

The Role Of Data Privacy In Kenya's AI-Driven Transformation

Kenya is rapidly emerging as a hub for technological innovation in Africa, with artificial intelligence (AI) transforming sectors like agriculture, healthcare, education, and finance. From AI-powered tools like M-Shule, which personalizes learning for students, to Hello Tractor, which optimizes farming through data-driven insights, AI is reshaping how Kenyans live and work.

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News>> Outcry Over Insecurity In Murang'a Town

P. 8. Residents of Murang'a town have raised concern over the rate of crime in the central business district, where thugs have lately broken into parked cars with impunity in broad daylight.



News>> Mudavadi: Sessional Paper Charts A Progressive Course For Foreign Policy Amid Evolving Regional And Global Dynamics

P. 12. Kenya's revised foreign policy is designed to address the interests of citizens and reposition Kenya's foreign engagements on the dynamic global landscape, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said.

National Assembly Begins Review Of Budget

The National Assembly has commenced the constitutional process of considering the 2025/2026 Financial Year Budget Estimates following their formal tabling before the House.

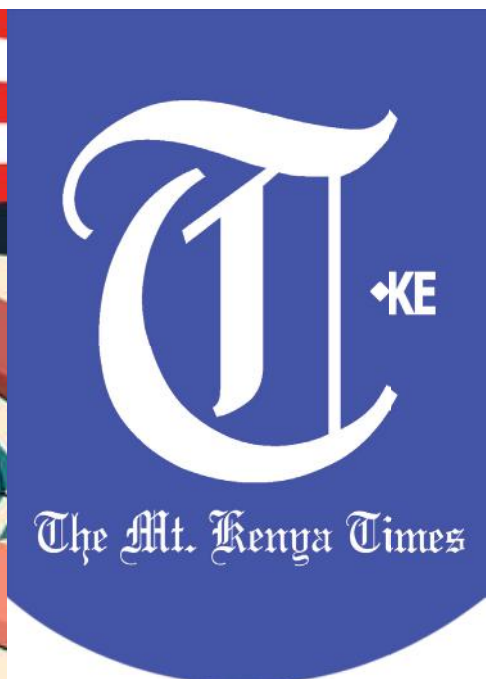
Speaker Moses Wetang'ula confirmed the receipt of the 2025/26 Budget Estimates, setting in motion a critical phase in the country's annual budget cycle.

"In line with Article 221 of the Constitution and Section 39 of the Public Finance Management Act, the Budget Estimates now stand committed to the respective Departmental Committees and the Budget and Appropriations Committee for detailed consideration," said the Speaker during his communication to the House yesterday.



Speaker Moses Wetang'ula

STORY ON PAGE 9



President Ruto Meets With Meru County Leaders

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto and his deputy Kithure Kindiki on Tuesday met with a section of leaders from Meru County. The President noted that constant consultation and unity of purpose among leaders are crucial in the endeavour to work together for inclusive national development and shared prosperity. Further, he noted when leaders have a common vision, they are able to meet the needs of citizens. The leaders that were led by Governor Mutuma M'Ethgingia included Members of Parliament, Members of the County Assembly and other opinion leaders. Among the issues discussed were roads and better returns for coffee, dairy, tea, avocado and miraa farmers. Others were security, health infrastructure, student accommodation, affordable housing and fresh produce markets.



Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Laikipia county Governor Joshua Irungu yesterday commissioned Kinamba Bus Park Multi-purpose Water Project and handed it over to the Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company. The governor who was accompanied by among others his deputy Reuben Kamuri noted that the borehole, with a capacity of producing 22,000 litres per hour, will provide clean and reliable water to Kinamba Town and its surrounding area, thereby boosting access to safe water and improving sanitation. The Deputy Governor said that with a dependable water supply, Ndingika Hospital can now operationalize its fully equipped theatre and dialysis units which is a major step forward for healthcare in the region.



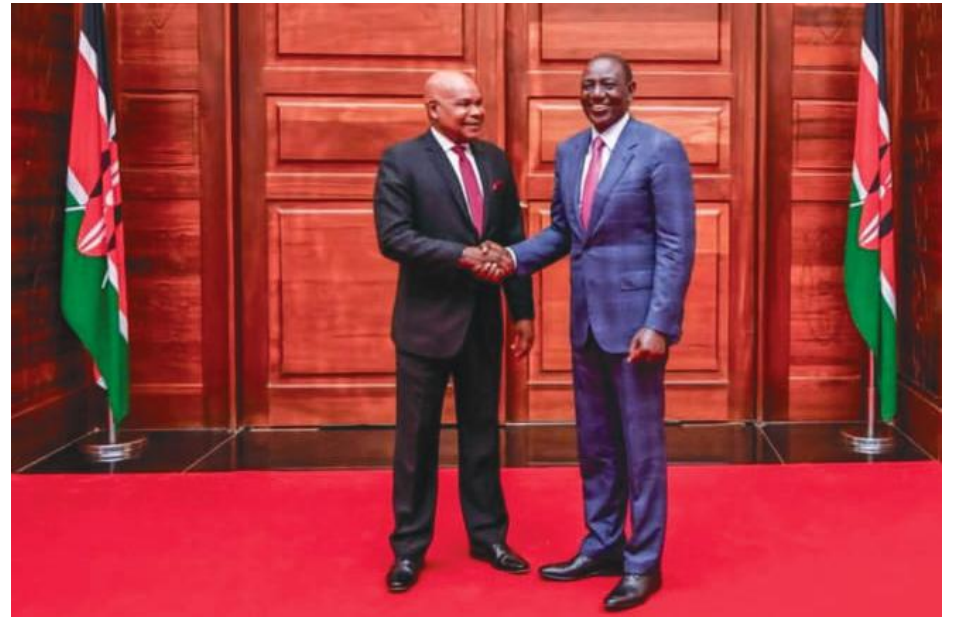
Nyeri Senator Wahome Wamatinga through his office in partnership with Cooperative Bank, held a financial literacy training focusing on officials from Umoja Tujijenge Traders Group and Umoja Market Welfare Self-Help Group in Narumoru, Kieni. The groups, representing over 700 members, are set to receive KSh5 million in

empowerment funds from the government. During the forum, members received valuable training on budgeting, savings, credit access, and sustainable investment strategies. These insights will enable the groups to effectively utilize the upcoming funds for maximum community impact.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday held bilateral talks with the Egyptian Ambassador to Kenya, Wael Nasreldin Attiya. The meeting follows President Ruto's recent visit to Egypt where he explored avenues for deeper collaboration in the health sector. Yesterday's meeting focused on enhancing joint cooperation through three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering Health and Medical Services, collaboration between Kenyatta National Hospital and the Egyptian National Cancer Institute for Oncology, and strengthening regulatory ties between the Egyptian Drug Authority and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. These agreements are expected to facilitate knowledge exchange, institutional partnerships, and technical support. Discussions also touched on Egypt's Nile Development Fund, which aims to support development initiatives in Nile Basin countries. Kenya was invited to formally submit a proposal for three priority projects of its choice, with potential financial support of up to USD 6 million. Ambassador Wael extended an invitation to Kenya to participate in the Africa Health Expo scheduled for June 2025 in Egypt, which will offer further opportunities for collaboration. The CS was accompanied PS for Medical Services, Dr. Ouma Oluga, and the Director General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth.

medical Services, collaboration between Kenyatta National Hospital and the Egyptian National Cancer Institute for Oncology, and strengthening regulatory ties between the Egyptian Drug Authority and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. These agreements are expected to facilitate knowledge exchange, institutional partnerships, and technical support. Discussions also touched on Egypt's Nile Development Fund, which aims to support development initiatives in Nile Basin countries. Kenya was invited to formally submit a proposal for three priority projects of its choice, with potential financial support of up to USD 6 million. Ambassador Wael extended an invitation to Kenya to participate in the Africa Health Expo scheduled for June 2025 in Egypt, which will offer further opportunities for collaboration. The CS was accompanied PS for Medical Services, Dr. Ouma Oluga, and the Director General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth.



President Ruto appoints Prof. Makau Mutua as the Senior Advisor of Constitutional Affairs in the Executive Office of the President. The President said Mutua brings a wealth of experience in legal, constitutional and human rights matters.



Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Geoffrey Ruku says commercialization of the National Youth Service (NYS) will play an important role in enhancing its recruitment and training capacity, buttress its self-reliance program and create job opportunities for its graduates while reinforcing the country's economic development. Yesterday while in the company of Principal Secretary for Public Service and Human Capital Development Dr. Jane Kere Imbunya, the CS met with the National Youth Service Council (NYSC) led by the Chairperson Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Njuki Mwaniki and the Commandant General (CG), Mr. James K. Tembur where they discussed the progress on the commercialization of the critical agency and ways to expedite the process. The CS noted that the government is committed to commercializing NYS to boost its capacity to provide employment to its graduates and catapult its contributions to the economy.

The country's 15 billion tree growing campaign gained momentum this week with thousands of trees being planted in various parts of the country. More than 50,000 trees were planted in Kajiado through an effort spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, with backing from various agencies and active participation by the local community. In Nyandarua, a total of 26,400 indigenous and exotic seedlings were planted in Simbara and Kinangop as part of enrichment and plantation programs. In Meru more than 50,000 trees were planted in an initiative spearheaded by Dedan Kimathi Foundation. Along the Coast, over 33,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in Mombasa and Lamu Counties to rehabilitate the Mangrove Ecosystem. Similar initiatives also took place in Laikipia, Migori, Siaya, and Bomet, where communities led enrichment and reforestation activities. From springs to schools, communities & agencies are uniting for a greener Kenya.





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- 20th May - Pre-Show/Judging Day
- 21st May - Business Showcase Day
- 22nd May - Farmers Day
- 23rd May - Official Opening Day
- 24th May - Family Fun Day

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Child 200/=

SPECIAL PARTY

Adult 200/=
Child 150/=

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

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- Demonstration plots
- Networking with exhibitors
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- Sale of certified seeds and farm inputs
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Bumper Harvest Beckons For Single Mother As County's Free Seeds Programme Bears Fruit

By: Alex Njeru

@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Before the county started giving out certified seeds, I used to plant what I had from the last season. Sometimes nothing would grow. Now, even though the two kilograms they give us aren't enough, we buy more of the same variety from agro-vets and get very good results,” said Ms. Mutembei.
- She added that most households have found a way to receive more than the standard allocation. “All adult family members attend the distribution meetings, and sometimes we can go home with up to 10 kilograms,” she said with a chuckle.

In the heart of the semi-arid Makanyanga area of Tharaka Nithi County, Ms. Lucy Mutembei walks through her thriving four-acre farm with a hopeful smile.

As the rainy season peaks, her fields of maize and green grams stretch across the landscape, promising a bumper harvest in a region once crippled by chronic food shortages.

A single mother of five, Ms. Mutembei is counting on her projected yield—at least 40 bags of maize and 20 bags of green grams—to not only feed her children but also to pay their school fees.

Her eldest, Benson Mutege, is a third-year education science student at Chuka University, while her three daughters are in secondary school and her youngest attends Makanyanga Primary School.

“Farming is my only source of income. A good harvest means I can put food on the table and keep my children in school,” said Ms. Mutembei, her voice echoing both determination and gratitude.

Makanyanga, located in one of the drier belts of Tharaka Nithi County, has long struggled with erratic rainfall and poor harvests.

For years, farmers like Ms. Mutembei relied on recycled seeds from previous seasons—an unreliable method that led to dismal yields and dependence on relief food.

Shift in 2017

However, that narrative began to shift in 2017 when Governor Muthomi Njuki's administration rolled out a county-wide programme distributing free certified seeds to farmers in the region.

The initiative, which includes maize,



Ms Lucy Mutembei's maize farm at Makanyanga area in Tharaka Nithi County. Photo/Alex Njeru.

green grams, and beans, is credited with turning around fortunes for many smallholder farmers.

“Before the county started giving out certified seeds, I used to plant what I had from the last season. Sometimes nothing would grow. Now, even though the two kilograms they give us aren't enough, we buy more of the same variety from agro-vets and get very good results,” said Ms. Mutembei.

She added that most households have found a way to receive more than the standard allocation. “All adult family members attend the distribution meetings, and sometimes we can go home with up to 10 kilograms,” she said with a chuckle.

But the seed programme is about more than just handouts. According to Ms. Mutembei, it opened farmers' eyes to the importance of using high-quality inputs. “We no longer wait for the county government. We now know the right seeds for our

farms and buy them ourselves if we have to,” she explained.

Governor Njuki says that was always the goal. “We found that most farmers were planting any seed they could get their hands on—some from previous harvests, others bought without knowledge of the variety or suitability to the region. That's what caused frequent crop failure,” he said during a recent seed distribution event.

The programme has expanded to include agricultural officers who visit farms to guide farmers on best practices, ensuring that the free seeds are matched with proper farming techniques.

The introduction of subsidized fertilizer by the national government has further strengthened the impact, improving yields and reducing production costs.

“Fertilizer is now more affordable and available. It has helped boost production. At least now I can provide for my children without borrowing,” said

Ms. Mutembei.

Poor market

Still, challenges remain. The greatest, according to the mother of five, is finding a good market for their produce. “We have the harvest now, but we need a stable and fair market. I believe that, too, will be solved with time,” she said.

Governor Njuki acknowledges the concern and emphasizes that collective action is needed. “The government can't support every farmer individually, but when we come together, we can negotiate better prices and find sustainable markets,” he said.

From near-total dependence on relief food to producing enough for both subsistence and commercial purposes, Tharaka Nithi County's agricultural transformation is taking root—one seed at a time. And for Ms. Lucy Mutembei, the future has never looked greener.

The

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Outcry Over Insecurity In Murang'a Town

By: Purity Mugo
@themkenyatimes

Residents of Murang'a town have raised concern over the rate of crime in the central business district, where thugs have lately broken into parked cars with impunity in broad daylight. Speaking to press, one of the residents, Agnes Wanjiru, narrated how money she had withdrawn from one of the local banks on Monday was later stolen from her car.

Wanjiru who is a nominated Member of County Assembly in Nyeri, said that she had withdrawn Sh990000 from the bank and kept the money at the backseat of her car as she ran errands in town.

"I kept the money in my car and went about my business in the town but when I got back, I found the rear window had been broken and the money was missing," she stated.

She said she believes that whoever broke into her car had been trailing her since she withdrew the money from the bank earlier that day

"The thieves broke the window at the exact side where I had kept the

money, meaning they had been monitoring every movement I was making," she said.

"I also think there could have been an insider from the bank because they are the only ones who knew the amount of money I withdrew," she added.

She noted that several other people have fallen victim and lost huge amounts of money after withdrawing it from the local banks and said she suspected there could be a gang working together with the bankers to set up the clients.

She now wants the police to speed up the investigations and increase their surveillance in the town to deter such criminals.

"I believe there are several CCTV cameras along that street which could have captured the incident and the footage can help in identifying the suspect," she said.

Uimbia Muritu, a Murang'a business man, lost Sh300,000 shortly after withdrawing it from a bank.

Muritu said he got into a hotel for a cup of tea but getting back to his car the doors were open and the money was gone.

"I still don't understand how someone figured out that I was carrying



MCA Agnes Wanjiru beside her car that was broken into and cash stolen.

the money and followed me to where I packed the vehicle unless I was set up," Muritu said.

He called upon all business people to install CCTV cameras on their premises noting the cameras will discourage the incidents and help identify the perpetrators.

Murang'a county Police Command-

er Benjamin Kimwele said the matters that have been reported have been taken up for investigations and called those who have been victims of the break-ins to provide all the related information to the police.

Kimwele, however, cautioned the members of public against withdrawing huge amounts of money

without security back up as this exposes them to such attacks.

The police commander also said cases of business people being defrauded of their money have been rampant in the area and stated that four suspects have been arrested and arraigned in court.

Kenya To Host A Waste Management Expo

By: Joseph Ng'ang'a
@themkenyatimes

More than 150 exhibitors from Kenya and across the globe are set to convene in Nairobi from May 20 to May 22, 2025 for the Propak East Africa Conference and Expo 2025, where they will showcase cutting-edge, eco-friendly packaging, printing, and food processing innovations aimed at promoting sustainability and reducing environmental waste.

Held at the Sarit Expo Centre in Westlands, the annual event will bring together players from the packaging, printing, plastics, food processing, and beverage industries to present technologies and solutions that tackle the growing climate crisis driven by packaging waste.

Speaking ahead of the expo, the Managing Director at Montgomery Group East Africa Angela Kinyua expressed optimism about the impact of this year's event.

"This year's exhibition is going to

be bigger and better. Some of the products that will be showcased are going to be game changers in their respective industries. We expect products to be showcased by more than 150 exhibitors coming to the expo, and we invite all stakeholders to register and attend," said Kinyua.

She also highlighted the urgency of transitioning to sustainable packaging alternatives already available in the market.

"If you look around, you'll notice that many of the materials currently in use can be replaced with affordable, high-quality, and eco-friendly alternatives. The solutions exist, and it is now about creating awareness and driving action. With increased adoption, we will start to see cleaner, healthier environments," she added.

According to a World Bank report, the world produces over 2 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste each year, with at least 33 percent of that not being managed in an environmentally safe manner. With rising global populations and rapid urbanization, the report projects that annual waste generation could soar



Ms Angela Kinyua addressing the forum.

to 3.4 billion tonnes in the coming decades.

Many countries, like Kenya, are rapidly developing without proper systems in place to manage their waste. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) estimates that Kenya generates eight million tons of waste annually. It also estimates that 62 percent

of the waste generated in the city of Nairobi is incinerated or disposed in illegal dumpsites, along the side of the road, in rivers, or in open spaces, posing serious environmental and health risks.

With the theme "Unwrapping the Future", this year's expo seeks to ignite conversations around environmental responsibility, encourage

collaboration, and explore the latest trends driving sustainable growth in the industry.

Some of the exhibitors include Tetra Pak, Krones, Uchumi Quick Suppliers, Wichmann Systems, Digital Packaging Innovations (DPI), Filmatic, FC Group, Skyland Masterbatch, Nilpeter and Bobst/Multi-graph, among others.

National Assembly Begins Review Of 2025/26 Budget Estimates

By: PSCU

The National Assembly has commenced the constitutional process of considering the 2025/2026 Financial Year Budget Estimates following their formal tabling before the House. Speaker Moses Wetang'ula confirmed the receipt of the 2025/26 Budget Estimates, setting in motion a critical phase in the country's annual budget cycle.

"In line with Article 221 of the Constitution and Section 39 of the Public Finance Management Act, the Budget Estimates now stand committed to the respective Departmental Committees and the Budget and Appropriations Committee for detailed consideration," said the Speaker during his communication to the House

yesterday.

Wetang'ula directed the Committees to engage stakeholders emphasizing that the resulting reports will inform the enactment of the 2025 Appropriations Act.

The Speaker also announced receipt of the draft Finance Bill, 2025 from the Cabinet.

"I also wish to inform the House that I have received a draft Finance Bill, 2025 from the Cabinet. This Bill relates to the revenue-raising measures that support the submitted budget," he said, adding, "Upon its publication and First Reading, the Bill will stand committed to the Departmental Committee on Finance and National Planning for consideration and facilitation of public participation."

While addressing the House, the Speaker cautioned Members of Parliament against politicizing the Finance Bill outside the legislative

forum.

"Helpless villages and school gatherings are not the place to debate fiscal policy. This House is," he said, urging members to read, analyze, and debate the Bill within the confines of Parliament.

Minority Leader Junet Mohamed echoed the Speaker's sentiments, dismissing recent public discourse based on what he termed a "shadow finance bill."

"Let us be clear—the official Finance Bill has now been formally submitted to Parliament. What circulated before this was pure speculation," he stated. He warned against misinformation and urged MPs to base their debates on the authentic document, not on assumptions or social media rumors.

"If there are no new taxes, let us say so. If there are, let us explain. But let us not create fiction to excite the public," Junet added, calling on



members to uphold integrity in their parliamentary duties.

The Finance Bill, 2025 will detail revenue-raising measures to support the government's proposed spending.

Once published, the Finance Bill, 2025 will undergo Committee consideration and be subjected to public participation

As the House proceeds on recess, lawmakers' have been encouraged

to dedicate the time to thorough engagement with the budget estimates and ensure that the views and needs of their constituents are reflected in the national spending plan.

"This process must be led by facts, fairness, and fidelity to our constitutional duty," affirmed the Speaker Wetang'ula.

Organic Farming Of Aerial Yams Picks In Central Kenya

By: Florence Kinyua

@themkenyatimes

Aerial yams (*dioscorea bulbifera*) also known as hanging yams is slowly gaining traction amongst farmers in central Kenya owing to its numerous health benefits, versatility, and its pests and disease resistance capability.

The yams can be intercropped with other crops like beans, spinach herbs and kales allowing for better land use and increases overall yields translating into higher income for the farmers.

The herbaceous, perennial plant with long climbing vines that can grow up to 65 feet is not labour intensive and once planted they keep rejuvenating themselves for years and years.

At Murang'a's Mathioya constituency, journalists visited Pastor Simon Ngure on a damp rainy morning to gain some insights on the now highly lucrative venture.

He quit coffee farming in 2009 for aerial yams to the dismay of many but has never looked back.

"I got one yam from my friend who had got it from Nigeria, I propagated

it and was impressed by the returns, so I shared with my neighbors but the surplus was still overwhelming so I decided to transform it into a business venture which has sustained my family and I to date," he reminisces.

From propagation of the aerial yams, Ngure has not only earned himself fame and a spot in agricultural exhibitions across the country but has also earned himself fame, fortune and wealth.

"The demand for the seedlings is very high as more farmers embrace areal yams farming, the yams thrive well in almost all climatic conditions but grow best in cooler and warmer temperatures in the 20-30 degrees celsius range," he says.

He added: "They prefer a consistent amount of rainfall but where rain is not sufficient, the plants should be adequately watered preferably twice a week,".

The propagated seedling is planted in a container with soil thoroughly mixed with well decomposed manure before digging the container into the soil in a 2 by 2 feet hole.

He explains that the aerial yam is susceptible to moles that destroy its roots thus the container acts as a deterrent to the moles.

"After planting, the yams produce

its first fruit at only 5 months and it is important to provide climbing support for the yams as the vines can grow up to 65 feet," he says.

The yam is also susceptible to aphids and he recommends use of rabbit urine to wade them off.

"I am an ambassador of organic farming by minimizing use of synthetic fertilizers so as to protect the soil from extreme acidity, therefore in case of aphid attack, we use rabbit urine," he says.

Granted, it is paramount for a farmer to rear rabbits alongside aerial yam farming.

Ngure has 100 stems of the aerial yam in his eighth acre piece of land and harvests up to 20 kilos per stem with a 20 kilo bucket of the yams retailing at between Sh6000 to Sh8000.

"To propagate the yams, after harvesting, I store the yams in cool dry and dark room for 6 to 8 weeks after which they start budding and are ready to be planted" he notes. A seedling goes at Sh300.

Ngure is however considering aerial yams value addition to produce flour which will not only extend the yams shelf life but also provide an extra source of revenue.

Notably, the yams are rich nutritional and health benefits as they are



Pastor Simon Ngure in his aerial yams farm in Mathioya, Murang'a County.

rich in calcium, magnesium, zinc and iron.

Moreover, he offers agricultural support to other farmers embracing the farming of aerial yams as his farm is not without visitors' eager to see the magical hanging yam.

He urges more farmers to embrace aerial yams farming for food security and continuity of indigenous tra-

ditional foods that have far reaching health benefits and promote healthier lifestyles.

"You can intercrop the yams with beans, kales and other non-climbing plants so as to reap more even from a small piece of land," he adds.

Mount Kenya University Heightens Research for Malaria on Expectant Mothers

By: MKT Reporter
 @themkenyatimes

The fight against Malaria in Kenya has received a major boost in the area of research, as Mount Kenya University (MKU) students have the rare opportunity to diversify their research skills of the disease in Germany.

According to the University's Vice Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi, the program dubbed as Africa meets Bavaria, is aimed at fostering a vibrant research culture among students and contributing to the wider development of the society.

"Malaria has been a huge challenge in Kenya and there is a huge need to address it. We are in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who have supported by equipping MKU's laboratories as well as offering opportunity for the university's post doctorate students to undertake research on Malaria," Prof Jaganyi reveals.

Among areas that researchers will give a weighty focus is on the impact

of Malaria on pregnant women. The study includes investigating immunity in pregnant women and their fetuses, studying the immune response to malaria during pregnancy, and developing potential vaccines for pregnant women.

Additionally, the research aims to understand the interplay between the malaria parasite and immune responses in pregnancy.

"Our research focus group is the pregnant mothers and we seek to evaluate the level of awareness on how they can prevent Malaria, especially the issue of transmission of the disease from them to their offsprings. We will be undertaking this in the Coast and Kilifi County specifically when Malaria cases are endemic," stated Dr. Ngara Chome.

The move by the university to invest in research and innovation on Malaria comes at a time the government has issued a stark reminder of the disease's enduring grip, with the country recording over 5 million malaria cases in 2024.

Data issued by the ministry of health indicates that over 70% of the population remains at risk. Further, the

ministry says that Malaria continues to hinder the socio-economic development—keeping children out of school, reducing productivity, and increasing household healthcare costs.

"Encouraging research at the student level cultivates critical thinking, innovation, and evidence-based problem-solving skills. It also equips students to contribute meaningfully to national and global challenges," stated Prof. Jesse Gitaka.

However, Kenya has made notable headway in its battle against malaria, with national prevalence falling from 8% in 2015 to 6% by 2020. The number of reported cases has dropped from a peak of 9.2 million in 2007 to 5.6 million in 2023. Once responsible for nearly a third of all outpatient consultations, malaria now accounts for just 16%, according to the Ministry of Health.

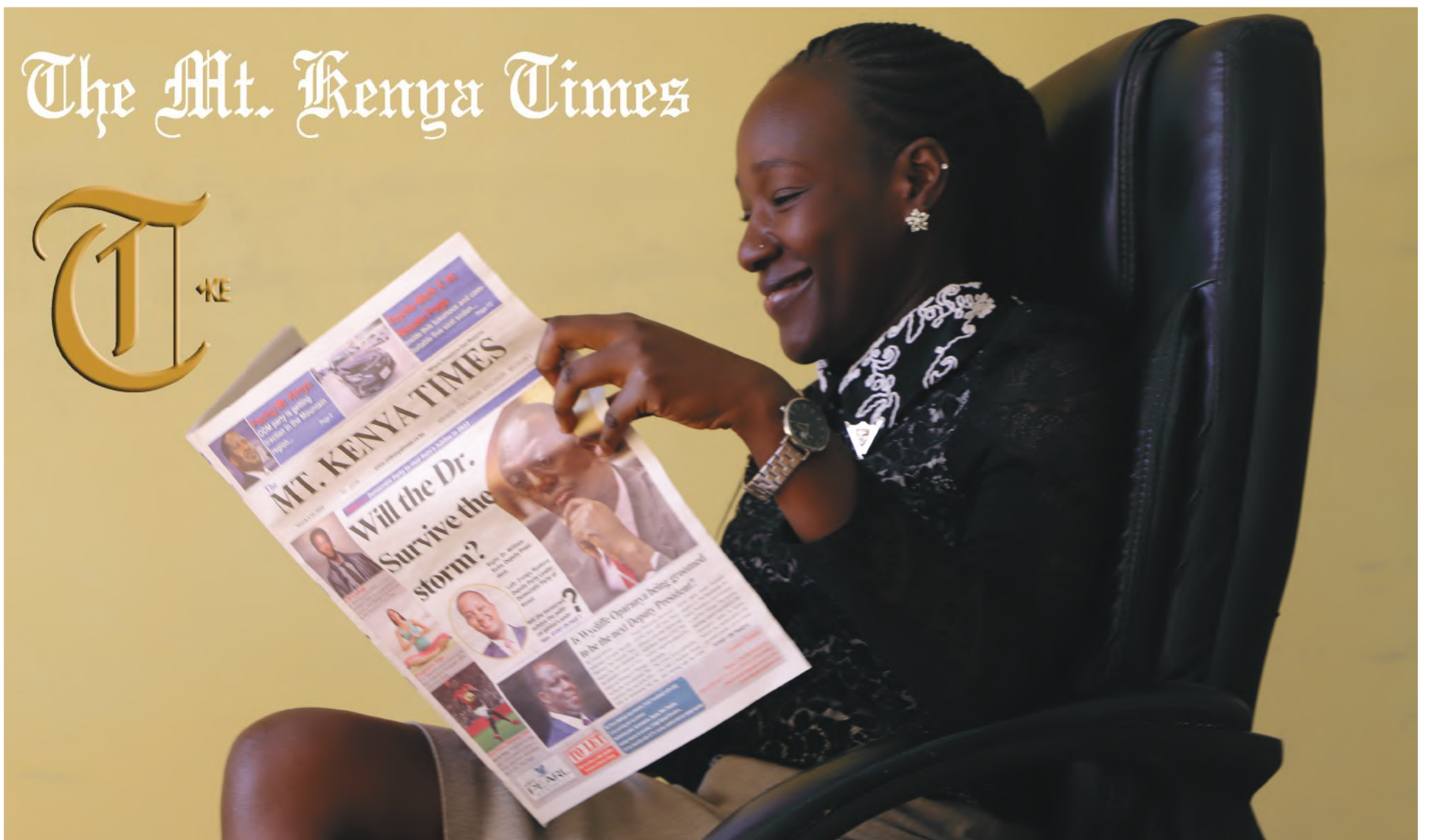
"Research has become an integral part of the society. A few years we had covid 19 and even today we are facing threats of other diseases, some like Malaria are becoming resistant to current treatments so the research must be carried out continuously," notes Prof Jesse Gitaka.



MKU Vice Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi. Photo/Courtesy.

The researchers emphasized the need for relentless action to meet the national goal of Malaria elimination by 2030. MKU has consistently prioritized research development, with structures such as the Directorate of Research and Innovation supporting students and faculty in pursuing

scholarly work. The university's leadership emphasized that strengthening research output aligns with its vision of becoming a global center of excellence in education, research, and innovation.



Mbeere South Leaders Seal 2027 Pre- Election Treaty

By: Samuel Waititu
 @themkenyatices

Five Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) from Mbeere South Constituency, Embu county, have declared their intention to rally behind one of their own for the constituency's parliamentary seat in 2027.

They argued that this time round, they want to have a homegrown leader to take over the seat as he is well versed with the challenges facing the constituency including marginalization in terms of government resources sharing.

They asserted that it was time for local leadership to rise from the grassroots and challenge long-standing political dominance in the area.

The seat is currently being occupied by Engineer Nebat Muriuki who they accused of bias in allocation of the

NG-CDF funds under his purview. "We want the County Assembly not just to be a legislative body, but an incubation ground for the next generation of national leaders," said Kiambere MCA Lenny Masters.

Speaking during a press briefing on Tuesday in Embu Town, the leaders stated that their unity aims at fostering development through a shared agenda.

They criticized both national and county leadership for what they perceive as neglect of the area, despite it being the largest constituency in Embu County by land mass and the second in population.

Makima Ward MCA Philip Nzangi emphasized that MCAs, being closer to the residents, have a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the area classified as ASAL.

John Mbaka (Mavuria Ward) who is serving as the caucus chair and the Minority Leader in the Assembly, highlighted their commitment



The Embu County Assembly MCAs from Mbeere South constituency

to address challenges facing Mbeere South residents.

He noted that their collective experience positions them to bring about significant progress in the constitu-

ency.

Job Itumo (Mwea Ward) pointed out that their collaboration had already yielded positive results, including addressing longstanding issues like the

Mwea land disputes, which have historically caused division and tension among residents.

Kenya Seeks To Strengthen Its Trade Ties With COMESA

By: Ms Regina Ombam
 @themkenyatices

Kenya is now seeking to strengthen its trade and integration ties with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) during the upcoming 24th Summit scheduled for October in Nairobi.

Currently, Kenya's trade with COMESA countries continues to report growth after exports increased from 1.65 billion USD (Sh213 billion) in the year 2020 to 2.2 billion USD (Sh284 billion) by the end of last year.

The government is now banking to boost these exports by harnessing the trade potential of the regional bloc and its competitiveness by addressing major trade barriers and roadblocks.

According to Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade Regina Ombam, Kenya will strengthen its trade ties with COMESA countries which will see an increase in exports for local products.

Ombam said the regional bloc which consists of 21 countries is a key trading market for Kenya's goods and

services and will help cushion the country from global turmoil such as dollar fluctuations and the ongoing trade tariffs.

Kenya was among a host of countries slapped with 10 per cent tariffs for its exports to the United States of America which was announced by President Donald Trump.

Although the implementation of trade tariff has been paused for 90 days to allow negotiation, the move sent market shocks across 33 African countries which have since the year 2000 traded with the US duty free under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Backed by the surprise tariffs announcement by the US, the PS said there's a need to strengthen trade ties within the continent and Kenya will seize the opportunity during the October 9 summit with the bloc heads of states and ministers.

Speaking in Naivasha during the launch of a Multi-Agency National Organizing Committee ahead of the COMESA summit, Ombam said the summit offers regional leaders a crucial opportunity to review COMESA integration and trade agenda and other programs.

She tasked the committee which is

drawn from public and private officials to oversee and fast-track preparedness that will lead to a smooth and successful summit that will host over 3,000 delegates.

She said Kenya will seek to leverage its competitiveness to boost its trade with COMESA during the 24th COMESA Summit that will be held in Nairobi in October.

Trade Secretary Michael Mandu said the growth of trade exports to the COMESA bloc from 1.65 billion USD (Sh213B) in 2020 to 2.2 billion USD (Sh284 billion) as of last year holds great potential to boost trade.

"Our exports to the COMESA bloc by year 2020 were valued at 1.65 billion USD which grew to 2 billion USD by 2023 and in 2024, it was 2.2 billion USD which indicates growing trade", said Mandu.

Mandu said the summit will unlock any barriers to trade for both import and export between Kenya and COMESA which will be mutually beneficial for both.

"The pride in import and export trade is that Kenya will also get a lot of imports coming in from the COMESA bloc which will result in a win-win for COMESA and for ourselves", said Mandu.



Ms Regina Ombam.

Due to ongoing trade liberalization efforts within COMESA, especially reduced tariffs have facilitated greater trade flows among member's states.

Kenya's major exports the bloc includes agricultural products such as tea, coffee and textiles, Iron, steel, petroleum and cement.

According to data from COMESA, in 2023, countries within the bloc

exported a total of 198 billion USD with the main trading partners in terms of exports being China, United Arab Emirates and Italy.

The data shows that the top exported products from the bloc were Crude Petroleum, Gold, and refined Copper.

On the other hand, COMESA's total imports recorded 266 billion USD in 2023 with major products being refined petroleum, cars and wheat.

Mudavadi: Sessional Paper Charts A Progressive Course For Foreign Policy Amid Evolving Regional And Global Dynamics

By: OPCS PRESS SERVICE

Kenya's revised foreign policy is designed to address the interests of citizens and reposition Kenya's foreign engagements on the dynamic global landscape, Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi has said.

Mudavadi also the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs told the Senate standing committee on national security, defence and foreign relations that the grand strategy is to move the policy from corridors of the ministry and make it citizen centred.

He said the move to have the policy anchored in law with parliamentary input will position Kenya's interests first in the everchanging global world.

"We want our international and diplomatic engagements to help improve the livelihoods and welfare of every Kenyan as we protect the interests of our country which come first," said Mudavadi when he met Senate Committee on Tuesday.

Mudavadi told the committee which sought statements from the ministry with regards to shaping Kenya's global image that the rapid changes in the global environment necessitated the review of the policy with an approach rooted in pragmatism, foresight and long-term perspective.

"What we are curing is the traditional way of doing things under hidden cameras, we need to be transparent and forthright in our engagements and be accountable to the citizens in our foreign engagements," said Mudavadi.

"Once we actualize the sessional paper, we will adopt a number of reforms including making public treaties and agreements signed with other countries, once approved by parliamentary. This will help the public to understand areas where they feel they can engage and invest abroad among other benefits," Mudavadi explained.

Mudavadi also told the committee that transparency on the issuance of scholarships will be part of the sessional paper adoptions bringing to an end the inequality and unfairness witnessed in the past.

He emphasized that Kenyans be part of progressive engagements that aim to benefit the country including available opportunities in the education sector abroad.

"Every part of Kenya must get an equal opportunity when it comes to sharing of such opportunities like scholarships. Even if we later decide to bond the students in giving back to the nation once they have graduated, this must be done with fairness and transparency. Scholarships are not a military secret. The sessional paper will outline how the beneficiaries

will be identified and the criteria will be known for Kenyans to appreciate that indeed there was transparency," Mudavadi explained.

"We are also looking at how to deal with the unscrupulous travel agents and agencies that lure Kenyans and dupe innocent citizens when it comes to securing job opportunities abroad. We want to put measures that the Ministry will use to sensitize the citizens so that they are not swindled and left high and dry," added the Prime CS.

Mudavadi while responding to the question on how to protect Kenyans seeking jobs abroad, he said Parliament should also help the Ministry to further strengthen the laws that will help in prosecuting the rogue agencies and also help in sensitizing and cautioning Kenyans of areas or regions that are a no-go zone, where they might face consequences and become victims of human trafficking or slavery.

"Our engagements with parliament or even other institution is to help save lives. This is a campaign that should be wholesome. The awareness should not be left for the ministry or government, since when Kenyans suffer abroad it pains many back home," said Mudavadi.

"As a ministry we are also cautioning Kenyans that once you are wheels-up, the moment you land on the soils of the other country, the laws that govern your stay once the plane has landed are the laws of the foreign country," said Mudavadi as he urged Parliament to help in enacting laws that will help the ministry navigate legal processes for Kenyans incarcerated abroad.

"When you get involved in a traffic



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi

offense abroad or you are caught in a brawl in a night club then you want the case to be a Kenyan problem, and yet we don't have monetary provisions to help in dealing with such cases, you are putting us in a tight corner. Especially to our young people who still want to adventure, they need to be cautious of the same," said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi also told the committee that the sessional paper seeks to entrench the foreign affairs docket under the National Security Council framework to help on matters related to budgetary allocation and provisions that will give the ministry more room to strengthen its engagements.

Mudavadi also told the committee that Kenya is looking for ways of broadening its asset base in its missions abroad and part of the sessional paper is also to address the issue of

diplomatic appointments to have the career diplomats given an upper hand of at least 70 % of the appointments while other experienced officers are intergrated in the system at a level of at least 30%.

"This once entrenched in the policy will clear the ambiguity and guide future nominations and appointments," he said.

"We are facing fiscal difficulties and some of our missions are grappling with financial constraints but we are working on making sure that our diplomatic missions and the diplomats are not underfunded for this can also be very dangerous," he added.

The committee was chaired by Isiolo County Senator Fatuma Dullo.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi at the Senate standing committee on national security, defence and foreign relations

Worth Noting:

- "Once we actualize the sessional paper, we will adopt a number of reforms including making public treaties and agreements signed with other countries, once approved by parliamentary. This will help the public to understand areas where they feel they can engage and invest abroad among other benefits." Mudavadi explained.
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- He emphasized that Kenyans be part of progressive engagements that aim to benefit the country including available opportunities in the education sector abroad.

Women And Youth Groups From Meru Get Machines From MSEA

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themkenyatimes

Kenyans and especially the youth have been urged to organize themselves into cooperatives and associations in partnerships with county governments across the country so that they can be able to get help from the government.

Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA) Chief Executive Officer Mwenda Rithaa said they have two projects that have been funded to the tune of over Sh150 million to be implemented by various partners to support the youth and small businesses sector.

He said they will give machines and funds to youth and women groups who are organized and seek help from the entity.

He spoke on Tuesday in South Imenti constituency when he gave 30 youth and women groups sewing machines, car wash machines, welding machines among others.

“The first project is called the national youth opportunities plans and advancement which targets the youth

between 18 and 29 years and the persons living with disabilities up to 30 years,” Rithaa said.

He said Nyota is a project that is providing very well organized structured capacity where youths will be recruited across the country and they will be organized into sectors they will be supported and educated on how to make businesses work within the fields they have chosen so that they can create employment.

“We will take the beneficiaries through training and then support them with grants that are funded by the world bank to make sure we get at least 110,000 youths having grants of Sh50,000 each,” Rithaa said.

He said they would support other youth through technical training and will be trained as craftsmen who necessarily may not have had formal education.

He said the government is championing recognizing prior learning .

Rithaa said they will improve the productivity of the small business sector by encouraging residents to support local businesses.

“We urge schools to support local businessmen by buying school uniforms from them. Those who have



MSEA CEO Mwenda Rithaa gives an electrical grinding machine to a youth in South Imenti Constituency. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

cars should give their cars to local car wash guys whom we are supporting,” he said.

Meru county executive in charge of Youths and Sports Elias Murega laud-

ed the efforts by MSEA to uplift the youth and especially youth groups. He urged more youths to form into groups to be able to benefit.

Meru County Commissioner Jacob

Ouma urged youth to avoid drugs to be able to benefit from such government initiatives.

Several Arrested, 350 Kgs Of Fake Gold Seized

By: The DCI

Detectives from the Nairobi Regional Criminal Investigations Office have dismantled a gold scamming syndicate that has been preying on unsuspecting victims arresting eleven suspects, seizing 350kgs of counterfeit gold.

The arrest follows a report received from a victim who had been defrauded of USD 546,000 in a fraudulent gold scheme.

Acting on credible intelligence, the detectives trailed the suspects to their hideout in the Spring Valley estate, where they executed a swift arrest.

Upon search, detectives recovered a haul of fake gold weighing 350kg, along with a weighing machine and an electronic gold tester, commonly known as a Tester Gun.

Also recovered were assorted documents and a dust coat bearing the

Ministry of Mining logo, which the suspects are believed to be using to gain the trust of unsuspecting individuals while executing their fraudulent schemes.

The suspects, a multi-national mix of con artists, include Kenyans: Allan Zephaniah Onyango, Nicodemus Okoth, Phillip Onyango, Shem Omollo and Edward Leonard Ochieng along with two Congolese nationals, Nfundiko Kamira and Lukabaya Mulamba, and two Cameroonian citizens, Ibrahim Nzangou and another, have been taken into custody at the Capitol Hill Police Station, where they are undergoing processing pending their arraignment.

Meanwhile, the seized items are safely secured as exhibits, as detectives delve deeper into what appears to be an elaborate, well-networked scam.



The suspects.

Small Steps, Great Life



In a distant village nestled among mountains, there lived a young man named Sobir. His life was simple, peaceful, and filled with hard work. Sobir spent his days farming, toiling in the fields. Yet, a question always lingered in his mind: "What is the true meaning of life?" He feared that with his ordinary existence, he might never achieve a greater purpose.

One day, Sobir's relative came to visit and spoke about life in the city. They talked enthusiastically about the latest technologies, towering buildings, and endless opportunities. Sobir listened with fascination. However, one thought troubled him: adapting to city life would require knowledge. Sobir began to dedicate his evenings to reading, after returning from the fields. Though he had graduated school years ago, the idea of continuing his education had never crossed his mind. Now, every spare moment was devoted to learning. It was difficult at first—villagers would laugh at his efforts, saying, "Sobir is studying! What, does he plan to become a professor?"

But Sobir paid no attention. Each night, by the dim light of a flickering candle, he read and practiced. He began with basic problems and gradually moved to learn advanced

concepts. Books on simple mathematics and new technologies gave him confidence and motivation. These small steps brought him closer to something greater every day.

One day, while working in the fields, Sobir noticed a car approaching the village. A man stepped out and introduced himself as an engineer working on a water supply project for the area. Sobir learned that they needed local assistants for the project. Seeing this as an opportunity, Sobir decided to give it a try.

With his determination and quick learning, Sobir stood out among the workers. He impressed the engineer with his skills and enthusiasm. Despite being just a farmer, Sobir's thirst for knowledge made him unique. The engineer praised him and invited him to join the team officially.

Years passed, and Sobir not only contributed to the success of the water supply project but also expanded his work into other fields. He helped transform life in his village—bringing electricity, renovating schools, and building libraries. Sobir's journey, which began with small steps, ultimately led to profound changes.

Sobir's life remained humble, but now he understood his purpose. He discovered that the meaning of life lay in making a difference, even with small steps. Most importantly, he proved that anyone could bring about change, even while leading an ordinary life.

By: Aziza Normatova, teacher at the Faculty of Foreign Languages, JSP University

Towards A Safer Future: Preventing Juvenile Delinquency



Juvenile delinquency is not merely a legal issue – it is a reflection of the moral, educational, and social health of a society. When a young person breaks the law, it is not just the legal system that responds, but the entire community that must ask: what went wrong? What could have been done earlier to prevent this path? As societies evolve, so do the challenges faced by the younger generation. Poverty, broken families, peer pressure, lack of education, unemployment, abuse, and even social media influence can push teenagers toward unlawful behavior. But despite the complexity of causes, one truth remains clear: juvenile crime can be prevented – if we act wisely, collectively, and early.

The first and most important step in preventing juvenile delinquency is education. Schools are not just centers of academic learning; they are powerful tools for shaping behavior, values, and aspirations. A school that promotes discipline, respect, empathy, and legal awareness gives children the tools they need to make better choices. Legal literacy programs, anti-bullying campaigns, and life-skills education can have a significant impact. Family plays a central role as well. Children who grow up in loving, stable environments with responsible adults are far less likely to engage in crime. Parental involvement, open communication, and emotional support can serve as shields against delinquent tendencies. Families must be taught not only to discipline but to guide – not only to punish but to understand. Community engagement is another key pillar. When neighborhoods provide safe spaces for children to gather, play, and express themselves, crime rates fall. Local organizations, youth clubs, mentorship programs, and cultural centers

create alternatives to the streets. Youth need to feel seen, heard, and valued – or else they may seek belonging in the wrong places. Additionally, we must pay close attention to mental health. Emotional distress, untreated trauma, and psychological issues often underlie juvenile crimes. Schools and communities should have trained counselors, psychologists, and social workers who can identify and help at-risk youth before problems escalate into criminal acts.

The legal system itself must adapt. While holding juveniles accountable is necessary, the goal should be rehabilitation, not revenge. Alternative sentencing programs, community service, restorative justice circles, and youth correctional education are far more effective in reducing repeat offenses than incarceration alone. A young person's future should not be destroyed by one mistake. Moreover, digital awareness is essential in today's connected world. Many forms of juvenile crime – cyberbullying, online scams, digital theft, and exposure to harmful content – occur through the internet. Teaching students about digital ethics, internet safety, and legal consequences in cyberspace must become part of modern prevention strategies.

Importantly, peer education and youth leadership can have a powerful influence. Young people listen to each other more than to adults. Empowering responsible youth to lead anti-crime campaigns, peer mediation sessions, and legal awareness workshops can make the message more relatable and effective. Governments, educators, law enforcement, parents, and youth themselves must work hand in hand. Preventing juvenile delinquency is not about fear – it is about hope. It is about believing that with the right guidance, support, and opportunities, every child can grow into a responsible citizen. In conclusion, a society that neglects its youth is building prisons for its future. But a society that invests in prevention is building bridges to success. Let us choose the latter – through compassion, education, justice, and united action.

Erkabayeva Shahnoza, is a 2nd year student of the Faculty of Philology and Arts, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruni

Mtandao



Mtandao ni mzuri, unafunza mambo mengi,

Ukitumia vizuri, tanufaika kwa wingi,
Mtandao una siri, vilevile vitu vingi,
Tuutumie vizuri, katika ujana wetu.

Na muktaka elimu, nendeni mtandaoni,
Na kule utafahamu, zuri na baya nchini,
Na vijana wana simu, wote kwa mtandaoni,
Tuutumie vizuri, katika ujana wetu.

Tuwe na tabia njema, kwenye mitandao yetu,

Tuige mfano muema, tujenge taifa letu,
Tukitumia kwa wema, tatimiza lengo letu,
Tuutumie vizuri, katika ujana wetu.

Tumia kurekebisha, unapooona makosa,
Tumia kuelimisha, wasomi utawanasa,
Lengo ni kuunganisha, wananchi wote hasa,

Tuutumie vizuri, katika ujana wetu.

Mimi muisho nimefika, wino umekamilika,
Sisi sote tutaifika, iwapo taimarika,
Mtandao kwa hakika, una mengi takufika,

Tuutumie vizuri, katika ujana wetu.

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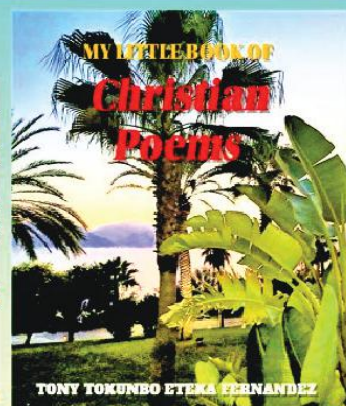
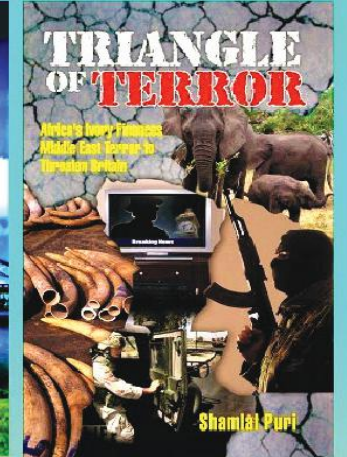
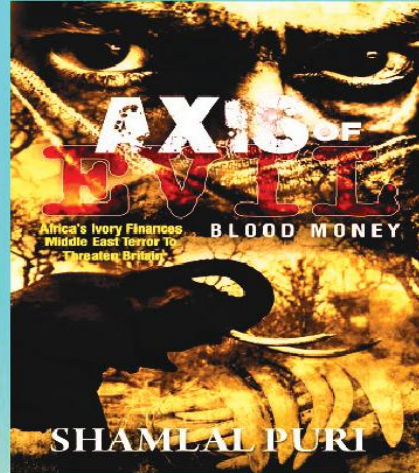
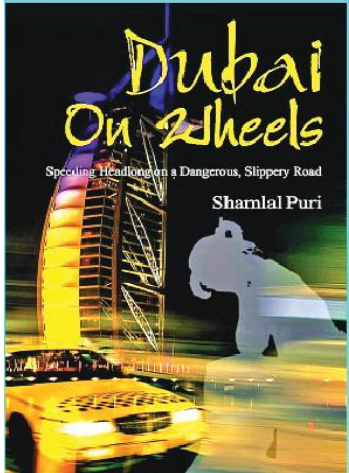
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Mothers In Murang'a Get Maternal Material Support

By: Bernard Munyao
@themkenyatimes

The County Government of Murang'a has offered thousands of expectant women a rare treat for regularly attending ante-natal clinics.

The would be mothers were given an assortment of material support dubbed Mama-kits from the devolved administration for keeping their dates with the clinics without fail for at least six sessions during their pregnancy.

Yesterday, the county department of health issued more than 2, 500 Mama-kits to registered mothers at various health facilities in all 35 wards across the county.

According to the county nursing officer Salome Kimani, the maternal health initiative aims at reducing maternal and child mortality by encouraging mothers to attend at least six ante-natal clinics.

She observed the county government establishing maternal health

support after it was realized some mothers still opt to deliver at homes thus endangering their lives and that of their infants.

"Health workers have visited local health facilities and rewarded mothers who complete these clinics with Mama-kits which contain essentials for childcare including a thermometer, Baby shawl, Baby jelly, Diapers, basins and other crucial items." Said Ms Kimani.

The programme which was established last year, the Nursing Officer noted it encourages and supports mothers to deliver in health facilities so as to ensure the safety of the mother and child.

Ms Kimani observed that seven out of 10 women who deliver at homes face a high risk as midwives are unable to handle any complication that may emerge.

"Murang'a county government is striving to end home deliveries as this endangers the life of the mother and the newborn. Other developmental issues result from home deliveries that can be avoided if



mothers attend ante-natal clinics regularly and deliver in a health facility," she added.

Furthermore, the nursing officer further noted that by attending ante-natal clinics, mothers get the opportunity to be educated on reproductive health care that helps them make appropriate decisions for themselves and their unborn children.

Last year, the county government

also started to cater for transport costs for expectant mothers visiting ante-natal clinics.

The transport support of Sh. 1, 000 was given to mothers who attend their seventh- and eight-months clinics.

Upon delivery at hospital, the county government gives a mother Sh. 2, 000 to facilitate her to get back home.

Ms Kimani said the initiatives the county introduced to support maternal health are bearing fruits as currently more than 98 percent of mothers deliver in health facilities.

"We continue to encourage expectant mothers to ensure they visit ante-natal clinics regularly. This will help the county curb maternal mortality," she remarked.

Firms Advised To Adopt Artificial Intelligence To Improve Performance

By: Esther Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

The International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM) has advised organizations, state agencies and corporates to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their procurement and supply chain operations to improve decision making and increase efficiency.

International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management President Eng. Chris Oanda said Artificial Intelligence backed solutions in purchasing and supply management enables buyers, suppliers and financiers to work seamlessly while allowing organizations to monitor their procurement and supply chains in real time.

Eng. Oanda who is a Council Member of Egerton University, indicated that digital transformation and AI technologies were tools and enablers of strategic value creation in the procurement and supply chain of modern entities.

In his virtual presentation from the

University's Njoro Main Campus to the 8th Internet and Supply Chain Conference that took place in Xiamen, China, Eng. Oanda emphasized that AI technology was shaping the future where procurement and supply chain functions were not only functional but also strategic and digitally empowered.

He said AI was no longer a concept in the procurement and supply chains but a powerful driving force that is redefining how firms and government agencies worldwide manage risks as it facilitates smarter and faster decisions.

Eng. Oanda observed that AI in supply chains could deliver the powerful optimization capabilities required for more accurate capacity planning, improved demand forecasting, enhanced productivity, lower supply chain costs, and greater output, all while fostering safer working conditions.

IFPSM is a global federation of over 250,000 associates from over 40 countries. The conference brought on board over 300 professionals from over 200 internet and supply chain companies.

While championing transformative thinking in global supply chain management, IFPSM President indicated that Artificial Intelligence was poised to revolutionize procurement and automation within supply chains by enabling more efficient and strategic decision-making.

"AI can automate repetitive tasks, analyze data for better forecasting, and optimize processes to reduce cycle times and improve overall efficiency," he explained.

Eng. Oanda further said that AI had the potential to transform procurement and supply chains by automating tasks, improving decision-making, and increasing efficiency in tasks like supplier research and contract management, analyze spend data for better insights, and predict demand accurately.

He noted that AI could help identify inefficiencies in the supply chain and suggest improvements, leading to cost savings and increased efficiency. AI, he added, could help identify and manage suppliers more effectively, including evaluating their performance, identifying risks, and ensuring compliance.



Eng. Chris Oanda.

"AI-powered tools can also help businesses respond quickly to changing market conditions and customer demands. AI can automate tasks like data entry, invoice processing, and purchase order generation, freeing up human resources for more strategic work," he added.

Procurement has traditionally relied on human expertise, manual comparison of supplier options, and analysis of past performance with Procurement teams being under pressure to cut costs, boost efficien-

cy, and stay agile, all while dealing with growing complexity.

However, AI is quickly becoming a game-changer in modern procurement, with Eng. Oanda saying that AI helps simplify the complexity challenges by orchestrating tasks, analyzing data, and supporting better decisions across the board adding that firms that had adopted AI had simplified their supply chain management processes and boosted efficiency.



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The Role Of Data Privacy In Kenya's AI-Driven Transformation

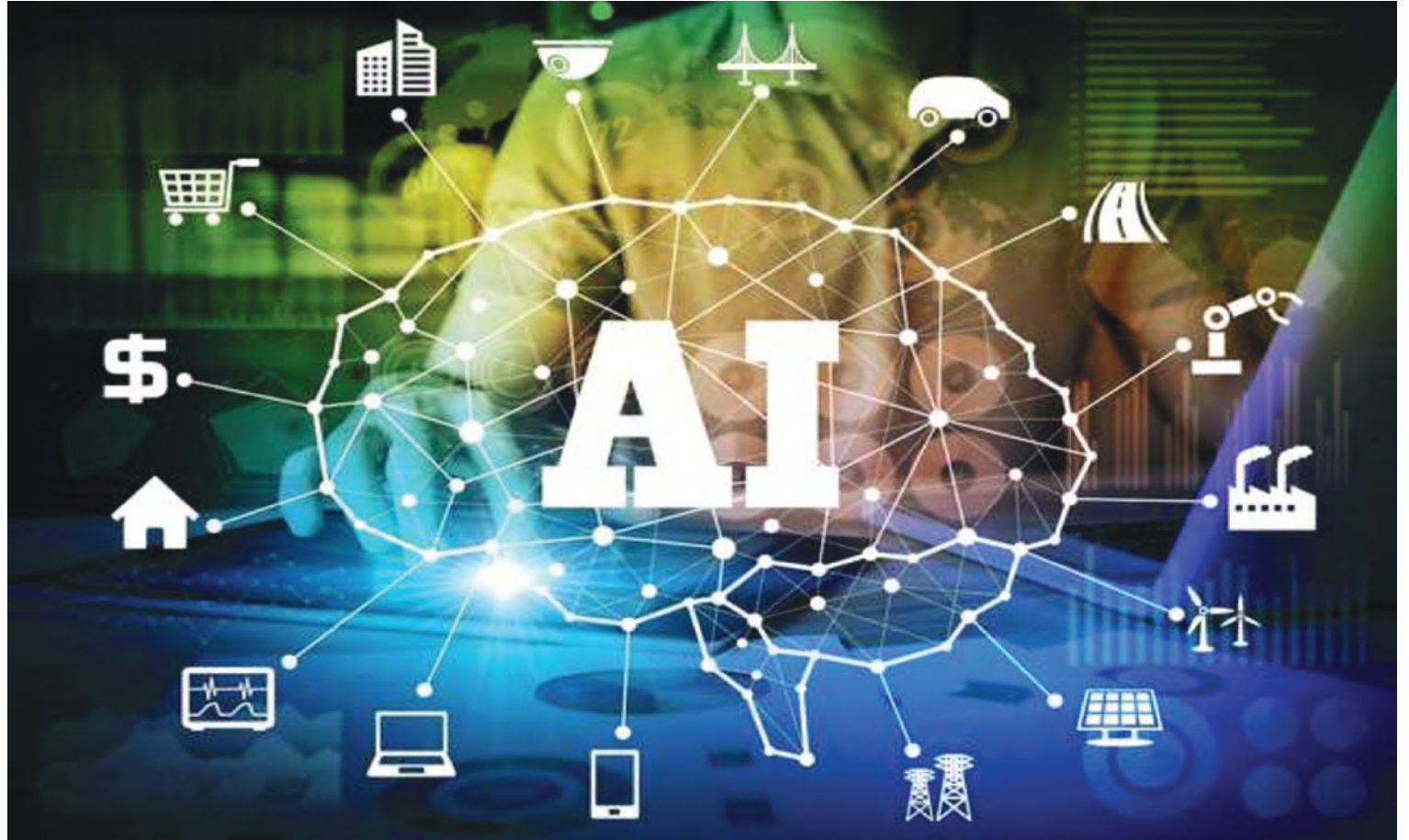


By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya is rapidly emerging as a hub for technological innovation in Africa, with artificial intelligence (AI) transforming sectors like agriculture, healthcare, education, and finance. From AI-powered tools like M-Shule, which personalizes learning for students, to Hello Tractor, which optimizes farming through data-driven insights, AI is reshaping how Kenyans live and work. However, this digital transformation hinges on the collection and processing of vast amounts of personal data, raising critical concerns about privacy. In a country where mobile penetration is over 60% and internet usage is soaring, safeguarding personal data is not just a legal obligation but a cornerstone for building public trust in AI technologies. Without robust data privacy measures, the promise of AI-driven progress could be undermined by breaches, mistrust, and ethical missteps.

The Data Protection Act (DPA) of 2019 is Kenya's primary legal framework for regulating personal data, designed to align with global standards like the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The DPA mandates that organizations, including those deploying AI, obtain explicit consent from individuals before collecting or processing their data, and it grants data subjects rights to access, rectify, or delete their information. For example, when a Kenyan uses a health app like SasaDoctor, which leverages AI to provide medical advice, the app must clearly disclose how it uses sensitive health data and ensure it is securely stored. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) enforces compliance, recently fining companies for violations such as unauthorized data sharing. However, the DPA lacks specific provisions for AI-related challenges, such as algorithmic bias or automated decision-making, exposing gaps in the regulatory landscape.

AI's reliance on large datasets amplifies privacy risks, particularly in Kenya, where data breaches and unauthorized access are growing



concerns. For instance, AI systems like facial recognition tools used in urban security or predictive analytics in financial services require extensive personal data, increasing the risk of misuse. A 2021 breach involving a healthcare organization globally highlighted how sensitive data, if mishandled, can erode trust a scenario Kenya cannot afford as it aims to become a regional AI hub. The Kenya National AI Strategy, published in January 2025, acknowledges these risks and aims to foster ethical AI use while promoting innovation. It emphasizes transparency and accountability, but without enforceable regulations tailored to AI, Kenyans remain vulnerable to privacy violations, such as profiling or surveillance, which could infringe on personal autonomy.

Public trust is the bedrock of AI adoption, and data privacy plays a pivotal role in cultivating it. Consider a Kenyan farmer using an AI tool like iProcure to predict crop yields. If the tool shares the farmer's data with third parties without consent, the farmer may lose trust not only in the app but in AI broadly. Kenya's ODPC marked Data Privacy Day 2025 with the theme "Safeguarding Personal Data to Spur Digital Transformation and Economic Development," underscoring the link between privacy and progress. Studies show that 70% of consumers globally are more likely to engage with organizations that

prioritize data protection, a trend evident in Kenya's growing digital economy. By ensuring transparency such as clear privacy policies and regular audits AI developers can build confidence, encouraging more Kenyans to embrace transformative technologies.

Ethical data governance is another critical aspect, particularly in addressing biases in AI systems. In Kenya, where diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups coexist, biased algorithms could exacerbate inequalities. For example, an AI-driven loan approval system that relies on historical data might unfairly deny credit to certain communities if the data reflects past discriminatory practices. The Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) notes that Kenya's lack of localized datasets often forces developers to rely on foreign data, which may not reflect local realities. Ethical AI development requires robust data governance, including consent-driven collection and anonymization to prevent re-identification, especially in sensitive sectors like healthcare. Initiatives like the Kenya Open Data Initiative (KODI) aim to provide accessible, anonymized datasets, but challenges like outdated data and privacy concerns persist.

The economic implications of data privacy in AI are profound. Kenya's vision to become a regional AI hub, as outlined in the National AI Strate-

gy 2025-2030, depends on balancing innovation with privacy protections. Robust data privacy frameworks attract foreign investment, as seen in the U.S.-Kenya partnership announced in 2024 to support AI and digital infrastructure. Companies like Microsoft and Google are investing in Kenya's tech ecosystem, but they prioritize markets with strong data governance. Conversely, data breaches can lead to significant financial losses global estimates suggest breaches cost businesses \$4.45 million on average in 2023. For Kenyan startups, a single breach could be catastrophic, deterring customers and investors. By aligning with international privacy standards, Kenya can position itself as a trusted destination for AI-driven economic growth.

Education and public awareness are vital for ensuring data privacy supports AI transformation. Many Kenyans are unaware of their rights under the DPA or the risks of sharing data with AI platforms. For instance, a Nairobi resident using a ride-hailing app powered by AI might not realize their location data could be used for targeted advertising without consent. The ODPC and organizations like Paradigmhq are working to bridge this gap through digital literacy campaigns and community engagement. The AI Practitioners' Guide, launched in 2023 by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, provides actionable guidance

for Kenyan developers to adhere to ethical standards, emphasizing informed consent and transparency. Scaling such initiatives can empower Kenyans to make informed choices, fostering a culture of privacy that complements AI innovation.

Looking ahead, Kenya must address regulatory and infrastructural gaps to fully harness AI's potential while safeguarding privacy. The proposed National AI Ethics Council could play a pivotal role in overseeing ethical AI practices, ensuring algorithms are fair and data use aligns with societal values. Supplementary regulations under the DPA, as suggested by experts, should address AI-specific issues like algorithmic transparency and risk assessments. For example, mandating regular audits of AI systems in sensitive sectors like finance or healthcare could prevent unintended biases or breaches. By fostering collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society, Kenya can create a balanced ecosystem where AI drives inclusive growth without compromising individual rights. This approach will not only strengthen Kenya's digital economy but also set a model for ethical AI adoption across Africa.

The writer is a legal scrivener and researcher

Faith Leaders Unite In Nairobi To Tackle Maternal And Cervical Cancer Crisis

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themtkenyatimes

Senior religious and health leaders from across Africa have converged in Nairobi for the inaugural Faith in Action Health Conference, a landmark interfaith gathering designed to confront two of the continent's most pressing-and preventable-health threats: maternal mortality and cervical cancer.

Organized by the Africa Health and Economic Transformation Initiative (AHETI), the two-day conference brings together Catholic bishops, Muslim scholars, Hindu and Protestant leaders, Seventh-day Adventist representatives, and global health experts. Their shared mission: to forge collaborative solutions that will save lives and transform health outcomes for millions of African women and families.

The conference opened with a rousing call to action from Most Rev. Philip Anyolo, Archbishop of Nairobi, who declared, "As shepherds of our communities, we must not only preach about dignity and life—we must protect it. This moment de-

mands more than prayer; it demands action." This sentiment was echoed by Fr. Charles Chilufya, S.J., Executive Director of AHETI, who emphasized the shift from "pulpits to public health campaigns," underscoring the unique influence faith leaders have in shaping attitudes and behaviors.

Kenya faces a maternal mortality rate of 342 deaths per 100,000 live births, a figure that starkly illustrates the ongoing risk for women during pregnancy and childbirth. Cervical cancer, meanwhile, remains the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Kenyan women, with over 3,500 fatalities annually. Despite the availability of the HPV vaccine—a proven tool for prevention-national uptake in Kenya lags below 30%, hampered by misinformation, stigma, and limited access, particularly in underserved communities.

Across Africa, the burden is even heavier. More than 266,000 women die of cervical cancer each year, with 87% of these deaths occurring in less developed regions. If current trends continue, deaths could reach 416,000 by 2035.

With over 90% of Africa's population identifying with a faith tradition, religious leaders are uniquely



Fr. Charles Chilufya, S.J., Executive Director of AHETI, speaking during the launch of the Faith in Action Medical Conference.

positioned to influence health-seeking behaviors. Their trusted voices can dispel myths, reduce stigma, and encourage uptake of life-saving interventions such as HPV vaccination and early cancer screening.

"Religious leaders have the trust of millions. That trust must now be used to save lives," Fr. Chilufya stressed. Dr. Hussein Iman of the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) added, "We have seen the harm that myths and stigma can cause. Faith leaders must be part of the solution-championing aware-

ness, acceptance, and access".

Panels throughout the event are focusing on faith-based health financing, integrating faith-run health institutions into national systems, and policy advocacy for sustainable change.

The momentum will continue with the Faith in Action Medical Camp, scheduled for May 16–17, 2025, at St. Francis Community Hospital in Kasarani. More than 1,000 underserved Nairobi residents are expected to receive free health services, including screenings, consultations,

and health education—directly translating the conference's commitments into lifesaving action for those most in need.

As faith leaders and health experts join forces, the message from Nairobi is clear: Africa's maternal and cervical cancer crisis demands bold, united action. By leveraging the trust and reach of religious institutions, the continent is taking a decisive step toward a healthier, more equitable future.

Law Society of Kenya Demands Accountability Over Extrajudicial Killings

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themtkenyatimes

The Law Society of Kenya (LSK) has issued a powerful call for urgent accountability and justice following the recent exposure of brutal extrajudicial killings allegedly perpetrated by Kenyan security forces. This comes in the wake of a BBC Africa Eye investigation, "Blood Parliament," which aired on April 28, 2025, and detailed the killing of unarmed protesters by police and military officers during last year's anti-tax demonstrations in Nairobi.

The BBC documentary, which meticulously reconstructed the events of June 25, 2024, using thousands of images and videos, traced the fatal shots of at least three protesters directly to the rifles of police and Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) offi-

cers outside Parliament. The exposé has triggered nationwide outrage and renewed demands for justice, with many Kenyans expressing anger over social media and in public forums.

The LSK, led by President Faith Odhiambo, condemned the killings as a grave violation of Article 26 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life. Odhiambo emphasized that the right to life is foundational to Kenya's democracy and sovereignty, warning that continued violations by security organs threaten to erode both.

Drawing parallels to Kenya's colonial past, the LSK noted that extrajudicial killings and police brutality have resurfaced with alarming frequency. The organization cited not only the recent Gen Z protests but also a string of unresolved murders and abductions, including the recent killing of six residents in Angata

Barrikoi, Kilgoris, during peaceful demonstrations over land rights.

The LSK also criticized insensitive remarks by members of Parliament, who either downplayed the killings or accused the BBC of spreading misinformation and advancing foreign agendas. Such rhetoric, the LSK argued, undermines the dignity of Parliament and betrays the public trust vested in elected officials.

The LSK also put IPOA on notice, criticizing the authority for slow progress. Of the 60 protest-related deaths recorded by IPOA, only 22 investigations have been completed, with just two cases in court, a pace the LSK described as "well near proof of dereliction of duty".

The LSK concluded by urging all Kenyans, especially those in positions of power, to act decisively to end extrajudicial killings and restore faith in the rule of law. The society warned that continued inaction risks



LSK President Faith Odhiambo alongside LSK members issuing a statement at the Law Society of Kenya headquarters.

pushing the nation to the brink of constitutional crisis and undermining Kenya's hard-won democracy.

As pressure mounts from both local and international human rights orga-

nizations, the spotlight remains firmly on Kenya's security agencies and oversight bodies to deliver justice for the victims and accountability for the perpetrators

Navigating The 21st Century: The Essential Literacies Every Individual Must Master



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

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In the ever-evolving landscape of the 21st century, literacy is no longer confined to the ability to read and write. While traditional literacy remains fundamental, the complexities of the modern world demand a broader spectrum of skills to navigate its challenges. From digital fluency to civic engagement, individuals today require multiple forms of literacy to function effectively in their personal, professional, and societal lives.

As technology reshapes industries, economies fluctuate, and global debates intensify, it is clear that a new literacy framework is required, one that extends beyond textbooks and classrooms, addressing the realities of an interconnected, data-driven world.

1. Traditional Literacy: The Bedrock of Knowledge

At the heart of all learning lies traditional literacy, the ability to read, write, and comprehend information. While this may seem obvious, the depth of traditional literacy extends beyond basic comprehension; it encompasses critical thinking, articulation, and interpretation.

In an age where misinformation spreads rapidly and narratives are crafted to sway opinions, individuals must refine their ability to analyze texts critically. Literacy today is not merely about reading words but understanding their implications, biases, and influences. Whether engaging with newspapers, academic research, or political speeches, a literate individual is expected to distinguish fact from fiction, recognizing the nuances of persuasive language.

2. Digital Literacy: Thriving in a Technology-Driven World

The internet has become the backbone of modern communication, commerce, and culture. However, merely knowing how to operate a smartphone or browse social media does not equate to digital literacy. True digital literacy means understanding how technology works,

its implications, and how to engage with it responsibly.

For instance, recognizing cybersecurity risks, avoiding online scams, and comprehending algorithms that shape social media feeds are critical components of digital literacy. Moreover, as artificial intelligence, automation, and blockchain redefine industries, individuals who lack digital proficiency risk being marginalized in employment opportunities and civic participation.

3. Media Literacy: Separating Truth from Manipulation

With the rise of social media and instant news, media literacy has never been more crucial. Today, individuals are bombarded with information, often tailored by algorithms to reinforce biases and perceptions. Media literacy equips individuals with the ability to question sources, verify authenticity, and recognize manipulation tactics.

Governments, corporations, and influencers all shape narratives to serve various agendas. Without a keen ability to decipher intent, people risk being misled by false reports, propaganda, or biased journalism. Fact-checking, cross-referencing sources, and understanding how information is framed are essential in an era where perception can be easily influenced by compelling visuals and headlines.

4. Financial Literacy: Mastering Personal and Economic Stability

Financial literacy is no longer an optional skill—it is a survival tool in an increasingly complex economic world. From budgeting to investing, individuals must understand financial principles to secure their economic futures.

The modern economy demands proficiency in concepts such as compound interest, debt management, inflation, and investment diversification. Whether an individual is navigating student loans, starting a business, or planning retirement, financial literacy equips them with the tools to make informed decisions, avoiding pitfalls that lead to financial instability.

Moreover, with digital currencies and decentralized finance (DeFi) reshaping financial systems, those unfamiliar with financial innovations may find themselves excluded from emerging economic opportunities.

5. Health Literacy: Making Informed Medical Choices

Understanding medical informa-

tion is critical in ensuring personal well-being. Health literacy empowers individuals to navigate healthcare systems, comprehend medical diagnoses, and make informed treatment choices.

For instance, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of scientific comprehension, as misinformation about vaccines, treatments, and precautions spread rapidly. With healthcare becoming increasingly complex, spanning public health policies, insurance systems, and personalized medicine, individuals must learn to critically assess medical advice and distinguish credible sources from misleading claims.

6. Civic Literacy: Engaging in Democratic and Social Processes

Informed citizenship is the backbone of any democracy. Civic literacy encompasses understanding government structures, laws, rights, and the impact of policy decisions.

Every voter must recognize their role in governance, not just through casting ballots but through active participation in discussions, protests, and public debates. A civically literate individual understands the nuances of legislation, the importance of activism, and how policies affect their communities.

Furthermore, with global issues such as climate change and economic inequality shaping political landscapes, individuals who lack civic awareness may unknowingly allow policies that negatively impact their rights and resources.

7. Scientific Literacy: Understanding the Mechanics of the Universe

Scientific literacy is more than memorizing facts, it is about reasoning, experimenting, and questioning. With scientific advancements shaping daily life, individuals need a foundational understanding of concepts ranging from genetics to environmental sustainability.

For instance, climate change discussions require knowledge of carbon footprints, renewable energy, and ecosystem dynamics. Similarly, innovations in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing demand that individuals grasp basic scientific principles to remain engaged in global advancements.

8. Cultural Literacy: Preserving Identity in a Globalized World

As cultures blend in an era of glo-



balization, understanding history, traditions, and societal norms is key to fostering respect and cohesion. Cultural literacy allows individuals to navigate diverse social landscapes, appreciating different customs while preserving their own heritage.

For those involved in governance, policymaking, or leadership, cultural literacy is indispensable, helping to bridge gaps between communities, resolve conflicts, and ensure inclusivity. Without cultural literacy, misunderstandings and biases can deepen divisions, undermining efforts toward unity and progress.

9. Environmental Literacy: Safeguarding the Planet

The climate crisis demands that every individual understand ecological systems, sustainability, and conservation efforts. Environmental literacy ensures that individuals recognize their impact on the planet, be it through carbon emissions, consumption habits, or waste management.

From advocating for climate policies to practicing sustainability in daily life, an environmentally literate society plays a pivotal role in preserving resources for future generations.

10. Technological Literacy: Keeping Pace with Innovation

The rapid evolution of technology, from artificial intelligence to quantum computing, necessitates continuous learning. Technological literacy equips individuals with the ability to adapt to new tools, understand digital ethics, and harness innovation for personal and professional growth.

Without technological proficiency,

individuals risk being left behind as industries advance toward automation, robotics, and data-driven decision-making.

11. Emotional Literacy: Strengthening Mental and Social Well-being

In an age of heightened stress and social pressures, emotional literacy is fundamental to personal well-being. Understanding emotions, empathy, resilience, and interpersonal dynamics enhances relationships and fosters emotional intelligence.

Those equipped with emotional literacy navigate conflicts effectively, build strong social connections, and maintain mental health amid life's uncertainties.

Conclusion: The New Age of Literacy

The 21st century is defined by complexity, interconnectedness, and rapid change. To thrive in this dynamic era, individuals must move beyond traditional literacy and embrace a multifaceted approach to learning, one that encompasses digital fluency, civic engagement, financial wisdom, and technological adaptability.

The future belongs to those who cultivate these literacies, ensuring they are not just informed, but empowered to shape society, innovate solutions, and build sustainable futures.

Sebapalo Chef And Author

By: Paula .O.M Otukile
@themtkenyatimes

1. Who are you?
Chef Tefo Sebapalo

2. What does award nomination means to you?
Mulher Forte Award

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?
It helps and inspire most of writers including the upcoming and those are interested in becoming authors.

4. How is the book sales in Botswana?
Botswana are now digital and there are much in to reading even though book sales are not that much which i think with time will get there

5. How do you feel about writing in Africa?
It connects other African and other

countries to exchange culture and ideas through books

6. What can be done to improve book sales?
We need to create at least E-books and or distribute our books to some countries

7. Are Batswana a reading nation?
Yes but not that much

8. Digital literacy how is it in your country?
Everyone is into modern day technology and digital literacy is high

9. *Do you plan to make ebooks? Any plans of audio books?*

With time i wish to do so to accommodate all through ebooks and audio for some visually impaired people

10. What category have you been nominated so far?
Recipe and menu book

11. Who is your local role model?

So many but DR Paula Otukile of Mulher Forte has inspired me a lot

12. Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?
I wish to make more recipe books which will include different recipes from different tribes in Botswana and some other African countries

13. The concept of Unity, what can Unity do to authors?
Authors need to work together in some projects, share ideas help each other and mentor the upcoming

14. Do you have background training in writing?
Not yet but will to

15. What do you understand by copyrights?
Is a legal rights given to originator to publish, print or perform anything on my book

16. Have you protected your books?
Yes



Chef Tefo Sebapalo.

17. Your advice to upcoming authors.

They need passion, hard word and dedicated on their projects and rewards will flow them

18. Your last word.
Authors need to work hard to pro-

mote their books, put love on every project and help each other for better goals, we need to be broad and think of connecting the world and leave the legacy.

The Dazzling Storyteller From Botswana - Lebogang Mogotsi

By: Paula .O.M Otukile
@themtkenyatimes

1. Who are you?
Lebogang Mogotsi

2. What does award nomination means to you?
It means recognition, that someone believes in my work, my effort, and that my talent and contributions have made an impact.

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?
That they recognise and celebrate African Writers, poets and literary professionals across the globe. They unite writers and improve quality of writing.

4. How is the book sales in Botswana?
We are experiencing a dynamic shift. There is steady growth. Due to technology advancement, the sales for hard copies have dropped due to demand for ebooks.

5. *How do you feel about writing in Africa?

It is rich and rewarding. The continent offers different cultures, languages, storytelling traditions that are inspiring. Africa has deep rooted narratives such as folklore and oral traditions.

6. What can be done to improve book sales?
We must boost distribution and access. Encourage community bookshops and libraries, especially in rural areas. The Government must support Local authors with grants. Also promote African stories.

7. Are Batswana a reading nation?
Due to technology we see signs of growth and change in Botswana as we are more interested in reading and writing. There are a lot of upcoming authors, including children.

8. Digital literacy how is it in your country?
We see the upraising very literate in technology example, we are creating

our own apps and website.

9. *Do you plan to make ebooks?
Yes, nowadays we need ebooks. I want my book to be accessible in Africa and beyond.

10. Any plans of audio books?*

Yes, especially for oral storytelling traditions. Smartphones are used everywhere.

11. What category have you been nominated so far?

1. Indigenous language
2. Storytelling

12. Who is your local role model?
My local Legendary Authors Mr. Machiel B. Kelaotswe and Mr. N.S. Mokgachane

13. Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?
I want to see my books on the best-seller list and take writing as a full-time job.

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



Lebogang Mogotsi

It can help in the growth of upcoming writers, how to reach clientele, approach clients, profitability, and where to market our books. Collaboration, networking, and supporting the community.

15. Do you have background training in writing?
Yes, I went on a six months training facilitated by the Gaborone book Festival, which was in collaboration with the University of East Anglia.

16. What do you understand by copyrights?

Legal right that gives creator of original work such as books, music, films and art.

17. Have you protected your books?
Yes I have.

18. *Your advice to upcoming authors?
They have to write with purpose. They should know what they are writing. Weather to inspire, educate or for entertainment.

Sports >> *Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi says winning the World Championship and lowering his 800m personal best time top his ambitions for the 2025 season

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World Championship Title, New PB Top Wanyonyi's Wishlist For 2025 Season



Emmanuel Wanyonyi after winning silver at the 2023 Budapest World Championships. Photo/ERICK BARASA

Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi says winning the World Championship and lowering his 800m personal best time top his ambitions for the 2025 season, which he says finds him more experienced and matured.

There has been talk of the 20-year old making an attempt at lowering David Rudisha's World Record set at the Olympic Games in London 2012, but Wanyonyi says that hasn't crossed his mind yet.

The 20-year old holds the second joint fastest time ever in the race, having clocked 1:41.11 at the Lausanne Diamond League last year. This time, which now ranks as his personal best time, is closing in on Rudisha's 1:40.91

World Record, which he earned at the Olympic Games in London in 2012.

Speaking exclusively to Telecomasia.net, Wanyonyi says it will take a lot to lower that mark.

"My main aim this season is to run a new personal best time. I am not thinking about the World Record because this is not something that you just wake up and say you will go run the World Record. You have to internalize it, prepare well and execute well. I respect Rudisha's record a lot because before he broke it, he lowered his PB almost five times and for me, it has happened once and I cannot talk of going for the World Record," the modest Wanyonyi told Telecomasia.

He says his biggest target this season is to become World Champion In Tokyo, Japan, later this year.

Having missed out on the title at the last Championships in Budapest where he won silver behind Marco Arop, Wanyonyi is fueled by his win at the Olympic Games last year to go for the global silverware.

"That is what I am working on this season and my entire preparation has been focused on that. I missed out on Budapest because I lacked experience and I was still young but now I have learnt some lessons and I am motivated to go for the World title. Preparation has gone on okay and my build up has started really well.

My target is to go on well, injury free until September, then I fight for the world crown," Wanyonyi offered.

The youngster has started his season with two competitive race, running a non-conventional 1500m race at the Grand Slam Track in Jamaica as well as his specialty 800m race. He won the 1500 and finished second in the 800.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) president Paul Tergat has lauded the appointment of Humphrey Kayange as the chair of the International Olympic Commission

A Win For Kenya: Tergat Lauds Kayange Appointment To Head IOC Body



NOC-K Athlete representative Humphrey Kayange with BFK president Anthony Ombok. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) president Paul Tergat has lauded the appointment of Humphrey Kayange as the chair of the International Olympic Commission (IOC) Coordination Commission for Dakar 2026.

Tergat says the appointment of the former captain of the national men's 7s team reflects the emergence of African leaders in the Olympics movement.

"His elevation to this role, previously held by the IOC President-Elect, Kirsty Coventry, reflects the growing confidence in African leadership at the highest

levels of sport. It is also a fitting recognition of his commitment to the values of Olympism and athlete empowerment," Tergat said.

The president further praised Kayange's appointment, pointing out that it will greatly aid Kenya's preparations for next year's Youth Olympics in the Senegalese capital.

"Humphrey, my brother, we are proud of you. I look forward to walking this journey with you and supporting your leadership as you steward these historic Games for our continent," he said.

Kayange's appointment was con-

firmed on Wednesday morning, adding to the decorated resume of a man who had a stellar career at the top level before hanging his boots.

He was part of the Kenyan team that triumphed at the Singapore 7s in addition to playing for Shujaa at two editions of the Olympics including London (2012) and Rio de Janeiro (2016).

Kayange was also nominated for the IRB Sevens Player of the Award in 2009.

The former Mwamba RFC player is currently the male athletes' representative at NOCK and is eyeing

the deputy secretary general's post at the upcoming polls.

Capital Sport

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Mkabala Mzuri Hutengeneza Muamana wa Maana



By: Alfred Lobawoi
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

“Maisha haya yalivyo na siri kubwa iliyojifichamana sidhani kama tutagundua mambo mengine iwapo tutaamua kuwa sisi peke yetu bila kuhitaji ushauri, maelekezo, motisha na hisani kutoka kwa wenzetu. Watu huwa na nafasi nyingi za kukusaidia ufanikiwe kwa kile unachokilenga. Si ajabu wale ambalo unawachukia wakawa watu ambao watakufaa wakati ambapo utakosa wa kukufaa.”



Imebainika wazi katika kizazi cha sasa kuwa hawajui kutengeneza mkabala na watu. Tena hawajui jinsi ambavyo mkabala huo utakowafaa kwa siku za halafu jambo ambalo huwafanya wengine kuona tu kama ni jambo la kawaida kutoa salamu ya ‘hujambo’ kisha maongezi yakaishia kwa maamkizi pekee.

Mathalan huwa vigumu kwa wengi kuendeleza mazungumzo kwa sababu mbalimbali; mmojawapo ya sababu hizo ni iwapo mtu anayepanga kutoa salamu au mazungumzo si mbaraza. Hapo huwa vigumu kwa mtu huyo kuzungumza. Wakati mwingi wao huhisi hawapaswi kuzungumza wa kwanza hivyo basi wao hutulia mpaka wakati ambapo wataongeleleka.

Jambo jingine ni kukosa cha kuamba. Si laiki ya baadhi ya watu wengine kuzungumza iwapo hawana kitu cha kuzungumza. Wao huafadhalisha wakati ambapo wana jambo la kusema ili nafasi hizo zitakapotokea iwe fursa kwao kuzungumza. Hivyo basi wasipokuwa na cha kusema wao husalia kimya. Yote hayo mawili huwatengeneza wahusika hao mazingira tofauti. Upweke unaweza kuwa mazingira ambayo wao

huzoea. Maisha ya kutopenda kujihusisha na watu na kufanya mambo ambayo yanawapendeza. Upweke ni uvundo.

Maisha haya yalivyo na siri kubwa iliyojifichamana sidhani kama tutagundua mambo mengine iwapo tutaamua kuwa sisi peke yetu bila kuhitaji ushauri, maelekezo, motisha na hisani kutoka kwa wenzetu. Kujihusisha na watu huwa chanzo cha kugundua mambo mengine ambayo wewe mwenyewe haungegundua. Sizingumzii kujihusisha na mtu kiholele bila kujua hulka ya mhusika mwenyewe na pia ni wa aina gani. Watu huwa wa aina tofauti. Wazuri na wabaya kutegemea mienendo yao.

Hakuna yule atakayekuambia ni mzuri wala yule atakayekuambia kuwa ni mbaya. Ni jukumu lako kutambua unapojihusisha nao; wakoje? Wana nini zaidi yako? Una nini zaidi yao? Wana mipango yapi? Je, inaoana na yako? Kwa kimuhtasari hayo ndiyo maswali ambayo unafaa ujisaili.

Jihusishe na kundi la watu au mtu ambaye atakufaa. Huko ndiko kutengeneza mkabala. Mkabala yaweza kutengenezwa popote na ukaota na

kukua kama mgomba. Achia mbali mnazi. Mwanzo huwa ni vigumu mno kubaini kama mkabala utakufaa lakini kadiri mnavyokuwa na uhusiano wa karibu na kujuana kwa kina ndipo mizizi huanza kushika. Mfano bora ni mwandishi ambaye anachipukia katika tasnia ya uandishi akitengeneza mkabala na waandishi ambao wamepiga hatua zaidi yake. Mti hauendi ila kwa nyenzo.

Hapo ndipo utapata kuwa mwandishi huyu haogopi kuuliza maswali kadha wa kadha na katika uzi huo huo hupata hata nafasi ya kutangamana na waandishi wengine na kujifunza mambo chungu nzima. Nafasi za kuchangia kwenye vitabu au makongamano yakitokea; fursa hizo hazimpiti. Mtu ni watu.

Nidhamu huwa pia ya maana sana pia unapotangamana na watu wa aina ainati. Watu hukujua au watapenda kuwa rafiki nawe iwapo utakuwa na nidhamu nzuri na ya kuvutia. Ukiwa mtu wa kuwakosea wenzako heshima huko kutakuwa kushusha hadhi yako wewe mwenyewe. Ingawa kosa halina mdogo kwa kuwa hata mkubwa hukosa, ni vyema kujihadhari na kujitenga na makosa madogo madogo ambayo yanaweza changia

uwe mtovu wa nidhamu. Tabia ni ngozi ya mwili.

Kitu kingine pia katika muktadha huu ni mapenzi. Dunia hii hatuiwezi bila mapenzi. Baada ya kupenda kile unachokifanya kwa dhata ya moyo wako, ujifunze kupenda kazi ambazo wenzako wanazifanya. Njia hiyo hukufanya uzidi kukua kitaaluma. Hakuna kitu kibaya kama kuchukia kazi au hatua ya mwenzako. Malipo ya chuki huwa hayapo katu katika haya maisha bali huko ni kujitengeneza kuta.

Badala ya kutengeneza ukuta jaribu kadiri uwezavyo kutengeneza daraja ambalo litakuvusha mahali. Watu huwa na nafasi nyingi za kukusaidia ufanikiwe kwa kile unachokilenga. Si ajabu wale ambalo unawachukia wakawa watu ambao watakufaa wakati ambapo utakosa wa kukufaa. Wapende wote bila kutenga yeyote kwa misingi ya dini, kabila au kuanzalia iwapo anafahamu kitu au la. Hutokea wakati mwingi wale ambao huonekana kutojua mambo huwa na kitu ambacho wana ujuzi kwacho. Tusiwadharau wala kuwa na dhana potovu kuwahusu. Ukiujua huu na huu mwingine huujui.