

Balancing Innovation And Fair Intellectual Property Protection In Kenya

Kenya stands at a crossroads where innovation is driving economic growth, yet the need for fair intellectual property (IP) protection remains critical to sustain this momentum. As a hub for technology and creativity in East Africa, Kenya has seen remarkable advancements, from mobile money platforms like M-Pesa to vibrant creative industries.

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News>> Uhuru Kenyatta At The Guild Leaders' Summit 2025 In Kampala

P. 8. Former President Uhuru Kenyatta has urged young Africans to seize the moment as architects of a self-reliant and united continent.



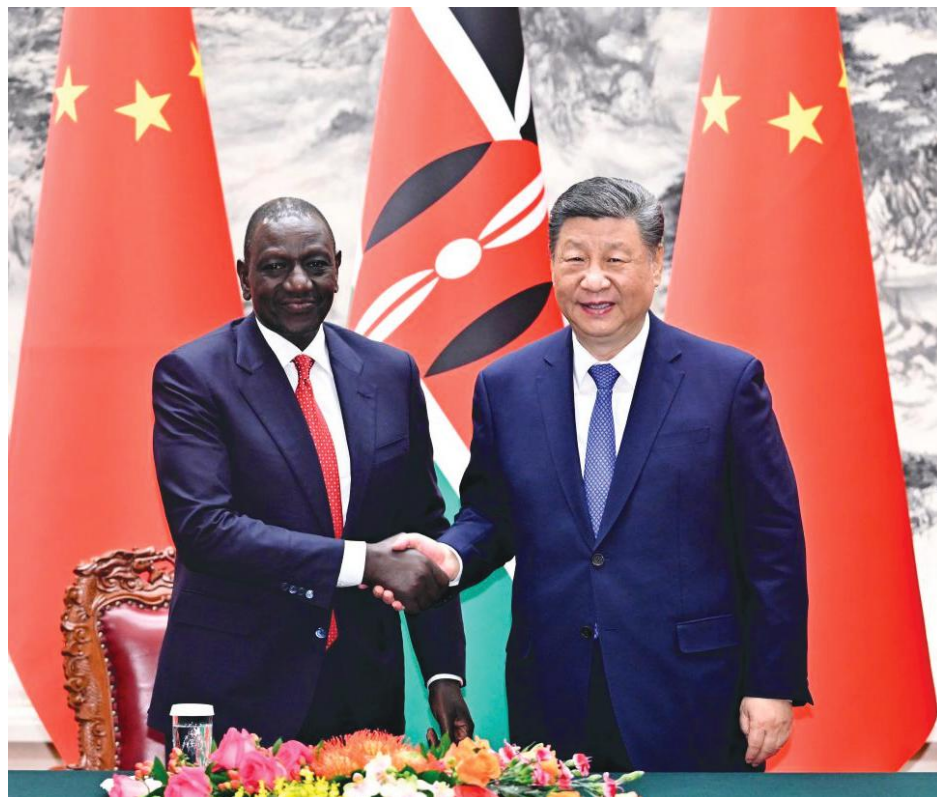
News>> Leaders Call For Fresh Audit Of Bars In Kirinyaga County

P. 12. Kirinyaga leaders have called for fresh vetting of all bar outlets within the county as well as an intensified crackdown on illicit alcohol following an incident on Tuesday whereby two people were taken ill after allegedly consuming alcohol at Marura, Kangai Ward in Mwea West, Kirinyaga County.

China, Kenya Elevate Ties As Xi, Ruto Hold Talks

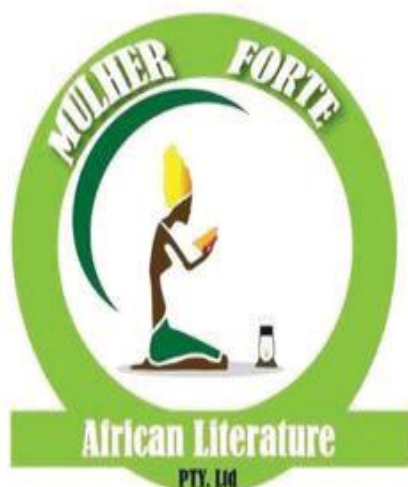


Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Kenyan President William Ruto in Beijing yesterday, with the two sides agreeing to elevate their ties to a China-Kenya community with a shared future for the new era. Noting that the move is a strategic choice for both sides, Xi said that in response to the historical trend and the trend of the times, China is willing to work with Kenya to create an example in the all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era, and lead the development of China-Africa relations and the forging of solidarity and cooperation among Global South countries.



Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Kenyan President William Ruto

STORY ON PAGE 9



Let the pen flow.



Rigathi Gachagua Meets With Mithika Linturi, Other Meru And Tharaka Nithi Counties Leaders

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday held a consultative meeting with a group of leaders from Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties. They were led by former Senator and CS Mithika Linturi and former MPs for Igembe North Maoka Maore and Tigania West MP David Kariithi where they discussed among other issues, the preparations for the launch of a new political party.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



The adverse effects of climate change continue to disrupt daily life and jeopardize the livelihoods of our people. In response to this growing crisis, we have partnered with Bloomberg Philanthropies to empower young climate champions across Embu County. Through this partnership, 67 youth groups drawn from all 20 wards—an impressive increase from 29 groups in Phase 1—have received funding under the Youth Climate Action Fund. These resources enable grassroots climate action, drive innovative solutions, and build local capacity for environmental resilience. On Wednesday, Embu Deputy Governor Justus Kinywa Mugo Embu County officially launched the second phase of the Youth Climate Action Fund where we disbursed cheques to these youth groups amounting to Ksh12.8 million. This marks a milestone in our commitment to inclusive climate action.



The new Devolution PS Michael Loikenu Lenasalon has officially assumed the office, taking over from his predecessor, Teresia Mbaika in a formal handover ceremony held at Teleposta Towers, Nairobi. Mbaika has since been redeployed to the State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development under the Ministry of Roads and Transport, where she will serve in the same capacity. The transition event was attended by key players in the devolution sector, all expressing optimism that Loikenu's leadership would inject renewed energy into the department's efforts to deepen devolution across the country. In his inaugural remarks, Loikenu emphasized humility, service delivery and constitutional integrity as the cornerstone of his leadership approach.



The Ministry of Interior is working to improve transparency and rebuild public trust in the National Police Service (NPS), Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) and National Youth Service (NYS) - the Judiciary as partners in the criminal justice system should support these efforts, not undermine them. Interior PS Raymond Omollo says efforts to curb corruption are ongoing, especially in recruitment and on our roads. The PS said soon the government will demonstrate how these processes will no longer be manipulated through online recruitment, a digital Occurrence Book (OB) and instant traffic fines. After a meeting with various stakeholders, the PS further disclosed that on human rights, work is underway to modernize police stations, aiming to make them models of service and accountability. The NPS now mandates immediate reporting of deaths or serious injuries in custody and full cooperation with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). He spoke after chairing a meeting of the National Steering Committee to review progress on implementing the Maraga Taskforce recommendations which now stand at close to 50% complete. Also present were the new Principal Secretary, Public Service and Human Capital Development Dr. Jane Imbunya, Inspector General of Police, Mr. Douglas Kanja, Commissioner General of Prisons, Mr. Patrick Arandu and Director General of NYS, Mr. James Tembur.



Indigenous communities play a vital role in forest conservation by serving as custodians of vast areas, possessing extensive traditional knowledge of forest ecosystems, and actively engaging in sustainable forest management practices. Environment CS Deborah Barasa yesterday hosted representatives from Embobut Forest Taskforce led by their Chairman Mr. Samuel Rotich at the Ministry headquarters. The CS and her guests discussed a wide array of subjects, including enhancing conservation activities within Embobut Forest, Elgeyo Marakwet County. She was joined in the meeting by Forestry Development Secretary Mr George Tarus and Environment Secretary Dr. Selly Kimosop.



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Wetang'ula, Raila Lead In Offering Condolences Over Pope Francis Demise



Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Hubertus Matheus Maria Van Megen



The leaders in a group photo

By: PCSU and MKT
Correspondent
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

"In my communication to the House when we observed a minute of silence i quoted one of his profound statements, the world is like a public hospital that heals wounds but wounds hearts...he stood for building bridges between people and communities and not barricading walls, we don't have a perfect world but we need one where everyone is brother and sister regardless of background, religion or status in society," stated Wetang'ula.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula who was joined by Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga led a group of members of the National Assembly in offering their condolences and were received by the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Hubertus Matheus Maria van Megen at the residence.

Following the demise of Pope Francis, leaders continued to stream in to sign the condolence book at the Apostolic Nunciature in Nairobi.

Wetang'ula, a Catholic mourned the Pope who he said dedicated his life to humanity and peaceful coexistence.

"In my communication to the House when we observed a minute of silence i quoted one of his profound statements, the world is like a public hospital that heals wounds but wounds hearts...he stood for building bridges between people and communities and

not barricading walls, we don't have a perfect world but we need one where everyone is brother and sister regardless of background, religion or status in society," stated Wetang'ula.

He went on to state that he will be representing President William Ruto at the burial slated for Saturday at the Vatican Square.

"As Kenyans and as the Catholic family we have always cherished and loved our Pope, 2015 he was in Kenya and he left an indelible mark in the lives of Kenyans. The first Pope outside Europe and coming from Africa felt like he was closer to us," he stressed.

On his part, Odinga recalled how the Pope touched many lives and how his death impacted generations.

"He was a very gentle person. Each time there is trouble or problems any-

where in the world, he has been the voice of reason, he has spoken for the downtrodden and has spoken for the weakest, he spoke against injustice," Odinga observed.

Terming him a true representative of Christianity, Odinga said his death dealt a huge blow to humanity.

"I hope the Catholic Church gets another Pope like him, I am a Not a Catholic but I am a Christian and a friend of Catholics, that is why we have all been pained by the loss of Pope Francis, as Speaker said he is the first Pope from the Global South and he exemplified the spirit of hope, reconciliation and of compassion" he added.

At the Nunciature was the Popes portrait and under it the Coat of Arms written in Italian (Miserando ate eligendo) meaning Have mercy on him he chose him, according to the Apos-

tolic Nuncio Achbishop Hubertus the Pope translated the message as the lord not choosing one to his work because of qualifications but because of the Mercy the Lord has on the person.

"That did not only apply to himself, he did that to the people around him, many of the people he surrounded himself with were people who were wounded, people who were gone from Christ and he was merciful with them and appointed them and chose to work with them and lift them out of the crisis," stated the Nuncio.

He also stated the Pope's quest for Peace in the Gaza Strip and that up to his death, he constantly inquired about the situation there concerned over the welfare of children, mothers and the thousands who had lost their lives and the level of destruction across the world due to war and strife.

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Bamburi Cement Expand Its Manufacturing Footprint In The Coast Region, Commissions Ready-Mix Concrete Plant

.....The New Plant Will Boost Access To Quality Concrete Solutions And Enhance Public Safety

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

- By commissioning the new Bamburi Concrete RMX Plant, the firm, he said, is stepping up to provide quality concrete solutions to curb the use of poor-quality concrete mixes that have recently been blamed on poor structural integrity in the building and construction industry in the Coast region and beyond.
- “The Coastal region is home to accomplished and ongoing infrastructural projects – including the Mombasa-Malindi Highway, Dongo Kundu Bypass Highway, Makupa Causeway Bridge, Affordable Housing Projects, Lamu-Garissa Highway, Lamu Port, High-rise apartments as well as individual housing units – which are all creating a rising demand for quality concrete products,” Ramafoko said.
- The launch of the Bamburi Concrete Plant is also part of the company’s diversification strategy into new domestic markets, following its recent acquisition by Amsons Group.

Bamburi Cement, a member of Pan-African Energy and Manufacturing Business conglomerate Amsons Group, has launched a Ksh 100 million Ready-mix (RMX) concrete plant in Mombasa County to meet the growing demand for quality concrete solutions in Mombasa Island and its environs.

The new facility by Bamburi Special Products (BSP), located in the Bamburi area, has a production capacity of 120 cubic meters per hour, with potential volumes exceeding 10,000 cubic meters of Ready-mix concrete. It also has a fleet of transit mixers, a mobile and fixed pumping capacity, and a mobile concrete lab, enabling efficiency and support for upcoming construction projects.

Speaking at the commissioning of the new Bamburi Concrete RMX Plant, Amsons Group Cement Cluster CEO Mokate George Ramafoko noted that the Coastal region’s demand for quality concrete solutions, mixed with strict adherence to civil engineering standards, is growing steadily.

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The launch of the Bamburi Concrete Plant is also part of the company’s diversification strategy into new domestic markets, following its recent acquisition by Amsons Group.

“The launch of this Ready-mix concrete plant strengthens our presence in the Coast region, enabling us to serve the region’s expanding construction needs with greater efficiency. Its strategic location will allow for faster deliveries, seamless supply



Amsons Group Cement Cluster CEO Mokate Ramafoko (left) and Bamburi Cement Plc Commercial Director Martin Kariuki (right) flag off a Ready-mix concrete delivery truck during the launch of Bamburi Cement’s new Ready-mix Concrete Plant in Mombasa.
Photo/Courtesy..

chain management, and enhanced support for large-scale infrastructure, commercial and residential projects.”

“This development aligns with our broader strategy to expand our footprint in high-potential markets and underscores our dedication to providing innovative building solutions while supporting the region’s infrastructure development and contributing to Kenya’s economic growth,” added Mr Mokate.

Additionally, while complementing Bamburi Cement’s production of market-first concrete grades, such as self-compacting, waterproof, and high-strength concrete, the new plant will offer a supply of special chloride-resistant concrete for marine applications due to the coast’s presence of seawater, which is highly aggressive to concrete.

Bamburi Cement’s Commercial Director Martin Kariuki stated: “Significant large projects at the Coast have

used concrete manufactured from Ordinary Portland cement (CEM I), which is not resistant to seawater chlorides that penetrate structures and cause corrosion to the steel reinforcement. This RMX concrete plant will use our purpose-made Duracem and Duraplus cement, which have enhanced chloride resistance and counter the harmful effects of chloride in concrete.”

Over the years, Bamburi Cement has manufactured various types of cement and also vertically integrated into the concrete industry—ready-mix and precast through its Bamburi Special Products (BSP) subsidiary. BSP has precast facilities in Nairobi and Mombasa, but has only had its Ready-mix concrete plants in Nairobi.

Bamburi Cement’s investment on the Kenyan Coast will continue in the near to medium term with the development of the Bamburi Cement

Integrated Clinker plant in Matuga, Kwale County. This is part of Amsons Group’s commitment to invest approximately Kshs 51 billion (\$400 million) over the next three years in the business.

The Kenyan construction industry has long been a key driver of the country’s GDP. According to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the industry is projected to achieve an average annual growth rate of over 5% between 2025 and 2028.

Uhuru Kenyatta At The Guild Leaders' Summit 2025 In Kampala

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta has urged young Africans to seize the moment as architects of a self-reliant and united continent.

In his keynote address at the second annual Guild Leaders' Summit 2025, held at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, Kenyatta framed Africa's challenges as a clarion call for youth-led transformation declaring, "You are the last line of defence in the battle to rescue the heart and soul of Africa."

Reflecting on the current global landscape, the former Head of State noted the shifting dynamics in which developed nations are increasingly inward-focused, leaving Africa to chart its own path. He urged the youth to recognize this as an "independence moment," where they must step up as the last line of defence in the battle to rescue the heart and soul of Africa for the sake of future generations.

With unwavering conviction, he reminded the ecstatic audience, mostly composed of young leaders, "No one is coming to save us, and as the world turns increasingly inward, the places to seek refuge are rapidly disappearing," urging the youth to embrace



Former President Uhuru Kenyatta at Makerere University, Uganda yesterday..

their role as the freedom fighters of this era.

Speaking at the Summit, which brought together policymakers, student leaders, and academic stakeholders from across East Africa in a powerful convergence of ideas and vision under the theme "Leadership with Integrity: Building Foundations for Good Governance in East Africa," Kenyatta emphasized the urgent need for integrity-driven leadership and self-reliance to navigate the continent's pressing challenges.

Kenyatta highlighted Africa's demographic advantage, with over 65% of its population under 25, calling it a pivotal opportunity to break free from cycles of division and corruption.

"You have the numbers, you have the time, and you have the energy to get involved and stay involved in governance discussions until you effect the changes you wish to see," he noted. He challenged young leaders to embrace merit-based governance, where policies serve long-term national interests rather than short-term political gains.

Addressing economic hurdles, Kenyatta pointed to the untapped potential of intra-African trade, which remains below 2.5% of global commerce. He urged the dismantling of barriers to free movement and trade, emphasizing that Africa's youth must leverage innovation and unity to unlock opportunities.

Kenyatta reminded the audience that



Former President Uhuru Kenyatta addressing the forum yesterday..

universities are incubators of change and that student leaders are trustees of tomorrow's Africa. "History has often been written by the powerful, but the future will be shaped by the principled," he remarked.

Uganda's Vice President Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo, who also graced the occasion, emphasized that the continent's transformation hinges on their collective commitment to unity, Pan-Africanism, and relentless hard work. "As you Guild Leaders meet here, you must embrace unity. You must embrace the spirit of Pan-Africanism. You must embrace the spirit of hard work," she declared.

Alupo acknowledged the gap between rhetoric and implementation, urging the youth to move beyond words and take tangible steps toward progress. "It is very easy to say what I'm saying, but more often than not, it is a bit difficult to make implementation on a collective level."

The summit, hosted by Makerere University's Guild Presidents Leadership Academy, marked a pivotal moment for East Africa's youth to redefine their role in a world where global solidarity wanes—and African agency must rise.

MSEA Empowers Othaya Entrepreneurs In Sensitization Forum

By: Rose Angeline
@themtkenyatimes

The Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA), in collaboration with Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina conducted a sensitization forum aimed at empowering local entrepreneurs through access to government programs and support.

Held in the heart of Othaya town, the forum brought together members of the business community to learn about key policies and funding opportunities available through MSEA. Among the highlights was the NYOTA Project, an initiative tailored for youth aged 18 to 30 who did not complete high school.

The Youth Enterprise Fund and Women Enterprise Fund were also

among the financing options presented.

Speaking after the event, MSEA's head, M Karani, urged business owners to organize themselves into registered groups under MSEA to unlock access to vital resources. "Group registration enables entrepreneurs to benefit from capacity-building workshops, equipment facilitation, and financial assistance from the national government," he said.

Wainaina who is a member of the Trade Committee in the National Assembly, echoed these sentiments, encouraging business people to seize the opportunity to register and access low-interest loans and government-provided equipment.

As part of the day's activities, ten local groups received various business tools including wedding machines and carwash equipment.

Among the beneficiaries were Super Shine Carwash and Jitegemee Self-Help Group.

The MP said the sensitization exercise is part of broader efforts by MSEA and local leadership to strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship and improve livelihoods in the area.

Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina with some of the beneficiaries



China, Kenya Elevate Ties As Xi, Ruto Hold Talks

By:Xinhua

BEIJING, (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Kenyan President William Ruto in Beijing yesterday, with the two sides agreeing to elevate their ties to a China-Kenya community with a shared future for the new era.

Noting that the move is a strategic choice for both sides, Xi said that in response to the historical trend and the trend of the times, China is willing to work with Kenya to create an example in the all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era, and lead the development of China-Africa relations and the forging of solidarity and cooperation among Global South countries.

China and Kenya should continue to firmly support each other in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, firmly support each other in exploring development paths that suit their respective national conditions, and deepen exchanges of experience in state governance, Xi said.

He called on the two sides to enhance regular policy communication, build connectivity at a higher level, promote sustainable trade, explore diversified financial integration, carry forward the friendship forged through generations, and be leaders in advancing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi said China's supersized market has always kept its door open to high-quality products from Kenya, adding that China encourages more capable Chinese enterprises to invest and start businesses in Kenya.

As important members of the Global South, China and Kenya should take concrete actions to firmly safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core, promote extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit in global governance, and practice true multilateralism, Xi said.

Xi said China is willing to work with African countries, including Kenya, to achieve more early results of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to better benefit the African people, and promote high-quality China-Africa cooperation to lead Global South cooperation.

Stressing that there are no winners in tariff and trade wars, Xi said China is willing to work with other countries to address various challenges through solidarity and cooperation, safeguard legitimate rights and interests, uphold international trade rules, and maintain international fairness and justice.

Ruto said Kenya and China have always adhered to sincere treatment



President William Ruto inspecting a guard of honor with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during his State visit to China on April 24, 2025. PCS.

and mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. Kenya firmly adheres to the one-China policy and insists that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory.

Ruto expressed gratitude to the Chinese government and people for their selfless assistance to Kenya's efforts in improving infrastructure and responding to natural disasters, adding that Belt and Road projects such as the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway have effectively promoted Kenya's national development.

He said Kenya is willing to work with China to build a community with a shared future, comprehensively strengthen the synergy between their economic and social development strategies, strengthen cooperation on trade, investment, infrastructure construction and science and technology, and enhance exchanges in education, culture and tourism.

Cooperation between Africa and China is conducive to Africa's peaceful development, and Kenya is willing to closely coordinate and cooperate with China to implement the outcomes of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Ruto added.

Ruto said that trade wars undermine the existing international rules and order, and that Kenya appreciates China's role as a stabilizer in the current volatile situation and China's efforts to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Global South countries.

After the talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of 20 co-

operation documents in areas such as the Belt and Road Initiative, new and high technology, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, economy and trade, and media.

The two sides issued the Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kenya on Creating an Inspiring Example in the All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era.

Prior to the talks, Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, held a welcoming ceremony for Ruto and his wife, Rachel Ruto, at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People.

Xi and Peng also hosted a welcoming banquet for Ruto and Rachel in the Golden Hall of the Great Hall of the People at noon yesterday



An image of Chinese and Kenyan officials during the signing of seven deals by Chinese companies that intend to invest in Kenya with new projects. Photo: PCS.

Worth Noting:

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400 Markets Coming Up Across The Country - DP Kindiki

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday visited Nakuru to oversee progress in construction of markets in the area.

Kindiki noted that traders and farmers in the area will benefit immensely from the Market Infrastructure Programme aimed at growing and dignifying small scale businesses across the Country.

He disclosed that 400 modern markets are in various stages of completion across the 47 counties, including 19 markets in Nakuru County. The DP further observed that construction of an additional two markets in the county will commence later this year to accommodate more traders, among them Mama Mboga.

In Bahati Constituency, he noted, the government is constructing three markets; Kabatini, Bahati and Dundori

which will have expanded trading spaces, cold storage facilities, rooms for lactating mothers and other amenities to enable traders interact with their customers in safety and dignity.

In addition, each of the markets will have a fully equipped ICT hub to enable the youth access digital jobs and earn a livelihood under the Kazi Mtandaoni programme.

“We will shortly resolve all outstanding land ownership grievances in Dundori and other parts of Bahati Constituency and issue title deeds to residents,” the DP said, adding, “To facilitate community involvement in the conservation of Dundori Forest, the Government will facilitate limited and orderly access for farming activities and planting of trees without compromising the forest’s ecosystem.”

During the tour, the DP and his team inspected the ongoing works at the Dundori ESP Market whose construction at a cost of KSh51 million will be complete by June.

Among those who accompanied



Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki in Dundori, Nakuru County yesterday..

the DP were Nakuru County Deputy Governor David Kones, Bahati MP Irene Njoki, Nakuru County MP Liza Chelule, MCAs as well as other grass-roots leaders and hundreds of Bahati Constituency residents.



Nakuru County Pushing For Clean Cooking Solutions

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The CECM spoke after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 3E (Environment, Entrepreneurship, and Energy) group aimed at accelerating climate-smart agriculture, clean energy access, and green entrepreneurship initiatives towards enhancing food security and sustainable development in the region.
- He was happy that through the collaboration with 3E group, over 95 dairy farmers in Molo Sub-County had benefited from capacity-building training and quality fodder production to boost milk production through practicing climate-resilient agriculture, while in Subukia and Solai locations, the revitalization of coffee farming was on course after 6,600 coffee seedlings were distributed to local farmers.
- The collaboration was now supporting environmental conservation through sustainable agricultural practices, while at the same time promoting income diversification.



The County Government of Nakuru is stepping up efforts to accelerate adoption of modern clean cooking technologies to mitigate effects of climate change and reduce cases of diseases caused by dirty fuels.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water, Environment, Energy, Climate Change, and Natural Resources Dr. Nelson Maara said they were conducting a public awareness campaign on promoting clean cooking as a way of supporting the national government’s Clean Cooking Strategy formulated by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum aimed at keeping Kenya on track to achieving its target of universal access to clean energy by 2028.

Dr. Maara further said that the devolved unit’s administration had prioritized the deployment of renewable energy technologies, including biogas systems, solar energy, and clean cooking solutions, especially in rural and peri-urban areas.

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The collaboration was now supporting environmental conservation through sustainable agricultural practices, while at the same time promoting income diversification.

Kenyan households primarily rely on solid fuels such as wood, charcoal and crop residues that emit toxic fumes and contribute immensely to indoor pollution.

Dr. Maara voiced his appreciation to the County efforts of carrying out the ‘Clean Cooking Awareness Campaign’ in all the 11 Sub-Counties in collaboration with ‘Practical Action’ adding that the partnership will promote solutions that include climate friendly efficient biomass stoves and a fuel switch from solid biomass and kerosene to clean and environmentally friendly options.

These options, he elaborated, also include biogas, bioethanol, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), solar photovoltaic (PV) and electric cooking.

“Modern cooking stoves are highly efficient and can reduce fuel use by up to 60 percent resulting in fewer emissions of greenhouse gases,” he explained.

Some 59 percent of households in Kenya use traditional fireplaces for cooking while only 30 percent have access to clean cooking solutions.

The Ministry of Health estimates that about 23,000 deaths in Kenya are attributed to household air pollution annually. Indoor pollution disproportionately affects women, girls and children who spend extended time looking for fuel and cooking meals thereby bearing the brunt of exposure to long hours of a smoky kitchen environment.

Dr. Maara stated that the partnership will be useful in positively influencing public knowledge, attitudes and social norms related to cooking behaviour in households with respect to climate friendly cooking solutions.

“Over 93.2 percent of rural households use wood-fuel as their primary fuel, while 30 percent of the population use Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) with only 3 percent of households owning an electric cooking appliance,” he said.

Statistics from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry show that cooking contributes to 70 percent of the Greenhouse Gas emissions in Kenya.

Article 42 of the Constitution guarantees Kenyans the right to a clean and healthy environment achieved through legislative and other measures.

Dr. Maara observed that while some Kenyans know the negative impact of cooking smoke, many are not aware of how clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels can benefit them on a daily basis.

He stated the smoke from dirty fuel also contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impact such as early childhood pneumonia, emphysema, cataracts, lung cancer, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weight.

Additionally, Dr. Maara stated that as a country, Kenya has committed to reducing its greenhouse gases by 32 percent by 2030.

Meanwhile, household cooking using firewood, charcoal and kerosene is a major contributor to Kenya’s greenhouse gas emissions, she added.

WHO also estimates that 84 percent of

Leaders Call For Fresh Audit Of Bars In Kirinyaga County

By: Mutai Kipnetich
@themkenyatimes

Kirinyaga leaders have called for fresh vetting of all bar outlets within the county as well as an intensified crackdown on illicit alcohol following an incident on Tuesday whereby two people were taken ill after allegedly consuming alcohol at Marura, Kangai Ward in Mwea West, Kirinyaga County.

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

Kirinyaga Senator Kamau Murango and Women Representative Jane Njeri Maina who visited the area noted over a year ago, the county lost 23 lives to illicit brew in the same Kangai area and it is not acceptable to continue with the same trend.

Senator Murango asked the liquor licensing department in the County Government to do a comprehensive inspection to ensure all bars meet the required standards at the same time ensuring they are selling genuine

products.

He further called upon the Mwea West Sub-County Security Team, in collaboration with county officials to widen surveillance and weed out the illegal brewers.

“Today we have residents admitted because of alcohol; I want to ask the county government before giving out licenses, to do an audit of the bars. We are tired losing our people,”he said

On her part, County MP Jane Njeri insisted the need for licensing only bars that sell genuine products, which will not harm the community warning on possibility where all outlets are being licensed without any background checks.

On enforcement, she argued that some bars are currently operating outside legal timelines set by the law.

“It is not okay for leaders to sit and see people dying. Proper audit of bars in Kirinyaga County should be done. The National Government Administration to ensure enforcement is done, as some bars remain open 24 hours,”she said

Kirinyaga County Executive Committee Member (CECM) Social Services, Dennis Musyimi, 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.

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.

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

Joho Backs Withdrawal Of Fisheries Bill

By: Chris Mahandara
@themkenyatimes

The Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs and the Council of Governors (CoG) have agreed to jointly petition Parliament to withdraw the Fisheries Management and Development Bill (2023).

This follows intense pressure from the Lake Victoria Aquaculture Association (LVA) and stakeholders in the blue economy sector who termed the bill deeply flawed.

The decision was reached following a high-level presentation made yesterday by the Lake Victoria Aquaculture (LVA) Association at a sitting of the CoG Blue Economy Committee in Mombasa, chaired by Governor Paul Otuoma which was also attended by Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Ali Hassan Joho.

In a statement to the media, LVA Board Secretary Pete Ondeng who appeared before the committee, lauded the move saying it will pave the way for an inclusive review process

to address the contentious issues in the Bill.

The decision, he said, follows months of coordinated advocacy by LVA, a membership body launched in 2024 to serve as a unified platform for the country’s aquaculture stakeholders.

“In early April, the LVA Association convened a high-level roundtable in Kisumu, bringing together over 40 experts and stakeholders to review the proposed Bill. The participants unanimously resolved that the Fisheries Management and Development Bill (2023) is deeply flawed and must be withdrawn,” he said.

On April 7, he said, LVA formally wrote to the Clerk of the National Assembly, urging Parliament to suspend the Bill and launch a comprehensive and inclusive legislative review.

The Bill, he said, was a replication of the outdated 2016 provisions that were developed without a guiding national aquaculture policy and failed to recognize aquaculture as a distinct economic sector.

He added that the Bill had insufficient provisions for devolution and was developed without stakeholder participation.



CS Hassan Joho.

The Bill which is on the floor of the house, he said threatened to stifle innovation, investment, and inclusive growth in aquaculture if passed in its current form.

Ondeng said the Ministry and CoG have committed to the formation of a Joint Working Group that will oversee a new, transparent, and collaborative drafting process following which the resulting legislation will be introduced to Parliament for consideration.

“This is a significant breakthrough and a huge step forward for everyone who depends on a thriving and well-governed fisheries sector. We commend the Ministry and the CoG for listening to stakeholders and for showing leadership in charting a better path forward,” he said.

LVA Association, he said, will continue to work closely with stakeholders, government institutions, and development partners to ensure the new legislative process is inclusive, evidence-based, and anchored in Kenya’s constitutional and development priorities.

Dedan Kimathi Foundation In Massive Tree Planting In Meru County

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

A charity organisation, named after freedom fighter hero, Field Marshal Dedan Kimathi has facilitated planting of thousands of trees in Meru County.

Officials from Dedan Kimathi Foundation have in the last two days been mobilizing Meru residents and other stakeholders in planting trees in various sites in the area.

Through the efforts of the foundation which is headed by the late Kimathi's daughter Evelyn Wanjugu Kimathi, the organisation has partnered with Kenya Forest Service in an initiative dubbed, 'Adapt A Tree' Meru edition.

The three day event that kicked off on Wednesday ends today with end result being boost the government's initiative of planting over 15 billion trees in the next few years.

"The initiative aims to contribute to environmental conservation and reforestation efforts. Our Partners, Ken-

ya Forest Service (KFS) and National Government Administration Officers (NGAO), has previously reported planting numerous trees in Meru County in various sites. The ongoing efforts are part of larger national programs to increase forest cover and address climate change," Ms Kimathi said.

She noted that trees are essential pillars of environmental conservation and thus, planting and nurturing them is not just an act of responsibility but an investment in the wellbeing of current and future generations.

"In the face of climate change and food insecurity, trees are truly a 'must grow' for every responsible citizen," she said, adding, "Kenya is strongly committed to increasing its tree cover. The country aims to achieve a 30% tree cover by 2032, according to the National Program for Accelerated Forestry and Rangelands Restoration. This initiative, launched in 2022, involves planting 15 billion trees and restoring 10.6 million hectares of degraded land. The goal is to mitigate climate change, improve water re-



Ms Evalyne Wanjugu Kimathi and other stakeholders symbolically planting a tree in Meru on Wednesday.

sources, and boost economic growth."

At the beginning of the exercise, the foundation offered Easter holiday gifts to more than 300 senior citizens.



Dedan Kimathi Foundation team carrying trees for planting in Meru yesterday.

The elderly met at Meru Township DEB School where Ms Kimathi and her team gave them assorted food stuffs.

Ms Kimathi said her foundation would continue carrying out afforestation exercise in different parts of the country.

Isiolo Visually Impaired School Gets Government Support

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The government has responded to a recent appeal for food support to a school for visually impaired children in Isiolo County by donating 200 bags of maize and beans.

An appeal by "We care CBO," through its founder Amos Waqo, for the support of over 50 visually impaired learners at the Isiolo Integrated school for the visually impaired has received a boost after Principal Secretary State Department for Asal and Regional Development Kello Harsama sought the relief food.

Waqo who received the 200 bags of beans and maize at the school said the donation will benefit the learners some of whom are total orphans, thus enabling them to continue with their education.

He said the organization will continue to mobilize parents from Isiolo and Marsabit counties to enroll children who are visually impaired at the centre instead of confining them at home.

"I am calling upon parents with

visually impaired children to take advantage of the institution that not only provides a good space for learners but also monitors and conducts referrals for medical checkups," Waqo said.

He also thanked PS Harsama for his quick response and urged other leaders and well-wishers to intervene to make sure the institution continues to run without hitches.

The institution, which was launched in February 2024, has already enrolled 50 children aged between 5 and 13 years. However, the school is facing financial challenges in meeting its operational and infrastructural needs.

According to Waqo, sustaining the children remains a challenge since most of them come from vulnerable families and urged parents to bring such children to school so they can learn and realize their full potential.

The head of the institution, Rebecca Mwanjiru highlighted that this is the only school in northern Kenya that caters to visually impaired learners.

Mwanjiru called upon the stakeholders and the government to provide support particularly in constructing proper pathways around the school to prevent visually im-



Some of the beneficiaries addressing the media..

paired children from tripping and falling.

She said the Ministry of Education had staffed the school adequately, ensuring that learning continues smoothly.

She said that although the ministry

provides lunch support, the boarding students rely on well-wishers for food.

A special education teacher at the school Amina Ibrahim shared her journey of overcoming visual impairment to become a teacher point-

ing out curriculum delays for visually impaired students and the cost of Braille materials and embossed papers.

To My Pupil



May your dear head be safe, my pupil,
 May Fortune always face you, my pupil.
 May your ancestors' spirits guide you
 well,
 And may your path be clear, my pupil.

You are a brave child of our homeland,
 A child whose dreams come true, so
 grand.
 You are the hope of your parents, their
 delight,

May every task you take find strength
 and light.

Hold dear the trust of our nation's
 guide,
 Raise high the fame of our Uzbek pride.
 Follow your teachers' advice with care,
 Be a shield to your homeland, always fair.

You are the Zuhra, the shining star of
 my land,
 Your luck and fate hold no end at hand.
 You are the jewel, the treasure of our
 free state,
 May your dear head be safe, my pupil
 great.

Barno Mirzaeva
 Primary education Teacher
 General Education School No. 118, Urgut
 District, Samarkand Region

The Rise Of Lavender Marriage Vs Morganatic Marriage et al



By Paula O.M.Otukile

Marriage is a formal or legal union
 between two people as partners in a
 personal relationship , historically it was
 between a female and a male but now
 some gender marriages are occurring
 extending this definition to; marriage is a
 formal or legal union between two people
 as partners in a personal relationship.

Terms to define.
 Heterosexual- Relationship between
 Female and male.

Homosexual- Relationship between people
 of the same gender, male & male, or
 Female & Female.

Acceptance- homosexual is slowly
 becoming common and accepted, however
 most families in African countries are still
 struggling to accept gays, lesbians.

Lavender Marriage

This is marriage between a gay person
 and heterosexual partner to conceal
 one's sexuality because of stigma, family
 persecution, societal pressure etc

It is becoming apparent that with more
 expressive dressing an grooming, there
 are so much visible lines of noting one's
 sexuality in the twenty first century.
 Despite any efforts and progress to
 conceal it, there is a rise in homosexuality
 and the question can be a matter of
 emancipation no matter how intricate it
 can be, Freedom of expression and doing
 things is mining up and revealing so much
 to the open.

The most amazing thing is to see a
 sudden peak of lavender weddings which
 happens with young women being in the

dark of the men they are marrying and in
 some cases the young women who get
 married without the spouses knowing
 their real sexuality too.

Question can be, does one ignore their
 feelings and chose not to act on them
 and simply become heterosexual? Is it a
 plot to procreate and then go back to
 what one truly is? Is it to run away from
 societal judgments or abiding by the word
 to stay away from sin?

Question is if God is for us all does he
 judge? What does the word say about
 lying, Judging others vs what does the
 word say on Sodom or Gomorrah? Have
 the Bible clearly said anything considering
 homosexuality or some just use it to
 persecute others?

Is the faith matters pouring the new
 generation to lavender marriages? Is it a
 fashion or trend?
 Morganatic marriage

According to Wikipedia
 Morganatic marriage, sometimes called
 a left-handed marriage, is a marriage
 between people of unequal social rank,
 which in the context of royalty or other
 inherited title prevents p the principal's
 position or privileges being passed to
 the spouse, or any children born of the
 marriage. The concept is most prevalent
 in German-speaking territories and
 countries most influenced by the customs
 of the German-speaking realms.
 This morganatic marriage trend is seen on
 the rise in areas of lack of employment
 and recession and simply materialistic
 situations. There is minimal royals these
 days, leaving out the rise of stable
 working class that affords good life, in
 terms of seeking stability most difficult
 not for For love but a shelter to bask on
 during the ups and downs of the economy.

Does marriage has to do with love?
 Resources, social status, vision?

Question can be, is this the cause of the
 rise of divorce and promiscuous behavior?

(Sources Paula O.M.Otukile 2025,
 Wikipedia)

From Dreams To Nightmare



Author : Somdatta Mitra
 Country : India
 Title : From Dreams To Nightmare

Shocked, shattered and numb with a tragedy
 that was unprecedented,
 Innocent souls sacrificed lives when shot dead in
 a brutal crime.
 Questioned over their religion before they were
 killed ,
 Never heard or seen such a dare in any audacity
 to be drilled.

How can the avengers be so cruel to destroy
 humanity in a desperate toil?
 Their rotten hearts and soul leverage such a
 crime.

Will their own Families receive blessings to
 survive with the imprecation?
 Will the outcry and the curse of the Families ;
 of those victims vouch a commination?

Here the malignity will lead to damnation in hell,
 Does Satan still breathes in those terrorist

attacks?
 Where Kashmir is the paradise,
 For all in equal rights in a treasure.

Visiting any place cannot be a fundamental
 criteria ,
 Over any discrimination of caste, creed, colour,
 gender or religion.
 Which religion teaches that innocents should be
 shot in a blood shed?
 Which motherland teaches their nationals to be
 unholy and embed?

Kashmir will always be a heaven for India,
 Kashmir will always be a national pride for the
 visitors.

Attempt to invade it will be repugnant and
 nefarious,
 In your devout worship no religion teaches to kill
 innocents being rivalrous.

The sin that you commit today,
 Who knows tomorrow your family might be
 trapped in their deathday.
 What you sow today so shall you reap
 tomorrow,
 Fear God that one day there won't be any
 resurrection to avow.

Today India mourns over so many innocent lives
 lost in Pagalgam attack,
 Salute to those bravehearts!
 Who confronted such reprobate beasts and
 harassed while shot in the valley.

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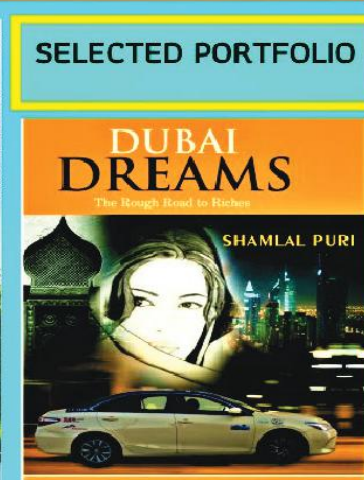
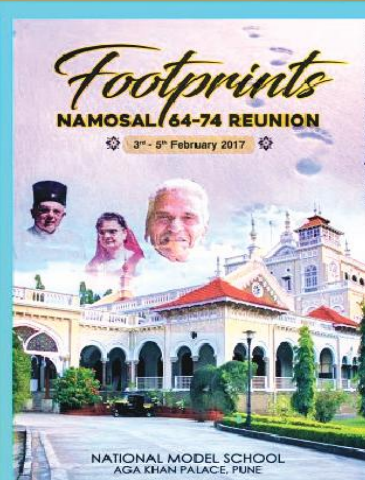
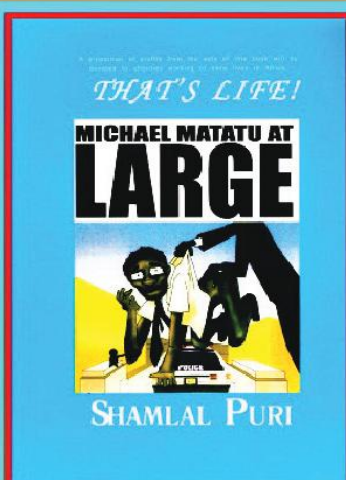
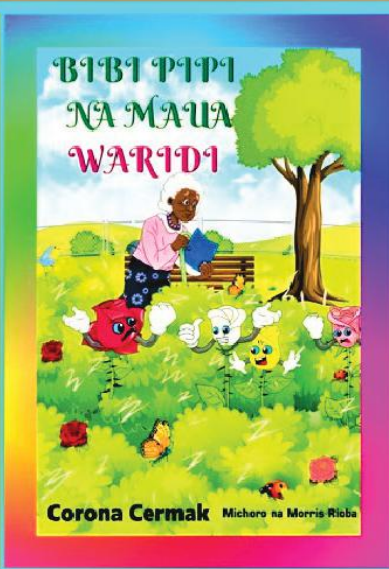
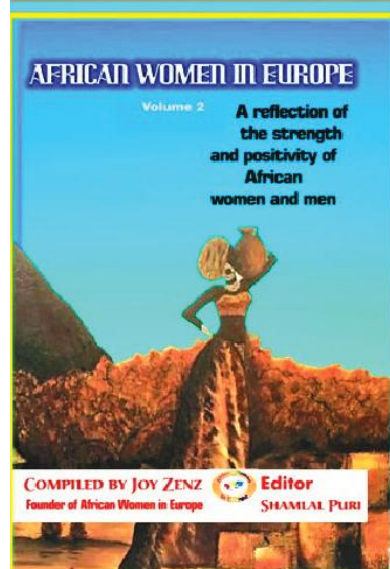
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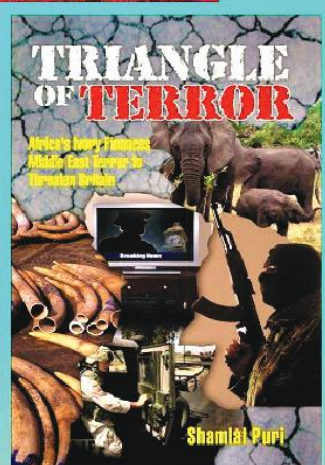
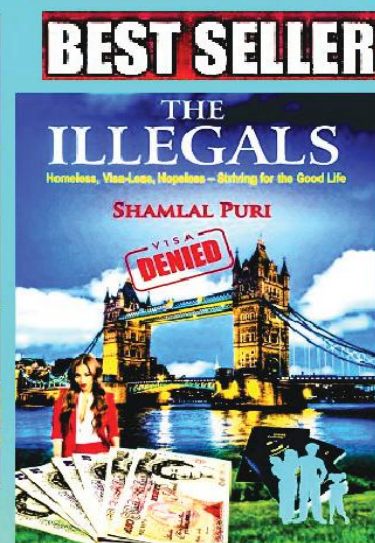
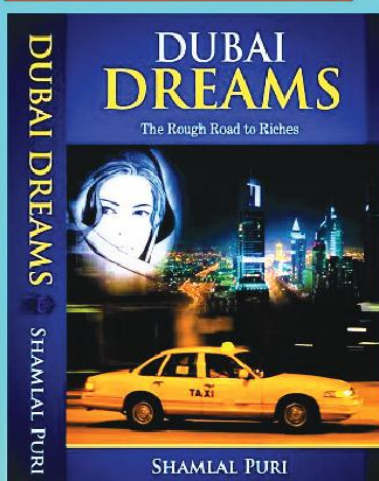
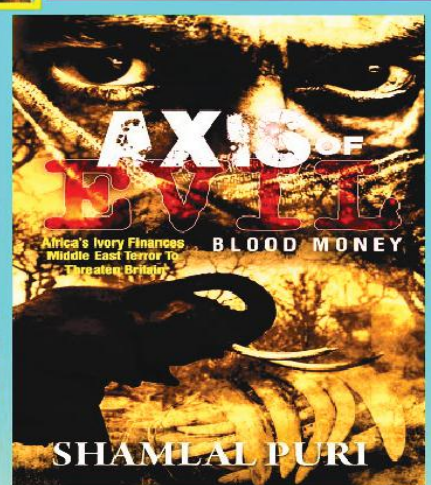
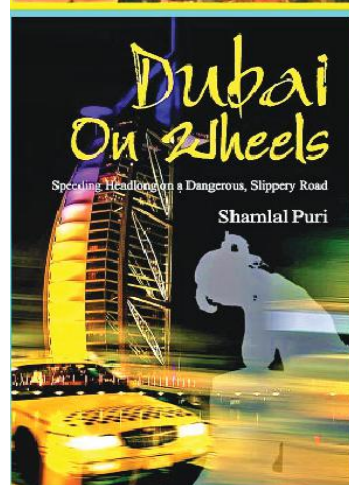
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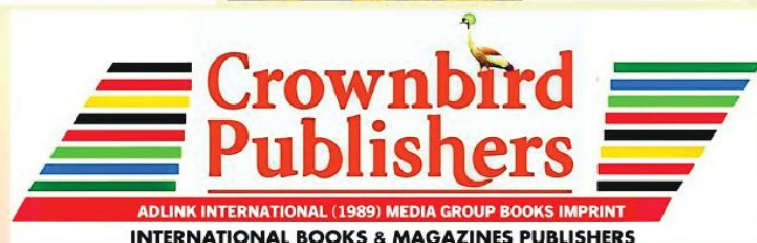
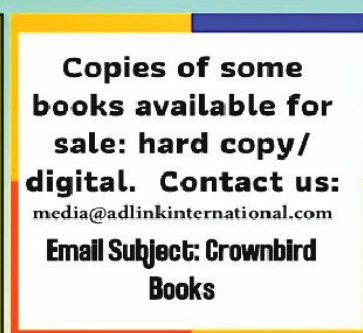
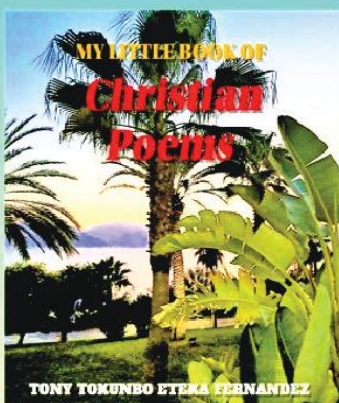
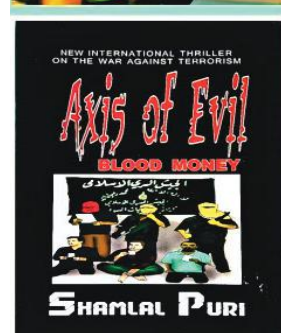
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BUSINESS

Sustainability Is The Key For Long-Term Business Success



By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The question of how businesses can be sure of sustainability in today's world of de-globalization and de-centralization keeps showing its head. How can companies survive in this era de-carbonization and energy? How can they thrive in the era of AI, digitization and technology? How can organizations deal with geopolitical issues, changing demographics and debt? These are the emerging issues for businesses of today.
- Organizations of whatever size and nature must put sustainability at the centre of their businesses. As companies chase performance, they need to do it as they deliver social impact and corporate governance, while creating shared value for consumers, society, employees and shareholders. They must be committed to operating sustainable and environmental friendly businesses.



How to lead your business to a sustainable future

It is now common knowledge that the world is facing many pressing environmental and social hardships today. It is no secret that businesses of all sizes can play a role in the mitigation of these issues that will result in high standards of living for people on the globe. In fact through collaborations, they can improve the quality of life for more people. Today, the role of business goes beyond just business, and its drive should be to nurture an environment that develops talents to resolve complexity and overcome challenges we are facing.

In 2021, as the world lifted itself out of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges that came with it, organizations embarked on a journey of becoming sustainable entities by embedding sustainability strategies in their business operations. They adopted the three sustainability pillars of people, planet and profit which are considered together with the United Nations Strategic Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainability roadmaps fall under the three pillars of ESG (Environment, Social and Governance).

The question of how businesses can be sure of sustainability in today's world of de-globalization and de-

centralization keeps showing its head. How can companies survive in this era de-carbonization and energy? How can they thrive in the era of AI, digitization and technology? How can organizations deal with geopolitical issues, changing demographics and debt? These are the emerging issues for businesses of today.

Organizations of whatever size and nature must put sustainability at the centre of their businesses. As companies chase performance, they need to do it as they deliver social impact and corporate governance, while creating shared value for consumers, society, employees and shareholders. They must be committed to operating sustainable and environmental friendly businesses.

It is agreed that the business environment is changing fast and that the sustainability challenges facing the world are evolving even faster. That calls for businesses to be committed to reducing their environment footprint and incorporating sustainability measures in their business strategies because sustainability is a key market driver and growth lever for them.

Businesses have a mandate to accord decent and sustainable livelihoods

to millions of people who use their products everyday. They need to enable entrepreneurship for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development of nations they operate in. Organizations need to be purpose-driven. Long-term success can only be achieved through responsible and ethical corporate governance and positively impacting the society and environment. Their actions should be founded on mutual trust, and steered by principle of shared values.

The vision for sustainable and responsible business involves inculcating a culture of sustainability; people and culture, innovation and digital transformation, care for the environment, corporate governance and support for local communities. With laser focus on these areas, and collaborating with partners, businesses can deliver more value to not only to their customers, but also their employees, strategic partners, investors and the society at large.

Today, sustainability is no longer an option. Businesses reap the benefits that accrue over time. They include growing business resilience, improved reputation and brand value (equity), optimization of capital, cus-

tomers loyalty, enhanced risk management, improved financial performance, regulatory compliance and licence to operate, attracting and retaining talent and long-term sustainable growth. It is now apparent that sustainability is reshaping and influencing stakeholders, placing environmental, social and governance issues at the fore front.

To chart a sustainable future, companies should develop their pillars of sustainability that will guide them towards 2030 and beyond. These pillars will not only transform them, but will also transform our world.

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Balancing Innovation And Fair Intellectual Property Protection In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Globally, examples illustrate the tension between innovation and IP protection. In the pharmaceutical industry, strong patent laws have driven the development of life-saving drugs, but they have also limited access to affordable generics in developing nations. For example, during the HIV/AIDS crisis in the early 2000s, South Africa faced challenges accessing affordable antiretroviral drugs due to patent restrictions.
- This led to global advocacy for flexible IP rules, resulting in mechanisms like compulsory licensing, which Kenya has incorporated into its laws. Such flexibility allows the government to authorize generic production in public health emergencies, balancing innovation with societal needs.
- In Kenya, the creative industry highlights the need for fair IP protection. Musicians and filmmakers often lose revenue due to rampant piracy, with illegal downloads and unauthorized broadcasts undermining their livelihoods.

Kenya stands at a crossroads where innovation is driving economic growth, yet the need for fair intellectual property (IP) protection remains critical to sustain this momentum. As a hub for technology and creativity in East Africa, Kenya has seen remarkable advancements, from mobile money platforms like M-Pesa to vibrant creative industries. However, striking a balance between fostering innovation and ensuring creators and inventors are fairly rewarded is a challenge. Robust IP protection can incentivize innovation by securing creators' rights, but overly stringent laws may stifle creativity and limit access to knowledge, particularly in a developing nation like Kenya. This delicate balance is essential to ensure equitable growth and global competitiveness.

Intellectual property rights, including patents, copyrights, and trademarks, are designed to protect creators while encouraging innovation. In Kenya, the Industrial Property Act and the Copyright Act provide frameworks for safeguarding inventions and creative works. For instance, M-Pesa, a revolutionary mobile payment system developed by Safaricom, benefited from patent protection that allowed the company to invest in scaling the platform. Such protections ensure innovators can reap financial rewards, encouraging further investment in research and development. However, Kenya's IP system must evolve to address modern challenges, such as digital piracy and the protection of traditional knowledge, which are critical to local communities.

Globally, examples illustrate the tension between innovation and IP protection. In the pharmaceutical industry, strong patent laws have driven the development of life-saving drugs, but they have also limited access to affordable generics in developing nations. For example, during the HIV/AIDS crisis in the early 2000s, South Africa faced challenges accessing affordable antiretroviral drugs due to patent restrictions. This led to global advocacy for flexible IP rules, resulting in mechanisms like compulsory licensing, which Kenya has incorporated into its laws. Such flexibility allows the government to authorize generic production in public health emergencies, balancing innovation with societal needs.

In Kenya, the creative industry highlights the need for fair IP protection. Musicians and filmmakers often lose revenue due to rampant piracy, with illegal downloads and unauthorized broadcasts undermining their livelihoods.



Intellectual Property

hoods. The Kenya Copyright Board has made strides in combating piracy, but enforcement remains weak. For instance, the 2019 hit song Wamlambe by Sailors Gang was widely pirated, depriving the artists of significant earnings. Strengthening enforcement and educating the public about respecting IP rights can ensure creators are rewarded, fostering a vibrant creative economy that contributes to Kenya's GDP.

On the flip side, overly restrictive IP laws can hinder innovation, particularly in Kenya's tech sector. Open-source software has been a catalyst for innovation globally, with platforms like Linux and Apache enabling developers to build solutions without prohibitive costs. In Kenya, tech hubs like iHub rely on collaborative models where developers share code freely. Excessive IP restrictions could limit such collaboration, stifling the growth of startups. Policymakers must ensure IP laws encourage knowledge-sharing while protecting proprietary innovations, creating an

ecosystem where startups can thrive.

Traditional knowledge and cultural heritage also demand careful consideration in Kenya's IP framework. Indigenous communities, such as the Maasai, have seen their cultural symbols and designs commercialized without consent or benefit-sharing. The 2016 Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions Act aims to address this, but implementation remains inconsistent. Drawing from Australia's approach, where Aboriginal art is protected through collective trademarks, Kenya could establish mechanisms to ensure communities benefit from their cultural assets, fostering innovation rooted in heritage.

Public awareness and institutional capacity are critical to balancing IP and innovation. Many Kenyan innovators, particularly in rural areas, lack knowledge about patenting or copyright processes, limiting their ability to protect their work. Simplifying registration processes and increasing outreach, as seen in India's

IP facilitation centers, could bridge this gap. Additionally, strengthening institutions like the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) with adequate funding and trained personnel will enhance enforcement and dispute resolution, creating a more equitable IP ecosystem.

In conclusion, Kenya must craft an IP framework that rewards creators while fostering an inclusive environment for innovation. By learning from global examples and addressing local challenges, such as piracy, traditional knowledge protection, and tech collaboration, Kenya can build a system that drives economic growth and social progress. Policymakers, innovators, and communities must work together to ensure IP laws are fair, accessible, and responsive to the needs of a dynamic economy. A balanced approach will position Kenya as a leader in innovation, where creativity and invention thrive for the benefit of all.

The writer is a legal scrivener

Youths, Young Adults In Kiharu Trained On Short Artisan Courses

By: Bernard Munyao and Purity Mugo
@themkenyatiimes

At least 1,135 youths and young adults have benefited with short artisan courses fully sponsored by Kiharu National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF). The beneficiaries who graduated yesterday at Ihura stadium in Murang'a town were awarded certificates after successfully completing a four-month training in colleges operating within the constituency. Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro has said the graduands were the first bunch of those who were selected to undertake the training under Kiharu Fani-kisha Programme. The programme that was launched in December 2024, Ndindi said was tailor made to offer training on various artisan courses to unemployed youths and young adults who reside in the constituency. "We established this programme to ensure our young people have skills in various courses. The graduates have been awarded certificates to help them search for employment as others initiate income generating projects," stated Ndindi. The beneficiaries were sponsored to

train on hospitality, cosmetology and driving courses in various local colleges and driving schools operating within Kiharu where the tuition fee was fully paid by the NG-CDF. "Those who trained in driving have been issued with smartcard driving licenses and fortunately some have already secured employment," he added. To make the programme affordable, Ndindi stated that the trainees were guided to undertake the courses in institutes which are closer to their homes. The legislator called upon the beneficiaries to embrace self-employment saying this will give them opportunities to nurture their ambitions and even enable them to employ other young people. "I want to encourage those who have graduated today to consider self-employment, which is like a blank check, your skills and determination dictate how much you earn every month and your possibilities for growth are limitless," said Ndindi. In supporting education in Kiharu, the legislator observed that the local NG-CDF has disbursed funds to facilitate construction of laboratories in Junior Secondary Schools (JSS). In phase one of the project, eight

schools have already received each Sh. 3.5 million to construct laboratories. "Construction of the laboratories will commence immediately since funds have been deposited in the counts of the respective project management committees. Some of the schools slated to benefit in phase one of the laboratory programme include Gakurwe, Kimathi, Karingu, Kambirwa, Maragi and Githagara primary schools among others. The MP further added to deepen studies in day secondary schools within the constituency, revision books worth Sh10 million are slated to be distributed in the schools. "Our aim is to improve education standards in Kiharu by providing necessary infrastructure and equipment needed to facilitate effective teaching," he added. Meanwhile the MP has opposed the proposal to withdraw NG-CDF saying the kitty has enabled legislators to serve Kenyans by addressing their needs in ways that were previously impossible. "There are things our predecessors could not do that we are now able to do as members of parliament. "When we are making judgements around an issue like NG-CDF it is



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro with his constituents yesterday

good that as we consider the legal-ese around it, we also consider the impact," remarked Ndindi. He noted that the leaders should manage the funds appropriately stating that they bring services such as bursaries closer to people. Ndindi averred that in Kiharu he has been able to reduce the school fees paid by day secondary school students to Sh1000 per term and he has also renovated primary school classrooms across the constituency among other projects using NG-CDF. He noted that the county governments are doing their role of overseeing the devolved functions while NGCDF serves national government

functions like education and infrastructure therefore the fund cannot be placed under county governments. On loans, the MP called upon the government to evaluate its borrowing and accumulation of loans terming it as a big threat to the economy. "I believe there are better ways to manage public resources without burdening Kenyans with huge debts," he said. He called upon the government to use existing assets to raise resources instead of only relying on debt saying the burden will be borne by future generations.

Governor Nyong'o's Letter Is More Of A Call To The Luo Elites Than A Reprimand To The President

One of the sober minds in Luo land whose erudition transcends the borders of Africa continent, Prof. Nyong'o, penned a reflective correspondence to none other than President Ruto. Even though the letter was not directly addressed to Ruto, every word and phrase that formed its prose spoke to him directly. This is the first time the good professor's sentiments have touched on the broad-based government on his capacity as the governor of Kisumu. He has been silent on the broad-based government formation, all this while, a situation that has seen him classified in the same group of Raila cows as Hon. Raila critics scornfully refer to us Luos; a general but not that palatable misinformed classification. Cows for what they are, Bos taurus phylogenetically, are low in thinking and must be tethered or held with bit and bridle, a phenomenon that should not define the advanced Homo sapiens except for some boisterous praise singers of the ilk of Kaluma and his can-

tankerous law professor colleague who seem to reason through their distended tummies rather than through their acclaimed legal brains. Prof. Nyong'o, a social scientist cum economist per excellence, cannot be secluded in a cocoon of praise singers sycophants as well as his Siya counterpart Jimmy. Whenever you see Prof. Nyong'o and Orengo taking a stand on an issue of national importance, be warned that a confederacy of wisdom, consistency, and vision coupled with boldness have converged for a worthy course and the resultant is automatic – the Luo elites (the ones lacking in sycophantic gimmicks) will take the cue. Had the two harnessed such traits and translated them to development strategies, their respective counties could've passed for exemplary excellence behemoth. But on the contrary, their knowledge and wisdom have not materialise into tangible development! But this just another story. The climax of prof's letter is captured

in this clincher: "The truth is that Ruto has decided to go back to the pre-devolution time of Nyayo era. The 2010 constitution is a hindrance to his primitive accumulation schemes, which will affect not only Devolution but the very ethos of building a democratic and developmental state". Captured in these phrases are truth, the importance of constitutionalism, and the unflinching paramountcy of devolution. He captures the aphorism of Devolution by deliberately making it a noun, thus, capitalising its first letter of its construction. This is purposefully to communicate that constitution, and by important extension devolution, cannot play second fiddle to the presidency. By so doing, the professor decides to identify the fakes from genuine, thus, tagging the society. As a society, we are called to identifies fakes from genuine, corrupt from honesty, loyalty from treachery. The governor is leading from the front on this matter. Any political operative who's of the



Prof. Anyang Nyong'o.

contrary opinion is just but treacherous but not loyal to the constitution. This is a call to the Luos in the broad-based government to look reflect on fanatical support for the mere bit of it but to probe the genuineness of the pres-

idency in adhering to the ethos of the society and the constitutionalism. Thanks Simon Bodo

Supporting The Boy Child: Nurturing Responsible Future Adults



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyetimes



Worth Noting:

- The presence of positive male role models is essential in shaping the character of young boys. Fathers, uncles, teachers, and community leaders can serve as mentors, demonstrating values such as integrity, responsibility, and respect. These role models provide boys with a blueprint for becoming responsible adults.
- Societal expectations often pressure boys to conform to rigid gender roles, such as being tough, competitive, and emotionally distant. Challenging these stereotypes allows boys to explore a wider range of interests and behaviors, promoting personal growth and reducing the likelihood of engaging in harmful activities like violence or substance abuse.
- There is a misconception that boys do not need as much academic support as girls. However, boys also face challenges in education, including higher dropout rates in some regions.



Supporting The Boy Child

In many parts of the world, including Africa, significant strides have been made to address the challenges faced by the girl child. While this progress is commendable, there is a growing concern that the boy child is often left to navigate life on his own, under the assumption that he is inherently resilient. However, boys also face unique challenges that need to be addressed to ensure they grow into responsible and well-rounded adults. Here are ten ways and reasons to support the boy child effectively:

1. Promoting Emotional Intelligence

Boys are often socialized to suppress their emotions, leading to difficulties in expressing feelings and dealing with mental health issues. Encouraging boys to understand and express their emotions from an early age fosters emotional intelligence, which is crucial for building healthy relationships and managing stress in adulthood.

2. Providing Positive Male Role Models

The presence of positive male role models is essential in shaping the character of young boys. Fathers, uncles, teachers, and community leaders can serve as mentors, demonstrating values such as integrity, responsibility, and respect. These role models provide boys

with a blueprint for becoming responsible adults.

3. Addressing Gender Stereotypes

Societal expectations often pressure boys to conform to rigid gender roles, such as being tough, competitive, and emotionally distant. Challenging these stereotypes allows boys to explore a wider range of interests and behaviors, promoting personal growth and reducing the likelihood of engaging in harmful activities like violence or substance abuse.

4. Encouraging Academic Achievement

There is a misconception that boys do not need as much academic support as girls. However, boys also face challenges in education, including higher dropout rates in some regions. Providing academic support, such as tutoring and mentorship programs, ensures that boys stay engaged in their studies and develop the skills needed for future success.

5. Promoting Healthy Relationships

Teaching boys about the importance of respect, consent, and communication in relationships helps them develop healthy interactions with others. This education is vital in preventing gender-based violence and fostering a culture of mutual respect between men and women.

6. Addressing Mental Health Needs

Boys and young men often face mental health challenges, including depression and anxiety, but are less likely to seek help due to stigma. Providing mental health education and access to counseling services encourages boys to seek help when needed and reduces the risk of long-term mental health issues.

7. Instilling a Sense of Responsibility

Responsibility should be taught from an early age. Assigning age-appropriate chores, encouraging participation in community service, and teaching financial literacy help boys develop a strong sense of responsibility. These experiences prepare them to take on adult roles with maturity and accountability.

8. Encouraging Positive Peer Influence

Boys are often influenced by their peer groups, which can be either positive or negative. Encouraging boys to form friendships with peers who share positive values, engage in constructive activities, and provide mutual support can have a significant impact on their development. Peer mentoring programs can also play a vital role in this regard.

9. Fostering Creativity and Critical Thinking

Boys should be encouraged to think critically and creatively, rather than being limited to traditional male-dominated fields. Providing opportunities for boys to engage in the arts, sciences, and other diverse areas of interest allows them to discover their passions and develop problem-solving skills, which are essential for success in a rapidly changing world.

10. Ensuring Equal Opportunities for All

It is crucial to ensure that boys have access to the same opportunities as girls, including scholarships, extracurricular activities, and leadership programs. By leveling the playing field, we can help boys realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

Conclusion

The well-being of the boy child is just as important as that of the girl child. By addressing the specific challenges boys face and providing them with the necessary support, we can help them grow into responsible, compassionate, and successful adults. A balanced approach that nurtures both boys and girls is essential for creating a more just and equitable society. Investing in the boy child today will yield positive outcomes for families, communities, and the world at large.

Governors, CS Duale Firm Up Commitment To Strengthen Health Sector

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

The Council of Governors has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the country's health sector through continued collaboration with the National Government, as efforts to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC) gain momentum.

In a follow-up consultative meeting held yesterday in Nairobi, governors engaged Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale to firm up critical issues aimed at improving healthcare delivery across the 47 counties.

Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki, who chairs the Council's Health Committee, described the meeting as "another step forward" in the ongoing partnership to ensure accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for all Kenyans.

"As the Council of Governors, we have resolved to institutionalize reg-

ular engagements and joint reviews with the National Government in a bid to better healthcare services," said Governor Njuki.

During the meeting, counties also signed participatory agreements designed to lay a solid foundation for the rollout of improved, community-tailored health services.

Both CS Duale and the governors emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach in addressing systemic challenges and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of health service delivery at all levels.

The latest developments signal a shared commitment to deepening devolution in the health sector and ensuring that no Kenyan is left behind in the pursuit of UHC.



Ministry of Health and Council of Governors officials in a group photo after the meeting.

Embu Town Boda Boda Riders Receive Sh3 Million From President Ruto

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyetimes

Boda Boda Riders in Embu town have a reason to smile after receiving a Sh3 million donation from President William Ruto.

The donation came following a request from Governor Cecily Mbarire to the President to support them in his recent visit of the county during his weeklong development tour of Mt Kenya Region.

Speaking while handing over the funds to the riders' leadership yesterday in company of area (Kirimari Ward) MCA Ibrahim Swaleh, Governor Mbarire thanked the president for keeping his pledge

She said the funds will go a long way in supporting various economic empowerment initiatives being undertaken by different groups in the sector.

"The sectors play a vital role in

driving our economy and as a government, we are committed to empowering them through targeted economic programs to ensure continuous growth," she said.

MCA Swaleh asked the riders to make good use of the funds by investing in income generating activities.

"We are hoping the funds will leave a lasting mark in the lives of our boda boda operators through proper investment," he said.

The operators Chair Benjamin Mukundi pointed out that they had identified some key projects such as starting a filling station.

"We have asked the governor to assist us in securing a piece of land for that purpose and we are hopeful that we will get one soon," he said.

The President also made a pledge to support porters commonly known as "beba beba" with Sh1.5 Million to buy carts. The donation has also been delivered to the group.



Embu County Governor Cecily Mbarire addressing journalists after meeting Bodaboda operators.

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Sports >> *Kenya's track queen Faith Kipyegon is among ten world record-holders and 23 reigning global individual champions entered for the star-studded fields for the first Wanda Diamond League meeting of the year in Xiamen on Saturday

Track Queen Kipyegon, Omanyala Lead Star-Studded Field In Season Opening Xiamen Diamond League



Double world record holder Faith Kipyegon crosses the finish line to win the women's 1500m at the national trials for the Paris Olympics at Nyayo Stadium. PHOTO/RAYMOND MAKHAYA .

Kenya's track queen Faith Kipyegon is among ten world record-holders and 23 reigning global individual champions entered for the star-studded fields for the first Wanda Diamond League meeting of the year in Xiamen on Saturday.

This will be Kipyegon's first race of the season that is expected to see her attempt to become the first woman to run a mile under four minutes in a Nike sponsored race scheduled for June 26 in Paris.

Others world beaters to compete in Xiamen are double Olympic champion Kenyan Beatrice Chebet, Mondo Duplantis, Grant Holloway, Yaroslava Mahuchikh and Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay.

Season debuts for Kipyegon

Kipyegon claimed her third Olympic 1500m title in Paris last year and in Xiamen she will make her 2025 debut by dropping down to the 1000m.

The 31-year-old holds world records in the 1500m and the mile, and she sits second on the world all-time list for the 1000m following her 2:29.15 run in Monaco in 2020 – that performance just 0.17 shy of Svetlana Masterkova's world record set in 1996.

The Xiamen 1000m will be Kipyegon's first race since the Athlos meeting in September last year. Earlier that month she won her fifth Diamond League title at the final in Brussels.

She will be joined in Xiamen by athletes including Ethiopia's world U20 champion Saron Berhe and Olympic 800m silver medallist Tsige Duguma, plus Australia's Abbey Caldwell, Uganda's Halimah Nakaayi and Benin's Noelle Yarigo.

-All Eyes On Chebet-

The women's 5000m will feature a clash of global champions – both of them world record-holders.

Kenya's Beatrice Chebet achieved an Olympic 5000m and 10,000m title double in Paris and is the world record-holder in the longer distance as well as for 5km on the roads, while Ethiopia's Tsegay is the world 5000m record-holder who more recently won the world indoor 1500m title in a championship record in Nanjing.

Their head-to-head record in 5000m track finals stands at 3-2 in Tsegay's favour and in Xiamen they will clash for the first time since last year's Olympic Games.

Among those joining them on the start line are Ethiopia's two-time world indoor champion Frewyni Hailu, Birke Haylom and world U20 steeplechase champion Sembo Almayew, making her 5000m debut.

-Omanyala Sets Sights On Maiden Diamond League Title-
The entry list for the men's

100m stars Botswana's Olympic 200m gold and 100m silver medallist Letsile Tebogo as well as all three world indoor 60m medallists – champion Jeremiah Azu, Lachlan Kennedy and Akani Simbine – plus Christian Coleman and Africa Record Holder Ferdinand Omanyala.

Jamaica's Shericka Jackson continues her comeback in the 200m. The two-time world champion last raced the distance in Szekesfehervar in July but pulled up injured and did not run at the Olympic Games.

She clocked 36.13 for 300m earlier this month after opening her year with two 60m races and in Xiamen she will face world indoor 60m champion Mujinga Kambundji, Jenna Prandini and Tamara Clark.

-Duplantis returns-

Duplantis returns to the scene of the eighth of his now 11 world pole vault records.

The Swedish 25-year-old, who on Monday was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year, cleared 6.24m in Xiamen last year and went on to set another world record of 6.25m in Paris, where he retained his Olympic title.

He has achieved another two world records since – 6.26m in Silesia later in August and 6.27m in Clermont-Ferrand in February.

The meeting in Xiamen will be his outdoor season opener as Duplantis competes for the first time since winning his third consecutive world indoor title in Nanjing last month.

Emmanouil Karalis of Greece improved his national record to 6.05m to secure silver and is also in action this weekend, along with world silver medallist Ernest John Obiena and two-time world champion Sam Kendricks.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) presidential candidate Francis Mutuku has bemoaned the postponement of the body’s national elections that were earlier scheduled for yesterday.

Mutuku ‘Saddened’ By Postponement Of NOC-K Elections



NOC-K presidential candidate Francis Mutuku with KTTF’s Andrew Mudibo. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

National Olympics Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) presidential candidate Francis Mutuku has bemoaned the postponement of the body’s national elections that were earlier scheduled for yesterday.

Mutuku said the adjournment of the polls due to an impasse within four federations does not set a good example for sports administration.

“Certainly not, it does not give us pleasure to stay in office more day. I believe that leadership is a service. We are not happy about the situation. We hope the General Assembly can reconvene as soon as possible to express themselves on who they want to carry on the vision of NOCK,” Mutuku said.

The polls were adjourned on

Thursday afternoon after four federations were unable to agree on which of their officials were to vote.

The federations include Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF), Kenya Handball Federation (KHF), Kenya Triathlon Federation and the Kenya Taekwondo Federation.

The deadlock was the culmination of what had been a boardroom/court battles since Wednesday.

The High Court had earlier struck out an application by Taekwondo president Suleiman Sumba who sought stay orders against the polls.

Later, the Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) temporarily suspended the polls pending the hearing of a

case filed by 13 federations.

However, the tribunal gave the go-ahead for the elections on Thursday afternoon, while at the same time asking the AGM to deliberate on the eligibility of the four federations and which officials to carry the vote.

All attempts to reach a resolution within the four federations came to naught prompting a proposal to adjourn the meeting until they resolve their internal differences.

Reflecting on the back-and-forth of the day, Mutuku described it as an uncharted territory.

He was not clear on the exact date for the rescheduled polls.

“We are not able to confirm the dates (for the elections). We are in uncharted territory...however as an executive, we have been

very clear that it is urgent to have elections so that preparations for upcoming events can continue,” he said.

Nonetheless, Mutuku is confident that where there is a will, there is a way.

“We believe that this (stalemate) will change. Once we dispense with the legal issues, we will be left with a political matter... and electoral issues are political issues. We are confident that the federations will come to a resolution,” he said.

Mutuku is contesting the top job with Shadrack Maluki who is NOCK’s first deputy president.

Capital Sport

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Backpage



Setswana Promoter Through Literacy



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

Who are you?

Tumelo Abotseng, a Setswana literature promoter, indigenous language writer and bringing educational Setswana content to kids. I was born and bred in a small village in Tswapong North called Lesenepole in central district.

What does award nomination means to you?

Recognition and validation of our voice, culture, views.

It's time for exchange of knowledge amongst nominees and hosts. We get feedback in areas we need to improve and how best we can benefit from our work.

What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?

It's a celebration of voices, cultures and stories.

How are the book sales in Botswana?

Book sales in Botswana are good despite few challenges.

When we sell our books in partnership with bookshops we get lower royalties as compared to when I sell them direct to readers. For example they author get 60% while bookshop gets 40% hence leading to overpricing of books.

People view Setswana as a difficult language as compared to English hence they prefer English over Setswana. This means you have to come up with strategies to make them develop love and understanding of Setswana.

Setswana is viewed as a local or national language, we learn it to pass at school and forget about it. When compared with other languages like English or French they are given an upper hand because you can benefit from international market.

How do you feel about writing in Africa?

Is a platform for shaping future and preserving our heritage in a dynamic world.

What can be done to improve book sales?

Enhanced marketing- People buy what they see or hear about.

The more we make readers aware of our work which properly done they will easily buy. This entails using Facebook pages and other media platforms.

Collaboration- as authors we need to work hand in hand with other stakeholders like parents, teachers, schools, bookstores and influencers.

Be proud of our culture and language- if we are proud of our roots we will be zealous to do things concerning our culture and language.

Are Botswana a reading nation?

Yes Botswana are readers with preference. If your work is well done they will announce it to others because of its value.

Digital literacy how is it in your country?

It is low.

More engagement online but we are still struggling with materials for such.

Do you plan to make ebooks?

Yes but in the next 5 years.

Any plans of audio books?

Yes but very skeptical about it. For Setswana or indigenous books is better we see words and put into practice what we have read because we are struggling when it comes to writing what we know or speak.

What category have you been nominated so far?

3 categories being;

1. Educational Setswana
2. Indigenous language
3. Literature promoter

Who is your local role model?

A. Kgasa and Leetile Disang Raditladi (Raditladi was one of the pioneers of not the first Setswana authors)

Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?

A well published author in local and international market helping other local authors to reach my level too.

The concept of Unity, what can Unity do to authors?

Platform for sharing ideas.

It is a support system that enhances team work and accelerated process in reaching out to readers.

Do you have background training in writing?

I have been trained as a writer.

The things to consider before writing a book and ways in which you can use to take your work to people.

What do you understand by copyrights?

Diligently guard your work for your own good.

Have you protected your books?

Yes with Cosbots.

Your advice to upcoming authors.

Passion will take you to the top.

Passion without quality is nothing. Quality of work will determine your returns. One must

have a teachable spirit and embrace correction and criticism.

Your last word.

Keep writing.



Tumelo Abotseng.

