



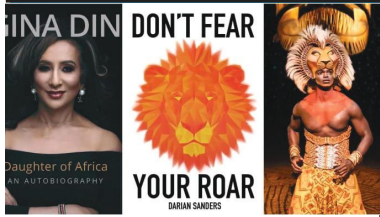
BBC Documentary: The Harrowing Truth Of Nairobi Parliament Killings
A newly released BBC documentary has cast a stark and unflinching light on the deadly events that transpired during the 2024 anti-finance bill protests, focusing specifically on the violence that erupted at the Kenyan Parliament. The documentary, utilizing extensive video analysis and eyewitness accounts, has presented a chilling reconstruction of the day, raising serious questions about the use of force by security personnel.
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News>>Storytelling: Kenyan Author Gina Din's Book Set For Film Production As American Publisher Announces Partnership

P. 8. US-based Gungnir Publishing And Curiosity Entertainment's Storyteller Media Have Partnered To Launch A Global Storytelling Slate With A Built-In Book-To-Film Pipeline



News>>Fierce Competition As Teams Eye County-Level Qualification In Governor Waiguru's Football Tournament

P. 12. There was excitement among players and fans at Kianyaga Stadium as Governor Anne Waiguru's Minji Minji football tournament entered its midway mark, with teams battling fiercely for crucial points in the pool stages.

Kazi Majuu Recruits Scandal

Senators have summoned Labour Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua and officials from the National Employment Authority (NEA) to respond to concerns about the status of diaspora jobs, following allegations that agencies involved in the recruitment process conned hundreds of job seekers.

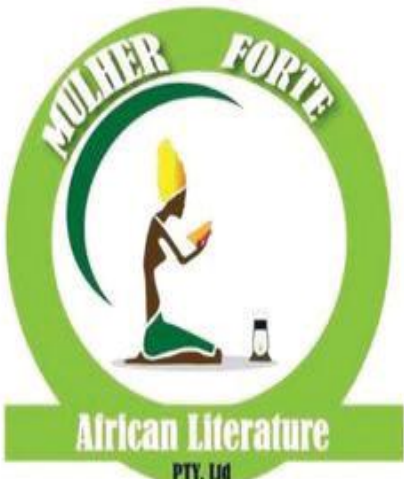
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Labour Cabinet Secretary Dr Alfred Mutua

STORY ON PAGE 9





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Regulatory Authorities And Agencies (RAAs) Conference Focuses On Service Excellence And Governance Alignment

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

The 2nd Annual Regulatory Authorities and Agencies (RAAs) Conference kicked off yesterday at the University of Eldoret, bringing together Principal Secretaries and top leadership from across various RAAs. The event was attended by Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, alongside Principal Secretaries from various government sectors. The conference aims to assess the progress made since the inaugural forum in April last year and to develop new strategies for enhancing governance alignment, promoting innovation, and achieving service excellence within RAAs. These agencies are crucial in upholding standards, improving service delivery, and ensuring the efficient and transparent meeting of citizens' needs. The conference marks a significant step towards improving regulatory frameworks, strengthening accountability, and driving innovation across government agencies, ensuring that they continue to serve the public with utmost efficiency.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



President William Ruto yesterday received a status report from the board of trustees of the National Fund for the Disabled of Kenya, led by the Chairperson, Kristina Pratt at State House, Nairobi. While receiving the report, the Head of State observed that a nation is judged by the manner in which it takes care of vulnerable citizens saying that for the last 44 years, the Fund has served thousands of the less privileged well.



Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen alongside Interior Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo had a consultative meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Mr. Liu Guozhou, the Vice Governor of Guangdong Province and Director General of Public Security. Their discussions focused on leveraging Chinese technology and expertise to improve the country's security systems. Also present were Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja and DIG for National Police Service Eliud Lagat.



The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Practitioners Level 2 Training for TVETs in the Mt. Kenya Region is taking place at The Nyeri National Polytechnic (NNP) in Nyeri town. The State Department for TVETs, in collaboration with the NNP has organized the training, which will run from yesterday to Saturday. Expert trainers from various trade areas are participating to strengthen RPL practices and support skills development across the country.



Senior officials from the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) led by CEO Mr Batram Muthoka and the ASK Mt Kenya Branch yesterday met Laikipia county governor Joshua Irungu ahead of this year's show next month. The ASK Nanyuki Show is set to be held from 21st to 24th May 2025 under the theme; "Promote Climate Smart Initiatives in Agriculture and Trade for Sustainable Economic Growth". Being the County patron, the governor was briefed on the ongoing preparations while exploring areas of collaboration and sponsorship. Both the governor and the ASK team called upon exhibitors in areas of Agriculture, Manufacturing, Housing, Small and Medium Enterprises, Banking, Hospitality, Health, Education, and Public and Private Sector Institutions as well as members of the public to take part in this year's show.



Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday hosted a section of leaders from Laikipia County. They included elected members of the Laikipia County Assembly led by Koinange Wamohi, Laikipia Senator John Kinyua and former Laikipia Woman representative Cate Waruguru.

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday toured Samburu county where he launched and inspected projects. He noted that the government is accelerating the completion of the 1.5 million cubic metre YAMO dam, which he inspected, whose completion date is June 2026 at a total cost of 2.2 billion shillings. He further told residents of Maralal that the KSh73 million Maralal Municipality Market (Ksh 50 million- National Government, Ksh 23 million- County Government) will provide modern, dignified trading spaces for traders with special rooms for lactating mothers, coolers for preservation of fresh produce and an ICT hub to facilitate e-commerce. The DP commissioned the Maralal Municipal Fresh Produce Market. He was accompanied by among others; Samburu County Governor Jonathan Lati Lelelit, Senator Steve Lelegwe, Woman Representative Pauline Lenguris, MPs; Lentoijoni Jackson Lekumontare (Samburu East), Naisula Lesuuda (Samburu West), Letipila Dominic (Samburu North), Elijah Njoroge (Gatundu North), John Bwire (Taveta), Samburu County Assembly Speaker Steve Lenamarle, Members of the Samburu County Assembly, community leaders.



Senior officials from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation planted tree seedlings along the Kimana area and Kimana Mixed Secondary School. Officials from Kajiado County Government led by the CEC Environment were in attendance as well as participated in the tree planting exercise. The Ministry adopted two counties of Kiambu and Kajiado respectively to plant and grow trees. The team was led by Water Secretary Eng. SAO Alima thanked the SAGAs in the Ministry for their support towards the success of this initiative. In the same breath, Eng. Alima and his Irrigation counterpart Eng. Vincent Kabuti with both requesting area residents to grow fruit trees such as avocados to boost their income as well take care of the environment as climate change impacts are a reality today. Others who were in the team included the Secretary Administration for State Department for Water and Sanitation Stephen Kihara, Eng. Bernard Onyango, Eng. Martin Ng'aa, Thande Githae, Maurice Opondo, CEOs and Chairpersons of SAGAs and other stakeholders.



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Innovative Smart Mushroom Farming Takes Root At JKUAT

By: Yvonne Wangeci
@themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Farmers can now monitor and manage growth conditions remotely, receiving real-time notifications to ensure optimal productivity.
- The project is a collaboration between JKUAT, JKUAT's innovation hub (J-Hub), South Korean company Mush&Co., and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). It also receives strong support from Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

A groundbreaking agricultural innovation is quietly taking shape at the leafy campus of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), where mushrooms are being grown, not in traditional mud huts, but inside a high-tech 40-foot container.

Using a blend of smart farming technologies, including environmental sensors, CCTV cameras, and smart-phone-linked applications, the project is redefining mushroom cultivation.

Farmers can now monitor and manage growth conditions remotely, receiving real-time notifications to ensure optimal productivity.

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"When I came to this country, I was shocked by the size of farms. Kenya is 23 times bigger than Korea, yet many farmers still face challenges. In Korea, even with small spaces, we stack mushroom farms up to 15 tiers high, about 50 meters. This saves space and maximizes yield. Here, you can grow mushrooms even in your backyard without occupying much land," said Jihyun Jung, CEO and Director of Mush.

She added that this method could also help combat deforestation. "In many places, forests are cleared to create farmland. This smart farming technique minimizes land use while ensuring high yields," she said.

According to the founder and director of J-Hub at JKUAT Laurence Nderu,



the project leverages advanced smart farming systems.

"We use sensors to track temperature, humidity, and light levels, key parameters for mushroom growth. If temperatures rise too high, actuators automatically activate sprinklers to cool the container. All of this can be controlled remotely via a mobile app, anywhere in the world," Nderu explained.

He emphasized that this kind of innovation is crucial for attracting young people into agriculture, an industry where the average farmer is aging.

"We want to make agriculture cool and tech-driven so we can train the next generation of farmers," he said.

While the initial setup costs are rel-

atively high primarily due to the cost of sensors and smart systems, Jihyun Jung believes the investment is worthwhile.

"The risks are lower because the conditions are optimized. Mushrooms mature in about one and a half months, with daily harvesting possible. You start to see returns almost immediately," she said.

The traditional substrate of hay and manure is still used, making it a familiar process for farmers despite the technological upgrade.

A single 20-foot container can produce approximately 100 kilograms of mushrooms, with expectations for increased yields as techniques improve.

The project's outreach is expanding

rapidly. According to Nderu, JKUAT has partnered with over 400,000 farmers, initially focusing efforts on Kiambu and Machakos counties before scaling up nationally.

KALRO's involvement ensures that farmers countrywide are trained and exposed to this innovative technique.

Nderu urges farmers to embrace new technologies, noting that consumers are becoming more interested in traceability and organic certifications, both of which are easier to achieve with smart farming practices.

By integrating technology into agriculture, the team at JKUAT is not just growing mushrooms; they are sowing the seeds for the future of Kenyan farming.

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Storytelling: Kenyan Author Gina Din’s Book Set For Film Production As American Publisher Announces Partnership

..... US-based Gungnir Publishing And Curiosity Entertainment’s Storyteller Media Have Partnered To Launch A Global Storytelling Slate With A Built-In Book-To-Film Pipeline

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Kenyan author and Pan-African media strategist Gina Din-Kariuki is set to make her global film production debut with her autobiographical book, *Daughter of Africa*, following the signing of a book-to-film pipeline partnership by her American publisher.

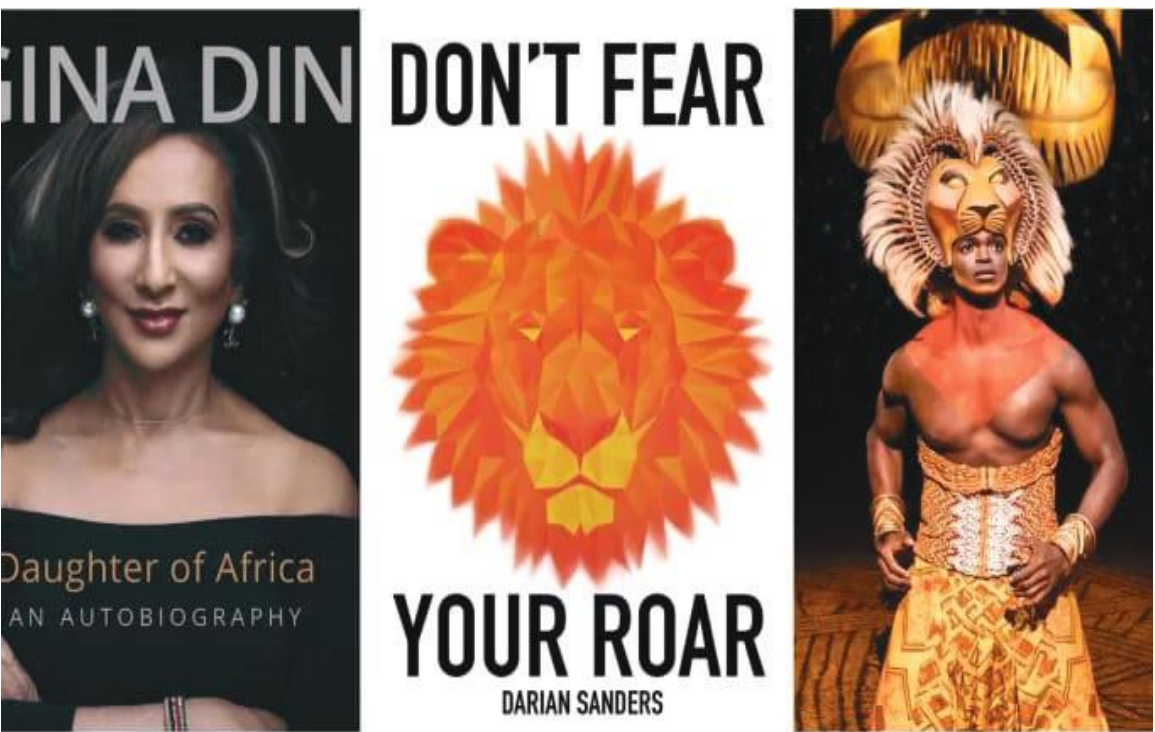
GUNGNIR, the publishing house dedicated to visionary and subversive storytelling, and Storyteller Media, the author-first publishing company redefining how books come to life across media, have announced a new partnership to publish and develop a powerful slate of original works designed for both page and screen.

With a built-in book-to-film pipeline — powered by Curiosity Entertainment’s critically acclaimed team — who are now in preproduction on a slate including the next show by co-creator of *Ozark*, Mark Williams, a feature film co-production with Panay Films, and a television show by The Umbrella Academy writers, the Neese Brothers— this alliance represents a bold new model for publishing, where stories are developed with multi-platform potential from the outset. Whether memoir, fiction, or graphic novel, each release is backed by the resources and industry reach of a proven entertainment powerhouse.

The first titles in this storytelling initiative spotlight voices with authentic, cinematic narratives:

- Gina Din’s autobiography, *Daughter of Africa* — already a best-seller in her home continent — will be re-released for North American audiences in 2025. Accompanying the re-release will be the publication of an entirely new work by Din – A companion workbook on leadership and legacy, designed to offer practical guidance for entrepreneurs rooted in the author’s vast business experience as founder of Africa’s most awarded PR firm, The Gina Din Group.
- Darian Sanders debut memoir, *Don’t Fear Your Roar*, published by Storyteller in late 2024, is a raw and uplifting journey of faith, resilience, and self-discovery. Best known for his role as Simba in Disney’s *The Lion King* national tour, Sanders brings a commanding voice to the page.

The GUNGNIR–Storyteller alliance represents a new model in publishing: one where creators retain ownership, secure mainstream traditional distribution, receive tailored publicity sup-



port, and see their work considered for high-quality screen adaptation from day one.

“At Storyteller, we start every publishing conversation by asking, ‘What impact can this story make?’” said Charles Allen, Publisher of Storyteller Media. “We believe *Daughter of Africa* and *Don’t Fear Your Roar* are perfect examples of stories making a meaningful impact, and we are thrilled to amplify their voices with readers and viewers around the world.”

“Our goal at GUNGNIR has always been to create narratives that go beyond the expected,” said Matt Medney, CEO of GUNGNIR Publishing. “Storyteller’s approach to turning books into cross-media experiences aligns perfectly with our mission. This partnership gives bold voices the platform they deserve — in print, on screen, and beyond.”

The full 2025–2026 publishing slate will be announced in the coming months and includes titles spanning memoir, genre fiction, graphic novels, and social impact storytelling — all designed for potential adaptation into film and television.

Adhruca Apana, Founder, Curiosity Entertainment, commented: “At Curiosity, we believe in supporting stories from their very first spark to their final frame. Through Storyteller Media and our partnership with GUNGNIR, we’re able to go upstream, discovering bold and visionary IP early and cultivating it for the screen. This is how we build legacy stories that last.”



Worth Noting:

New collaboration is backed by the production company founded by the Executives behind award-winning projects that include HBO’s The Survivor, Capone, Madame Secretary, and The Night Manager. First titles from African icon Gina Din and Broadway star Darian Sanders kick off an ambitious 2025-2026 lineup

Senators Summon CS Mutua As Duped Kazi Majuu Recruits Seek Answers

By: Irene Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Calvin Nyamweya, an orphan who sought employment in Qatar, told legislators he was shocked when asked to pay additional fees, despite prior assurances from the Ministry of Labour that the recruitment exercise would be free.
- “CS Mutua announced the jobs and the recruitment drive was happening at KICC. We did interviews, and those who qualified left their passports. We were later called back to KICC and told to pay Sh20,000 for the medical check-up,” Nyamweya said.
- “My aunt paid the money, and to date, not a single coin has been refunded,” he narrated.
- Weeks later, applicants were recalled to the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) to collect offer letters but were instead asked to pay an additional Sh40,000 to facilitate the processing of visa documents, certificates of good conduct, and other paperwork.



Labour Cabinet Secretary Dr Alfred Mutua interacts with jobseekers at Wote town on November 21, 2024.

Senators have summoned Labour Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua and officials from the National Employment Authority (NEA) to respond to concerns about the status of diaspora jobs, following allegations that agencies involved in the recruitment process conned hundreds of job seekers.

The Senate Labour Committee, chaired by Kajiado Senator Lenku Seki, has launched investigations into the controversial ‘Kazi Majuu’ project after reports indicated that more than 300 Kenyans were defrauded by agencies accredited by the NEA.

“The committee will follow up on the loss of funds. The Ministry of Labour will be summoned to ensure justice is served — either the victims recover their money or they are given jobs,” directed the committee chair.

He said the CS will appear on May 6 alongside NEA officials to respond to fraud allegations.

Facilitations fees

Revelations before the committee, following the intervention of Nominated Senator Gloria Orwoba, de-

tailed how victims were compelled to pay Sh55,000 in facilitation fees for medical check-ups, visa processing, and good conduct certificates before their intended departure.

The recruitment drive reportedly took place in Kabete in December 2024, targeting job seekers across various industries including carpentry, driving, and masonry.

Applicants were initially asked to pay Sh15,000 for medical examinations, described as a standard procedure before traveling abroad.

Calvin Nyamweya, an orphan who sought employment in Qatar, told legislators he was shocked when asked to pay additional fees, despite prior assurances from the Ministry of Labour that the recruitment exercise would be free.

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Unanswered calls

Godfrey Githae, a carpenter and one of the victims, recounted efforts to recover his money from the agencies, describing repeated visits and unanswered emails.

“I have gone to the offices of these agencies eight times, and every time they ignored me. I have even written emails which went unanswered. All the money I paid was borrowed, and now the lenders are on my neck,” Githae said.

Evidence presented before the committee revealed that some of the agencies implicated in the ‘Kazi Majuu’ scandal are duly certified by the NEA.

Close to thirteen agencies are accused of defrauding Kenyan job seekers, with some reportedly issuing partial refunds to victims.

Among the companies named are

Marlows Smart Hires, Isbury Business Solutions Limited, and Muniza Limited, all accused of exploiting hopeful diaspora job applicants.

Senators are now pushing for the disbandment of the National Employment Authority, accusing it of failing to protect job seekers from rogue recruitment agencies.

Senator Orwoba further accused CS Mutua of colluding with the agencies, alleging that the CS had signed an affidavit used to sue her in connection with the scandal.

“This National Employment Authority is a total failure. Where were they when all this was happening? Interestingly, some of the agencies have sued me using an affidavit signed by CS Mutua,” she stated.

Nominated Senator Abdulrahman Miraj demanded justice for the victims, questioning the government’s role in misleading citizens about diaspora employment opportunities.

“We had called for the disbandment of NEA. If it had been disbanded, we would not be facing these issues today. Why would the government announce free jobs, only for people to end up paying and still have no jobs in the end?” Miraj noted.

Pre-primary Education Centers In Kakuma Refugee Camp To Be Handed To County

By: Peter Gitonga
@themkenyatimes

The County Department of Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) and Social Protection and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) have initiated discussions on the formal transfer of 13 pre-primary education centers in the Kakuma refugee camp to the County Government. During the meeting, Chief Officer for ECDE and Social Protection Paul Lodunga expressed appreciation to LWF for its continued support in strengthening ECDE in the County. He welcomed the move to integrate the facilities into the county education system, noting that it aligns well with the Shirika Plan of Integration. "The County Government is equally committed, in line with national government strategies, to implement initiatives that promote integrated learning in Kakuma," Mr. Lodunga stated. He emphasized the importance of in-

tersectoral collaboration, particularly with the water and health departments to ensure the provision of essential educational infrastructure such as classrooms and sanitation facilities. "It is my hope that this workshop will pave the way for a smooth transition of these learning centres and address the pressing issue of teacher shortages," he added. LWF Area Manager Caroline Wainaina echoed the need for a structured roadmap to guide the handover process after the current four-year support period concludes. She emphasized the importance of ensuring continuity of education even in the absence of donor funding. "The handover is a testament to our commitment to inclusive integration. These centres will be open to all learners," she noted. The meeting also featured a plenary session that reviewed the status of ECDE centres across both the County and the Kakuma refugee camp. Discussions centered on existing capacities, challenges facing the ECDE



sector, and sustainability of the school feeding programme as part of the implications of incorporating the 13 additional centres. With the County currently managing 1,105 ECDE centers, participants also highlighted the urgency of improving the teacher-to-student ratio and ad-

ressing infrastructural deficits. The session concluded with a call to develop a comprehensive roadmap and ensure sustained learner retention and quality education after the transition. Key stakeholders present at the meeting included KNUT Turkana

Secretary General Peter Ewaat, representatives from the LWF education technical lead Baaqir Khadija, LWF team, Sub-County Education Directors and Ward Education Officers.



Healthcare Professionals Root For Biotechnology To Address Food Security

By: Wangari Ndirangu
@themtkenyetimes



Health professionals who took part in the forum.

Worth Noting:

- In the aspect of pharmacogenetics, Dr. Ndukui said that they are trying to scale out individuals' gene makeup to stem chronic diseases affecting the communities, such as dementia, Alzheimer's, and, very currently, wounds that are not healing, by using stem cell technology and mitigating the disease conditions.
- "We need to rethink, call a meeting in our minds, and embrace the utilization of biotechnology in enhancing crop production and also human treatment, management, and care at the hospital level," Dr. Ndukui said.
- Prof. Richard Oduor, Registrar in charge of Research, Innovation, and Outreach at Kenyatta University, said scientists in this area of biotechnology have the ability to communicate on the importance of biotechnology, including the myths that surround the issue.

Healthcare professionals in the country are calling for resolution on the Genetically Modified food crops in order to enhance the country's nutrition status as well as food security.

The medics say that biotechnology is essential in developing some key pharmaceutical products apart from increasing food production.

Speaking during a meeting that brought together healthcare professionals from diverse disciplines in Nairobi, the experts said that biotechnology has been applied in the medical field to develop drugs and enhanced nutrition and even beauty products.

A clinical pharmacologist from UMMA University Dr. James Ndukui, said that biotechnology is here to stay and very useful in the Kenyan population concept, where the population is increasing and therefore the need to enhance food production is encompassed in Vision 2030 food security, safety, and sustainability.

On matters of health, he noted that there are a lot of emerging diseases that need to be streamlined by the implication and utilization of biotechnology through GMO.

"GMO being treated as a non-consumable is a fallacy in our setup up because countries that have embraced biotechnology are doing very well in terms of pharmaceutical production and food sustainability and in terms of actually human medicine care," he added.

In the aspect of pharmacogenetics, Dr. Ndukui said that they are trying to scale out individuals' gene makeup to stem chronic diseases affecting the communities, such as dementia, Alzheimer's, and, very currently, wounds that are not healing, by using stem cell technology and mitigating the disease conditions.

"We need to rethink, call a meeting in our minds, and embrace the utilization of biotechnology in enhancing crop production and also human treatment, management, and care at the hospital level," Dr. Ndukui said.

Prof. Richard Oduor, Registrar in charge of Research, Innovation, and Outreach at Kenyatta University, said scientists in this area of biotechnology have the ability to communicate on the importance of biotechnology, including the myths that surround the issue.

"These scientists have been working in the lab working to GMO products and have expressed the importance of adopting this technology largely for pharmaceutical reasons and also for food," he said.

The chairman of the Kenya University Biotechnology Consortium (KUBIKO) Prof. Oduor noted that the application of biotechnology in medicine is really rampant, right from the development of insulin, which is very important for addressing most diseases, but noted that with the interference of biotechnology that is critical and has the potential to address not only food and medical challenges, then we will be lagging behind as a country.

"This is the beginning of a long conversation we are going to have with medics. They have offered to be champions of biotechnology, and this is very useful for this country in areas beyond food security, even in health, bioremediation, and even in the face of climate change," Prof. Oduor said.

The Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Mama Ngina University College Dr. Ruth Mbugua, said the only way we can be able to ensure that we have adequate food in this country to be able to prevent or deal with the malnu-

trition is for all to accept the biotechnology that will help produce enough food for our country and for our children.

Statistics have shown that in this country particularly, many children suffer from malnutrition, with 849 children below five years actually suffering from malnutrition in the country.

Over 10 percent of pregnant women suffer from anemia, and there are about 26.6 percent of children below five years again suffering from chronic malnutrition and stunting that currently stands at 18 percent for children below 5 years and not getting enough nutrients.

"Going by these statistics, it means we have a problem with the food insufficiency if we are to embrace the genetically modified foods, which we are saying is safe, and considering that Kenya has regulations in place to ensure that what gets to table is safe for human consumption, we would actually say GM is the magic bullet to the issues we have in terms of food security", Dr. Mbugua said

She encouraged and assured Kenyans genetically modified food or products, including the vaccines and the drugs that have been with us for quite some time and are really important, are something that, as a country, Kenyans cannot run away from.

"If we do not embrace or accept the biotechnology that allows the production of seeds that are able to resist diseases or be able to adapt to climate change, including the drought and the floods, then we shall continue food insecurity in this country," Mbugua said.

KUBIKO has been holding sensitization meetings with nurses, nutritionists, and other healthcare professionals across the country.

Senior Researcher and Leader of the Agricultural Biotechnology Programme at the University of Nairobi Dr. Joel Ochieng, said the country is moving into the commercialization phase for most of the products of modern biotechnology, and the involvement of healthcare professionals is needed to spur public confidence as well as assure that the technology is applied safely.

He challenged the healthcare professionals to come out strongly as collaborators, reviewers, and advisors, recognizing food as the very first medicine, and all others, such as oral or drug injections, come in when the nutrition has failed.

Dr. Ochieng, who is also the Secretary General of KUBICO, said biotechnology is applied in healthcare, environmental remediation, and agriculture to enhance food and nutritional security.

KUBIKO was awarded last year in December by the Kenya Medical Association (KMA) for outstanding partnership and research that addresses critical global challenges aimed at developing climate-resilient crops and animals to cushion farmers against the vagaries of climate change.

In November last year, the High Court dismissed several petitions challenging the lifting of the ban on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) after the cabinet decision in 2022 to lift the ten-year ban on GMO, attracting several litigations.

The petitioners early this year moved to the Court of Appeal, challenging the ruling of Judge Lawrence Mugambi, in which they listed the Attorney General and the Biotech Consortium, among others.

Fierce Competition As Teams Eye County-Level Qualification In Governor Waiguru's Football Tournament

By: MKT Correspondent

@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- Musyimi added that after the pool stages, the top two teams from each pool will qualify for the county-level competition.
- “From the pool level, we will proceed to the county level with the two teams per pool totalling eight teams, leading to the semi-final and eventually the final,” he explained.
- He also outlined the prizes, stating, “Winners at the county level will take home 1.5 million, second winner will take home 1 million, third place will get 750,000, and fourth place 500,000.” Musyimi emphasized that this second edition of Governor Anne Waiguru’s tournament is running under the theme “Fomu ni futa badala ya kamnyweso”, as part of a larger campaign against drug and substance abuse.

There was excitement among players and fans at Kianyaga Stadium as Governor Anne Waiguru’s Minji Minji football tournament entered its midway mark, with teams battling fiercely for crucial points in the pool stages.

The competition, which features 20 teams, has now seen most sides complete five matches, with only a few having one game in hand.

According to County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Sports Denis Musyimi, the tournament is progressing well.

“Today, we have marked a stage whereby we are almost now in the middle of the tournament because each and every team has played five matches,” he said.

Musyimi added that after the pool stages, the top two teams from each pool will qualify for the county-level competition.

“From the pool level, we will proceed to the county level with the two teams per pool totalling eight teams, leading to the semi-final and eventually the final,” he explained.

He also outlined the prizes, stating, “Winners at the county level will take home 1.5 million, second winner will take home 1 million, third place will get 750,000, and fourth place 500,000.” Musyimi emphasized that this second edition of Governor Anne Waiguru’s tournament is running under the theme “Fomu ni futa badala ya kamnyweso”, as part of a larger campaign against drug and substance abuse.

Kirogo FC captain John Macharia spoke after their narrow win against Mahigaini FC, praising the tournament’s positive impact on the youth. “We are thankful to Governor Anne Waiguru for commissioning this tournament,” he said.

Macharia emphasized the social benefits, noting, “It has kept many of my friends, commonly referred to as Gen-Z, away from uncouth activities such as alcohol and drug abuse and robbery.”

He shared that the team remains committed to both their work and football, adding, “Ever since the start of this tournament, we have been working weekdays and then on Saturdays we do rigorous training, then on Sundays after church we come and compete.”

Despite their loss, Mahigaini FC captain Michael Muturi expressed optimism about his team’s future. “Unfortunately, we lost our game today against Kirogo FC as the games are getting more and more competitive,” he said.

Muturi remained confident about



their chances, stating, “Now we are number four with 9 points, but we remain hopeful that since we have more games to play, we will be more successful.” He concluded by highlighting their motivation: “We are all training hard and playing our best as we are aiming for the cash prize of Ksh. 1.5 million.”

Homebase FC captain Hilary Mwendia, after helping his team beat Jubilee FC, expressed joy at their progress. “We are happy that we have won today as the games have been getting really tough,” he said.

Mwendia also looked ahead with hope, saying, “We are hoping and preparing for more matches and we aim to win.”

He praised the tournament for providing opportunities for youth talent to shine, stating, “We thank Governor Anne Waiguru and her administration for this tournament; it has given young players like us hope that we can earn a living through our talents.”

Jubilee FC captain Aaron Njogu admitted his team needs to improve quickly if they are to stay in contention. “We now have 3 points after 4 games and we know that we really need to pull up our socks,” he said.

Njogu emphasized their determination to make a comeback, adding, “We have to win the rest of the matches to seal our spot in the quarter-finals.”

He affirmed their commitment, saying, “We are ready and we will give it our best.”

Among the excited fans was Humphrey Muchiri, who spoke about how the tournament has kept the

community engaged. “We are extremely enjoying the games and we thank Governor Waiguru for this cup tournament that has kept me and my peers engaged over the last five weeks,” he said.

Muchiri lauded the tournament for its social impact, noting, “This is a great and innovative way of keeping many away from alcohol and drug abuse.” He expressed hope for the future, saying, “We look forward to more exciting games and more tournaments in future.”

Fans were treated to an action-packed weekend as teams fought to improve their standings. In Pool A, Baricho FC and Njumbi FC played to a goalless draw while Mutitu FC edged out Kiamaina FC 2-1. Gakoigo FC drew 2-2 with Kiamuruga FC, while Kaitheri FC secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Njegas FC. In Pool B, Mwea Prisons FC defeated Karira FC 2-1, Ndindiruku FC overcame Silencer FC 2-1, and Kirogo FC continued

their impressive form with a narrow 1-0 win against Mahigaini FC. Over in Pool C, Castle FC stunned Hot Bullet FC with a massive 6-1 victory, while Homebase FC earned a crucial 2-1 win over Jubilee FC. In Pool D, Barcelona FC registered a comfortable 3-0 triumph over Gitooini FC.

As the Minji Minji Cup progresses, Denis Musyimi assured fans that the county government remains committed to delivering a successful tournament. “In the second edition of Governor Anne Waiguru’s tournament, we have a theme that is campaign against drug and substance abuse, and it is inspiring to see how seriously players and fans have embraced it,” he said. With the matches only getting tighter and the stakes growing higher, all eyes are now on the teams as they battle for a place in the county-level knockouts and a chance at the prestigious Ksh. 1.5 million prize.



Millet Farmers Urged To Embrace Climate-Resilient Millet Seeds

By: Rodgers Omondi
@themtkenyatimes

Millet farmers in Busia have been asked to embrace planting of improved seeds that are tolerant to climate change to boost their production. Speaking after visiting millet farmers at Asing'e in Teso South Sub County on Friday, an official from Centre for Behavior Change and Communication, Emmanuel Eshitemi said they are determined to change millet farming by using improved seed variety to help farmers increase their production in Busia.

"We are working with KALRO and KEPHIS to ensure that the seeds are of required quality and are available to the farmers. We are educating our farmers on the importance of the improved seeds. The seed takes 3 months and is ready for harvesting," he said.

Eshitemi added that millet production using traditional seeds have been resulting to low yield and taking long before harvesting

"These new varieties are drought tolerant and can do well in all-weather conditions. Many farmers do not understand the issue of climate change and that's why they need the seeds

that are tolerant to climate change so that farmers can be cushioned from making losses. The improved variety has high yield after a short period. The seeds can only be recycled twice after which we encourage farmers to get new variety," he explained.

He further stated that they are currently in Teso south where farmers have received the seeds adding that they are determined to reach all farmers in the county.

"We want to reach all farmers so that they can benefit from our training and even getting the seeds. We have several improved varieties including U-15/ Maridadi, Kakamega Wimbi 2 and Kakamega Wimbi 3 and they are all available at Youth and Women quality centres in Busia," he said.

Millet farmers led by Marygoret Omodia expressed how their yields have improved after using the improved variety and using the correct ways of planting.

"If you follow all the instructions, the yield per acre is approximately 10 bags of 90kg from one acre. I want all millet farmers to embrace these new ways of millet farming so that we can increase the production of millet in the county."

She added that millet is useful to people with diabetes and children's por-



Farmers weeding millet

ridge as it makes them healthy

Mary Awala, another farmer, said through the improved variety, she can plant three times a year thereby increasing her production.

"The traditional seed was taking 6

months but with the improved variety, it takes three months and with that I can plant three times per year through crop rotation. This has helped me to pay school fees for my children and my livelihood," said Awala

She also said the modern ways of planting which includes planting the millet in a line make it easy for weeding unlike the traditional ways which involved random planting.

Embu Residents Living In Landslide-Prone Areas Cautioned

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

Embu County Commissioner Jack Obuo has cautioned residents living in landslide-prone areas to be vigilant due to the ongoing heavy rains. This was after a landslide cut off over three acres of farmland in Kamutungi Village in Embu West Sub-county last week, leading to destruction of livelihoods of over 10 families.

No one was injured during the morning massive landslide that left behind close to 10 feet deep as land surface stretching over 500 meters washed away into River Ena.

The landslide washed away crops

including arrowroots, muguka stems, trees, beehives, bananas and sugarcane.

Also affected was government land that served as water intake for Embu-Mbeere in 1970's before relocation to the upper side of River Ena where pumps and water pipes were destroyed.

The County Commissioner called on residents to desist from carrying out any activity in the area until a proper assessment is done.

"We have cordoned off the area until the situation is addressed," he said while speaking about the flooding situation in the county from his office yesterday.

He also reported that the County Disaster Management Committee was assessing the impact of the ongoing heavy rains and advocating safety

measures for communities in landslide-prone areas.

One of the affected residents Joshua Kinyua said the landslide had left them helpless as the crops they depend on for upkeep were washed away.

"We are asking the government to assist us in getting on our feet again," he pleaded.

He also said they are living in fear as other parts of the area had started developing cracks.

At the same time, the CC reported that they are also monitoring the situation at the Seven Forks Dams that were fast filling up.

"Our teams are on the ground to get real-time data on the dam's situation and disseminate the same to the relevant authorities," he reported.



The Truth Unveiled Over the Years



In a remote village surrounded by mountains, ancient traditions ruled life. In this village, girls were seen as helpers in household chores and future caretakers of families. Education for girls was an impossible dream. But a young girl named Zulfiya dared to challenge these limitations. Zulfiya had an intense desire to learn, but her parents opposed it. To them, a girl's place was in the home. Neighbors mocked her family, saying, "What good will it do if this girl studies?" But Zulfiya carried a hidden fire within her. Every night, after everyone had fallen asleep, she would sneak into the basement of her home, light a candle, and prepare her lessons. In the dim light of the flickering candle, her eyes shone with determination and hope.

With no access to school, Zulfiya would go to the back of the school building and listen to the teachers through the windows. She was caught several times, scolded harshly, yet she remained undeterred. Knowing that she needed a school diploma to go further, she secretly took her brother's diploma, altered it to suit her, and disguised herself as a boy by wearing her brother's clothes and sticking on a fake beard. She joined the senior classes under this new identity.

As time passed, Zulfiya applied to a university with the forged diploma. She secured a top

position and earned a scholarship. When her parents heard of this, they decided to arrange her marriage. However, a wealthy man who had recently moved to the village intervened. He said, "I don't intend to marry this girl; I want to help her continue her education." Upon hearing this, Zulfiya couldn't hold back her tears of joy. The man from the city not only convinced her parents but also took her to the city so she could continue her studies. Zulfiya successfully graduated from university and began working in the city. Yet, her heart always yearned for her village and its struggling girls. One day, she learned that the village school lacked a teacher after one of its teachers had passed away. Zulfiya immediately returned to her village to become a schoolteacher.

When the villagers saw her, they were stunned. They recognized her, apologized for their past actions, and acknowledged that girls deserved education and could achieve great things. Even when investigators found out about her forged diploma, the villagers stood united, declaring that if she were punished, they all should be as well. Zulfiya was taken to court but was acquitted and allowed to continue teaching in the village.

Zulfiya worked as a teacher in the school, pouring her heart into educating the village's children. When she looked into the eyes of every young girl, she saw a reflection of her own past – a spark of hope and courage. The village now took pride in her achievements. Over the years, a special school for girls was built in the village. Zulfiya's life and determination became a source of inspiration for generations to come.

By: Xujumova Kamola, teacher at the Faculty of Foreign Languages, JSP University

Momanyi Henry



Momanyi Henry ni mwandishi wa mashairi na hadithi fupi. Ni mzawa wa gatuzi la Trans nzoia, Kesogon. Bwana momanyi pia ni mwalimu wa soma la Kiswahili na Fasihi. Ni shabiki na mkereketwa wa lugha ashirafu ya kiswahili. Alianza vandishi baada ya kutambua kipaji chake katika utunzi na papo hapo ndipo aliposhikilia kipaji hiki kama hirizi mpaka sasa. Uandishi umekuwa sehemu yake na yeye sehemu ya vandishi. Bwana Momanyi anafurahia kutagusana na waandishi wenza katika kufanikisha miradi kadhaa katika tasnia ya Ushairi, Hadithi Fupi na hata Tamthilia.

Amechangia pakubwa kuwasaidia waandishi chipukuzi katika tasnia ya vandishi, kufanya uhariri na kuwatungia mashabiki wa kiswahili mashairi wakati mwingine ikibidi.

Momanyi amebadilisha mtazamo wa baadhi ya wengi kuhusu ushairi wa kiswahili hasa wanafunzi na kuwafanya wayapende taofauti na hapo awali. Kuna baadhi ya wanafunzi waliojitolea kutunga na kufikia sasa wameyapenda mashairi na kuwafanya kuwa uraibu wao. Ombi lake ni kuwa waandishi wajitokeze kwa wingi kukitetea kiswahili na kukipigania kwa jina na ukucha. Bwana momanyi ameshiriki katika misururu ya miradi mbali mbali kama ifuatavyo,

Diwani za mashairi.
Malenga wa Kenya (diwani ya cbc gredi ya 4, 5 na 6).
Mashairi ya chekechea (diwani ya cbc ya chekechea).
Malenga wa CHAUWAKI.
Sauti za Washairi.
Ushairi Komavu (diwani ya mwongozo wa uchambuzi wa mashairi).
Tasnia ya Ushairi.
Malenga wa Afrika.
Wasia na Mashairi Mengine.
Wasifu wa Timothy Omusikoyo Sumba(diwani ya wasifu).

Diwani za Hadithi Fupi,
Tamaa ya KiFo na Hadithi Nyingine.
Ajira ya KiFo na Hadithi Nyingine.

Ni sawa tu! na Hadithi Nyingine.
Chaka la Asali na Hadithi Nyingine.
Kijito cha Rehema na Hadithi Nyingine.
Barua ya Hukumu na Hadithi Nyingine.
Taswira ya Maisha na Hadithi Nyingine.
Peremende za Mkubwa na Hadithi Nyingine.

Momanyi amechapisha diwani yake ya hadithi fupi ya gredi ya saba iitwayo "Miale ya Matumaini na Hadithi Nyingine"
Kwa sasa anashughulikia miradi miwili; Moja ni ya mwongozo wa uchambuzi wa mashairi na diwani ya wasifu wa Dkt. Pauline Kea. Tazama shairi hili lake.

NAIONA KESHO YANGU
Nilipo nimesimama, kioo nikitazama,
Na tisti nimesimama, kama siku ya kiamu,
Mengi yameniadama, sijui pa kutuama,
Naiona kesho yangu, kesho ya mafanikio,
1.
Kesho ya mafanikio, iliyosheheni sudi,
Kesho iso na kilio, bali ilo na juhudi,
Juhudi zao la leo, niloweka kwa kusudi,
Naiona kesho yangu, kesho iloundwa leo,
2.
Kesho iloundwa leo, leo kwa kutia bidi,
Bidii inipe chea, niwe mwangaza wa sudi,
Niwe pia kichocheo, kwa wale wenye kusudi,
Naoina kesho yangu, niloweka kwa kusudi,
3.
Niloweka kwa kusudi, niwe kito cha thamani,
Kwani sikuwa na budi, kuyatenda ya usoni,
Shuleni ilinibidi, nipambane masomoni,
Naoina kesho yangu, kesho iso na huzuni,
4.
Kesho iso na huzuni, pamoja na walakini,
Kesho ijayo ndotoni, na wingi wa tumaini,
Kesho yenye kutamani, kutimiza ya ndotoni,
Naoina kesho yangu, ya zama za utotoni,
5.
Ya zama za utotoni, tukivaa matambara,
Waziwazi bila soni, hatukuona hasara,
Sasa nataka usoni, nami niwe wa busara,
Naiona kesho yangu, iking'aa kama nyota,
6.
Iking'aa kama nyota, ijayo na tunu yake,
Kesho iso na matata, pamoja nayo makeke,
Kesho iso na ukata, kesho ya aina ake,
Naiona kesho yangu, kesho yenye tabasamu
7.
MTUNZI: Momanyi Henry
LAKABU: Malenga Mtanashati
ENEO: Kesogon

Traces Of Tender Moments



By: Sachitha
In the chill of morning, our coffee date unfolded,
Heartfelt whispers spoken, love shining like gold.
Our eyes locked, and smiles blossomed, a

spark took flight,
As our lips met, time stood still, in the warmth of that night.

Your gentle hands cradled mine, comfort and peace entwined,
Daily love letters sealed with kisses, my heart forever aligned.
You, my Theodore, are my treasure, my guiding star,
Forever etched in my memory, near and far.

Wherever I roam, whispers of our past echo through my soul,
With eyes closed, your presence envelops me, making me whole.
In dreams, I see your smile, a radiant beacon in the night,
A love so strong, it transcends time, a treasure to hold tight.

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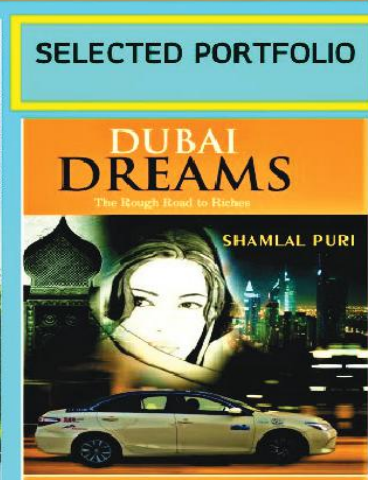
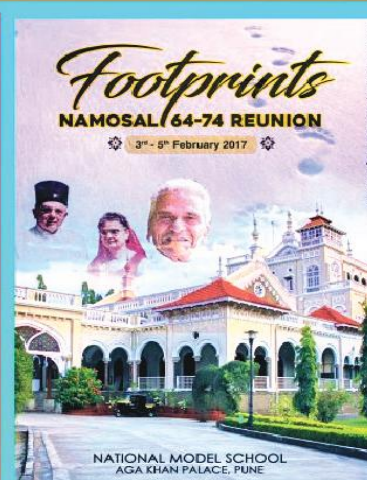
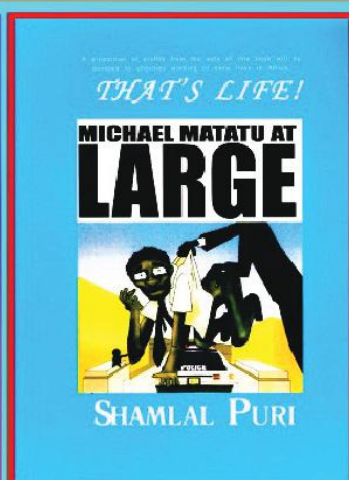
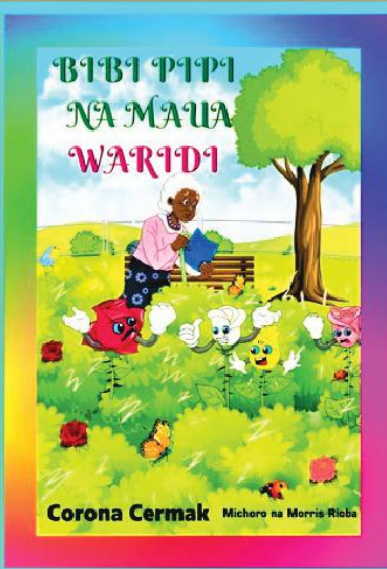
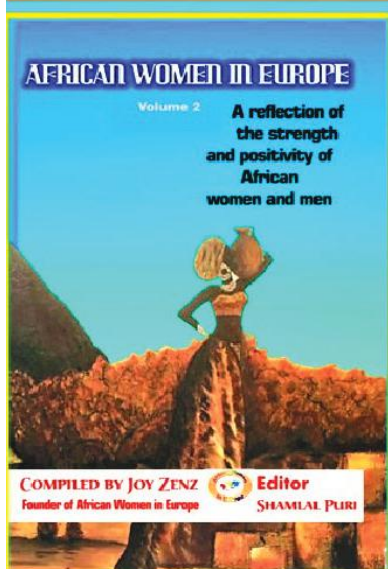
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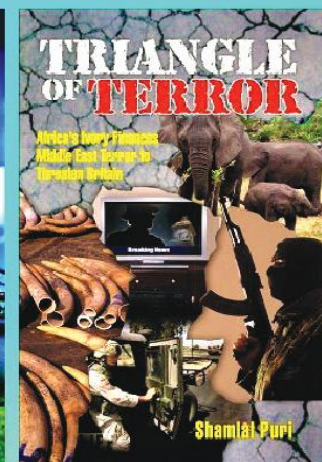
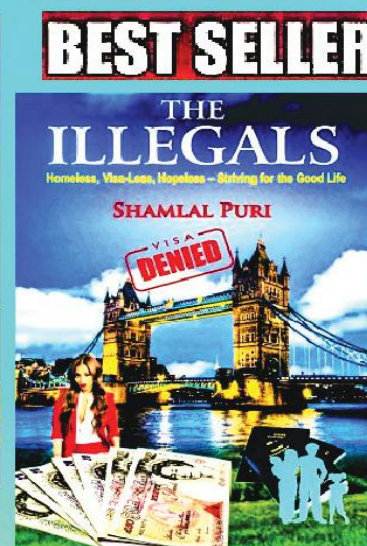
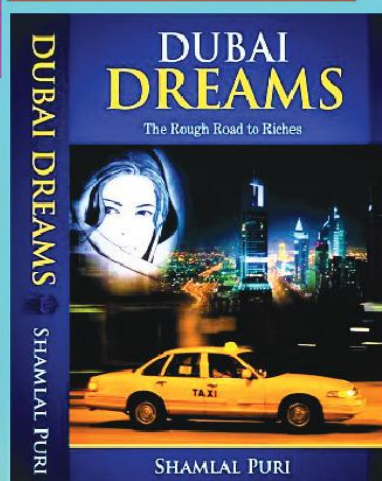
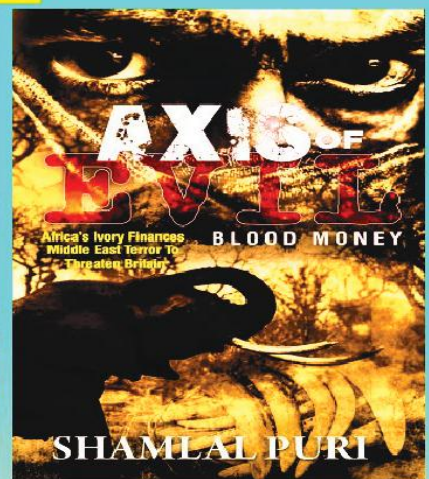
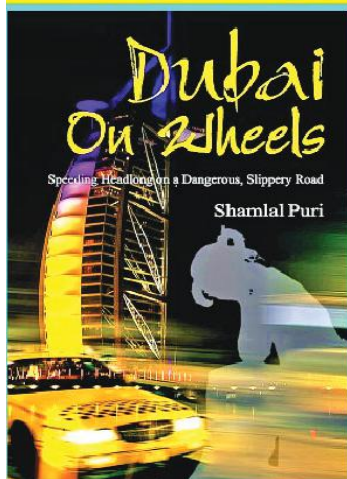
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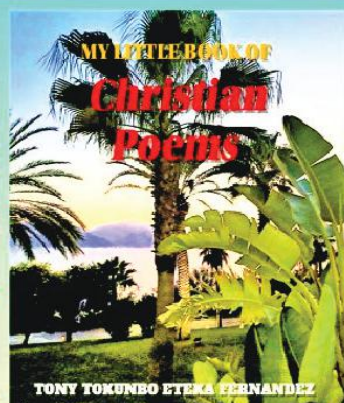
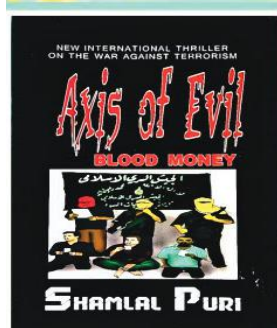
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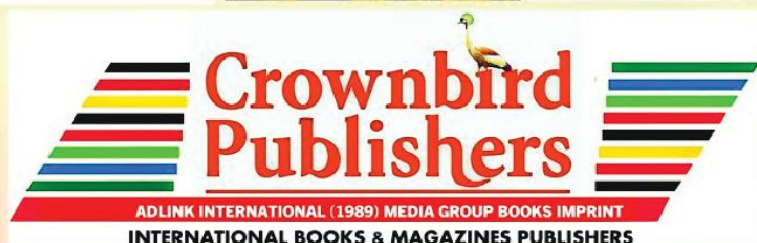


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COUNTIES

Murang'a Governor Files Contempt Proceedings Against Controller of Budget Over Bursary Funds Stalemate



By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Lobby groups and concerned citizens, including the Katiba Institute, challenged the Controller of Budget's directive in court. In February, the High Court issued temporary conservatory orders restraining the Controller of Budget from retracting her circular and from authorizing county bursary expenditures not backed by formal inter-governmental agreements. The court also barred counties from issuing new bursaries or extending allocations to new beneficiaries beyond the current financial year.
- Governor Kang'ata contends that the Controller of Budget has misinterpreted the court's orders, resulting in the unlawful withholding of already approved bursary funds for the current financial year. He argues that the court's directive was intended only to halt the issuance of fresh bursaries during the pendency of the petition, not to block payments that had already been budgeted and approved by county assemblies.



Murang'a County Governor Irungu Kang'ata issuing his address at a press briefing in Nairobi

Murang'a County Governor Irungu Kang'ata has filed contempt of court proceedings against Controller of Budget Dr. Margaret Nyakang'o, accusing her of defying a court order by failing to approve the release of county bursary funds for needy students. The move comes amid a protracted legal and administrative tussle that has left thousands of learners in limbo, unable to access critical financial support for their education.

The dispute stems from a series of court orders and directives issued earlier this year regarding the administration of bursary funds by county governments. In January, the Controller of Budget issued a circular barring counties from allocating bursaries to primary, secondary, and university students, arguing that such functions fall under the national government's mandate. This directive sparked outrage among governors, who insisted that supporting vulnerable learners is a constitutional obligation shared by both levels of government.

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challenged the Controller of Budget's directive in court. In February, the High Court issued temporary conservatory orders restraining the Controller of Budget from retracting her circular and from authorizing county bursary expenditures not backed by formal inter-governmental agreements. The court also barred counties from issuing new bursaries or extending allocations to new beneficiaries beyond the current financial year.

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Representing Murang'a County, lawyer Julia Munyua described the court order as one issued "in a vacuum," without fully appreciating the dire consequences on the ground. She

told the court that the freeze on bursary disbursements has led to massive dropouts among underprivileged children, causing significant social and economic hardship for families in Murang'a and beyond.

In a significant development last week, the High Court clarified that its earlier orders were not intended to affect bursaries already approved for the current budget cycle. Justice Samuel Mohochi ruled that the interim conservatory orders apply only to the 2025/26 financial year, allowing counties to proceed with payments for the present year's beneficiaries.

"For clarity and avoidance of doubt, this court hereby clarifies that the temporary conservatory orders issued by this court had the effect of only restraining the parties from processing, issuing, or approving fresh bursaries during the pendency of this petition," Justice Mohochi stated.

Despite the court's clarification, the standoff has exposed deeper tensions between county governments and the Controller of Budget over the management of education support

programs. Governors and education stakeholders have called for urgent legal reforms to safeguard county bursary schemes and prevent future disruptions.

Senator Raphael Chimera has urged Parliament to establish a legal framework guaranteeing county bursary allocations, emphasizing the critical role these funds play in keeping vulnerable children in school.

As the legal battle continues, thousands of students and their families await a final resolution that will determine their access to education support in the coming academic year. The next court hearing is expected to further clarify the responsibilities of county governments and the Controller of Budget regarding bursary disbursements.

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BBC Documentary: The Harrowing Truth Of Nairobi Parliament Killings



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The BBC used 3D reconstruction technology to give viewers a clear understanding of where fatal shots originated from, in relation to the location of the victims. This tech allows for the viewer to see the line of fire, and where the shooters were positioned. The documentary humanizes the victims of the violence, providing background information on those who lost their lives.
- It highlights that many of the victims were young people, including students, who were participating in the protests. The documentary raises serious questions about the lack of accountability for the actions of security forces. It calls for a thorough and transparent investigation into the killings.
- The documentary points out the slow pace, and lack of public reports from the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA).



A newly released BBC documentary has cast a stark and unflinching light on the deadly events that transpired during the 2024 anti-finance bill protests, focusing specifically on the violence that erupted at the Kenyan Parliament. The documentary, utilizing extensive video analysis and eyewitness accounts, has presented a chilling reconstruction of the day, raising serious questions about the use of force by security personnel.

The documentary, produced by BBC Africa Eye, meticulously pieces together the timeline of events that unfolded on that fateful day. It highlights the escalation of the protests, which began as a demonstration against the government's controversial finance bill, and culminated in a violent confrontation at the heart of Kenya's democracy.

The documentary provides a minute-by-minute breakdown of the day's events, showcasing the progression of the protests from peaceful demonstrations to violent clashes.

It uses synchronized video footage from various sources to illustrate the movements of both protesters and security forces

A significant portion of the documentary focuses on analyzing the actions of security personnel, with particular attention paid to the use of live ammunition.

The BBC Africa Eye team utilized open-source intelligence (OSINT) and forensic techniques to trace the origins of fatal shots.

The documentary shows through video analysis, that many of the people killed, were unarmed, and not a threat.

The documentary features testimonies from protesters who witnessed the violence firsthand, providing harrowing accounts of the events. These accounts offer a personal perspective on the chaos and fear that gripped the scene. The BBC used 3D reconstruction technology to give viewers a clear understanding of where fatal shots originated from, in relation to the location of the victims. This tech allows for the viewer to see the line of fire, and where the shooters were positioned. The documentary humanizes the victims of the violence, providing background information on those who lost their lives. It highlights that many of the victims were young

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The release of this documentary has ignited widespread reactions across Kenya. Many are calling for immediate action to bring those responsible for the killings to justice. The documentary has also intensified the debate about the use of force by security personnel during protests. The 2024 anti-finance bill protests represented a significant moment in Kenya's recent history. The proposed finance bill, which included a number of tax increases, sparked widespread outrage, particularly among young people. The protests, which were largely organized through social media, quickly gained momentum, drawing thousands of people to the streets. The events that unfolded at the Kenyan Parliament on that day

have left a deep scar on the nation. The BBC documentary serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of accountability and the need to protect the right to peaceful protest. The documentary has brought to light, the need for reform within the Kenyan security forces.

The documentary has also increased the amount of dialog surrounding the finance bill its self. The bill was very unpopular do to the increase of taxes, during a time when many Kenyans where already struggling with the cost of living. The public outcry against the bill, is what caused the massive protests.

The information provided by the BBC Africa Eye documentary, has created a demand for answers, and accountability. Only time will tell, what the outcome of this demand will be.

By Athumani Said, A Journalist Who Writes On African Politics, International Affairs, Youth Democracy And Entertainment.

Private Sector To Drive Bold Solutions At The Africa Forum On Displacement 2025

By: Correspondent

Leaders from the private sector, government, philanthropy, and refugee communities will gather in Kakuma and Nairobi this week for the third Africa Forum on Displacement (AFD2025), with a focus on unlocking economic opportunities for displaced persons across the continent. The Forum, organized by the Amahoro Coalition, Inkomoko, and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, will run from April 28–29 under the theme “All IN.” It aims to spotlight the critical role of inclusion, investment, and innovation in responding to Africa’s displacement crisis, where nearly 45 million people are currently displaced from their homes. “Displaced communities have the skills, talents, and ambition to drive economic growth and innovation,” said Nancy Aburi, Chief of Private Sector Partnerships, Africa at UN-

HCR. “Through AFD2025, we are strengthening partnerships that invest in their potential and deliver lasting, market-led solutions.” The Forum will feature a marketplace showcasing refugee and host community entrepreneurs, alongside high-level plenaries with influential leaders including James Mwangi of Equity Group Holdings, Reeta Roy of the Mastercard Foundation, UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements, and refugee entrepreneur Bereket Goitom of Canaan Group. Organizers say the Forum is an urgent call for the private sector to move beyond charity and invest directly in displaced populations. “Displaced entrepreneurs and communities already have the talent and resilience. They simply need equitable access to markets and capital,” said Julianne Oyler, Co-Founder and CEO of Inkomoko. “At AFD2025, we are calling on the private sector to step up with real solutions and investments that will drive lasting impact.”



The event will also include the graduation of the first cohort of Amahoro Fellows, a program celebrating African leaders with lived experience of displacement. “AFD2025 is a call to action,” said

Isaac Kwaku Fokuo, Curator of the Amahoro Coalition. “It challenges all of us: businesses, governments, and communities to go ‘All IN’ for displaced people, not with charity, but with opportunity.”

AFD2025 is organized in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and IKEA Foundation.

Importance Of Ensuring Quality Education For All Kenyan Children

By Wafula Seth (Nairobi)

Education is the cornerstone of any progressive society. In Kenya, the dream of equitable access to quality education for every child regardless of their socio-economic background remains a critical goal. The circumstances into which children are born too often determine the opportunities they can access throughout their lives. Yet, if we are to build a more just and prosperous nation, we must work relentlessly to ensure that every child whether from a rural village, a bustling city or a marginalized community has access to the education they deserve. Children born into wealthier families typically have access to better schools, qualified teachers and modern learning facilities. In contrast, those from underprivileged backgrounds often attend overcrowded schools, face shortages of basic learning materials and endure a lack of adequate infrastructure. These disparities widen the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged reinforcing cycles of poverty and social inequality. Without deliberate efforts to bridge this divide, many talented

Kenyan children will continue to be denied the chance to realize their full potential. Achieving education equity requires bold leadership both within and outside the education system. Within schools, we need dedicated teachers, headteachers and education officers who are committed to nurturing every child irrespective of their background. These leaders must not only impart knowledge but also inspire hope and ambition among their students. Beyond the classroom, policymakers, community leaders and private sector partners must also play a vital role by formulating and supporting initiatives that prioritize disadvantaged children ensuring adequate funding, infrastructure development and curriculum reforms that meet the diverse needs of all learners. Furthermore, embracing innovative solutions can help bridge the education gap. Technology when used appropriately can bring quality learning resources to remote areas. Community-based programs that involve parents and guardians in children’s education can also foster environments where



learning is valued and supported at home. Ultimately, the belief that every Kenyan child has a right to quality education must guide our national conscience. We must remember that investing in equitable education is not merely a moral obligation but it is a

strategic decision that determines Kenya’s future social and economic prosperity. When we empower every child with the tools to succeed, we lay the foundation for a society that thrives on the talents, dreams and hard work of all its citizens not just a privileged few. Through visionary leadership, col-

lective responsibility and unwavering commitment, we can turn the dream of education equity into a reality. Kenya’s children deserve nothing less but better education

Proactive Measures Vital In Curbing Cholera And Waterborne Diseases



By: Dennis Wendo
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Worth Noting:

• In Kenya, cholera outbreaks have become alarmingly recurrent, exacerbated by environmental vulnerabilities and infrastructural gaps. Since October 2024, cases of cholera and acute diarrheal diseases have been reported in counties such as Meru, Garissa, Kitui, Narok, Nairobi, Kisumu, and Migori. To date, more than 600 cases have been confirmed, with at least nine fatalities, a case fatality rate of over 6%.

• According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cholera affects 1.3 to 4 million people globally every year, causing between 21,000 and 143,000 deaths. Vulnerable populations especially malnourished children and individuals living with HIV face a significantly higher risk of death if infected.



Cholera, a highly infectious and potentially fatal disease, has plagued humanity for centuries, with its earliest documented outbreak dating back to 1854. While it is not new, cholera remains a public health threat, particularly in regions with inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure. Its transmission through contaminated water and food, both essential human needs, makes it a formidable opponent, especially during environmental crises.

Cholera is a waterborne disease caused by ingesting water or food contaminated with *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria. It manifests as acute diarrheal illness and can rapidly escalate into an epidemic, especially where sanitation is poor and clean water is scarce.

In Kenya, cholera outbreaks have become alarmingly recurrent, exacerbated by environmental vulnerabilities and infrastructural gaps. Since October 2024, cases of cholera and acute diarrheal diseases have been reported in counties such as Meru, Garissa, Kitui, Narok, Nairobi, Kisumu, and Migori. To date, more than 600 cases have been confirmed, with at least nine fatalities, a case fatality rate of over 6%.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cholera affects 1.3 to 4 million people globally every year, causing between 21,000 and 143,000 deaths. Vulnerable populations especially malnourished children and individuals living with HIV face a significantly higher risk of death if infected.

Several risk factors contribute to cholera outbreaks, but the most pressing in Kenya right now is widespread flooding. The ongoing heavy rains have caused the destruction of sanitation infrastructure, leading to latrine overflows and mixing of sewage with floodwaters. These conditions are ideal for the rapid spread of cholera.

So far, floods have claimed over 200 lives and displaced more than 200,000 people across the country. Informal settlements like Mathare, Kibera, Mukuru Kwa Reuben, and Marigoini have been hit hardest. Thousands have lost homes and access to clean water, now forced into overcrowded temporary shelters with inadequate sanitation, perfect breeding grounds for cholera and other waterborne diseases.

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with county governments, has mounted a commendable response.

Measures include enhanced surveillance, active case search, rapid response deployment, treatment of confirmed cases, and contact tracing. Sensitization campaigns for healthcare workers and the public on water sanitation, hygiene, and disease prevention are also underway.

However, gaps remain. Ministry of Health field investigations show that many Kenyans in and outside cholera hotspots still consume untreated water. Enforcement of water treatment, safe food handling, and hygiene practices must be prioritized.

As citizens, we all have a role to play. Vigilance and proactive hygiene behaviors are critical. This includes: Drinking only safe water; boiled, chlorinated, or bottled. Storing water in clean, covered containers. Washing hands frequently; especially before eating, preparing food, or after using the toilet. Properly disposing of waste, avoiding open defecation, and maintaining clean latrines. Sanitizing food preparation surfaces and utensils regularly.

Handwashing stations should be installed in public places and stocked with clean water, soap, or alcohol-based sanitizers. The public must also remain cautious in communal settings such as churches,

mosques, eateries, entertainment venues, funerals, and weddings.

In the long term, cholera prevention hinges on sustainable investments in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. Universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation must be a national priority. This will not only control cholera but also prevent other waterborne diseases like hepatitis A, dysentery, typhoid, salmonella and giardia.

We must also embrace a culture of environmental stewardship and hygiene consciousness at all levels, from policymakers to households. Continued public awareness, vaccination campaigns, and community engagement are vital steps forward.

Let us remain alert, proactive and united in our efforts to curb the spread of cholera and protect our communities from avoidable suffering.

By Dennis Wendo
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Miano Challenges East Africa’s Youth To Take Charge Of Their Future

By: John Kariuki
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Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano has challenged East Africa’s youth to take charge of their futures and lead the way in shaping the region’s tourism and hospitality sectors.

Speaking at the inaugural Future Leaders Challenge East Africa Edition yesterday at Strathmore University, Miano underscored the critical role young leaders will play in the future of the economy and society.

The event, aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders, saw students, educators, and industry stakeholders come together to discuss ways to build a stronger, more resilient tourism sector.

Miano said that while tourism contributes nearly 10% to Kenya’s GDP, the potential for growth remains untapped. She urged the youth to think creatively and embrace innovation to unlock new opportunities in this vital

industry.

“The future of tourism is in your hands,” Miano said. “We must work together to nurture a generation of leaders who are not only prepared to face the challenges of the modern world but are ready to transform them into opportunities.”

She also called for greater collaboration between educational institutions and the industry to ensure that young people have the skills and global perspectives needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world. Miano emphasized that youth empowerment is the key to unlocking the sector’s full potential and creating a sustainable future for East Africa’s tourism industry.

She hailed the Kenyan team selected for the Future Leaders Challenge Finals in Dubai, praising their commitment to representing their country on the global stage.

She reaffirmed her Ministry’s support for initiatives aimed at empowering youth and ensuring they have the tools and opportunities to succeed.



Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Miano.

Women In Narok Receive Food Donations From Peace Association Group

By: MKT Correspondent
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At least 400 women from Majengo estate in Narok town have received food donations from the Narok Peace Association group in collaboration with Natasha Hands of Compassion organisation.

Narok Peace Association ambassador Joshua Kaputa said the beneficiaries were women from vulnerable backgrounds who could not afford regular meals for their families.

“The beneficiaries are widows, single mothers and extremely poor families who struggle to earn a living. The food is a small token to express our love to the society. We do not have much, but we give little and we know God will bless all of us,” said Kaputa.

The Natasha Hands of Compassion Founder, Reverend Lucy Natasha, re-

called her childhood struggles saying she was born and raised in Mathare slums, Nairobi County, where her family struggled to have regular meals.

She reiterated that her childhood struggles inspired her to start the charitable organisation where she reaches out to the vulnerable people in the society with the little that God has blessed her with.

“I am a product of the slums and I know the struggles women go through raising their children in such an environment. That is why I came to share the little that I have with the vulnerable in the society.”

Our main agenda is to serve God and humanity. Compassion is our passion. We give not because we have much but because we care. This is not our first time to be in Narok and we will continue coming to be a blessing to the people,” said the outspoken reverend.

She affirmed that her organisation will train the women on income-gen-



erating projects, like making soap and yogurt, and give small incentives like seed capital to the women so that they can be empowered.

Jane Wangechi, one of the beneficiaries thanked the organisations for helping the needy women in the society, saying the action reflected God’s love.

Another beneficiary Margaret Wambui asked the organisation to continue supporting the needy families and empower them so that they can be financially stable.

The distribution exercise was done at Masikonte Primary school in Narok town.

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Sports >> *The 2025 London Marathon set a new world record for the number of finishers despite hot conditions on Sunday for its 45th edition.

London Marathon Breaks World Record For Most Finishers



Sebastian Sawe in action at the London Marathon. PHOTO/ABBOTT WMMAJORS

The 2025 London Marathon set a new world record for the number of finishers despite hot conditions on Sunday for its 45th edition.

A total of 56,640 runners crossed the finish line at the end of the 26.2-mile route, Guinness World Records has confirmed.

The number surpassed the previous record of 55,646 set by the New York Marathon in November.

Hugh Brasher, chief executive of London Marathon Events, said he hoped the high number of

finishers inspired people to apply for the 2026 race ballot.

"The London Marathon was already the most popular in terms of ballot entries, with 840,318 people applying for the 2025 race," he said.

"It is also the world's largest annual one-day fundraising event with more than £1.3bn raised for charity since 1981."

The number of people applying for the ballot to enter this year's race broke the world record of 578,304 for the 2024 edition.

Of UK applicants 49% were

female, while there was a 105% increase in applications from people aged between 20-29.

Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa surged to victory in the elite women's race in a world record for a women's only field, while Kenya's Sebastian Sawe triumphed in the men's event.

It was a Swiss double in the wheelchair races for the second year running as Catherine Debrunner broke her own course record in the women's race and Marcel Hug stormed to his seventh victory in the men's.

On Saturday, more than 15,000 young people competed in the Mini London Marathon, making it the biggest since the event started in 1986.

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Sports >>> *Elections for the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) can proceed after the High Court struck out a previous order that allowed four warring federations to participate in the polls.

NOC-K Elections To Proceed After High Court Vacates Order Allowing Four Federations To Vote In Polls



National Olympics Committee of Kenya President Paul Tergat (Center) with Secretary General Francis Mutuku (left) and 1st Vice President Shadrack Maluki (right) during the AGM. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA

Elections for the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) can proceed after the High Court struck out a previous order that allowed four warring federations to participate in the polls.

In a ruling by Justice Bahati Mwamuye on Monday morning, the court vacated its order that had allowed for the Kenya Taekwondo Federation (KTF), Kenya Triathlon, Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) and Kenya Handball Federation (KHF) to vote in the polls despite contention among their officials on who was/is to represent them.

“This Court’s Orders dated and issued on 24/04/2025 be and are hereby vacated in toto, and all conservatory orders and all directions therein be and are hereby set-aside. The matter shall be mentioned on 20/05/2025 for fur-

ther directions,” Mwamuye said in his ruling.

The application to allow the four federations participate in the polls had been filed by Kenya Taekwondo president Suleiman Sumba on Wednesday last week, against NOCK returning officer Muthee Gakuru.

In his application, Sumba had appealed against any attempt by Gakuru/IEBC to seclude the four federations from the polls — having failed to agree on who to carry the vote on their behalf.

Despite declining to stay the elections as Sumba had prayed, Mwamuye ordered that the four federations be included in the exercise under whatever circumstances.

Monday’s ruling means IEBC (Gakuru) has the leeway to exclude the four from the elections

should they fail to reach an agreement on who among their officials will vote on their behalf.

As per section 5.2 of NOCK Elections Rules and Regulations, each federation is to be represented by two delegates one of who shall be either the president or secretary general and who shall be eligible to vote.

Furthermore, each federation is to provide the names of their two delegates, clearly indicating the official who is eligible to vote on their behalf.

This information is to be availed in the form of a letter signed by the federation’s president and secretary general, along with a copy of the minutes ratifying the decision.

This means that failure of the four federations to agree and provide the aforementioned information

ahead of the polls may render them non-compliant to the electoral code of conduct.

The polls were scheduled for Thursday last week during NOCK-K’s annual general meeting (AGM) at Pride Inn, Westlands.

However, it was adjourned for an unspecified period after the four federations failed to agree on which officials to carry the vote despite hours of deliberations and mediations.

The Sports Disputes Tribunal (SDT) had in the morning allowed the elections to proceed, provided the four federations could reach a consensus on their respective vote carriers.

Capital Sport

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Thandi Wa Kabera Ni Mfano Bora Wa Zao La Ndoto Hai



By: Alfred Lobawoi
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

“Katika ukuaji wangu nazikubali changamoto hizo kwa kuwa zitanikuza kwa maandalizi ya maisha ya kesho. Shida zikizidi sana kufanikiwa hakuko mbali, mimi mwenyewe ni-naamini hata siku hiyo nisyoiujua nitamiliki vifaa ambavyo sina kwa sasa.”

1. Hebu tueleze mengi kukuhusu.

Kutoka mandhari tulivu ya Nyahururu, hadithi yangu ya shauku na kujitolea ilianza. Safari ambayo ime-niongoza kupitia ulimwengu mchangamfu wa vyombo vya habari.

Miaka yangu ya malezi ililelewa ndani ya kuta za Shule ya Msingi ya Mt. Angels na baadaye Shule ya Sekondari ya Salient. Hapa ndipo mbegu za udadisi na kiu ya maarifa zilipopandwa, zikiweka msingi wa maisha yangu ya baadaye katika uwanja mchangamfu wa mawasiliano.

Utafutaji wa maarifa uliniongoza hadi Chuo cha Ufundi cha NIBS, ambapo shauku yangu ya kusimulia hadithi ilikua na kuwa taaluma rasmi. Uandishi wa habari na mafunzo ya mawasiliano ya Umma ikawa njia yangu iliyochaguliwa, ikinipa ujuzi muhimu na uelewa wa mazingira ya vyombo vya habari.

Darasa likawa chumba changu cha habari, studio yangu, chumba changu cha kuhariri. Kutoka kwa ulimwengu wenye kasi wa mwandishi wa habari, nikinasa hadithi muhimu, hadi kwa sauti inayovutia ya mtangazaji wa redio, nikiungani-sha na wasikilizaji kupitia mawimbi ya hewa. Nilijumuisha kila kipengele cha utayarishaji wa vyombo vya habari, nikiboresha ujuzi wangu kama mkurugenzi, nikiunda simulizi; mhariri, nikikandika hadithi zinazovutia; na Mkurugenzi wa Upigaji Picha, nikinasa uhalisia wa kuona.

Nikiendesha na ari ya ujasiriamali na hamu ya kushirikisha mtazamo wangu wa kipekee, Thandi TV ilizaliwa kwenye YouTube. Jukwaa hili likawa turubali langu, nafasi ya kuwasilisha habari na programu zinazovutia moja kwa moja kwenu, nikiangazia kujitolea kwangu katika kutoa taarifa na kuburudisha.

Zaidi ya ulimwengu wa kitaaluma, maisha machangamfu ya nje ya mtaala yaliboresha safari yangu. Jukwaa likawa nafasi nyingine ya kusimulia hadithi, kupitia ushiriki katika sherehe za maigizo, na kufikia kiwango cha kitaifa chenye heshima. Uzoefu huu ulichochea ubunifu wangu, ushirikiano wa timu na nguvu ya uigizaji.

Kutoka mwanzo wangu mnyenyekevu huko Nyahururu hadi ulimwengu mchangamfu wa televisheni ya mtandaoni, safari yangu imekuwa ya ukuaji endelevu na shauku isiyoyumba. Kila uzoefu, kila nafasi, imenichonga mimi kuwa msimuliaji hadithi wa leo.

Hadithi inaendelea. Ungana nami

kwenye Thandi TV.

2. Ni nini hasa kilikuchoea katika tasnia hii?

Nikiwa mtoto nimeishi kutamani kuwa mwanahabari mashuhuri, nilipenda sana kusikiliza redio Na kutazama televisheni, Kisha kuwaiga watangazaji mbalimbali. Nilitamani sana nikuwe kama wao siku moja, Na hapo ndipo azma ya kuwa mwanahabari ilipoanzia. Aidha nilitamani sana kutetea haki za wanyonge, Na njia ya kuwatetea nikaonelea Ni kupitia ripoti za runiga na redio maanake hapa sauti itafikia asasi mbalimbali za serikali na hivyo kuwajibika ipasavyo.

3. Siku yako huwa vipi kunapoku-cha?

Mimi huamka asubuhi, mwanzo namshukuru Mungu kwa kipaji cha uhai, kisha napanga ratiba ya siku hiyo, maana kazi bila mpango ni bure bilashi. Baada hapo nafanya utafiti wa kile ambacho nataka kufaya kabla ya mwisho wa siku. Kuingia shuleni na kuhudhuria mihadhara yangu kama ipasavyo inafuatia. Nikipata muda huwa najishughulisha na kazi zangu za ziada.

Mambo mengi hunitegemea mimi kuyaendesha ndio maana huwa sina budi kuyasukuma na kuyafanya yafanikiwe kama nilivyopanga.

4. Ni kitu kipi kinakupendeza katika kazi yako?

Ni jinsi watu wanapendezwa na kazi ninayoifanya. Jambo jingine ni jinsi Mungu anavyoniwezesha kufanya kazi niliyotamani tangu utotoni, hiyo inasababisha ndoto zangu zitimie moja baada ya nyingine. Isitoshe, mimi hupewa nafasi ya kuzungumza kwenye ukumbi mbalimbali chuoni ambayo hunisaidia sana hadhira ikanitambua mimi ni nani. Wakati mwingine ninapozungumza wao huchangamka kutokana na jinsi ambavyo mimi huteka hisia zao; hivyo wao huniona kama mwigizaji.

5. Ni kitu kipi kigumu kwa yale ambayo unafanya?

Kazi inakuwa nyingi na masaa ndio machache. Tena watu kuniomba nafasi za ajira ilhali ningali mwanafunzi.

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

Ndio, changamoto si haba. Baadhi ya changamoto ni kama kukosa fedha za kununua vifaa kama vile Camera, vipaza sauti, rekoda ambazo



zinahitajika kwa kazi yangu. Katika ukuaji wangu nazikubali changamoto hizo kwa kuwa zitanikuza kwa maandalizi ya maisha ya kesho. Shida zikizidi sana kufanikiwa hakuko mbali, mimi mwenyewe ninaamini hata siku hiyo nisyoiujua nitamiliki vifaa ambavyo sina kwa sasa.

7. Ni kitu kipi kinakusaidia kupambana na changamoto hizo?

Kwa Sasa ninatumia vifaa vya Shule, kufanya kazi yangu. Vifaa hivyo hurahisisha sana shughuli zangu na hata kunifanya kuandaa makala mengi kwa ajili ya hadhira yangu.

8. Huwa unatangaza kazi zako? Tuambie hatua hiyo inavyokusaidia.

Ndio, huwa ninatangaza kazi yangu kupitia majukwaa yangu ya mitandao ya kijamii. Hatua hii inanaisaidia Kwa kupata wageni na ambao wangetaka kuhojiwa, Kisha napata matangazo ambao hunipa fedha baada ya kutaja kwenye kipindi. Zaidi ya hayo wasajili kwenye mitandao Wa YouTube wanaongezeka (subscribers) Na pia vilevile wafuasi.

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

Amuweke Mungu mbele kwa kila kitu anachokifanya, Kisha atie bidii kwa kazi yake na mwishowe mambo yatakuwa sawa. Jambo jingine ni kuwa, asikubali kukata tamaa hata mara moja. Afadhali kukata matunda kuliko kukata tamaa.

10. Ukipatiwa nafasi ya kubadilisha ulimwengu na kujibadilisha wewe mwenyewe utalete mabadiliko yapi?

Nitahakikisha nimebadilisha dhana iliyo na watu wengi ya kuwa ati MTU ili afanikiwe sharti apeane mlungura, nifanyeieleweke kwamba ukimtanguliza Maulana haya mengine utazidishiwa kwa muda wake.

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

Kazi zangu zipo kwa mitandao ya kijamii, @Thandi Wa Kabera, akini-fuata itakuwa kheri. Asanti Na Mungu atubariki sote.