requires enhanced cooperation among states and financial institutions, along with intensified efforts to confront this threat.

“As we all know, financing is the lifeline of terrorist organizations, and confronting it requires stronger international cooperation and the development of mechanisms to monitor, trace, and analyze suspicious financial flows. It also involves information sharing and capacity building to

ensure a safer and more stable environment,” remarked Al-Moghedi.

Over the course of the week, participants will explore several critical themes, including the international legal framework governing money laundering and terrorist financing, methodologies in financial analysis, cross-border cooperation, and strategies for prevention and awareness.

Established in 2015 by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, IMCTC serves as a multilateral platform uniting over 40 member states to counter terrorism through a multidimensional approach encompassing military, ideological, media, and counter-financing strategies. Headquartered in Riyadh, IMCTC has played a growing role in facilitating knowledge exchange and

capacity building across the Islamic world.

Experts presenting during the training are expected to draw attention to emerging threats and evolving tactics used in financial crime, such as the misuse of digital currencies, shell companies, and trade-based laundering. Interactive workshops and scenario-based exercises will provide attendees with practical skills to strengthen enforcement, policy development, and financial oversight.

The program seeks to establish a deeper understanding of international legal frameworks, related agreements, the development of financial analysis tools, and regional and international cooperation.



The IMCTC official launch of the training program titled ‘Countering Terrorism Financing and Money Laundering’, in Nairobi.

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The Goal Of Achieving Universal Electricity Coverage Must Be Accompanied By Stringent Safety Compliance



By: Daniel Kiptoo Bargoria
@themkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) has put in place frameworks to guide safety standards in the country. Just last year, the Authority added the Energy (Electricity Incident and Accident Reporting) Regulations, 2024 which are aimed at enhancing safety in the power sector, while establishing a structured framework for incident and accident reporting.
- The draft regulations, now in their final stage of approval, provide an anticipatory approach to safety for everyone involved. All players are expected to take pre-emptive precautions to avert accidents owing to poor wiring, maintenance or use of derelict equipment. Energy companies are expected to prioritise the health and safety of electrical workers, consumers and the general public.

Kenya is inching closer to universal access to electricity with each new connection. The country is nearing the 10 millionth customer with the cumulative number of grid-connected customers standing at over 9.8 million as at December 2024, according to the Energy and Petroleum Statistics Report. Part of the call to ensure a sustainable energy sector with the increased grid connections is the need for safety compliance.

Why? The Energy and Petroleum Statistics Report further indicates that there was a spike in electricity-related accidents to 153 in the period ending June 2024 compared to 116 cases reported during a similar period in 2023. Of these cases, 98 were fatal.

A closer examination of the accidents reveals that 80% were attributed to three key factors: poor safety culture within organisations (38.56%), defective or fallen power lines (26.80%), and substandard customer wiring (16.34%), which calls for more attention to safety in the electricity sub-sector.

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Instilling a culture of safety requires collaborative effort

To attain sector wide safety compliance however, everyone must come on board and play their part. At the consumer level, this journey starts with understanding the levels of safety required. For instance, individuals should be mindful to use licensed electrical workers for home installations because this ensures the quality of work done is good and in case of any grievances, the customer can get help from the Authority and relevant associations in the dispute resolution process. A database of licensed electrical contractors/workers is available on the EPRA website for reference.



Home and business premises owners should also know that upon completion of electrical works, one should be issued with completion and test certificates. This is important because in case your property is destroyed by an electrical fault, you are likely not to receive compensation from your insurance company if you fail to prove engagement of a licensed electrical contractor/ worker.

Further, frameworks are in place requiring dealers and manufacturers to adhere to Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), ensuring only quality products are available in local markets. This initiative is critical in promoting safety across the electricity value chain, as substandard electrical appliances and equipment pose significant risks of fire, electrocution, and other hazards. MEPS not only establish stringent benchmarks for energy efficiency but also serve as a safeguard against counterfeit or low-quality products infiltrating the

market.

Enforcing compliance with MEPS ensures that products meet predetermined safety and performance criteria. For example, electrical wiring, circuit breakers, and energy-consuming appliances must undergo rigorous testing and certification before they reach consumers. This reduces the likelihood of failures, malfunctions, and the associated risks to both end-users and infrastructure.

In the transport sector, the deployment of electric vehicles (EVs) and associated infrastructure, such as charging stations, introduces new safety considerations, including high-voltage equipment handling, battery storage, and the safe disposal of components. Comprehensive regulations must address risks such as electrical fires, overloading of existing power grids, and improper installation of charging systems.

Aligning Standards for Enhanced

Safety and Growth

Globally, discussions on electrical safety underscore the importance of unified frameworks and the need to align national standards with international best practices. Countries that have prioritised safety compliance have demonstrated how proactive measures, such as enforcing stringent product quality standards, lead to sustainable growth and consumer trust.

As Kenya continues to expand its electrical infrastructure to meet rising energy demands, the power sector must adopt this holistic perspective. By working collectively, embracing accountability, and maintaining unwavering commitment to safety, we can build an electrical sector that is not only reliable and efficient but also a global benchmark for operational excellence.

The writer is the Director General at the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA)

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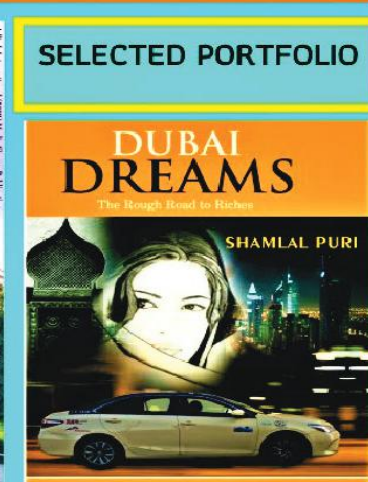
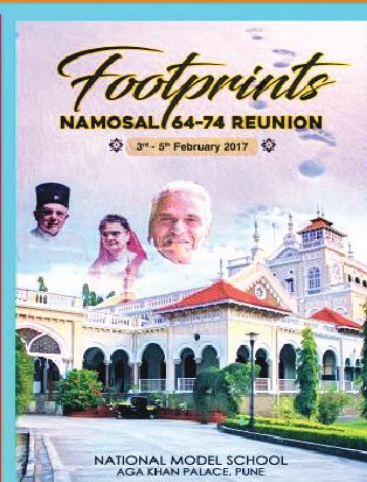
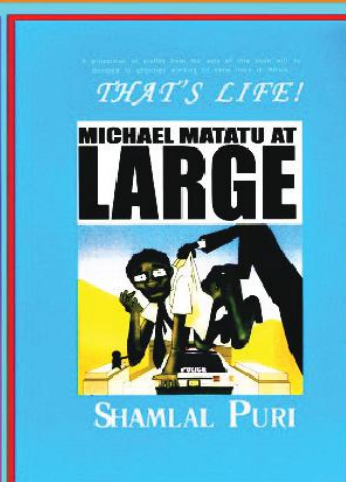
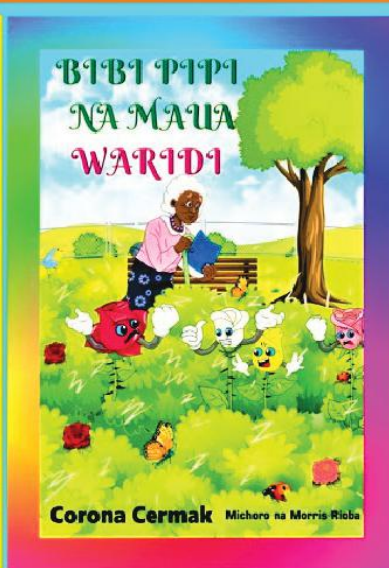
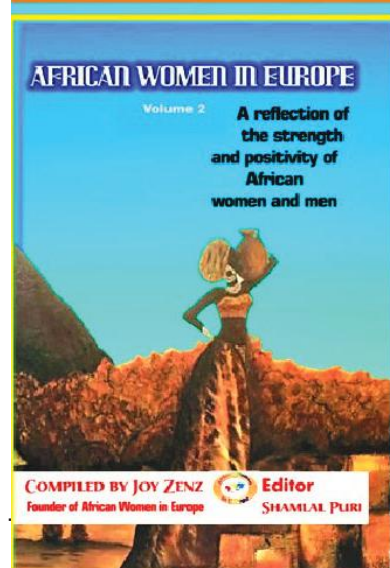
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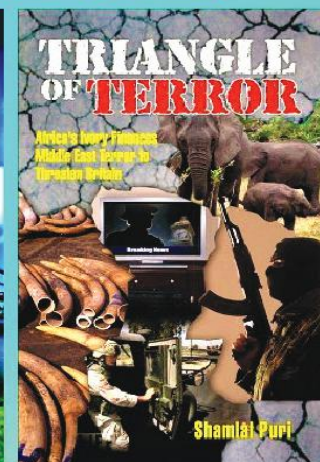
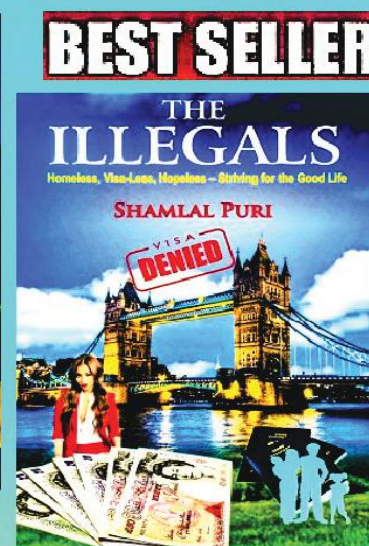
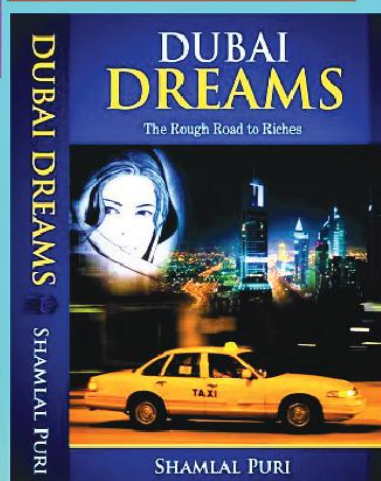
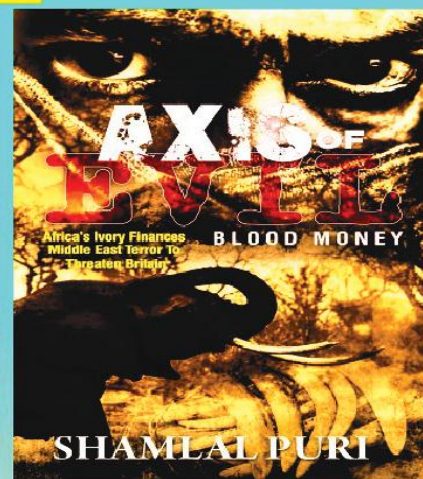
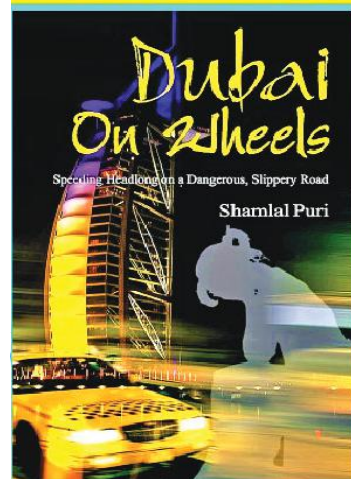
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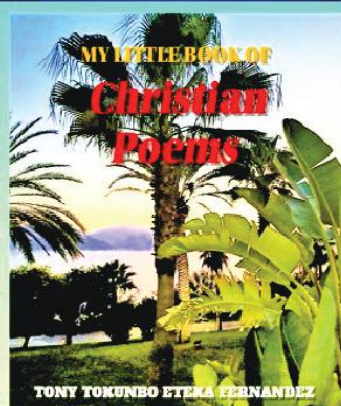
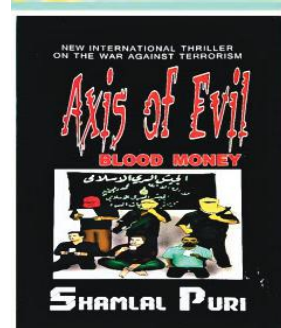
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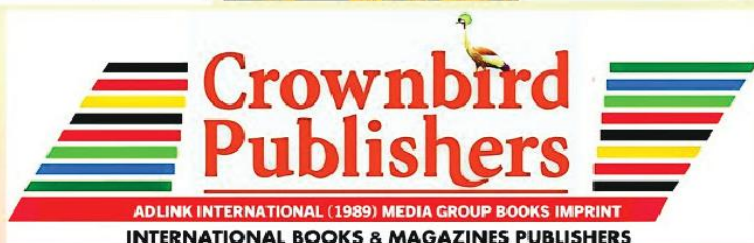


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The Root Cause Of Insurgencies And Organized Criminal Gangs, Vital In Combating The Threat



By: Dennis Wendo
Email: dambehi@gmail.com



Worth Noting:

- On the contrary non-state armed groups like Mungiki, Gaza, Panga Boys, 42 Brothers, Wakali Kwanza, Katalang, Kayole, Nabuyole Boys, Confirm, Jobless or terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaeda seek to disrupt or undermine the state to take it over or put in place an alternative political system.
- Either way these groups display a history of emerging in response to social, political and economic inequalities and the discontent they engender. The dreaded Chinkororo in the Abagusii community, whose initial motive was to guard the Gusii border residents against cattle raiding from the neighboring communities and arbitrate disputes, mutated to include elements of political violence.

The resurgence of nascent militia and organized criminal gangs that has beset the country piles pressure on the local, peri-urban and urban communes, investors and the state security agencies. There is a need to delve deeper into the systemic surge and confront the menace with precision, lest it spirals into undesirable and more hurting effects.

The existence of non-state armed and community-based armed groups dates back to the pre and post-independence era. Many times these groups started off as community protection wings and gradually evolved into vigilantes.

Community-based armed groups are a subset of Non-state armed groups, elucidated by their link to the state and local communities and the ways they wield power. They do not typically go after large political ambitions and strategies, other than the confined goals of their collaborators. They can be aligned with the state for complementary roles, for instance the licensed private security providers and the promoters of Nyumba Kumi initiative. However, some tend to abuse their legitimacy, dominion and softly transition to non-state armed groups.

On the contrary non-state armed groups like Mungiki, Gaza, Panga Boys, 42 Brothers, Wakali Kwanza, Katalang, Kayole, Nabuyole Boys, Confirm, Jobless or terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaeda seek to disrupt or undermine the state to take it over or put in place an alternative political system.

Either way these groups display a history of emerging in response to social, political and economic inequalities and the discontent they engender. The dreaded Chinkororo in the Abagusii community, whose initial motive was to guard the Gusii border residents against cattle raiding from the neighboring communities and arbitrate disputes, mutated to include elements of political violence. Like the Sungu Sungu from the same society, they are criminal gangs, vigilantes for economic and political hire by the highest bidder, instruments for mayhem and settling post-election scores.

The drivers and facets of motivation towards the genesis and perpetrators of insurgencies vary across regions. For instance, in Mombasa, historical Injustices, the government response to militia and proximity to the local administrative units have been in the forefront in catalyzing the formation of criminal gangs. In Mombasa, by contrast, drug lords involved in the



international and highly profitable narcotics trade have both formal and informal security providers on their payroll.

In Nairobi, gun permeation has accelerated the rise of terror gangs. The size of militia and weapons of choice, police-militia symbiosis, relationship between militia and politicians and how the government deals with militia continue to play a role in the escalation of non-state armed groups across the country.

Largely, non-state armed groups are formed and hired by political actors for their own protection during rallies as well as hirelings to intimidate and attack political opponents. This precedent is dangerous and likely to yield more retaliatory counter terror gangs.

By and large, there exists a huge gap between the rich and the poor and subsequent marginalization due to ethnic-based politics and to certain extent culture and religion. A sizable number of Kenyans feel the country is headed in the wrong direction with cries of massive youths' unemployment, high cost of living, use of security excesses and corruption.

Radicalization and violent extremism appears to be scaling up. The country is in a top gear electioneering mood. A majority of Kenyans feel depressed and stressed. Perhaps this has propelled the presence of at least an instance of activity by non-state armed groups in almost every region of the country as a substitute avenue to make their ends meet.

The April 2025 National Crime Research Centre report, portrays a concerning picture of the spread and impact of organized criminal gangs in Kenya, highlighting their role in various crimes and their potential threat to national security. According to the report, organized criminal groups increased from 33, banned in the year 2010 to 326 groups in 2017, reflecting an exponential growth

of 897% within 7 years or 128% growth per annum.

The report further indicates that there are 309 criminal gangs in 11 counties, Mombasa leads with 73 followed by Nairobi 56 gangs and Kilifi 47. It details the prevalence and activities of criminal gangs, including those involved in terrorism, drug and human trafficking and cross border smuggling.

These unlawful groups broadly championed by youths aged between 18-34yrs continue to pose danger despite being banned under the Kenyan Prevention of Organized Crime Act of 2010.

The recent perpetual attacks to congregants in places of worship, political gatherings and residential areas is alarming. Open violence and robberies, extortion, misuse of drugs and substance abuse, burglary, muggings, looting, rape, destruction of property and murders have been reported courtesy of the gangs. There is a lot of growing fear and panic in the air and many feel the situation is likely to magnify ahead of the next general elections if not checked and dealt with decisively.

Though the state has given the assurance of normalizing the security situation in affected areas where the gangs appear to be on rampage, it remains salient for the government to focus on the root causes and catalysts of these insurgencies as well as strengthen the existing infrastructure and policies for a long term sustainable remedy.

Given the influence and growing presence and diversity of these groups, it is critical to adopt strategies on how well the non-state armed groups can be engaged, managed and transformed to play constructive roles in local communities as well as understand how their operations can exacerbate fragility and violence.

Notably, shifts in non-state armed groups identities and exercise of vi-

olence causes fictionalization within the groups, an indicator that not all members accept new modes of operating, especially if new norms challenge long-held organizational principles. In these transition moments, non-state armed groups are vulnerable, they can split apart, while certain factions may harden to commit acts of violence. The government should be poised to act in these transitional moments.

The government can seek to leverage different groups to control the increasingly hardened faction and further isolate and contain it as it attempts to consolidate and expand its organization. Any engagement strategy for the groups, needs to address the social norms of violence, the history of state or community management or manipulation of armed groups and their legitimacy.

Engagement strategies need to take into consideration the internal characteristics, such as sources of legitimacy and loyalty, leadership capacities, recruiting pool and institutional structures. A non-state armed group with extensive resources, whose members enjoy economic benefits, may be more attracted to employment-based or compensation-based transitions.

On the other hand, members motivated by an internal set of principles and norms may be more attracted to transition programs that are more spiritual, intellectual or rooted in community service, such as becoming an emergency response and rescue group.

As the government focuses at addressing the challenges being met by the non-state armed groups to its citizens, it remains crucial for the state to holistically conceive the intensity of these threats as a func-

Celebrating Earth Day: A Renewed Push To Triple Clean Energy By 2030

By: Mary Blessing Ahairiirwe
@themtkenyentimes

Yesterday Women for Green Economy Movement (WoGEM) Uganda joined the global Earth Day celebration, themed “OUR POWER, OUR PLANET.” This year’s focus on renewable energy and the push to triple clean energy by 2030 resonates deeply with our core mission. We recognize that individual action is crucial, but a collective shift towards sustainability is essential for the health of our planet.

The theme directly amplifies our long-standing advocacy for a transition away from fossil fuels. We champion renewable energy sources like biogas, which are clean, sustainable, and significantly safer for both human health and the environment.

The burning of fossil fuels has dire consequences, including exposing pregnant mothers to air pollution from emissions. This pollution has been linked to increased miscarriages and stillbirths, causing profound trauma and depression for the affected mothers and their loved ones.

Furthermore, the reliance on non-renewable energy sources jeopardizes future generations into uncertainty and fear of the unknown.

On this Earth Day, we urge everyone, especially responsible authorities, to embrace the call for clean energy by 2030. This commitment is not just about the environment, it’s about safeguarding human health and ensuring a viable future.

While we emphasize the power of clean energy this year, we acknowledge that Earth Day encompasses the broader protection of our planet, including the preservation of wetlands, swamps, and water bodies. These vital ecosystems are critical for biodiversity, climate regulation, and providing clean water.

Traveling by bus today, I witnessed the disheartening act of people throwing plastic bags and empty water bottles out the windows. This sight makes me wonder if we fully appreciate Mother Earth’s importance to all living beings.

Moments like these call for everyone to take action. Be your neighbor’s keeper, advise them on proper waste disposal instead of ignoring such actions. The consequences of pollution affect not just individuals but also our country, continent, and the entire globe.

Protecting Earth means safeguarding all its creations, including wetlands, swamps, and water bodies. Be the

citizen who plants trees in your community. Protect swamps and wetlands from encroachment for settlements and other human activities.

Let’s strive in making conscious choices and actively participating in environmental stewardship. By embracing sustainable practices, we ensure a healthy planet for generations to come. Let’s strive to create a world

where environmental protection is a daily commitment. Be Mother Earth’s guardian, protecting her from everyday harm.

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



The Root Cause Of Insurgencies And Organized Criminal Gangs, Vital In Combating The Threat

Contd from page 20

tion of distance decay. This provides both space and time for non-state actors to undermine the state. Distance decay spawns security gaps, which if sustained, allow bandit groups to create and consolidate favorable spaces to the extent that they facilitate the nourishment and reproduction of bandit fields of accumulation.

There is a need to combine and strengthen policies rooted in the National security apparatus. These include internal security defence, foreign and economic policies. These have to be advanced and mobilized through instruments of national power to precisely deal with these threats and vulnerabilities.

Enhanced voluntary intelligence cooperation is imperative. Civic

competence is key for any attempt to build up intelligence extraction from society. It is also critical to enhance citizen resistance to local criminals. The converse of this is the current phenomena referred to as security infantilization. This is characterized by situations where citizens are afraid to let the government protect them and instead opt to depend on criminals to create a permanent state of anxiety and counter institutional and symbolic violence.

There is a need for the state to boost its county intelligence security committees, the conception of jointness and leverage on modernized technology to tame insurgencies. Nations such as DR Congo, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia where terror gangs have taken control, the states have retrogressively sunk into anarchy and civil war bringing forth a lot of atrocities, gross human rights abuse to innocent citizens and a shutdown to systems of gov-



Insurgencies And Organized Criminal Gangs

ernance. The rule of law ought to prevail with financiers and agents of terror gangs held accountable by enforcing stringent fines, penalties,

sanctions and jail terms.

Dennis Wendo
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Sports >> * Manchester United are interested in signing Wolves forward Matheus Cunha this summer.

Manchester United Interested In Wolves' Cunha



FILE PHOTO: Soccer Football - LaLiga - Atletico Madrid v Girona - Metropolitano, Madrid, Spain - October 8, 2022 Atletico Madrid's Matheus Cunha shoots at goal REUTERS/Violeta Santos Moura/File Photo.

By Agencies

Manchester United are interested in signing Wolves forward Matheus Cunha this summer.

The Brazilian, who has a £62.5m release clause in his Wolves contract, is expected to leave Molineux at the end of the season.

Multiple club sources have revealed that the 25-year-old is one of a number of attacking options on United's shortlist, with Ipswich Town striker Liam Delap, 22, also of interest.

Improving United's scoring record is a priority for head coach Ruben Amorim. Only Southampton, Leicester City, Ipswich, Everton and West Ham have scored fewer than the 38 goals United have managed in 33 Premier League matches this season.

Cunha is viewed as an ideal addition to play in one of the two attacking midfield positions in Amorim's preferred 3-4-2-1 formation.

Cunha - Wolves' top scorer this season with 16 goals to his

name in all competitions - plays in a similar system under current boss Vitor Pereira.

United are set to face competition from a number of Premier League clubs for Cunha, with Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea and Newcastle all known to be looking to sign a forward this summer.

Cunha has scored 32 times in 87 appearances for Wolves but his disciplinary record may be of some concern to suitors.

The former Atletico Madrid striker has been sent off twice this season, missing six games in total through suspension.

The forward said in an interview with the Observer in March that he has told Wolves he needs to "take the next step" and fight for titles.

United's planning for next season is hindered by uncertainty over their financial situation.

At a conservative estimate, the club stand to gain around £100m in additional funds if they win this season's Europa League and qualify for the Champions League.

But, with each league position worth £3m in the Premier League, United stand to lose around £24m should they finish in their current position of 14th compared to an eighth-place finish last season.

Following Sunday's home defeat by Wolves, Amorim said the club have a "plan" to improve the squad but that the situation could not be addressed until the summer.

Cunha would seem to be a very good fit for Manchester United.

An aggressive attacking player, capable of dropping deeper and linking play or threatening the opponents' goal - and scoring.

He is the kind of player Amorim's squad has been crying out for all season, with neither Rasmus Hojlund or, before his season-ending injury, Joshua Zirkzee looking like the answer in the most advanced position.

Work is going on behind the scenes at Old Trafford to come up with a summer transfer plan.

However, there is a big but. It is quite obvious United's status, in terms of the finances they

have to spend, will be shaped by whether they win the Europa League or not.

If they beat Athletic Bilbao in the semi-final, then either Tottenham or Bodo/Glimt in the final, United can count themselves fortunate the damage of this appalling campaign has not been too extensive and can create a more rounded squad in the belief results will be far better in 2025-26.

If they don't, a decision will have to be made over whether they prioritise a couple of positions, believing all the spare midweek fixture slots will give Amorim a chance to work with his players, or lower their sights and bring in more players with the profile the former Sporting boss wants.

It is clear United are desperate for forwards. But they probably need more than one. They also need wing-backs, central midfield players and central defenders.

The interest in Cunha is real. It doesn't mean the signing will happen.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *Nottingham Forest beat struggling Tottenham 2-1 on Monday, bouncing back from two defeats to strengthen their push for a Champions League spot and heap the pressure on Spurs boss Ange Postecoglou.

Battling Forest See Off Spurs To Boost Champions League Hopes



Nottingham Forest beat struggling Tottenham 2-1 on Monday, bouncing back from two defeats to strengthen their push for a Champions League spot and heap the pressure on Spurs boss Ange Postecoglou.

Forest came into the game at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in sixth spot in the table after losses to Aston Villa and Everton.

But early goals from Elliot Anderson and top-scorer Chris Wood settled their nerves and they held on tenaciously despite a late goal from Richarlison to climb to third in the table.

Leaders Liverpool have one hand on the Premier League title and Arsenal are likely to finish second.

But behind them the competition is fierce for the top five places that will guarantee qualification for the Champions League next season.

Just three points separate Forest from Aston Villa in seventh spot, with five games remaining for all the contenders.

Nuno Espirito Santo's visitors took the lead in the fifth minute

following a corner when Anderson's deflected shot beat Guglielmo Vicario.

Wood had the ball in the net five minutes later but it was ruled out by VAR for offside.

But the New Zealander doubled Forest's lead in the 16th minute, nodding a cross from Anthony Elanga past Vicario.

Spurs dominated possession and had more shots on goal but provided little threat.

Forest had a chance to make it 3-0 10 minutes into the second half when Wood cushioned the ball into the path of Morgan Gibbs-White but the midfielder skewed his shot wide.

Forest defender Harry Toffolo produced a spectacular overhead goal-line clearance to keep out Dejan Kulusevski's header shortly after the hour mark.

Postecoglou brought on former Forest winger Brennan Johnson and forward Dominic Solanke with a quarter of the match to go.

Matz Sels produced a superb fingertip save low down to his right

from a Richarlison header with about 10 minutes to go as Tottenham upped the pressure.

The Brazilian did get on the scoresheet in the 87th minute, powering a header home from a Pedro Porro cross but the visitors held on.

Nuno said his team had toughed it out against the home side, who he admitted had his men "against the ropes".

– 'Anxiety' –

"It is about getting through it, especially in these moments of the season when there is fatigue, not only physical but mental, anxiety — all these things made the team go back a bit," he told Sky Sports.

Nuno, whose side play Manchester City in the FA Cup semi-finals this weekend, said his team had a big week ahead of them.

"You don't get these moments often, especially in this league when we are fighting for something nobody expected," he added.

Forest, who finished 17th last season, are two-time European

champions but have not played in the continent's top club competition since the 1980/81 season.

Spurs' 18th defeat of a miserable Premier League season leaves them just two places above the relegation zone.

But Postecoglou still has a chance to win silverware in his second season at the club.

Spurs face Bodo/Glimt in the semi-finals of the Europa League next month, with the winner of the competition guaranteed a place in next season's Champions League.

A disappointed Postecoglou said his side had dominated Monday's game but had "conceded poor goals and given ourselves a mountain to climb".

The Australian, whose team travel to face Liverpool on Sunday, admitted the Europa League was now his priority as he tries to achieve momentum and protect his players.

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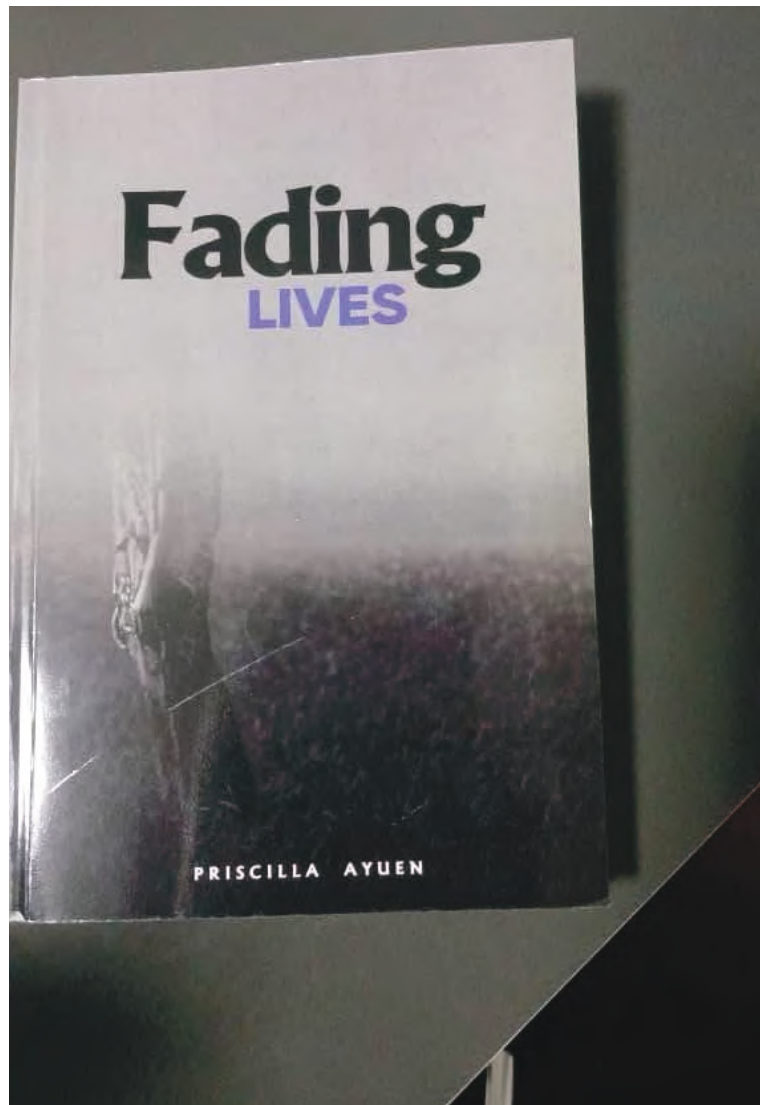
Priscilla Ayuen South Sudanese A Poet Author



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

Worth Noting:

- One in 2022 in Writers Hub poetry slam competition. I won the award for the best poem. The second one is the award of the best writer of the year at Jubub talent awards.
- To the upcoming writers, if you love writing and want to be a writer, write. Don't wait for the right time or perfection, you may wait forever. Read a lot of books because it sharpens your mind and remember, this road is full of ups and downs but it is surely worth it when you don't give up. Pick your pen and tomorrow we will be celebrating you.

**1. Who are you?**

I am Priscilla Ayuen. With a pen name Wingless Bird though I prefer my home names.

2. Where are you from?

I am a South Sudanese.

3. What's your book category?

I write plays and poems though the book I have published is a play.

4. Why did you write?

The fact that I grew up in a war torn society and a disillusioned one at the same time gave me an urge of addressing the fact that 'This is not the end, let's not lose hope and indeed we shall have a better South Sudan in the future.' This thought gave birth to the book 'Fading Lives.'

5. What inspired you?

I do admire writers so much and I

think they are mysterious human beings and I have always wanted to be one of them. This made me grow so much passion for writing inside me. This is the first thing that pushes me.

6. Who is your illustrator?

I don't have one yet.

7. Do you have fans?

Yes I do.

8. How are sales?

Tough part of being a writer especially a growing one. It is still low.

9. What are your future plans?

I want to be a great writer with a lot effective books. I want to be the second Taban loliyong of South Sudan and the second Chimanda Ngozi Adichie of Africa

10. How is the book industry?

It is fun but hard. It requires consistency and persistence.

11. Any awards yet?

Yes 2

One in 2022 in Writers Hub poetry slam competition. I won the award for the best poem.

The second one is the award of the best writer of the year at Jubub talent awards.

12. Who is your role model?

This is tough to decide because I have literally grown up admiring a lot. Among them are my most favourite, Taban Loliyong, Rumi, Ngungi Wa Thiongo, Chinua Achebe, Meja Mwangi, John Ruganda, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

13. When did you begin writing?

I started writing in 2019 when I was

in senior 4.

14. Where did you publish?

I published with Jescho Publishing Company. They are located in Uganda.

15. What can you say to upcoming author?

To the upcoming writers, if you love writing and want to be a writer, write. Don't wait for the right time or perfection, you may wait forever. Read a lot of books because it sharpens your mind and remember, this road is full of ups and downs but it is surely worth it when you don't give up. Pick your pen and tomorrow we will be celebrating you.