



Economic Viability Between Oil, Gas Sector And Agriculture. Can Ugandans Benefit More in Oil Than Agriculture?

The government of Uganda first discovered Oil in 2006, in the year 2010 the story of oil came up and the oil companies and other development partners started showing interest in the exploitation and extraction of oil. Since Uganda discovered commercially viable deposits of oil, significant investments are being made in the oil and gas sector Page 18

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News >> Agriculture Committee Engages CS Kagwe, PS Rono On Ministry's Policy Direction For Sector

P. 8. The Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock chaired by Tigania West MP John Mutunga held a meeting with the Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary, Mutahi Kagwe where he outlined the Ministry's policy direction for the agriculture sector.



News >> Oparanya Grilled On Women Empowerment, Hustler Fund And Sacco Deposit Guarantee Delays

P. 12. The Senate yesterday interrogated the CS for MSMEs Development, Wycliffe Oparanya, over policies and programmes under his docket. Lawmakers sought answers on key issues affecting Women, Youth and SACCO members across the country.

Alarm Over KSh72B Varsities Pending Bill

⚡ Kenya's public universities are facing a financial storm, with Parliament's Education Committee warning of a looming crisis.

A massive pending bill burden—now at KSh72.2 billion—is dragging universities down, with Treasury allocations described by Members of Parliament (MPs) as a mere drop in the ocean compared to the scale of the crisis.

The universities with the highest accumulated debts include the University of Nairobi, now facing KSh13.2 billion in pending bills; the Technical University of Kenya at KSh11.1 billion; Kenyatta University with KSh10.6 billion; and Egerton University at KSh10.1 billion.



University of Nairobi

STORY ON PAGE 9



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Noo Wanguku



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki Escorts Finland President Alexander Stubb To JKIA

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Just as he welcomed him in the country on Monday, Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki yesterday saw off the Finland President Alexander Stubb. Prof. Kindiki escorted the Finnish President to board a flight after his three official visit, the first ever for a President from Finland in the country. In his visit, Stubb was accompanied by among others, his spouse Suzanne Ines-Stubb.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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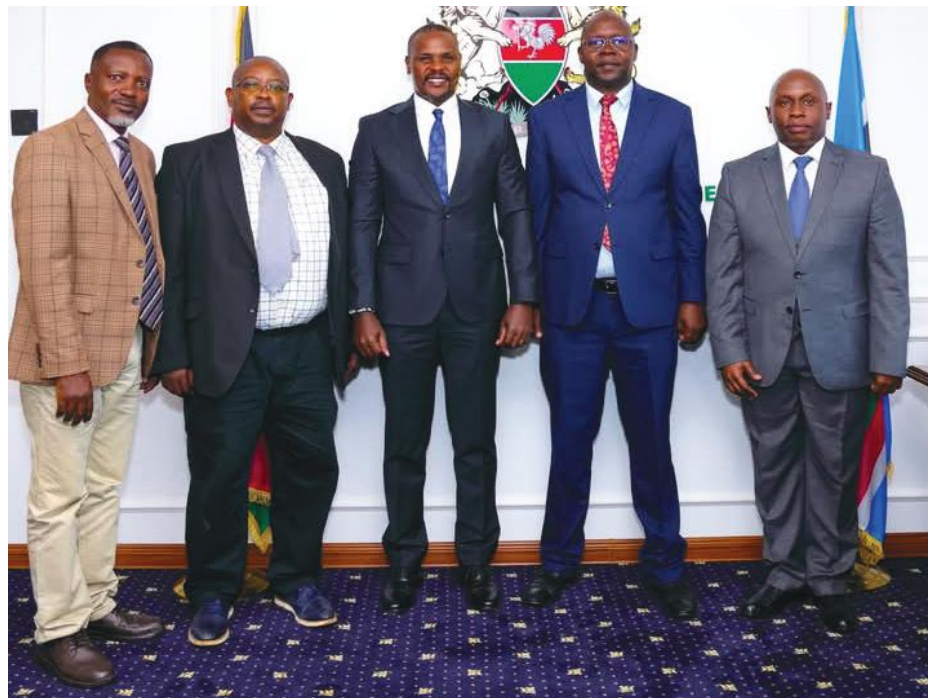


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NEWS IN BRIEF



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale hosted yesterday delegation from The END Fund, led by Board Chairperson Ms. Tsitsi Masiyiwa, for a strategic meeting focused on strengthening collaboration to accelerate the elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Kenya. Speaking at Afya House, Nairobi, the CS applauded The END Fund for its catalytic investments and steadfast support in advancing Kenya's NTD agenda. He reiterated the Ministry's commitment to the WHO Vision 2030, the NTD Roadmap, and the implementation of the National NTD Master Plan. He was joined by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms. Mary Muthoni, Director General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, Director for Public Health and Sanitation Dr. Grace Ikahu, and Acting Director of the Kenya National Public Health Institute Dr. Maureen Kamene.



Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ngéno yesterday held a discussion with Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) CEO Willie Kmutai on a partnership between the two entities. The TBK and the State Department for Environment and Climate Change share a closely aligned mandate centered on sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. TBK regulates and promotes sustainable tea production, while the State Department formulates environmental policies and climate action strategies. Their collaboration will ensure that tea farming practices are climate-resilient, environmentally friendly, and aligned with national and global sustainability goals. Together, they will advance climate-smart agriculture, support research into drought-tolerant tea varieties, enforce environmental compliance across the tea value chain, and promote reforestation and ecosystem protection. This synergy enables Kenya's tea industry to remain globally competitive while contributing to climate action and sustainable development. Environment and Climate Change.

Detectives have apprehended Amos Barasa Kasili at Kibera Darajani area after linking him to the tragic shooting of Kasipul MP, the late Charles Ong'ondo Were. The arrest followed a thorough investigation that forensically connected Barasa to the main suspects and placed him at the crime scene on that fateful day. It was revealed that Barasa served as the rider of the motorcycle with registration number KMFZ 413W, a Bajaj Boxer, which the assailants used to trail the MP's vehicle and later as a getaway bike after the attack. Upon his arrest, Barasa was found in possession of the motorcycle in question. Investigations uncovered that Barasa is a habitual criminal who masquerades as a Boda Boda operator, often collaborating with armed criminal gangs during their operations. During interrogation, he disclosed his involvement in the crime, revealing that he had been engaged by the main actors and received a payment of KSh 50,000 as part of his compensation. Additionally, the motorcycle recovered from Barasa matches the description of the bike captured by CCTV footage near Parliament, which was seen trailing the late MP's vehicle.



Principal Secretary for Labour and Skills Development, Shadrack Mwadime met with the Parliament Labour Committee yesterday to review the budget proposal for the State Department, for the next fiscal year. During the meeting, the PS emphasized the Department's key objectives, which focus on promoting decent work, enhancing skills development, and fostering sustainable job creation. He also underscored the Department's critical role in advancing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and highlighted the growing significance of foreign employment in generating diaspora remittances, a vital contributor to the national economy. In line with budgetary regulations, all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as independent commissions, are required to submit detailed reports that identify any significant discrepancies between their budget estimates and the approved ceilings outlined in the 2025 Budget Policy Statement.



Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna has sought a statement from the Senate Standing Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations regarding the parcel of land, LR No. 5871/2, situated near Thika Road Mall (TRM) in Roysambu Constituency. According to Sifuna, the land in question was previously occupied by the defunct Uchumi Supermarket chain and is currently under the control of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). In his request, the lawmaker wants the committee to address the current use and development status of the parcel of land by the KDF. Additionally, the committee chaired by Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo is required to evaluate how the KDF's presence and utilization of the land will benefit the local community in Roysambu Ward, Roysambu Constituency, comparable with the public benefits that citizens in other regions living around military installations enjoy, including but not limited to access to schools, hospitals, or other community facilities.





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Higher Education Institutions Called Upon To Inculcate AI To Learners

By: George Agimba and Polycarp Ochieng'

@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

“We live in a time of rapid and constant change. Our economies, our societies, and even the way we live our daily lives are being reshaped by digital technologies, especially Artificial Intelligence, or AI,” said Owalo who was the Chief Guest at the conference.

He said that Universities must not only teach digital skills but lead the charge in creating homegrown, ethical, and sustainable AI solutions that address African continent's most pressing challenges.

Deputy Chief of Staff Eliud Owalo has urged university institutions to urgently introduce their students to Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enable the country to compete with other African nations and the world in the race to revolutionize sustainable development.

Owalo made the appeal yesterday in Migori County during the official opening of a two-day international multi-disciplinary conference at Rongo University.

In his keynote address under the theme; “Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and innovation for sustainable Future and Advancing Global Resilience,” Owalo the country's higher education entities to fast-track AI in their curriculums in order to realise an African-driven Agenda grounded in ethics, inclusion, and relevance to local realities.

“We live in a time of rapid and constant change. Our economies, our societies, and even the way we live our daily lives are being reshaped by digital technologies, especially Artificial Intelligence, or AI,” said Owalo who was the Chief Guest at the conference.

He said that Universities must not only teach digital skills but lead the charge in creating homegrown, ethical, and sustainable AI solutions that address African continent's most pressing challenges.

“We must ask ourselves: are we preparing students just for exams, or for life? Are we teaching them to follow instructions or to solve real problems?” he posed.

The official told the forum that brought together researchers, educators, policymakers, and industry experts to explore how emerging technologies can drive resilience in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and finance, that AI is no longer a distant concept, but a real-time force



Eliud Owalo.

reshaping society.

“In agriculture, AI supports precision farming. In healthcare, it enables early diagnosis and personalized treatment. In education, it expands access and customizes learning. In disaster management, AI enhances preparedness and early warnings,” he asserted.

Owalo noted that the opportunities were immense, yet even as they are embraced the possibilities are that Kenyans must remain alive to the profound challenges that accompany them such as ethical dilemmas arising from algorithmic bias that are a threat to data privacy and cyber security.

At the same time, the official underscored the need for a deliberate and inclusive governance framework to enable the country fully achieve AI learning.

Mr. Owalo reaffirmed the government's commitment to enabling this vision through initiatives such as the Kenya National Digital Master Plan

2022–2032, development of a National AI Strategy, and the establishment of digital innovation hubs nationwide.

“Kenya has long been celebrated as Africa's silicon savannah, a nation that embraces innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital solutions. AI, data science, and emerging technologies are now central to achieving our broader national aspirations, realizing the Kenya vision 2030, advancing Bottom-up Economic Transformation agenda, and achieving sustainable development goals,” Owalo emphasized. He also called on institutions like Rongo University to embed AI and digital literacy across all disciplines—from sciences and engineering to agriculture and the humanities—and to actively promote interdisciplinary research addressing real-world challenges in local communities. In a bid to empower the next generation of innovators.

Mr. Owalo said the Kenya Kwanza

administration will enhance support for patenting of local inventions and reforms in policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to protect young tech entrepreneurs.

During the function also addressed by the Rongo University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Samuel Gudu, who hailed Owalo for donating 100 new computers with software while serving as Cabinet Secretary for ICT.

Prof. Gudu said that the University's postgraduate students were already using AI techniques based on the systems put in place by Owalo while serving as CS

The VC further lauded the government's support in bridging the digital divide between urban and rural institutions and called for sustained collaboration between academia and government to translate research into practical solutions.

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From Retirement To Riches: How Njagi Found Fortune In Fish Farming

By: Alex Njeru
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- In 2015, Mr. Njagi found himself at a crossroads. The physically demanding work of dairy farming—growing napier grass, feeding cows, milking them, and delivering milk—had become too much.
- His shrinking farm, having been subdivided among his children, could no longer support commercial dairy production. Yet, his passion for farming had not faded.
- “I always loved eating fish and would dream of having my own fish pond one day,” Mr. Njagi recalled. “But I never imagined it would be possible—until the county government began promoting fish farming.”
- Seizing the opportunity brought by the county’s fisheries department under the devolved government, Njagi dug his first small fish pond in 2015.

When most people in their seventies are settling into retirement, Charles Njagi from Mbogori village in Chogoria Ward is defying the odds—smiling all the way to the bank, thanks to an unlikely venture: fish farming.

Tucked near Chief Mbogori Girls’ High School in Tharaka Nithi County, Kathima Fish Farm stands as a quiet but powerful symbol of how devolution and determination can transform lives.

What started as a small personal experiment has turned into a thriving commercial enterprise—one that not only sustains Njagi and his family but is also inspiring an entire region.

A Dream Rekindled

In 2015, Mr. Njagi found himself at a crossroads. The physically demanding work of dairy farming—growing napier grass, feeding cows, milking them, and delivering milk—had become too much.

His shrinking farm, having been subdivided among his children, could no longer support commercial dairy production. Yet, his passion for farming had not faded.

“I always loved eating fish and would dream of having my own fish pond one day,” Mr. Njagi recalled. “But I never imagined it would be possible—until the county government began promoting fish farming.”

Seizing the opportunity brought by the county’s fisheries department under the devolved government, Njagi dug his first small fish pond in 2015.

A year later, his dedication paid off when he was selected for an intensive aquaculture training program organized by the county.

“That training changed everything. It gave me the knowledge I needed to turn my dream into a business,” he said.

Turning Knowledge into Wealth

With his newfound skills, Njagi took a bold step in 2016 by establishing a hatchery for fingerlings—young fish used for stocking ponds.

Today, his Kathima Fish Farm can produce up to 2,000 catfish fingerlings every month, selling them at KSh15 each. His clients span across Tharaka Nithi and Meru counties.

But Njagi didn’t stop there. He also maintains several well-stocked ponds with thousands of tilapia and catfish at various stages of growth, ensuring a constant supply to local markets and hotels throughout the year. He has since employed a young assistant and continues to expand his venture.

“I now sell both fingerlings and mature fish. It’s a sustainable cycle, and



Mr Charles Njagi inside his hatchery in Mbogori area in Chogoria ward in Tharaka Nithi County. Photo/Alex Njeru.

it has brought me financial independence,” said Njagi, smiling.

A County-Backed Success

Njagi’s success story is not an isolated case—it’s a testament to the growing impact of county-level support in agriculture.

During a recent visit by Tharaka Nithi County Fisheries Chief Officer, Mr. Antony Kiruja, Njagi’s farm was recognized as a model of excellence.

“This is what we want to see—ordinary citizens benefiting from the government’s support and creating jobs,” Mr. Kiruja said. “Fish farming doesn’t require much land and is less labor-intensive than other types of farming, yet it’s highly profitable.”

According to Mr. Kiruja, the county now produces at least 100 tons of fish annually. Over 1.6 million fingerlings

have been distributed, along with feeds, fishing nets, cooling boxes, and pond liners.

Through the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP), the county has also built a fish eatery in Chuka town, where farmers like Njagi can deliver their catch to be cooked and sold every Tuesday and Thursday. On average, fish worth KSh25,000 is sold on each day—KSh50,000 per week.

A Hub of Knowledge

Njagi has become more than a farmer; he’s now a resource for others. Farmers from across the region frequently visit Kathima Fish Farm to learn about aquaculture.

Njagi, ever the visionary, is now planning to build a small classroom on his farm to train more aspiring fish

farmers.

“I want to help others the way I was helped. That’s how we grow as a community,” he said.

The Council of Governors, impressed by the region’s transformation, recently lauded Tharaka Nithi County for championing fish farming—a practice once foreign to the local culture.

As fish farming continues to swim against the tide of tradition in Tharaka Nithi, Mr. Njagi stands as living proof that with a bit of support, passion, and persistence, age is no barrier to success.

“It’s never too late to start something new,” he says, casting a handful of feed into one of his shimmering ponds. And indeed, the ripples of his success are spreading far beyond Mbogori village.



Mr Charles Njagi’s fish pond in Mbogori area in Chogoria ward in Tharaka Nithi County. Photo/Alex Njeru.

Agriculture Committee Engages CS Kagwe, PS Rono On Ministry's Policy Direction For Sector

By: PSCU

The Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock chaired by Tigania West MP John Mutunga held a meeting with the Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary, Mutahi Kagwe where he outlined the Ministry's policy direction for the agriculture sector.

Kagwe stated that the Ministry not only targets to increase the quantity and quality of food production in the country but also to increase the income of farmers in the country.

This will be done by reducing the cost of farm inputs in the country through improved legal frameworks, reduction of taxes and levies in the industry among others.

During the Tuesday session, the Committee then held a meeting with the State Department for Agriculture where the PS, Kipronoh Ronoh, formally presented the State Department's Annual Estimates of Revenue

and Expenditure for the next financial year.

He observed that there was an increment of KSh3.061 billion in the Estimates of the State Department from KSh45.19 billion in 2024/25 financial year to KSh48.25 billion in the coming year.

He requested for additional funding to cater for a number of critical underfunded areas including; the National Strategic Food Reserve, Food Security and Crop Diversification, Equipping of the Tea Research and Development Factory, Seed Subsidy and Crop Post-Harvest Management.

Members of the Committee raised concern on the continued low funding of the agriculture sector which was at 3.2% in FY 2024/25 yet it's a critical sector capable of changing the financial situation in Kenya through employment, increased foreign exchange in the country through reduced food imports and increased exports among others. The lack of extension services in the country was highlighted as a hindrance to the growth of agriculture sector in the



Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe explaining a point on Tuesday.

country, the PS informed the Committee that the State Department was unable to employ extension workers as it is a devolved function.

The Committee will hold a meeting with the State Department for Livestock Development today before writing its report on the FY 2025/26

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

GBV Blamed On Land Disputes And Drug Abuse In Kirinyaga

By: KNA

Land-related disputes and abuse of drugs are major contributors to gender-based violence (GBV) in Kirinyaga County.

This was revealed during public participation for Kirinyaga County residents held at Kirinyaga Central CDF Hall, Kerugoya, by the presidential task force on GBV.

The group is tasked with identifying trends and hotspots for GBV, evaluating the adequacy of current laws, and proposing amendments to strengthen enforcement mechanisms.

Anthony Nzioki, team leader of the task force that visited Kirinyaga County, said they have listened to residents of Kirinyaga and they have contributed freely to the national agenda by accepting that the menace is in the society and should be addressed.

"The people of Kirinyaga have spo-

ken freely on this matter affecting our country and agreed it is there within our society," He said

Mr. Nzioki noted that, specific to Kirinyaga, the majority have singled out land disputes as the biggest contributor in addition to alcoholism and drug abuse.

"This process is going on nationally and what we have gathered here is not the final causes, but specific to this county they have said the cases of land disputes, alcoholism and substance abuse are the top issues. We also noted the strength of a family, some unable to raise the entire needs of the facility is a contributor," Nzioki added

Nationally, Nzioki said, in the year 2023, the GBV cases reported were 535 which jumped up to 578 in 2024. However, this year statistics may be more considering the daily reports in the media on the cases in various counties.

Lucy Njeri, a member of the task-force and nominated MCA in the Kirinyaga County Assembly, thanked the president for forming the task-



Anthony Nzioki, a member of Presidential Task Force on GBV briefing media in Kirinyaga.

force to collect views from the communities and identify the root cause of the violence.

She added that gender-based violence was a reality among both male

and females and everyone should be engaged in the discussion.

During event the National Government Administration Officers, survivors, youths, Individuals with ex-

pertise in related fields, clergy, civil society among others participated.

UoN Tops University Debts With KSh13.2B As MPs Raise Alarm Over KSh72B Pending Bills

By: Melita Ole Tenges

@themkenyatimes

Kenya's public universities are facing a financial storm, with Parliament's Education Committee warning of a looming crisis.

A massive pending bill burden—now at KSh72.2 billion—is dragging universities down, with Treasury allocations described by Members of Parliament (MPs) as a mere drop in the ocean compared to the scale of the crisis.

The universities with the highest accumulated debts include the University of Nairobi, now facing KSh13.2 billion in pending bills; the Technical University of Kenya at KSh11.1 billion; Kenyatta University with KSh10.6 billion; and Egerton Uni-

versity at KSh10.1 billion.

"What is each and every university having to ensure that they take care of the pending bill?" asked the Education Committee chairperson, Julius Melly.

Basic Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok responded, "That is why we are here pleading with you to ensure that we get the right budget."

The crisis goes deeper. The committee flagged the allocation of funds to capital projects, noting that projects over 70% complete are receiving less money, while new projects are being prioritised.

"We need to know—why can't we just finish the old projects first so that we can start working on new ones? Because at this rate, we cannot finish projects," stated Teso South MP Mary Emase.

Lawmakers are also probing why



some universities, like the University of Eldoret and the Open University, received more funds than they requested in the budget policy state-

ment.

Meanwhile, the Higher Education Loans Board is also feeling the pinch, with a budget allocation of KSh41.1

billion for student loans against a requirement of KSh76.3 billion, leaving a deficit of KSh35.1 billion.

Youths, SMEs Leverage On Latest Technologies To Grow Businesses And Create Jobs

By: John Kamau

@themkenyatimes

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and youths in the country are increasingly embracing emerging technological trends to grow their ventures and create job opportunities.

They maintain that traditional ways of doing business including marketing and operations have been replaced by latest technologies and hence the shift to digital platforms for business growth and sustainability.

At a business expo held in Thika town dubbed as Jenga Biashara Trade Fair, youths showcased a digital platform known as Balozy Technologies, which connects individuals and businesses with a wide range of vetted local service providers.

George Wachiuri, one of the minds behind the application, said that the platform was created to address the challenges of finding reliable professionals for various services in the country while at the same time creating opportunities for goods and service providers to thrive in business.

Operating primarily through a mobile app available on both Android and iOS, Balozy offers over 100 service categories, including plumbing, electrical repairs, cleaning, beauty services, event planning, landscaping, and more. Users can easily browse, book, and review profes-

sionals, ensuring a seamless experience for both clients and service providers.

"We realized that most jobs that were done manually have been taken up by the latest technologies and this has been the reason why job opportunities have been on a decline. As young minds we had to devise means to fit in the current job market and it was through being tech-savvy," he said.

Wachiuri, who also heads an environmental conservation organization dubbed as Green Warriors 237 in Kiambu County, said that the technology has eased access to goods and services for clients while at the same time boosting business growth.

"Clients can easily connect with service providers or get the products they get seamlessly. at the same time, those selling goods or are experts in diverse fields can easily connect with the customers," he said.

Wachiuri added, "Our mission is to revolutionize service provision in the country by leveraging on technology to simplify access to quality services while empowering local professionals. Through our user-friendly interface and commitment to reliability, we continue to transform how Kenyans access and offer services across the nation."

While urging youths to be entrepreneurial and tech-savvy, Wachiuri quipped that there are numerous opportunities in digital work space that the youth can take advantage of to make a decent income.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Obed Tum of World Fair Trade Or-



The youth led by Green Warriors 237 Chairman Goerge Wachiuri speaking at the sidelines of the Jenga Biashara business expo in Thika.

ganization who averred that embracing and adopting latest technologies will not only promote businesses in the country but will also trigger massive economic growth.

He at the same time called on the government to make proper interventions to promote local manufacturers noting that there has been unfair competition from cheap imports.

Tum quipped that influx of cheap imports in the Kenyan market has been a big blow to the manufacturing industry and a hurdle to the

country's economic progress.

"Locking up the imports is in line with the Buy Kenya Build Kenya policy which is aimed at empowering local manufacturers and boosting the country's economy. Therefore the Government should move with speed and control flooding of cheap imports so as to save local manufacturers," he said.

Again, it's high time Kenyans embrace consuming or buying locally produced and manufactured goods so that we can grow our economy

and create jobs," he added.

Edwin Kang'ethe of Mamba Health care, an ENT facility based in Thika, asserted that there are numerous opportunities in the digital world to grow and sustain businesses. He challenged youths to utilize their mobile devices on income generating ventures.

He also called on the Government to ease internet connectivity and lower costs to enable youths to make a livelihood from digital work and access the internet easily.

Digital Shift Boosts Kiambu County Revenue By KSh1 Billion

By: Hellen Lunalo
@themtkenyatimes

In a significant move towards modernization, the Kiambu County Government has fully embraced digital transformation by implementing a comprehensive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system across all its services.

The technological overhaul has improved service delivery and, remarkably, increased locally sourced revenue by more than KSh1 billion in the past year.

Speaking during the Kiambu Town Constituency Economic Empowerment forum, the Chief Officer for ICT, Jacqueline Kimani, reported that the services currently benefiting from automation include health services, managed by the Hospital Information Management System (HMIS), and the county's revenue management and reporting system, which integrates unified trading licenses, market fees,

cess, parking fees, slaughterhouse charges, and liquor licenses.

Additionally, Ms. Kimani also noted that the comprehensive system includes features for resource management, fleet management, land management, a development and building approval module, alongside land surveying and geoinformatics capabilities.

"This all-inclusive system will automate all county services and ultimately our vision is to establish a Citizen Portal, once all modules are operational, providing online access to every service, just like E-Citizen." She explained.

According to Kimani, the technological overhaul has dramatically reduced the turnaround time for numerous county services, leading to quicker and more convenient access for residents.

The revenue management module also plays a crucial role by automating and tracking all revenue streams, thereby bolstering transparency and accountability which has seen the

county increase its own source revenue collection to Sh4.6 billion, up from Sh3.5 billion, without increasing fees and levies, as reported by the Controller of Budget in the 2023/2024 financial year.

She noted that the application streamlines service delivery for field officers in revenue collection, offering a simple and highly optimized process for issuing various receipts, permits, and certificates to citizens.

"This system brings added efficiency by allowing our officers to issue digital receipts, permits, and certificates immediately using an integrated printer. This instant proof of payment cuts down on manual paperwork. Plus, it makes paying easier for citizens by supporting Mpesa with direct Mpesa prompts," explained Ms Kimani.

"More importantly, the system facilitates the real-time recording and synchronization of all transactions with the ERP, providing a reliable source of accurate and up-to-date revenue data." She noted.

This development follows Governor



Kiambu County Governor Kimani Wamatangi

Kimani Wamatangi's revelation to the Senate Public Accounts Committee last year that the county potentially lost over Sh10 million in the preceding decade due to alleged interference with revenue collection systems by

three firms contracted by previous administrations, leading to substantial financial losses.



National Police Service Commission Embarks On Major Police Promotions

By: Victor Kiplagat and Fride Amiani

[@themkenyentimes](#)



NPSA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Leley and Acting Chairperson Commissioner Edwin Cheluget during the press briefing yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- “It is the right of Kenyans and everybody to receive progress from time to time about how we are carrying out our mandate,” Leley said.
- He added that the commission had an ongoing promotion process for police officers rising from the rank of Chief Inspector to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).
- According to Leley, a total of 132 senior officers are currently undergoing interviews after successfully completing rigorous training at various police institutions.
- “These officers have gone through training in various colleges and are now being assessed for suitability to progress to the next rank,” he said while emphasizing that the initiative was a critical component of the Commission’s responsibility to manage human resources within the National Police Service.

The National Police Service Commission (NPSC) has kicked off a rigorous interview process for the promotion of senior police officers, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing reform agenda.

Speaking during a press briefing held at the CBK Pension Towers, NPSC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Leley and Acting Chairperson Commissioner Edwin Cheluget outlined the progress the commission has made in discharging its constitutional mandate under Article 246.

Leley highlighted the importance of transparency and public accountability in the Commission’s operations.

“It is the right of Kenyans and everybody to receive progress from time to time about how we are carrying out our mandate,” Leley said.

He added that the commission had an ongoing promotion process for police officers rising from the rank of Chief Inspector to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).

According to Leley, a total of 132 senior officers are currently undergoing interviews after successfully completing rigorous training at various police institutions.

“These officers have gone through training in various colleges and are now being assessed for suitability to progress

to the next rank,” he said while emphasizing that the initiative was a critical component of the Commission’s responsibility to manage human resources within the National Police Service.

The acting Chairperson, Commissioner Edwin Cheluget, further elaborated on the broader strategy behind the promotions.

“We have had a robust programme for senior officers who are aspiring to progress to higher ranks,” Cheluget said.

He acknowledged the commendable efforts by the police command under the Inspector General, noting that the officers had received high-level training at Kiganjo Police Training College and Emali College, with 69 officers trained at Emali and 63 at Kiganjo.

“These promotions are not just ceremonial, they reflect the training, preparedness, and leadership capabilities of officers moving into critical roles such as sub-county and county commanders,” Cheluget explained.

Beyond promotions, both Leley and Cheluget underscored the Commission’s long-term vision to digitize police recruitment and resource management. According to them, a new digital recruitment system has been in development for two years and is nearing full implementation.

“This new system will reduce human

interaction, enhance transparency, and significantly cut down corruption and bribery,” Leley affirmed.

He explained that the digital system will include online applications, pre-recruitment clinics in low-connectivity areas, and automated shortlisting processes. Field-level recruitment will only involve shortlisted candidates, ensuring efficiency and fairness.

The Commission has also taken extensive cybersecurity measures, including firewalls and capacity enhancements, to manage large volumes of data during recruitment periods.

Cheluget added that the Commission is fully operational despite some commissioners having completed their terms, citing the legal minimum number of members required to proceed with its mandate.

“We are still functioning effectively while we await new appointments by the appointing authority,” he said.

Importantly, the Commission is also working in close collaboration with Parliament and the Ministry of Interior to secure sufficient budget allocations that will enable it to carry out its functions optimally.

“This is a multi-functional issue, and Parliament is convinced that things must be done differently. We are grateful for their support,” Leley said.

In a direct response to concerns about fairness and effectiveness in promotions, the Commission confirmed that candidates had undergone leadership and management training, with suitability assessments being the final step before deployment.

“They finished their training in February, and immediately after these interviews, they will be posted,” said Cheluget, adding that the process is cyclical, with the next cohort soon heading to the training colleges.

The two officials concluded by reaffirming their commitment to professionalism, transparency, and modernization within the National Police Service.

“This is a game changer in terms of police recruitment, training, and human resource management,” Leley said adding, “With these reforms, we are building a future-ready police force.”

The media briefing drew attention to the Commission’s strategic shift toward merit-based promotions and its focus on ethical training and digitization, which could mark a new chapter for law enforcement administration in Kenya. The reform efforts, once fully implemented, are expected to restore public confidence and improve service delivery across the National Police Service.

Oparanya Grilled On Women Empowerment, Hustler Fund And Sacco Deposit Guarantee Delays

By: PSCU

The Senate yesterday interrogated the Cabinet Secretary for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, Wycliffe Oparanya, over policies and programmes under his docket. Lawmakers sought answers on key issues affecting Women, Youth and SACCO members across the country.

Appearing before the Senate plenary, Oparanya faced questions particularly from nominated Senators Joyce Korir and Karen Nyamu who demanded clarity on the Ministry's empowerment strategies, fund disbursement mechanisms and legislative reforms.

Senator Korir, in her questions, asked the CS to enumerate the interventions the Ministry has implemented to promote the inclusion and empowerment of women in rural and marginalized areas.

"Can the Cabinet Secretary outline interventions the Ministry has put in place to promote inclusion and empowerment of women in rural and marginalized areas, including specific support to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and strategies for monitoring and evaluation?" demanded Sen. Korir.

Oparanya responded by outlining several government programmes, citing the Uwezo Fund, Hustler Fund and various capacity building efforts spearheaded through affiliated state agencies.

"The Hustler Fund is one of the key flagship programmes through which women in MSMEs benefit. It has so far disbursed KSh70.09 billion to 25.65 million Kenyans, of whom 48 per cent are women," he said, adding that 19 million Kenyans had borrowed more than once.

He further noted that the Fund's design promotes financial inclusion by eliminating collateral requirements and bypassing traditional credit checks.

Oparanya emphasised that women were also supported through the Uwezo Fund, which had disbursed over KSh5.3 billion to 53,583 women's groups by February 2025. Sen. Korir also sought to know the mechanisms in place to ensure that rural women benefit, as well as

the involvement of county governments and grassroots organizations in the outreach.

In response, Oparanya said the Ministry was working closely with elected leaders, National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) and Women Representatives. He pointed to sensitisation forums already conducted in counties such as Marsabit, Kakamega, Murang'a, and West Pokot.

"We also plan to take the 'MSMEs Connect' forum to all counties starting June, beginning with Embu County, in collaboration with the Council of Governors," he added.

Senator Nyamu raised concerns over the delayed operationalization of the SACCO Deposit Guarantee Fund, a statutory safety net meant to cushion SACCO members against potential loss of deposits.

Oparanya admitted that implementation had been delayed due to legal and institutional gaps.

"Key issues include the absence of a trustee protection framework and a legal provision allowing the Fund to accumulate reserves before making payouts," he explained. "However, the Cabinet has approved the SACCO Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which will address these gaps."

He added that once enacted, the law would pave the way for the Fund's activation, noting that regulations had already been drafted and were pending parliamentary approval.

Senator Nyamu also questioned the Ministry on the persistent problem of non-remittance of SACCO deductions by employers.

"What measures are being implemented to ensure the timely remittance of members' contributions to Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (SACCOs), especially in light of persistent financial mismanagement that, according to the Government, has resulted in KSh600 million in unpaid SACCO deductions from county governments and universities?" posed Sen. Nyamu.

The CS revealed that, as of March 2024, over KSh4.4 billion had not been remitted to SACCOs by various public institutions, including County Governments and Universities.

"To mitigate the situation, the SACCO Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) is working with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to issue agency notices and recover funds directly," he said.

"We are also collaborating with the Council of Governors to resolve the issue administratively."

On the methodology used to determine the credit score of Hustler Fund beneficiaries and how they



Wycliffe Oparanya when he appeared in the Senate yesterday

are made aware of their credit status, the CS noted that ratings were based on repayment behaviour, with those consistently repaying on time being upgraded and rewarded with increased limits.

"For instance, borrowers rated A1 can borrow more and are eligible for financial literacy training and linkage to formal financial institutions," he revealed.

Senator Korir further asked how the Ministry ensures that the needs of rural women are reflected in national policy.

"What steps has the Ministry taken to raise awareness among marginalized and underprivileged women, particularly those in remote areas, on the availability of funding support for women entrepreneurs?" asked Sen. Korir.

Oparanya said the Ministry conducts quarterly evaluations and collaborates with county governments through performance-based grant mechanisms.

"We are leveraging data collected by NGAOs and working with local leaders to tailor interventions," he said. Senators insisted that more institutionalised engagement was needed.

During the supplementary questions session, Senators called on the CS to ensure that grants and funds intended to empower Kenyans especially Youth and Women are adequately promoted to increase uptake.

They also demanded a clear way forward on dealing with Hustler Fund loan defaulters.

"Can the Cabinet Secretary confirm any plans that are in place to ensure people listed as defaulters, who amount to 58 per cent pay back the money acquired through Hustler Fund?" asked Nairobi Senator Edwin Sifuna.

Lawmakers also sought to know the approximate number of Kenyans borrowing from the Hustler Fund in order to assess the programme's national impact.

In addition, they urged the Ministry to table a legal impact assessment of the Hustler Fund, arguing that there are numerous unresolved gaps including the lack of a comprehensive record of beneficiaries and the actual empowerment impact at the grassroots. They questioned whether the real Kenyans targeted by the Hustler Fund were indeed the ones benefiting.

Responding to the Senate's concerns, CS Oparanya assured the House that the Hustler Fund was working well and benefiting many Kenyans, while appealing to borrowers to repay their loans.

"Kenyans who borrowed the money should pay. This Fund is a good initiative that has and will help many Kenyans. We had so many defaulters when the Fund started, but we are working on a system that will ensure the money is recovered to benefit more Kenyans," submitted CS Oparanya.

He revealed that out of 20 million borrowers, 2 million had proven to be good borrowers and had since been awarded training and increased borrowing limits.

On the issue of records, the CS told the Senate that the Fund is run digitally, making it easier to generate data. He promised to submit comprehensive records to the House in due course. Additionally, he requested Speaker Amason Kingi to organize an informal sitting with Senators, where he pledged to further expound on the Hustler Fund.

Eastern Africa Regional Green Hydrogen Symposium Launched In Nairobi

By: Gabriel Mwangi
@themtkenyatimes

The first-ever Eastern Africa Regional Green Hydrogen Symposium officially kicked off yesterday in Nairobi, bringing together over 250 stakeholders from across Eastern Africa and beyond to chart a sustainable path for green hydrogen in the region.

The high-level event, hosted by Kenya's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum in partnership with the German Government, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and the East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREE) aims to accelerate the development of a green hydrogen ecosystem that is inclusive, equitable, and regionally integrated.

Energy and Petroleum Cabinet Secretary Opiyo Wandayi, emphasized the region's potential to become a global hub for clean energy exports, leveraging its abundant renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, wind and hydro.

"This symposium is not just another meeting. It is a convening of minds, of vision, and of resolve," he declared.

Wandayi highlighted Kenya's ongoing efforts to develop a National Energy Policy anchored on Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

"Green hydrogen must be part of a broader vision for a resilient, industrial, and sustainable Africa," he added.

State Department for Energy Principal Secretary, Alex Wachira, highlighted Kenya's Green Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap (2023) and newly established development guidelines to spur private sector investments and technology partnerships.

Wachira further emphasized the need for regional cooperation to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors and position Africa in the global clean energy market, calling for the Symposium to be a springboard for joint action towards an inclusive and low-carbon economy.

German Ambassador to Kenya, Sebastian Groth, reaffirmed Germany's commitment to supporting Kenya's green hydrogen journey, noting that



the German government has committed 4 billion Euros (approximately KShs600 billion) in sustainable energy projects across Africa by 2030.

"Eastern Africa's abundant renewable energy resources position it as a key player in the emerging global green hydrogen economy," he said.

GIZ, a key implementing partner, has been at the forefront of supporting Kenya's green hydrogen strategy. With over 79 projects in the country,

GIZ has been instrumental in building local capacity, supporting policy development, and promoting innovations in the green hydrogen sector.

The organization is helping Kenya implement its Green Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap (2023-2032).

The symposium's first day featured high-level ministerial dialogues, expert panel discussions on funding models, industrial applications of green hydrogen, and breakout ses-

sions exploring green hydrogen's role in agriculture, shipping, and industrialization.

The event continues today with a Youth Breakfast Session on Green Hydrogen, further emphasizing the region's commitment to involving the next generation in sustainable energy development.

Mugutha Residents Petition Kiambu County Assembly Over Encroachment Of Public Land By A Private Developer

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyatimes

Residents of the Upper Hill area, Mugutha in Murera Ward, Juja sub-county are calling on the County Assembly to intervene in a matter regarding the encroachment of land by private developers, which they say is intended for public use.

The residents, through the area MCA Moses Ngatha, who brought the petition to the floor of the House on Tuesday, claim that the parcel of land had previously been used by the community for recreational activities by children, youth, and local sports teams.

They assert that the prime parcel, which is among the few public spaces left in the area, has been attracting unscrupulous individuals who have severally attempted to grab it.

In the petition, the locals claim that early last year a private developer took over the parcel and has since been developing it.

The disgruntled residents noted that they have sought redress from all requisite authorities but their grievances fell on deaf ears since no action has been taken to stop the developer from developing the parcel. The Ward Rep in a phone interview



Kiambu County Assembly Speaker Charles Thiong'o.

confirmed that locals are seeking the county assembly's intervention to salvage the public space from being grabbed adding that they are seeking answers as to how the land was illegally acquired by the private developer.

"The land belongs to the community and it shall be reclaimed for public use after thorough investigations are done to ascertain the ownership status. The petition has been received and necessary action will be taken swiftly," Ngatha said.

The residents are calling on the Assembly through the relevant committee to investigate and inquire into the circumstances that led to the transfer of the public playground to private individuals and engage with the National Land Commission and all other relevant authorities to ascertain the genuine owners of the parcel of land

"The petition has been committed to the Departmental Committee on Land, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development for further



Murera Ward Representative Moses Ngatha.

investigation," Ngatha noted.

Early this year, the Government put on notice land grabbers in the county noting that it'll repossess all public land parcels that are in private possession. It also warned unscrupulous individuals and land dealers who have been drooling over public property.

Land and Housing Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome said that the National Government will work closely with Governor Kimani Wamantangi-led administration in the repos-

session exercise.

She said that public spaces have become easy targets for grabbers.

At the same time, she announced that the Real Estate Act was in the process of being amended as a way of protecting Kenyans from land fraudsters.

The CS also said members of the community have a big role in protection and recovery of public land and should co-operate with her office to ward off grabbers.

My Cedric Why?



I don't understand still not done,
My heart still believe you're the one
In millions of them I choose none,
You still sounds in my tone

I feel just fun to be around
You have molded me on the ground

It's pleasure to be rebound
Just with you till it's sound

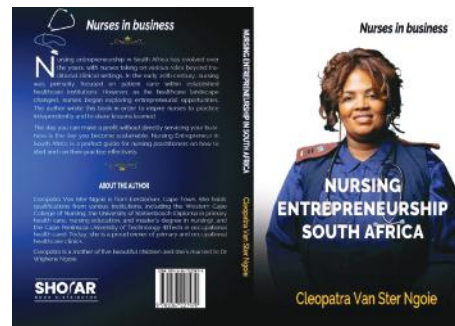
Everytime I think of you it bound
My love to you feel to expound
Now and then till it astound
You mean everything in my compound

You deserve to be crowned
Because of the love you have drowned
You need to be always renowned
You're my world my browned

Please let's us not be in battleground
I want us to be back in our background
I stand firm with the playground
My Cedric my underground

By Mugo Romeo Wachira
Nyandarua Shalom

MFAAL 2025 Nominee Feature - Cleopatra Van Ster Ngoie



1. Who are you?

I am Cleopatra Van Ster Ngoie, a South African registered nurse, entrepreneur, and author. I am the CEO of Nurseit Primary and Occupational Healthcare Services and the Director of the Nurse Entrepreneurs Movement. I hold a Master's Degree in Nursing (MCur) with qualifications in Nursing Education, Primary Health Care, and Occupational Health. I am also the author of *Nursing Entrepreneurship in South Africa*, written to empower nurses to step into business confidently.

2. What does the award nomination mean to you?

This nomination in the Business category is a huge honor and a milestone in my journey. It acknowledges the contribution of nurses in entrepreneurship and celebrates innovation, resilience, and leadership in African healthcare business.

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?

It is a powerful platform that champions African voices and stories, especially women's voices. It gives a voice to those making impact in different sectors, including business, literature, and leadership.

4. How is the book sales in South Africa?

Book sales in South Africa, particularly in professional and entrepreneurship genres, are growing. *Nursing Entrepreneurship in South Africa* is gaining traction among nurses, educators, and healthcare professionals looking to explore business opportunities.

5. How do you feel about writing in Africa?

Writing in Africa is liberating and impactful. It allows us to tell authentic stories, provide solutions, and inspire change from our unique perspectives. It's a responsibility I carry with pride.

6. What can be done to improve book sales?

We need more distribution channels, better support for self-publishing authors, stronger marketing networks, and digital accessibility. Collaborations between writers, publishers, and readers can also drive growth.

7. Are South Africans a reading nation?

South Africa is developing into a reading nation, especially with more focus on professional development and entrepreneurship. However, we need to cultivate a stronger reading culture at all levels of society.

8. Digital literacy—how is it in your country?

Digital literacy is improving, especially among the youth and professionals. However, access to devices and internet connectivity remains a barrier in some communities.

9. Do you plan to make ebooks? Any plans for audiobooks?

Yes, I'm currently working on releasing an eBook version of my book, and I'm exploring audiobook production to increase accessibility for busy professionals and learners.

10. What category have you been nominated so far?

I've been nominated in the Business category, recognizing my work in healthcare entrepreneurship and leadership through Nurseit and the Nurse Entrepreneurs Movement.

11. Who is your local role model?

My local role models are the nurses who make a real difference—those who serve with love, care, and compassion every single day. They are the heartbeat of healthcare and true heroes in our communities.

12. Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?

In ten years, I see myself as a published author of multiple books in the fields of nursing, leadership, and entrepreneurship. I also aim to mentor aspiring nurse-authors and entrepreneurs across Africa.

13. The concept of Unity—what can Unity do for authors?

Unity fosters collaboration, creates networks of support, and amplifies our reach as authors. It allows us to learn from each other, market our work collectively, and build a stronger African literary movement.

14. Do you have background training in writing?

My formal training is in nursing, but my writing journey began through academic work and professional documentation. Over time, I developed my writing skills through practical experience and mentorship.

15. What do you understand by copyrights?

Copyrights are legal protections for authors that ensure our original work is not reproduced or distributed without permission.

16. Have you protected your books?

Yes, my book is copyrighted in South Africa, which protects my intellectual property and the effort invested in creating it.

17. Your advice to upcoming authors?

Write boldly and with purpose. Your story has power. Whether you are writing for education, business, or personal growth—start where you are, stay consistent, and never give up.

18. Your last word

African stories, especially from professionals like nurses, matter. Let us lead, write, and transform the continent—one word at a time.

Nursing Entrepreneurship in South Africa

This book is written to inspire nurses to practice independently and to share lessons learned. It is also a guide for nursing practitioners on how to start and run their practices effectively. Nurses are playing a vital role in providing healthcare services throughout South Africa and are successfully meeting the healthcare needs of the country, helping to reduce the burden of disease. Nurses have always been considered the backbone of nursing care. Still, the role of nurses has evolved in South Africa, with nurses taking on more responsibilities as independent practitioners in the frontline of providing direct patient care. They have started their practices, becoming direct service providers in certain fields where nurses have undergone specializations, taking the lead in the field and providing care within their scope of practice, which is assisting many South Africans. Nurses can effectively run nursing practices independently and provide direct care with or without supervision. Nurses are the backbone of healthcare.



By: Asqarova Sarvinoz Vohidjon

Abstract:

This article discusses Arterial Hypertension (AH), one of the most common diseases today, and its occurrence in pediatric practice. It also outlines the causes of the disease and ways to protect against it.

Keywords:

Vascular wall tone, pressor, hypertensive disease, idiopathic, essential hypertension, metabolic disease, compensation, conflict

About 80% of the human body is composed of water, and a significant part of this fluid is blood. Blood makes up about 7% of body mass and circulates through the vessels with the help of the heart. One of the most frequently encountered diseases of the cardiovascular system is arterial hypertension. Arterial hypertension develops as a result of increased vascular wall tone and cardiac output. Changes in vascular tone are regulated by the Central Nervous System, endocrine glands (hypothalamus, pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, thymus, etc.), and kidneys. The increased activity of the body's pressor systems (sympathoadrenal, renin-angiotensin, angiotensin-vasopressin, glucocorticoids) leads to AH.

Causes of AH include:

Kidney diseases
Adrenal gland tumors
Aortic coarctation (as a symptom)

In 14% of all AH patients, the condition results from kidney diseases. In addition, psycho-emotional stress can also cause AH, primarily due to hormonal changes.

As a result of psycho-emotional stress and tension, a pathological focus forms in the CNS, leading to the excessive release of catecholamines (adrenaline and noradrenaline). This causes vasospasm and raises blood pressure. During stress, the sensitivity of adrenergic receptors in the sympathetic nervous system also increases, making catecholamines even more effective.

Hypertension is associated with metabolic diseases (atherosclerosis, gout, diabetes mellitus, gastrointestinal diseases) and is synonymous with essential hypertension and idiopathic hypertension. Currently, around 1.2 billion people worldwide suffer from this disease. Of them, 40% are unaware of their condition and die in the compensation stage. Approximately 10–11% take the disease seriously and live under regular medical supervision. Nearly 50% live without paying attention to it, unaware that the disease may shorten their lifespan by 10–12 years.

It is commonly believed that AH occurs mainly in adults. However, it can also be found in children. In children, its occurrence is around 5–14%, which is relatively high. AH is seen in 39% to 143% of boys and 47% to 96% of girls. It is twice as rare in rural areas compared to urban populations.

In children, elevated blood pressure is often discovered accidentally. They may complain of headaches and dizziness. Memory issues may also be observed compared to their peers. Conflicts in the family and emotional stress at school can lead to hypertension in children.

To diagnose hypertension in children, attention should be paid to the following signs:
Changes in retinal blood vessels (narrowing of arteries)

Elevated blood pressure at rest
ECG: irregular heartbeat, leftward shift of the heart's electrical axis, increased function (electrical activity) of the left ventricle
Phonocardiogram: systolic murmur, accentuation of the second heart sound aortic component

X-ray: left ventricular hypertrophy
It is important to differentiate between hypertensive disease and symptomatic hypertension caused by:
Conn's syndrome
Cushing's syndrome
Congenital adrenogenital syndromes

Patients with hypertension must always monitor their health. Chronic overload of the heart can lead to serious complications like heart failure, myocardial infarction, or stroke. Preventive measures include establishing a proper daily routine (adequate sleep, regular walks), and minimizing stress, anxiety, and emotional tension.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, everyone is responsible for their own health, and maintaining our well-being is in our hands.

Andijan State Medical Institute, Faculty of Pediatrics, 3rd-year student
Asqarova Sarvinoz Vohidjon qizi

From Makuyu To The World: Kakuzi Outlines Mid To Long-Term Business Growth Plans To Boost Shareholder Returns

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes



Kakuzi Plc Chairman, Mr Nicholas Ng'ang'a (left) and Managing Director, Mr Chris Flowers (centre) share a word with the firm's shareholder, Mr Adan Hussein (right) during the agri-business firm's 97th Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday. Photo/Courtesy.

Worth Noting:

- “The Kakuzi Board has outlined a medium to long-term strategic growth plan to enhance our returns on investment and sustain our positioning as an integrated international agri-business firm,” he assured the shareholders. He added, “The key components of our future expansion plans include investment in agricultural technology solutions, strategic crop diversification, increased production, sustainable agricultural Practices and evaluation of Non-Agricultural Revenue Streams,” Mr. Flowers said.

- As part of its strategic plans to increase production over the next ten years, the firm disclosed plans to nearly double avocado production and exports from 3 million to 5 million four-kilo equivalent cartons. Kakuzi is also planning to increase its Macadamia production from 900 tons of kernel to 1,500 tons.

Nairobi Security Exchange listed agribusiness firm Kakuzi Plc has announced that it intends to introduce a fourth commercially produced crop, use agricultural technology (AgTech) solutions, and diversify its domestic and export markets in the next ten years to enhance shareholder returns.

Speaking at the firm's 97th Annual General Meeting held yesterday, Kakuzi Managing Director Mr. Chris Flowers said the firm is exploring the addition of a fourth commercial crop alongside the current Macadamia, Avocado and Blueberry crops.

He said the need for a fourth commercial, large-scale crop for Kakuzi remains a key priority as the firm continues to evaluate the business case for blueberries, which are showing promising potential.

“The Kakuzi Board has outlined a medium to long-term strategic growth plan to enhance our returns on investment and sustain our positioning as an integrated international agri-business firm,” he assured the shareholders. He added, “The key components of our future expansion plans include investment in agricultural technology solutions, strategic crop diversification, increased production, sustainable agricultural Practices and evaluation of Non-Agricultural Revenue

Streams,” Mr. Flowers said.

As part of its strategic plans to increase production over the next ten years, the firm disclosed plans to nearly double avocado production and exports from 3 million to 5 million four-kilo equivalent cartons. Kakuzi is also planning to increase its Macadamia production from 900 tons of kernel to 1,500 tons.

He noted that Kakuzi Blueberry crops has the potential to generate large revenue streams while allowing the firm to diversify its footprint into significantly different geographical markets. “We have appraised the business model for Blueberries, and its performance in 2024 gives us confidence that a commercial scale is viable. We shall be able to confirm our position as we move through 2025 as production is set to double,” said.

On his part, Kakuzi Chairman Mr Nicholas Ng'ang'a said the firm's commitment to responsible business practices and environmental stewardship remains unwavering, for continued growth and resilience.

He stressed the need for a national economic diplomacy effort to secure avocado access in the United States market and tariff-free access in the China and India markets. Both China and India currently impose a 30% tar-

iff on Kenyan avocados.

“Kakuzi's products have a strong presence in global markets, including the USA, Japan, and Europe. Our strategic growth plan aims to enhance our exports and regional sales by diversifying products and markets. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards for market access, ensuring that our products meet global standards for quality, traceability, and sustainability,” Mr. Ng'ang'a said. He added, “Kakuzi is actively developing new markets to reduce risks and create greater competition. Whilst we sell our macadamia nuts to the USA, Kenya doesn't have market access for its avocados, which we as a Country must work on.”

Last year, Kakuzi posted a pre-tax loss of KSh 167 million, which was attributed to adverse weather conditions due to excessive rainfall, currency fluctuations, and geopolitical tensions, including conflicts in the Middle East. These tensions have disrupted traditional export routes, extended transit times, and impacted quality.

“Before the Houthi Rebels started attacking merchant ships in the Red Sea strait, merchant vessels carrying our avocados were able to reach Europe in 35 days, from Mombasa,

through the Suez Canal and through to Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. Because of these attacks, in 2024 the ships would not travel through the Red Sea and instead would be rerouted through two more ports where our cargo is removed from one vessel and placed on another,” Mr. Flowers explained.

He added, “With the new shipping routes, our produce transit time has increased to around 50 days, seriously damaging the fruit quality. Thankfully, the shipping lines now use one transshipment port, with the journey time reducing to 43 days.”

In 2024, Kakuzi delivered a strong operational performance despite global market challenges. The Company maintained its focus on sustainable agricultural practices, community engagement, and long-term value creation.

During the AGM, Kakuzi Shareholders approved the payment of a first and final dividend of KSh 8.00 per ordinary share for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2024, to the shareholders on the members' register at the close of business on Friday, 30th May 2025.

COUNTY

Government Rolls Out Sh300 Million Borehole Projects In 23 Arid Counties

By: James Wanjiku
@themtkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

The borehole projects are being undertaken through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), which is implementing the initiative in some of the most drought-affected counties, including Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, West Pokot, Baringo, and Tana River.

“In these 23 ASAL counties, we currently have 31 ongoing water projects. The total cost for the initiative is Sh300 million,” said the PS.

“These are strategic interventions aimed at mitigating the harsh effects of drought and improving water access in areas that have experienced some of the worst impacts of climate change.”

He noted that between 2021 and 2022, many ASAL counties were hit by severe drought, leaving thousands of families in desperate need of water and food relief.

The government is investing Sh300 million to implement 31 borehole water projects in 23 counties classified as arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL), in a major effort to combat drought and water scarcity.

According to the Principal Secretary for the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development, Mr Kello Harsama, the projects aim to boost access to clean water for domestic use, livestock, and irrigation in regions that receive minimal rainfall, have poor soil conditions, and suffer chronic food insecurity.

“These 23 counties are characteristically dry, with limited rainfall and fragile ecosystems. They have long struggled with drought and food insecurity,” Mr Harsama said.

“Through the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), we are prioritizing water supply as a key pillar to improve livelihoods and build resilience in these vulnerable communities.”

The borehole projects are being undertaken through the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), which is implementing the initiative in some of the most drought-affected counties, including Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir, West Pokot, Baringo, and Tana River. “In these 23 ASAL counties, we currently have 31 ongoing water projects. The total cost for the initiative is Sh300 million,” said the PS.

“These are strategic interventions aimed at mitigating the harsh effects of drought and improving water access in areas that have experienced some of the worst impacts of climate change.”

He noted that between 2021 and 2022, many ASAL counties were hit by severe drought, leaving thousands of families in desperate need of water and food relief.

Mr Harsama made the remarks while commissioning the Kabati Water Project at Kiamathaga Ward in Kieni, Nyeri County, which is one of the completed borehole projects under the NDMA.

“Today, we have officially commissioned the Kabati Water Project, which will serve over 350 households with a consistent water supply for domestic use, livestock, and farming. It will also benefit four local primary schools and a nearby health center,” he said.

For residents like Damaris Kinaro, the project has brought immediate



Principal Secretary for the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development, Mr Kello Harsama, commissioning the Kabati Water Project at Kiamathaga Ward in Kieni, Nyeri County. PHOTOS BY JAMES WANJIKU.

relief.

“Before this project, we women had to walk more than three kilometers to fetch water for our families. Lack of clean water meant exposing our families to diseases. This borehole has changed our lives,” Kinaro said.

Stephen Waikwa, another resident, highlighted the economic transformation the project has initiated.

“Before the borehole became operational, poverty levels were high, and we struggled with hunger and lack of income. Now, with access to water, we’ve begun agribusiness ventures, and we are hopeful that this will help us eradicate poverty,” Waikwa said.

Nyeri Deputy Governor Kinaniri Waroe, who was present at the event, lauded the collaboration between county and national governments in addressing water scarcity.

“As a county, we are also investing in boreholes at the grassroots level,” Waroe said.

“We’ve partnered with the national government to ensure our communities have sustainable water access.”

Kieni MP Njoroge Wainaina noted that the Kabati project was conceptualized five years ago and is now a symbol of tangible progress under the current administration.

“I live just a few meters from this

project. It is gratifying to see it finally commissioned after years of planning,” said the MP.

“This area has experienced recurring drought seasons, and this project is a testament to the Kenya Kwanza administration’s commitment under President William Ruto.”

Mr Harsama was accompanied during the commissioning by NDMA Chairman Shallow Yahya and Chief Executive Officer, Lt. Col. (Rtd)

Hared Adan.

The government hopes that the success of these projects will serve as a model for future investments in drought mitigation and rural development, especially as the country grapples with the ongoing effects of climate change and increasing demand for water resources.

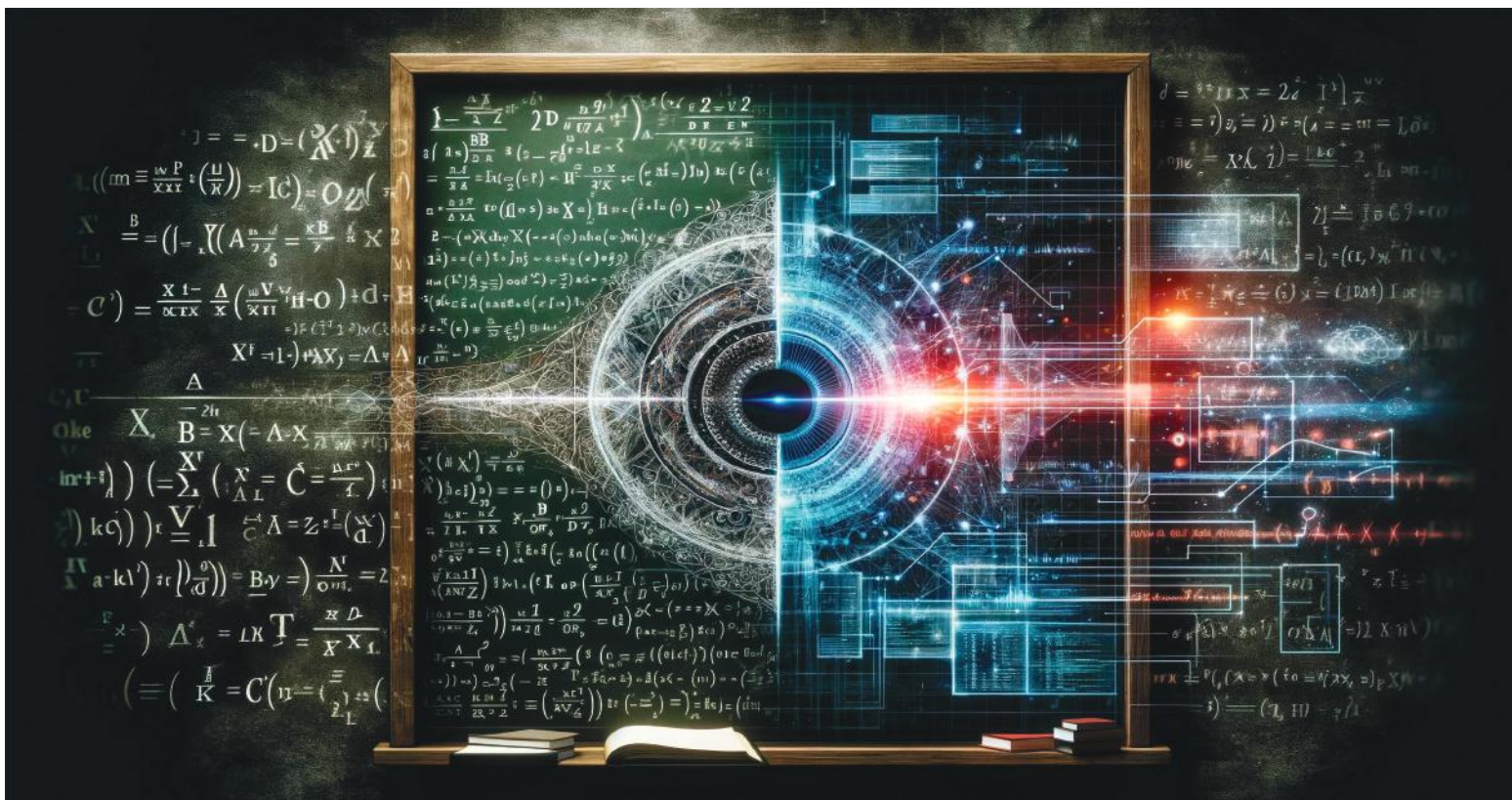


Kabati Water Project at Kiamathaga Ward in Kieni, Nyeri County. PHOTOS BY JAMES WANJIKU.

Exploring The Future Of Education: Teaching Mathematics In AI Era



By: Ms Mary Kamau
@themkenyentimes



Worth Noting:

- One of the most innovative ways AI is being used in mathematics classrooms is through gamified learning. This approach takes abstract mathematical concepts and embeds them into interactive games and challenges that are both enjoyable and educational. For example, students learning algebra might solve a series of equations to advance through game levels, while geometry lessons might involve constructing shapes or solving spatial puzzles within a digital environment.
- These activities promote active learning and allow students to discover mathematical principles through experimentation and play. Gamified tools increase motivation, foster critical thinking, and make learning less intimidating. The role of mathematics educators is expanding from conveyors of knowledge to designers of experiences that make abstract ideas tangible and enjoyable. To embrace this role fully, mathematics educators must continually enhance their digital skills and collaborate with others to foster innovation in teaching practices.

As Mathematics Educators, adapting to the digital age requires a thoughtful reimagining of how students interact with numbers, patterns and logic.

In a rapidly evolving world shaped by technology, the traditional approaches to instruction focused heavily on procedures and memorization are no longer enough.

Today's learners face complex, data-driven environments where they must apply mathematical thinking to real-life problems.

To prepare them effectively, instructors must adopt teaching strategies that make mathematics more meaningful, engaging, and accessible.

This means moving beyond formulas and textbooks, and instead designing learning experiences that spark curiosity and demonstrate how math connects to the world around us.

Artificial intelligence is playing an increasingly pivotal role in transforming mathematics education. AI-driven tools such as adaptive learning platforms, intelligent tutors, and virtual simulations are reshaping how content is delivered and how students learn.

These technologies can analyze a student's progress in real time and adjust the level and type of content accordingly, allowing for highly personalized learning paths. Students benefit from working at their own pace, receiving instant feedback, and revisiting concepts as needed without the pressure of keeping up with the rest of the class. For the teacher, this shift opens up new opportunities to guide, mentor, and challenge learners at a deeper level. While digital tools can enhance the teaching

process, it is the mathematics teacher who brings depth and meaning to the subject by nurturing critical thinking, perseverance, and a true appreciation for learning. Mathematics teachers are now stepping into new roles, not just as instructors, but as designers of learning experiences, creating environments that actively engage students and make complex concepts easier to explore and understand.

One of the most innovative ways AI is being used in mathematics classrooms is through gamified learning. This approach takes abstract mathematical concepts and embeds them into interactive games and challenges that are both enjoyable and educational. For example, students learning algebra might solve a series of equations to advance through game levels, while geometry lessons might involve constructing shapes or solving spatial puzzles within a digital environment.

These activities promote active learning and allow students to discover mathematical principles through experimentation and play. Gamified tools increase motivation, foster critical thinking, and make learning less intimidating. The role of mathematics educators is expanding from conveyors of knowledge to designers of experiences that make abstract ideas tangible and enjoyable. To embrace this role fully, mathematics educators must continually enhance their digital skills and collaborate with others to foster innovation in teaching practices.

Another valuable addition to the modern mathematics classroom is the interactive SMART board. This tool transforms abstract instruction into

engaging, hands-on learning. When teaching concepts such as coordinate geometry, for instance, students can use the board to plot points, draw graphs, and see the immediate effect of changing variables in an equation. Rather than viewing static images, or drawing diagrams on paper, students engage directly with the content dragging, adjusting, and experimenting in real time. This level of interaction not only deepens understanding but also encourages participation and collaboration. It helps students make connections between theory and application, allowing them to explore mathematical ideas with greater confidence and clarity.

The integration of AI in mathematics education also has a significant impact on the teacher-student relationship. Generative AI tools can take over time-consuming administrative tasks such as grading, lesson preparation, and performance tracking. With these burdens reduced, teachers gain more time to focus on individual learners offering targeted guidance, emotional support, and personalized instruction. This enhanced interaction fosters stronger bonds between teachers and students, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive classroom environment. When students feel seen and supported, they are more likely to ask questions, engage in lessons, and persist through challenges. A classroom grounded in trust and collaboration becomes fertile ground for deeper mathematical exploration and lifelong learning.

To unlock the full potential of these technologies, both teachers and students must develop strong AI com-

petency. For educators, this means understanding how AI works, knowing how to interpret data insights, and thoughtfully integrating digital tools into the curriculum. It also involves recognizing the ethical implications of AI use and ensuring that technology enhances, rather than replaces, meaningful human interactions. Students, in turn, must learn to interact with AI responsibly critiquing automated solutions, applying digital tools thoughtfully, and using them to expand their own mathematical reasoning. Building these skills requires sustained support from schools, policymakers, and education stakeholders to ensure equitable access to resources and training opportunities.

Ultimately, the purpose of integrating AI into the mathematics classroom is not to replace teachers, but to empower them. Technology, when used effectively, allows educators to reclaim time for the parts of teaching that matter most, building relationships, inspiring curiosity, and guiding students through their mathematical journeys. By blending digital tools with empathy, creativity, and human insight, mathematics educators can create classrooms where mathematics becomes a vibrant, relevant, and deeply rewarding experience. This is the future of mathematics education, one where innovation and humanity work hand in hand to support every learner's success.

Ms Mary Kamau is a Mathematics teacher at Crawford International School

Economic Viability Between Oil, Gas Sector And Agriculture. Can Ugandans Benefit More In Oil Than Agriculture?



By: Twongirwe Ireen
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CEO - WoGEM Uganda



Worth Noting:

- It's important to note that after the discovery, Ugandans thought that we were to transit to the middle Income country where people will be prioritized over profits, however, it brought misery, pain to the communities. (capitalistic Economy) The most painful moment was on the compensation after compulsory acquisition of their ancestral land with inadequate and some No compensation was provided. The oil and gas became the resource curse to the communities. Amidst all these, Marginalized women, elderly, youth, were the most affected and up to date, there are still facing injustices.

- Furthermore, Land acquisition process that came with displacement, food insecurity, income inequalities, violation of both environmental, land rights and social challenges continue to escalate since they greatly depend on land for agriculture, fishing and farming hence being separated from their ancestral activities.

The government of Uganda first discovered Oil in 2006, in the year 2010 the story of oil came up and the oil companies and other development partners started showing interest in the exploitation and extraction of oil. Since Uganda discovered commercially viable deposits of oil, significant investments are being made in the oil and gas sector, with projects like Tilenga, Kingfisher, and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) commencing. It is believed that these projects will spur the country's economic development. However, international, local, and community experience highlights potential risks associated with heavy reliance on fossil fuels, including economic volatility, environmental degradation, social disruption, and challenges related to the global energy transition towards cleaner sources.

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In addition, oil extraction leads to deforestation, oil spills and high carbon emissions which contributes to climate change and environmental degradation. Moreover, oil exploration often requires large scale infrastructure development that disrupts local ecosystem, further exacerbating the environmental footprint of the industry. However much, Government expects job creation in the oil and gas sector, its noted that it hasn't provided substantial employment for the general population especial rural areas where oil is being drilled. Despite its potential to generate significant revenues, the oil sector remains highly capital intensive, requires advanced technological infrastructure and specialized skills which marginalized communities don't have.

Amidst these challenges, we continue to see financial institutions such as banks Like KCB Uganda, Stanbic, EXIM among other, Insurers investing in the fossil fuel projects like EACOP, Kingfisher and other oil fields

in Uganda and Tanzania.

How about Agriculture,

It's clear that agricultural sector is the backbone of Uganda's economy, This sector employ over 90% of the Uganda's population. It's important to note that this sector employs both skilled, unskilled people especially those from marginalized communities who are oppressed by power imbalances. Even before the discovery of Oil, communities still survived and lived happily with the environment. (Regenerative Economy)

More so, it's clear that agriculture is one of the green economic alternatives, we believe that investing in green economic alternatives will directly improve climate resilience, livelihoods and social economic development. Globally while the world is crippling with climate crisis, marginalized women and youth are greatly impacted and therefore this calls for urgent need to invest in green economic alternatives.

Agricultural sector especially coffee provides livelihood for over 1.7 million households and 3.5 million people. It's important to note that over 90% are small scale farmers. The sector is in position to support a broad value chain from farmers to exporters, processors, baristas, and traders ensuring wide participation in the agricultural economy. This will also widen the impact of employment es-

pecially in rural areas, contributing to reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth.

Furthermore, even when we compare oil and gas, agriculture is inherently more sustainable. It helps to prevent soil erosion, promote carbon sequestration and it can be integrated into agroforestry systems that enhance biodiversity. Smart Agriculture also reduces global warming, diverse effects of climate change thus supporting climate resilience over time.

Lastly, Amidst the challenges farmers are experiencing, there community centered and so they quickly find solutions that are nature based and locally led that can improve their standards of living and create jobs to the youth.

In a nutshell, Financial institutions, Government leaders and other development partners must stop funding new fossil fuels but rather invest in Green Economic alternatives that are sustainable, just, equitable and flexible to the marginalized communities.

*For and My country
Ireen Twongirwe
Co-founder and Executive director,
Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WoGEMUganda)*

Author Uplifting Cultural Awareness- Gorata Mighty Ntshwabi



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

Who are you?

I am Dr Gorata Mighty Ntshwabi, aka Poko Boswa, an Authors, Gender Rights, Arts and Culture Activist, traditional and contemporary Page and Stage Poet. Gorata is an African griot patriot poet. Her deep pit belly passion for Africa is glued in her DNA, I suppose by the sacred Gods of letters and Verse. Her poetry speaks AFRICANITY with immeasurable pride, the pride of an African Princess with her fervent dance to the shelling of Kalimba and the chirruping of African Wonder bird, Shezu. The poet patriot is an African first, secondly, a chronicler of African beauty, thirdly and African storyteller of our beloved land. She Speaks in Sacred Tongues of AFRICA-NITY. She is a brave voice, freedom expresser and resilient poet. Her Writing and Poetry Arts career was realized since years of her childhood where she participated in Schools Arts Activities.

She has authored two English poetry books "Exploring the Roots Poetry my Heritage, Living Arts self-published in 2016 and the collection transcribed into brail for the visually impaired. Her second English poetry book "A Mad Lion Hunting and Haunting Cities and Towns" was self-published in 2022 and both of them got a nomination spot for Best English Poetry book and Best Motivational book at the 2024 Botswana Literature Awards.

She intends to maintain achieving her art work in a number of platforms and has recorded her first single jazz track "Ilau Tsia Afrika" in Sesarwa meaning Welcome to Africa released in 2022. The track is a combination of various languages from across Africa including Sesarwa and it demonstrates the beauty of Africa, the birth place of mankind where all beautiful things originates.

Dr Gorata holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences with majors in Sociology and Psychology from Central University of Technology Free State in South Africa and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education in African Languages and Literature from the University of Botswana.

She is a Senior Gender Officer where she twist tongues of gender mainstreaming and advocacy in all platforms. She has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Arts, the Most Inspiring Woman of the Earth Award and World Record of the Earth all in 2022.

She composes poems and perform in various occasions from social to cor-

porate and has performed in big stages both locally and internationally. She has been featured on social media platforms as well as nominated for special selections on a number of online publications and has featured a collection of poems in five international poetry anthologies titled "Tranquil Peace/Muse, Reflections, Voices of Africa, Canto Planetario and AfriCAN PoeTree Collection.

What does the award nomination mean to you?

This nomination is a huge honour and an inspiration to me to keep pen my dancing tunes of literary rhythms and verses. I believe in writing as a mark of history for generations, an archive of a lifetime.

What do you think of Mulher Forte African Literature?

It is a platform that connects African brains in the world of literature with a common goal of sharing our stories to the world and preserves the legacy of our fore fathers. It is a celebration of African richness in all its forms. Mulher Forte is an open platform for African writers to showcase their talents, creatives, artistic excellence to cross boundaries even the hardest ones to make African literature what it is.

How are book sales in Botswana?

Book sales in Botswana require strength and commitment since it's not that easy due to limited market and reading culture. There is potential in Botswana if we as writers keep holding on most particularly not in silos. Direct sales often yield better returns than bookstore partnerships, where markups sometimes make books unaffordable for many readers more so for local books.

How do you feel about writing in Africa?

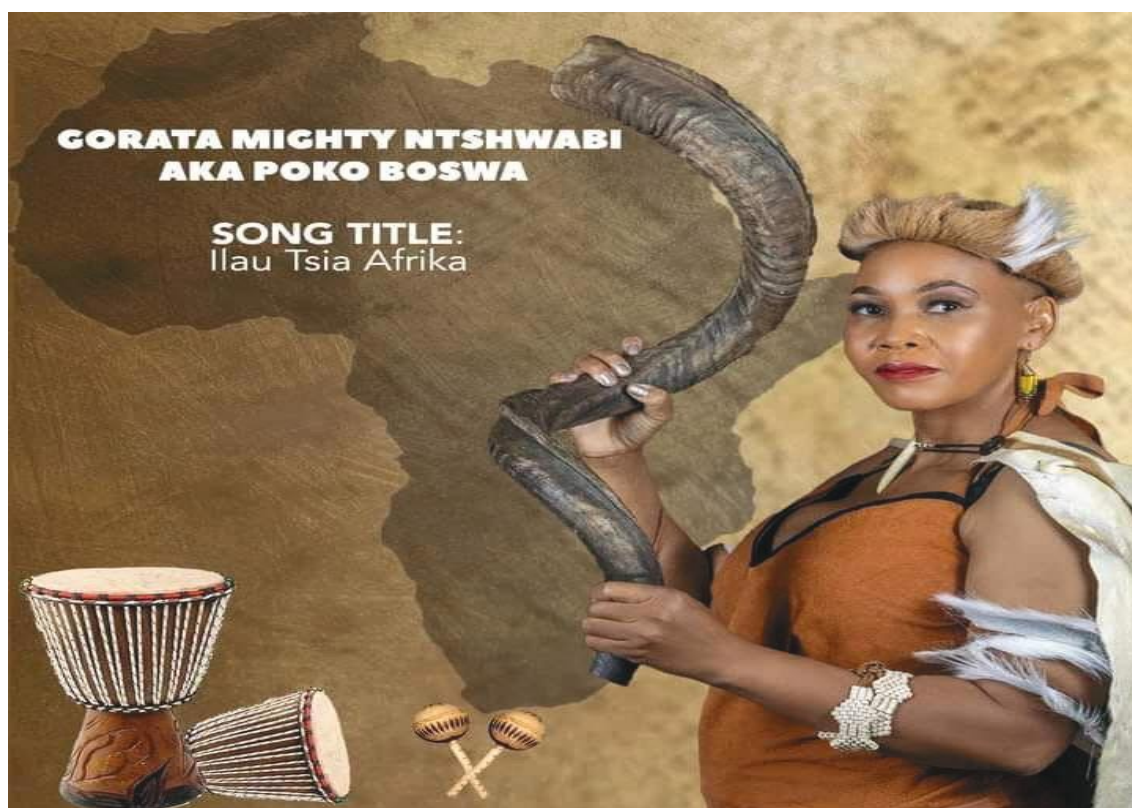
Writing in Africa is a true reflection of our lifestyle, the phenomenal cultures, abundant stories that calls for change and preservation. Writing in Africa to some is not just a skill but a calling that is passed from generation to generation.

What can be done to improve book sales?

Market research, market exposure and building networks with other writers including internationals is very important. Collaborations with schools, libraries, and digital platforms to create awareness is also very key. Mainstreaming of Arts including literature in all areas of development can have a positive influence to the society including leadership.

Are Batswana a reading nation?

I have seen an improvement in reading therefore I would say of course yes despite the need to reach out more people most importantly the hard to reach areas. I also think we as writers should



write to the people not for us, know and understand our readers and consider that they also do vary there we must give them what they love.

Digital literacy: how is it in your country?

Botswana adopted accentuated digitisation and a move into the fourth industrial revolution as part to the National Transformation Agenda

The SmartBots Initiative was launched in 2019 as a government program which provides free WiFi through SmartBots routers installed in public spaces, including clinics, schools, and traditional courtyards.

Do you plan to make e-books?

Yes, one of my books is available in e-book format and I wish to make all my books and and future works available to make my literature more accessible to broader audiences, both locally and internationally.

Any plans for audiobooks?

I believe audiobooks can be a powerful way to reach diverse audiences, especially the younger generation and persons with disabilities like visual impairment and those people who do not enjoy reading but prefer listening.

What category have you been nominated for so far?

Poetry-English.

Who is your local role model?

I draw inspiration from people like Dr Keotshpile Motseonageng aka BERRY HEART, a strong, brave and resilient advocate for women and girls in all areas that uplift them, a passionate creative artist and a committed female entrepreneur who believes in trying anything. She is a go getter and that gives me strength every day in this tough industry of Arts. Her work continues to pave the way for future

generations. I'm also inspired by the likes of Dr Pusetso Lame aka Poetic blood, a young girl who entered the Arts industry with a blaze, she is committed to try anything too and inspire the young generation. A multitasking creative artist and publisher who gives it all when a manuscript land into her own hands. They both originate from the natural lands of the Bakgalagari I guess something sacred runs through their Ancestral blood lines hahaha!

Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?

I see myself well established as a creative artist who believes in hard work and fortitude for success. My vision as a registered poet is building networks for various art works such poetry, music, dance, theatre, film, fine and visual arts, as well as demonstrate their linkages

My mission is establishing a linkage of its local supply to the foreign markets

My values are Botho (dignity/Integrity)

Poko Boswa Poetry my Heritage Living Arts aims to practice excellent artistic behavior eg respect of fellow artists and the rest of the public, no plagiarism of other artists' works and maintaining an expected ethical image

I believe in gender sensitivity, the writings, recordings and performances will not be gender biased or discriminative of gender

Cultural sensitivity
Poko Boswa intends to avoid biasness on cultural orientations

Motto: Hard work pays and determination is success.

Tswana Motivational Proverb: Mofutso go jewa wa phatla, Tsela kgopo ga e latse naganeng

The concept of Unity: what can Unity do for authors?

Unity unlock potentials, it is like a puzzle where each individual bring a piece of work to build a mammoth mountain of. It is an efficient strategy for collective marketing and value chain.

Do you have background training in writing?

I have studied Languages and Literature for my Post Graduate Diploma in Education and that has shaped my writing skills and I continue to engage more with young learners most particularly with writing compositions.

What do you understand about copyrights?

Copyrights is a form of protection grounded and granted by law for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. It gives full ownership of one's hard work. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works.

Have you protected your books?

Yes. I have taken steps to register and protect my works through appropriate copyright measures (CIPA and COS-BOTS).

Your advice to upcoming authors:

I believe that we are all capable of something and that we all have potential. It is very important to know yourself as a person, your qualities, strengths and weaknesses to be able to unleash your potential. Don't fear challenges, allow them to build you. Be a risk taker, a brave and resilient personnel.

Your last word:

Let's keep writing and telling our stories. Our stories matter not only to us and world at large.

The Golden Citadel: Trump's Vision For A Revolutionary Space Defense Dome



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyentimes

Introduction:

In an era defined by bold ambition and unwavering patriotism, President Donald J. Trump envisions a lasting monument to American resilience, innovation, and greatness - the Golden Citadel. More than a mere architectural marvel, this grand initiative symbolizes the strength of the nation, standing as a fortress of prosperity, security, and unity. As one of his executive orders, alongside other transformative policies, the Golden Citadel represents a future where tradition and progress converge, setting a precedent for generations to come. In its towering presence, it will serve as a beacon to the world—an enduring testament to the values that define America and the vision that propels it forward.

A dome, in its most fundamental architectural sense, is a hemispherical structure, a self-supporting arch that spans a circular area. Throughout history, domes have symbolized power, spiritual significance, and architectural mastery. From the Pantheon in Rome to the iconic domes of Islamic mosques, these structures have captivated humanity with their grandeur and structural ingenuity. When considering a 'golden dome' in a modern, technological context, particularly in the realm of space defense, the concept transcends traditional architecture. It becomes a metaphor for a comprehensive, layered system designed to protect a nation's assets and interests in the vast expanse beyond Earth's atmosphere.

The concept of a defensive 'dome' is not entirely novel in military strategy. Terrestrial air defense systems, like Israel's 'Iron Dome,' employ a network of sensors, command and control centers, and interceptor missiles to shield against incoming rockets and projectiles. The underlying principle is to create a multi-layered protective umbrella. Now, a vision emanating from the United States aims to extend this protective paradigm to the ultimate high ground: space. This ambitious endeavor, championed by the previous administration, proposes the creation of a sophisticated 'Golden Citadel' - a space-based defense architecture intended to revolutionize how the U.S. safeguards its critical space infrastructure and counters emerging threats in orbit. While details remain largely classified, the ambition and potential implications of such a system warrant deep exploration.

This article delves into the conceptual framework of this proposed space defense dome, examining its



potential components, the technological breakthroughs required for its realization, and how it might differ from existing and conceptualized space security measures. We will explore the potential layers of this 'Golden Citadel,' the types of threats it might be designed to counter, and the geopolitical ramifications of such a powerful defensive capability.

Conceptualizing the Golden Citadel: Layers of Defense in Orbit

Imagine a series of interconnected orbital layers, each contributing to a holistic defense shield. This is the likely essence of the 'Golden Citadel' concept. Unlike a singular, physical dome in space, this architecture would likely comprise a network of satellites, sensors, and potentially even defensive countermeasures operating in various orbital regimes.

The Outer Sentinel Layer: Early Warning and Tracking: The outermost layer would likely consist of an advanced constellation of surveillance satellites. These wouldn't be traditional Earth-observing satellites but rather sophisticated sensors capable of detecting, tracking, and characterizing objects maneuvering in space. This layer would be the eyes and ears of the Golden Citadel, providing continuous monitoring of the space domain. Key technologies underpinning this layer would include:

Advanced Infrared and Multispectral Sensors: To detect the thermal and spectral signatures of various objects, differentiating between active satellites, debris, and potentially hostile spacecraft or weapons.

Hyperspectral Imaging: Offering richer data about the composition and characteristics of tracked objects.

Space-Based Radar: Providing

all-weather, day-and-night tracking capabilities, crucial for monitoring objects with non-cooperative behavior.

Laser Detection and Ranging (LIDAR): For precise measurement of object distance, velocity, and even shape, aiding in threat assessment.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML): Crucial for processing the vast amounts of data generated by these sensors, identifying anomalies, predicting trajectories, and flagging potential threats in real-time.

The Interceptor Screen: Active Defense Measures: This layer would represent the active defense component of the Golden Citadel. Situated in various orbits, these platforms would be equipped to neutralize or deter threats identified by the outer sentinel layer. The nature of these interceptors remains highly speculative, but potential technologies could include:

Kinetic Interceptors: Essentially 'hit-to-kill' projectiles that rely on direct impact to destroy a target. These would require highly accurate tracking and maneuvering capabilities.

Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs): Lasers or high-powered microwave systems capable of disabling or destroying targets at a distance. Space-based DEWs offer the advantage of speed and potentially unlimited ammunition (though power generation in space remains a significant challenge).

Electronic Warfare (EW) Capabilities: Systems designed to disrupt or jam the communication and navigation systems of hostile spacecraft. This could involve sophisticated radio frequency jammers or cyber warfare capabilities projected from space.

Non-Lethal Countermeasures: Op-

tions like grappling systems or deployable nets to capture and neutralize threats without causing debris. This is particularly important in the congested space environment.

The Inner Shield: Proximity Defense for Critical Assets: This innermost layer would focus on the close-in protection of high-value U.S. space assets, such as critical communication, navigation (GPS), and intelligence satellites. These 'bodyguards' could be smaller, more agile platforms co-orbiting with the assets they protect. Their capabilities might include:

Miniature Kinetic Interceptors: Smaller, more maneuverable versions of the kinetic interceptors in the outer layer, designed for rapid response to immediate threats.

Localized Electronic Warfare Systems: Focused jamming or deception capabilities to defend against close-proximity attacks.

Autonomous Defense Systems: Utilizing advanced AI to independently identify and counter threats in their vicinity, reducing the need for constant human intervention.

Drawing Inspiration, Forging Innovation: How the Golden Citadel Differs

The mention of inspiration from countries like Israel, particularly its 'Iron Dome,' highlights a potential conceptual link - the idea of a layered defense system. However, the challenges and scale of space defense are vastly different from terrestrial missile interception. The Golden Citadel, therefore, would need to be a uniquely sophisticated and technologically advanced undertaking.



Worth Noting:

- **Quantum Computing and Secure Communication:** Enhancing data processing speed for real-time threat assessment and developing unhackable communication channels for command and control.
- **Autonomous Systems and Robotics:** Creating highly sophisticated AI and robotic systems capable of operating independently for surveillance, threat identification, and even autonomous defense actions. This is crucial given the vastness of space and the speed of potential threats.
- **In-Space Manufacturing and Assembly:** Potentially enabling the construction and repair of large space structures and platforms directly in orbit, reducing reliance on costly and complex Earth-based launches.

The Golden Citadel: Trump's Vision For A Revolutionary Space Defense Dome

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Here's how it might differ significantly from existing and conceptual terrestrial and even early space security measures:

Scale and Complexity: Unlike a geographically localized air defense system, the Golden Citadel would need to operate across vast orbital distances, encompassing multiple orbital planes and altitudes. This necessitates a far more intricate network of interconnected sensors, platforms, and communication systems.

Speed and Dynamics: Objects in space travel at incredibly high velocities. The reaction time for detecting, tracking, and intercepting a threat in space would be significantly shorter than in a terrestrial scenario. This demands exceptionally fast processing, decision-making, and maneuverability.

The Orbital Environment: The space environment presents unique challenges, including extreme temperature variations, radiation exposure, and the ever-present threat of space debris. The Golden Citadel's components would need to be exceptionally robust and resilient to these conditions. Furthermore, the creation of more space debris through kinetic interceptions is a significant concern that would necessitate careful consideration of alternative neutralization methods.

Types of Threats: While terrestrial domes primarily focus on ballistic missiles and rockets, a space-based dome would need to counter a wider array of threats, including:

Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Weapons: Direct-ascent missiles launched from Earth, co-orbital ASAT weapons deployed from space, and cyberattacks targeting satellite control systems.

Maneuvering Satellites: Spacecraft capable of altering their orbits to conduct surveillance, proximity operations, or potentially deploy offensive payloads.

Electronic Warfare and Cyber Attacks: Disrupting or taking control of critical space assets from afar.

Directed Energy Weapons Based in Space or on Earth: Lasers or other high-energy systems that could target satellites.

Sophistication of Sensors and AI: The sheer volume of data generated by a space-based surveillance network would necessitate unprecedented levels of AI and machine

learning for processing, threat identification, and autonomous decision-making. This would go far beyond the analytical capabilities of current terrestrial defense systems.

Power and Propulsion: Operating a network of active defense platforms in space requires significant power generation and efficient propulsion systems for maneuvering and intercepting targets. Advancements in solar power, nuclear power for space applications (if pursued), and high-thrust, high-efficiency in-space propulsion would be critical.

Communication and Coordination: Maintaining seamless communication and coordination between the various layers and components of the Golden Citadel across vast distances would be a monumental technological undertaking. Secure, high-bandwidth, and low-latency communication links would be essential.

Technological Breakthroughs Required: Paving the Way for the Golden Citadel

The realization of the Golden Citadel would necessitate significant advancements across a range of scientific and engineering disciplines. Some key areas of technological breakthrough include:

Advanced Materials Science: Developing lighter, stronger, and more radiation-resistant materials for spacecraft construction.

Hypersonic Propulsion and Maneuvering: Enabling interceptors to rapidly reach and engage targets traveling at extreme speeds in space.

High-Power Space-Based Energy Generation: Developing reliable and scalable power sources to operate energy-intensive systems like directed energy weapons and advanced sensors. This could involve advancements in solar arrays, radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs), or potentially even space-based nuclear reactors (with significant safety and political considerations).

Miniaturization and Integration: Developing smaller, more powerful sensors, processors, and actuators to enable highly capable yet compact defense platforms.

Quantum Computing and Secure Communication: Enhancing data processing speed for real-time threat assessment and developing unhackable communication channels for command and control.

Autonomous Systems and Robotics: Creating highly sophisticated AI and robotic systems capable of operating independently for surveillance, threat identification, and even autonomous defense actions. This is



President Donald J. Trump .

crucial given the vastness of space and the speed of potential threats.

In-Space Manufacturing and Assembly: Potentially enabling the construction and repair of large space structures and platforms directly in orbit, reducing reliance on costly and complex Earth-based launches.

Space-Based Cyber Warfare Capabilities: Developing both defensive and offensive cyber capabilities tailored for the space domain to protect against and potentially deter attacks on satellite systems.

Geopolitical Implications: Reshaping the Space Security Landscape

The deployment of a system as potentially transformative as the Golden Citadel would undoubtedly have profound geopolitical implications, reshaping the dynamics of space security and international relations.

Deterrence: The primary intended effect would likely be deterrence. A credible space-based defense system could discourage potential adversaries from attacking or interfering with U.S. space assets, knowing that such actions would be met with a robust defensive response.

Maintaining Space Superiority: The Golden Citadel could be seen as a means of ensuring U.S. dominance in space, safeguarding its critical military, intelligence, and commercial interests in orbit. This could be a source of both stability and potential tension with other spacefaring nations.

Arms Race Concerns: The development and deployment of such a powerful defensive system could trigger an arms race in space, as other nations seek to develop counter-

measures or their own offensive and defensive capabilities to counter the perceived U.S. advantage. This could lead to a more congested and potentially weaponized space environment.

Transparency and Trust: The highly classified nature surrounding the details of the Golden Citadel could breed suspicion and mistrust among other nations. Transparency regarding its capabilities and limitations would be crucial to mitigating the risk of miscalculation and escalation.

Impact on International Treaties: The development of space-based weapons systems could challenge existing international treaties, such as the Outer Space Treaty, which prohibits the placement of weapons of mass destruction in space. The definition of 'weapons' in this context could become a point of contention.

Economic Implications: The development, deployment, and maintenance of the Golden Citadel would be an incredibly expensive undertaking, requiring significant investment in research, development, manufacturing, and launch capabilities. This would have significant economic implications for the U.S. and potentially for the global economy.

Shifting the Paradigm of Space Warfare: The Golden Citadel could shift the focus of potential conflict in space from offensive attacks to defensive hardening and the development of countermeasures that can evade or neutralize the dome's defenses.

Conclusion: A Vision of Space Security for Make America Great

Again (MAGA)

The concept of a 'Golden Citadel' represents a bold and ambitious vision for ensuring the security of U.S. interests in the increasingly contested domain of space. While the specifics remain shrouded in secrecy, the underlying principle of a layered, technologically advanced defense system draws parallels with terrestrial models while acknowledging the unique challenges and opportunities of the orbital environment.

The realization of such a system would require significant leaps in numerous scientific and engineering fields, pushing the boundaries of what is currently achievable in space technology. Furthermore, its deployment would necessitate careful consideration of the profound geopolitical implications, including the potential for an arms race and the need for international dialogue to ensure a stable and secure space environment for all.

Whether the Golden Citadel ultimately becomes a reality in its envisioned form remains to be seen. However, the very articulation of such an ambitious goal underscores the growing recognition of space as a critical strategic domain and the imperative to develop innovative solutions for safeguarding national interests in this final frontier. The legacy of this vision may well be the acceleration of technological advancements and a renewed focus on the complex challenges of space security in the 21st century.

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Sports >> *Leaders Kenya Police FC and second placed Tusker FC lost their respective Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League matches Wednesday afternoon to hand record champions Gor Mahia advantage.

Advantage Gor As Leaders Police Caged While Tusker Stumble

Leaders Kenya Police FC and second placed Tusker FC lost their respective Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League matches Wednesday afternoon to hand record champions Gor Mahia advantage.

Police were shot down 2-1 by hosts Kakamega Homeboyz to stay on 58 points at the summit, three ahead of Tusker FC who lost 2-0 to Talanta FC at the Dandora Stadium in the capital city.

The result leaves Gor Mahia with advantage having two matches in hand and sitting third on 53 points.

K'Ogalo play bottom side Nairobi City Stars Thursday and a win will propel them to second on the log with 56 points, two behind Police and with a game in hand against AFC Leopards which if they win, will take them at the top of the table for the first time this season with three matches to go before the league ends.

In other Wednesday results, Shabana edged out Bidco United 2-1 at the Gusii Stadium to close in on Gor only one point separating them while the loss for Bidco compounded them at the chop zone on 29 points, three behind Murang'a who are in the safety space after beating Sofapaka 2-0.

At the Ulinzi Sports Complex, the hosts Ulinzi Stars were held to a 1-1 draw by Posta Rangers while Bandari and mara Sugar played to a goalless draw while AFC Leopards registered a 3-1 victory over Mathare United.

Citizen Sport



FC Talanta player Peter Abiola dribbles past Tusker FC's Dennis Ogotu. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.



Tusker and FC Talanta players jostle for space at Dandora Stadium. Photo/RAYMOND MAKHAYA.

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >>> *German referee Felix Zwayer, who once served a ban for alleged involvement in a match-fixing plot, will take charge of next week's all-English Europa League final between Tottenham and Manchester United

German Referee Who Served Ban To Officiate Tottenham V Man United Europa Final



German referee Felix Zwayer took charge of the 2023 Nations League final

German referee Felix Zwayer, who once served a ban for alleged involvement in a match-fixing plot, will take charge of next week's all-English Europa League final between Tottenham and Manchester United. Zwayer, now 43, was given a six-month suspension in 2006 after he was investigated for taking a KSh 43,000 (£250) bribe from official Robert Hoyzer, who was subsequently handed a life ban. It emerged that Zwayer, who has denied wrongdoing, was one of the officials to notify the author-

ities of Hoyzer's match-fixing scheme and his relatively short ban was recognition of that. Since the ban was imposed, Zwayer has become one of Europe's leading referees and officiated in Arsenal's Champions League semi-final second leg defeat by Paris St-Germain last Wednesday. Zwayer also took charge of England's European Championship semi-final victory over the Netherlands last summer. When England and Real Madrid star Jude Bellingham played for

Borussia Dortmund, the midfielder was fined 40,000 euros (£34,000) in 2021 for criticising Zwayer by making a reference to his ban. The Europa League final will be played in Bilbao on Wednesday, 21 May. Bosnian Irfan Peljto will referee Chelsea's Conference League final against Real Betis on 28 May in Wroclaw, Poland. Romanian Istvan Kovacs will take charge of the Champions League final between PSG and Inter Milan on 31 May in Munich,

Germany. **BBC**

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Mt Kenya Times



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Raising Female Gender



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Worth Noting:

“Ladies are those who have attained the age of 18 years and above and can be accountable to their movements and actions. They tend to be in colleges or campuses pursuing courses of their interest rarely meet with their families due to educational demands.”

A lady can gain or lose reputation depending on how they handle themselves or treated by others; this starts from how you carry yourself personally and then it can extend to the those who surround you. How many have wondered about what people say about them?

Roses blossoms when they receive enough water while when reciprocal implies they can wilt. This means being a female comes with a lot of opportunities as well as misfortunes and regardless of your current situation you should be mindful and tackle any problem which comes your way. Now that's being the big question what do you think?

Girls are under-age children who are still under parental care, raised in different acoustics in the presence of cultural beliefs such as early marriages, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), gender-based violence, limited educational opportunities, limited economic chances, negative rituals and beliefs among others. All these factors are 100% affect the young souls and some deter them from achieving their goals. Through my research these are some of the solutions :

Parents or guardians can offer psychosocial support to Equip girls with confidence, self-awareness, and resilience through mentorship programs, safe spaces, and school-based guidance. Educate them about rights and self-identity to teach them from an early age that they have value beyond traditional gender roles. Make them know and meet role models to expose them to women leaders and local success stories helps shift mindsets.

Ladies are those who have attained the age of 18 years and above and can be accountable to their movements and actions. They tend to be in colleges or campuses pursuing courses of their interest rarely meet with their families due to educational demands. Yes, they are still daddy's and mummy's children but not fully in their presence. This group faces a lot of challenges naturing to maturity and gets them ready to face the real world.

Sexual Harassment which they face from their peers, faculty, or



strangers on or around campus. Academic Pressure and Mental Health Struggles where they try to Juggle academics, part-time work, and sometimes family responsibilities, performance anxiety, depression, and burnout. Low self-esteem and peer pressure trying to fit in socially, dress a certain way, or act a certain role, body image issues fuelled by social media. Financial constraints struggling to afford tuition, accommodation, or materials, escorting to harmful relationships for financial support (“sugar daddies”) leading to high cases of dropouts, unwanted pregnancies, femicide issues among others

Remedies for this case includes: Strict Campus Policies & Reporting Mechanisms to establish clear

anti-harassment policies and visible reporting structures. Set up anonymous reporting platforms and victim protection programs. Awareness Campaigns such conduct regular workShops on consent, boundaries, and respectful behaviour for all students and staff. On-campus or partner safe houses for those at risk. Security Measures to improve campus lighting, install security cameras, and offer 24/7 shuttle or escort services.

The challenges faced by young women in college from sexual harassment and academic stress to low self-esteem and financial pressure are deeply complex and interconnected. However, parents have a powerful role to play in shaping outcomes. Through open communi-

cation, emotional support, financial planning, value-based guidance, and active involvement, parents can create a foundation of security, confidence, and resilience for their daughters.

When parents listen without judgment, prepare their daughters for real-world risks, and affirm their worth regardless of performance or appearance, they not only help prevent harm they also empower their daughters to rise above adversity and become confident, respected, and successful women in society.

A supported girl becomes a strong woman. A strong woman uplifts families, communities, and nations. It starts at home.