

Private Sector

VS

Public Sector

The Performance Divide: Public Vs. Private Sector in Namibia

The disparity between public and private sector performance is a global phenomenon, with Namibia being no exception. While government institutions are tasked with providing essential services, they often struggle with inefficiency, resource constraints, and bureaucratic hurdles.

Page 18

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Daily ePAPER

Friday, May 23, 2025

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News>> Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo Declares Candidature for JSC Post, Vows to Champion Judicial Officers' Welfare

P. 8. Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo has officially declared her candidature for the position of JSC representative, citing the urgent need for improved welfare and working conditions for judicial officers.



News>> Mathira Villagers Ambitious 100k Fruit Trees Planting Bid

P. 12. In an effort to mitigate the negative effects of climate change residents of Ngandu location in Mathira have embarked on fruit trees planting campaign.

Only One Family Moved Into Mukuru's Affordable Houses

Just two days after President William Ruto officially handed over more than 1,000 government-built housing units to residents of Mukuru kwa Njenga, only one family has moved in.

This has raised questions about the whereabouts and eligibility of the remaining beneficiaries. The government insists that the official move-in date is June 1, 2025. The board in charge of the project has dismissed claims that some of the listed beneficiaries are not genuine residents of Mukuru.



President William Ruto during the official hand over ceremony of 1,080 housing units at Mukuru Kwa Njenga in Nairobi on May 20, 2025. PHOTO | PCS

STORY ON PAGE 9



The NEW Democrats

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Noo Wanguku



Karua Writes To AU Over Detention And Torture Of Activists Boniface Mwangi, Agather Atuhaire In Tanzania

By: Brian Kimani
@themtkenyentimes

People's Liberation Party (PLP) leader Martha Karua has written to various continental organisations, demanding immediate action from Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu's administration regarding the detention and torture of human rights activists Boniface Mwangi and Uganda's Agather Atuhaire.

In a letter addressed to the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, Karua explained that detaining the duo breached the international human rights standards and sets a precedent for democratic values in the region.

According to Karua, the activists were part of a delegation of East African observers in Tanzania to follow the trial against opposition leader Tundu Lissu, but upon arrival, they were arrested and held incommunicado by authorities.

"The detention of Mwangi and Atuhire was preceded by the deportation of six other International Trial Observers who included a former Chief Justice, former Minister of Justice and a member of the Law Society of Kenya Council who had arrived at Julius Nyerere International Airport on the same mission," Karua explained while recalling the Monday, May 19 incident.

Karua listed ten demands to the continental bodies and international partners to mitigate the issue, calling for the organisations to issue formal diplomatic notes to the Tanzanian government requesting clarification on Atuhaire's whereabouts.

Other demands include:

- Activate your human rights monitoring mechanisms and request permission and raise an inquiry on allegations of illegal detention and torture.
- Raise this matter in bilateral discussions with Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, emphasizing the importance of transparency and adherence to legal procedures.
- Coordinate a joint diplomatic statement expressing concern about the forced disappearances and deportation of East African citizens, calling for immedi-



A photo collage of Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu and People's Liberation Party (PLP) leader Martha Karua. PHOTOS | COURTESY

ate resolution.

- Engage with the East African Community Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting addressing this breach of regional protocols on human rights and the rule of law.
- Deploy diplomatic observers to attend any court proceedings related to these cases, should the activists reappear in the judicial system.
- Review bilateral assistance programs with relevant governments, with consideration of human rights compliance conditions.
- Facilitate international legal expertise to support local human rights defenders working on these cases.
- Invoke applicable international hu-

man rights mechanisms, including UN Special Procedures and regional human rights bodies.

- Maintain public diplomacy that reinforces the importance of human rights and just governance as cornerstones of international relations in the region.

Karua, who wrote the letter in her capacity as the convener of the Pan African Progressive Leaders' Solidarity Network, appealed to the continental bodies to respond within 72 hours.

"This situation represents not only a humanitarian concern for the individuals involved but also a troubling indicator of deteriorating human rights and justice standards within the East African Community. Your diplomatic influence is cru-

cial in ensuring that member states uphold their commitments to human rights and the rule of law," she said.

The development comes after Mwangi appeared for the first time in public on Thursday, where he claimed that the Tanzanian authorities subjected him to torture for nearly a week.

"I have gone through four very dark days, I have been tortured very badly, I can barely walk," he stated.

"But I am very concerned about Agather because we were tortured together, and they did very horrible things to us. So, I hope Agather is safe."

Worth Noting:

- According to Karua, the activists were part of a delegation of East African observers in Tanzania to follow the trial against opposition leader Tundu Lissu, but upon arrival, they were arrested and held incommunicado by authorities.

- "The detention of Mwangi and Atuhire was preceded by the deportation of six other International Trial Observers who included a former Chief Justice, former Minister of Justice and a member of the Law Society of Kenya Council who had arrived at Julius Nyerere International Airport on the same mission," Karua explained while recalling the Monday, May 19 incident.

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times



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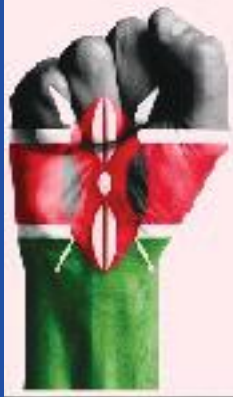
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‘I’m Prepared To Put My Name On The Line’: Ruto Unmoved By Critics Of Sugar Company Leases

By: Laura Otieno
 @themkenyatimes

President William Ruto has said that no revisions will be undertaken on the leasing of four sugar mills, accusing a section of leaders of politicising the process.

Speaking at State House, Nairobi, the President said he had dismantled what he said were cartels holding the country’s sugar sector hostage, taking pride in reviving the sector.

However, a recent report has projected a decline in sugar production over the next year due to reduced yields of cane.

“Kuna viongozi wanataka kuweka watu katika umaskini. Unaona mtu anenda kupinga ati factory ya sukari should not be leased,” Ruto stated.

“Some leaders I do not understand. You need to be humane. How do you want people to remain in poverty? I

am prepared to put my name on the line because I know we are doing the right thing.”

However, the latest report by the US Department of Agriculture projects a dip in local production of sugar for the year 2025/2026.

The report released in April shows that Kenya will produce an estimated 650,000 metric tonnes, signifying a 19.8% decline compared to 2024.

The dip is attributed to the projected decline in the area of cane harvested due to over-harvesting in 2024, which had been preceded by prolonged drought. The President, however, vowed to steady the ship.

“Hii sukari tumekuwa tuki-import for the last 40 years. This year we imported the least. Next year, pengine by 2027, we will not be importing sugar to Kenya. Already, we have an additional 2,000 acres of land planted under sugarcane,” Ruto added.

Kenya’s annual sugar demand stands at 1.1 million tonnes. In 2024, the country produced 832,000 metric



President William Ruto speaking at Uhuru Gardens Stadium, Nairobi, during this year’s Labour Day celebrations on May 1, 2025. PHOTO | PCS

tonnes, covering the deficit through imports.

Kenya’s current safeguard on sugar

imports expires in November 2025, prompting the reforms to cushion

Kenyans from paying higher prices

for the sweetener.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Yesterday, a significant milestone in digital safety for children was marked at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development as PS State Department for Child Welfare Services CPA Carren Agen’go launched Safe Online a guidebook for children on safe internet usage. The launch underscored the growing need to equip children with the knowledge to navigate the digital world responsibly. Despite the advantages of the digital world, Safe Online offers guidance on issues like cyberbullying, online predators, data privacy, and healthy screen habits. PS Carren urged parents and caregivers to emphasize the importance of integrating digital safety. Our children are growing up in a world where the internet is part of everyday life, and it is our duty to empower them to use it wisely and safely. With this launch, Kenya takes a strong step forward in safeguarding its youngest digital citizens, ensuring that as technology evolves, so does their protection and awareness. In attendance were: Barak Malika (Child Guest, Governor Nairobi-KCA); Martha Sunda (Executive Director, ChildLine Kenya); Mr. Patrick Muriithi (representing the Executive Director, Life Skills Promoters); Ms. Beatrice Mutheu (representing Child Protection and Advocacy Manager, ChildFund); Stakeholders and Senior Government officers.



The Principal Secretary for Irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho, accompanied by the Secretary for Land Reclamation, Climate Resilience, and Irrigation Water Management, Mr. Joel Tanui visited Sarpau Farm in Ngorengore, Narok South. Sarpau Farm, a privately owned agricultural enterprise, showcases high-impact production investments driven by advanced agronomic practices. These methods have demonstrated the potential to significantly enhance food security, achieving impressive yields of up to 40 bags per acre. The State Department for Irrigation is keen to replicate such successful models across irrigation projects in Kenya. The goal is to scale up food production by integrating similar practices, particularly through the National Irrigation Sector Investment Programme (NISIP). This approach aligns with the Department’s strategy to promote commercially oriented irrigation initiatives through corporate agribusiness models either independently by private investors or in partnership with government and local communities.



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DP Kindiki: Our Country's Peace And Unity Is Not Negotiable

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- We will protect the unity and stability of our country at all costs. The unity of our country is the first and most important duty," DP stated.
- He spoke yesterday during Empowerment Forum for Small-Scale Traders at Etago, South Mugirango, Kisii County, where he reiterated that holding a different opinion and choice is never a source of enmity as it is guaranteed in the Constitution.
- "Divergence in political persuasions and beliefs should not undermine the unity of this country. We are one country, one people, and Kenya is our home,

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has said the government will not allow the country to descend into election-related violence, assuring Kenyans that what happened in 2007 will never recur.

The DP said the nation's unity and stability will be protected at all costs saying there will be no space for one Kenyan to harm the other for their political choices again.

"We will not allow one Kenyan to turn on another Kenyan because of political choices. It will never happen again.

We will protect the unity and stability of our country at all costs. The unity of our country is the first and most important duty," DP stated.

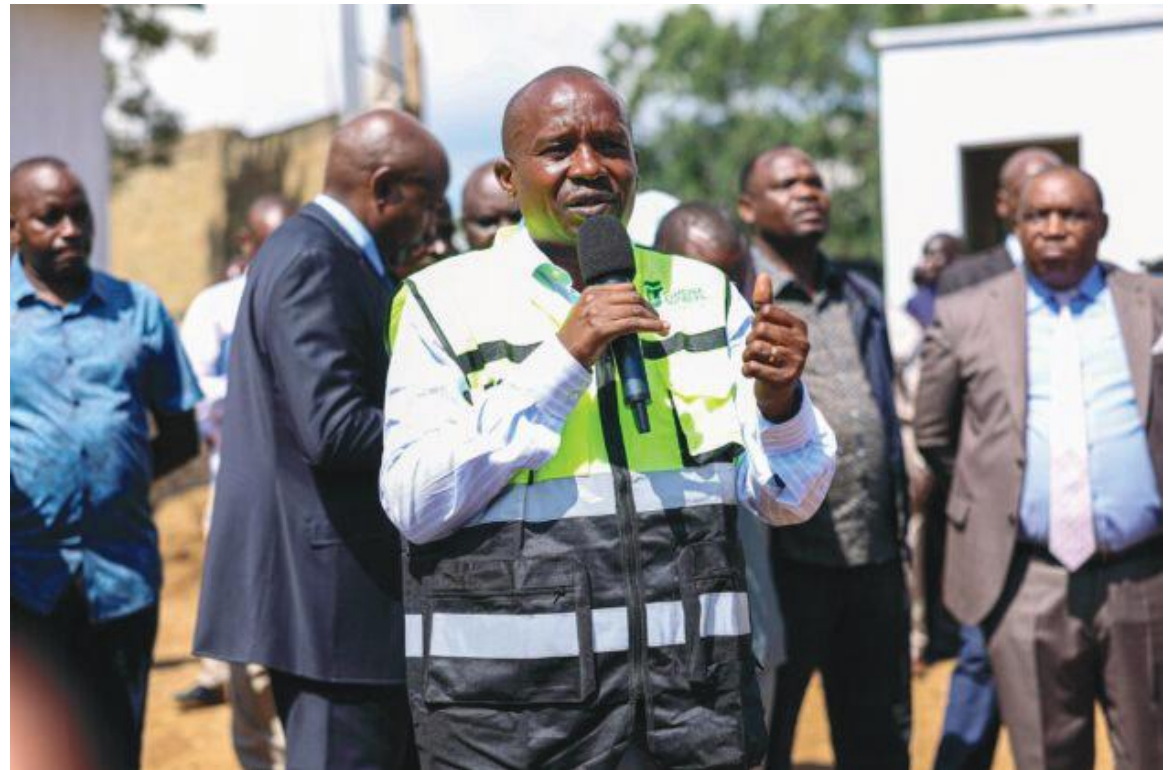
He spoke yesterday during Empowerment Forum for Small-Scale Traders at Etago, South Mugirango, Kisii County, where he reiterated that holding a different opinion and choice is never a source of enmity as it is guaranteed in the Constitution.

"Divergence in political persuasions and beliefs should not undermine the unity of this country. We are one country, one people, and Kenya is our home,

I strongly believe in the unity of all communities, every Kenyan young and old, because every one of them can make a contribution to the nation's wellbeing," he added.

While calling on Kenyans to desist from premature politics, the Deputy President said the government is rolling out key development programs across the country geared at bettering the lives of Kenyans.

"It is unacceptable to engage in premature politics instead of serving the people. It is time to serve the people, find solutions to their challenges, and



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

coexist in peace and unity because we are one country, one nation, and Kenya is our only home," he urged.

In Kisii, the government is constructing 21 modern markets to provide decent places for mama mboga and other small-scale traders to do their businesses.

It has also revived road projects that had stalled due to financial constraints.

The empowerment programs spearheaded by the Deputy President are meant to boost small and medium enterprises in a bid to guarantee expansion and growth and attract more returns.

"We are engaging the small-scale traders right now in order to boost

their businesses as opposed to waiting for the electioneering period to offer them freebies in exchange for their support. As a government, we are not going to be party to such trickery. We are walking with them, supporting them now because the growth of their businesses contributes to the nation's economic expansion," he explained.

This is on top of the new empowerment program, National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA), initiated by the government and targets boosting SMEs with capital to enhance their hustles.

NYOTA initiative will see at least 70 small and medium businesses in every ward across the country benefit from

Sh50, 000 in grants.

"This government has embraced everyone, those who supported us or not because we want everyone to be part of the development agenda. We have no time for sideshows and petty engagements. We are focused on development and empowerment," DP said.

The DP told the residents the Ruto administration has stabilized the economy and it has begun to bear fruits including an increase in prices for commodities within the agricultural value chains such as milk, tea, coffee and sugar among others.

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Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo Declares Candidature for JSC Post, Vows to Champion Judicial Officers' Welfare

By: MKT Correspondents
 @themkenyatices

Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo has officially declared her candidature for the position of Judicial Service Commission (JSC) representative, citing the urgent need for improved welfare and working conditions for judicial officers.

In a heartfelt statement addressed to her colleagues and friends, Hon Atambo reflected on her earlier bid for the same position four years ago, expressing gratitude for the overwhelming support she received at the time, even though the outcome was not in her favor.

"I remain in awe of the support you showed me, and I sincerely thank you for your continued commitment to a stronger, more responsive JSC," she stated.

Atambo's renewed campaign centers on addressing the persistent and worsening challenges facing judicial officers, including financial constraints, workplace insecurity, and what she describes as systemic neglect.

"The life of a judicial officer has become more difficult than we had ever anticipated," she said. "We are now

surviving by the grace of God."

Highlighting the dangers facing judicial officers, Atambo condemned recent incidents of violence, including the shooting of judicial staff in open court.

"These tragedies are a result of inaction, neglect, and disinterest on the part of some. The memories are unbearable," she noted.

Atambo also pointed to the economic struggles faced by many in the Judiciary, citing stagnating salaries, punitive deductions, and the government's failure to implement favorable court orders.

"Car grants have been forgotten. Many officers are left to rely on public transport—becoming the laughing stock in a country where our contributions to public service are enormous," she said.

Furthermore, she criticized the lack of transparency in the judicial appointment process, alleging that deserving candidates have been repeatedly overlooked without explanation.

"The interview process for judgeship has sadly become an arena for embarrassment rather than recognition of merit," she said.

Despite these challenges, Atambo remains hopeful and resolute.

She emphasized the need for urgent change and called on her colleagues to rally behind her candidacy.



Chief Magistrate Stella Atambo

"Many of you have reached out, and I have heard your cries. We cannot continue on this path and expect different results," she said. "With your support, we can move our issues forward—firmly and urgently."

Promising a leadership style rooted in accountability, inclusivity, and action, Atambo pledged to be a

representative who listens, acts, and delivers.

"I will not give excuses. I will not abandon you. I give you my word: I will represent all of us, collectively and individually," she affirmed.

As the JSC elections approach, Atambo is calling for prayers, support, and votes from her colleagues across

the Judiciary.

She concludes with a powerful message of unity and responsibility:

"This is my promise. Please, hold me to account."

14 Arrested For Obstructing EACC Officers At Governor Natembeya's Residence

By: Margaret Kalekye
 @themkenyatices

14 suspects have been arrested in connection with alleged malicious damage and theft during a raid at the residence of the Trans Nzoia County Governor, George Natembeya, by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) Thursday evening reported significant progress in investigations into the chaotic scenes in which EACC officers were unlawfully obstructed while performing their official duties.

"The multi-agency team comprising local law enforcement officers in Trans Nzoia West, augmented by detectives from DCI Headquarters Op-

erations Unit, conducted an operation that led to the arrest of 14 suspects connected to acts of malicious damage and stealing at the residence of Trans Nzoia County Governor", the detectives said in a statement.

They disclosed that a manhunt is currently underway for additional suspects, including financiers, facilitators, and ringleaders behind the Tuesday incident.

The Commission has since condemned the violence allegedly directed at its officers and the destruction of their vehicles by a group of angry residents who attacked a contingent of armed EACC and police officers who raided Governor Natembeya's home.

The arrested suspects are Leon Ikua, Brian Mutonyi, James Maina, Churchill Ambula, Chirispus Kingara, Joseph Kakanja, Daniel Kanyingi, Levy Kiprotich, John Kamau, Ben-



A manhunt is currently underway for additional suspects, including financiers, facilitators, and ringleaders.

jamin Bukhala, Lavingtone Kipkemboi, Isaac Nyongesa Wanyonyi

Wasike, Tonny Wafula Wasike and Ismael Juma.

They have all been taken into custody pending arraignment.

Questions As Only One Family Moves Into Mukuru's Affordable Houses

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Just two days after President William Ruto officially handed over more than 1,000 government-built housing units to residents of Mukuru kwa Njenga, only one family has moved in.

This has raised questions about the whereabouts and eligibility of the remaining beneficiaries. The government insists that the official move-in date is June 1, 2025.

The board in charge of the project has dismissed claims that some of the listed beneficiaries are not genuine residents of Mukuru.

Of the 1,080 completed units, only one is currently occupied, as the rest remain locked and untouched. and their new doors are still sealed with

padlocks.

The lone occupant, Jerusha Muthoni, is enjoying a swift transition from life in the informal settlements to the comfort of her new home — a privilege that, for now, remains out of reach for her fellow beneficiaries.

Her move-in has stirred questions: Where are the remaining 1,079 beneficiaries?

“Officially, we had set up that they will move in from 1st June, but they can move in as they wish,” Shila Waweru, acting CEO – Affordable Housing Board, stated.

The Affordable Housing Board says the delay has been occasioned by the ongoing installation of essential utilities and services, maintaining that June 1st remains the official move-in date.

Meanwhile, some residents have raised concerns, alleging that several new homeowners are not origi-



nal Mukuru dwellers, but outsiders brought in from other areas — claims the Housing Board has firmly dismissed.

The housing units are part of the ambitious New Mukuru Housing Estate project, set to deliver 13,248 homes, making it one of the largest afford-

able housing initiatives in Kenya's history.

State Asked To Introduce Wildlife Feeding Programme To Curb Human-Wildlife Conflict

By: Wangari Mwangi and Brian Mwangi
@themtkenyetimes

curbing human-wildlife conflict resulting from invasion of wild animals into agricultural farms in search of pasture.

The residents who included farmers who border the Aberdare National Park, Solio Ranch and Hombe forest, have argued that while little effort is being spared in rehabilitating degraded forests, similar effort should be made to ensure that the wildlife do not leave their protected area in search of food.

They now want the Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism and the Kenya Wildlife Service to consider planting food in the forests and national parks as a way of ensuring that the wildlife is contained in their restricted areas.

“Everyone is currently working hard to plant trees in the forests but I have yet to come across any initiative calling on Kenyans to plant fruit trees or any food in our forests or game reserves for the sake of our wildlife.

This is something that should be urgently considered because when these animals invade our homes or farms, they do so in search of food,

so we must start to think of ways of giving them food if we want to reduce incidents of human-wildlife conflict,” said Moses Ndegwa a resident of Ruring’u.

To further control the increasing cases of invasions by birds and monkeys in their farms, the residents have also challenged the Ministry of Wildlife to consider classifying monkey meat as bush meat. They argued that since the government doesn't compensate farmers for damages caused when monkeys destroy their crops, farmers should be allowed to trap and eat monkeys after seeking approval from county veterinary doctors.

Additionally, they asked stakeholders in the wildlife sector to also introduce a breeding control mechanism to moderate the ballooning number of monkeys in the country.

“Many farmers now view monkeys and some birds such as the guinea fowl as our enemy because of the trail destruction they leave behind when they invade our farms. Perhaps the government through the relevant wildlife agencies could introduce a breeding mechanism for wildlife to control their numbers,” stated Mwendu Ndote, a farmer from Kiganjo.

The residents spoke during a public participation session on the Wildlife



Conservation and Management Bill of 2025 at the Nyeri Town Constituency Development Fund Hall in Ruring’u.

According to the Head of Legal Affairs at the State Department for Wildlife, Paul Ojwang, the Bill seeks to address 15 key areas among them management of human-wildlife conflict cases and benefit sharing mechanism between the two levels

of government and the communities residing near national parks.

Ojwang also said that the State Department is also hoping to introduce reforms which will modernize the governance of the wildlife industry by incorporating emerging trends into the proposed law.

Other proposals that the residents would like incorporated in the proposed Bill include establishment of

a special compensation scheme for wildlife rehabilitators who care for abandoned or injured wildlife. They also want the government to compel individuals who undertake mining or quarrying activities in National Parks or Game Reserves to be compelled to restore and rehabilitate the protected areas.

Amani Kwa Wote: Let's Pray For The Country, The Presidency

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

A peace oriented organisation has called on Kenyans to dedicate special prayers for the country.

Amani Kwa Wote Association says the country is currently at crossroads and the only remaining remedy is citizens coming out together for all purposes and intentions.

The Amani Kwa Wote Association chairman Paul Julius Mwati Kariuki says the leaders as well as the public must change the trend for prosperity.

The association urged the leaders to be cautious on what they say in public as it would have serious implications in future.

The chairman urged Kenyans to equate the ongoings in the country with the Bible revelations where Saul became the best apostle after he was converted

WaMwati who has been spearheading peace mission in the mountain region

and beyond urged political and religious leaders to ensure they preached peace and unity in the country.

WaMwati said the current administration could have performed below the Kenyans expectations but called on the citizens to prefer according them another chance. "People had higher expectations, but not withstanding, we need to evaluate the performance and give them a second chance," he said.

"The best we can do is to preach unity and pray for our leaders," he said, adding that it would be out of order for such leaders to incite the public.

WaMwati who has been on peace mission since the days of President Daniel Moi urged Kenyans to harmoniously live in peace and avoid conflicts that could be detrimental to their peace of the country.

To parents, he said, "please know and let others know that whatever you say is being listened by others, including the children and it might have far reaching implications to them in future.



Amani Kwa Wote Association chairman Paul Julius Mwati Kariuki addressing a past forum.

The Mt. Kenya Times



We Have No Money to Pay UHC Medics,” COG Health Chairperson Njuki Maintains

By: Alex Njeru
 @themtkenyatimes

The Council of Governors (COG) Health Committee Chairperson and Tharaka-Nithi Governor, Muthomi Njuki, has firmly stated that county governments are unable to absorb the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) staff unless the national government significantly boosts their equitable share allocations.

Speaking during an inspection tour of Marimanti Level 4 Hospital in Tharaka-Nithi County on Thursday, Njuki responded to recent directives by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, who announced plans to transfer the UHC staff payroll from the national to county governments.

“We simply don’t have the money to pay these medics. You cannot transfer a problem from one level of government to another and expect it to disappear. The government is

one—either pay the bills first or dismiss the staff constitutionally, then allow counties to rehire them based on need,” Njuki said.

He revealed that over 8,700 UHC staff across the country were hired in 2020 under a rapid results initiative aimed at bolstering the healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the governor, the workers agreed to take home only one-third of the standard salary for their job group, with the promise of top-up pay from the national government—an agreement that remains unfulfilled.

With UHC staff currently on strike demanding permanent and pensionable terms, Njuki questioned the rationale behind transferring disgruntled and unpaid staff to county payrolls. “How can you transfer striking medical staff to counties when their issues remain unresolved? The national government collects taxes; it should also shoulder the responsibility of hiring and remunerating these doctors just as it does for others in

similar job groups,” he added.

Tharaka-Nithi County, which currently has 219 UHC staff on strike for the third consecutive month, remains critically understaffed, Njuki noted. Nonetheless, he reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to maintaining healthcare standards and supporting existing county health workers.

During the tour, Governor Njuki announced ongoing promotions for doctors, nurses, and clinical officers in the county and revealed that construction of a new female and paediatric wing at Marimanti Level 4 Hospital was underway.

“One of the biggest challenges we face is a lack of specialists and adequate staffing. We will prioritize hiring in the next budget and I’ve instructed the Department of Medical Services to allocate a special budget for upgrading medical equipment in this facility,” he stated.

Njuki also inspected Magutuni Sub-county Hospital in Maara Constituency and Chuka County Referral



Tharaka Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki (with mic) at Marimanti Level Four Hospital in Tharaka constituency. Photo/Alex Njeru

Hospital in Chuka/Igambang’ombe Constituency, where he assessed service delivery and engaged staff.

He called on residents to register with the Social Health Authority

(SHA) to access improved healthcare services, promising that his government remains dedicated to delivering quality health services despite the challenges.

Administrative Assistants Trained On Information Security To Sustain Cyber Readiness

By: Jacqueline Adyang
 @themtkenyatimes

The Government has concluded a sensitization workshop aimed at equipping Administrative Assistants with skills in information security, as part of efforts to sustain accountability and enhance service delivery in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The four-day training brought together 40 officers drawn from the Office of Head of the Public Service.

Held under the theme “Strengthening Information Security for Operational Efficiency,” the workshop sought to boost cyber readiness and improve secure data management within the public service.

Participants were taken through key areas including secure data handling, the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, and proper protocols for managing sensitive government records. The training also addressed emerging threats in records and information

management, offering practical tools to mitigate risks such as unauthorized access, data breaches, and the mishandling of official documents.

The initiative is part of broader government efforts to reinforce institutional cybersecurity frameworks and respond to increasing threats to data integrity across the public sector.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Head of the Information and Communication Unit in the Office of Head of the Public Service, Mr. Victor Mulinge, underscored the critical role of front office staff in safeguarding government operations.

“This training marks a significant step in enhancing the security posture of our office. Administrative Assistants are the backbone of information flow in government, and empowering them is crucial to building a secure and responsive public service,” said Mr. Mulinge.

He also emphasized the link between information security and good governance. “Good governance thrives where information is well-managed and protected. When frontline offi-



cers understand their role in maintaining confidentiality and data integrity, we create a foundation of trust, transparency, and accountability in government operations,” he added.

The workshop also promoted a culture of security awareness and encouraged collaboration and the

exchange of best practices among the participants. Mr. Mulinge further affirmed the government’s commitment to continue capacity building and expert support to ensure officers in frontline roles are well-prepared to protect public information.

As the government accelerates its

digital transformation agenda, such initiatives remain central to promoting accountability, professionalism, and integrity in public service delivery.

Mathira Villagers Ambitious 100k Fruit Trees Planting Bid

By: Charles Kinyua
@themkenyatimes

In an effort to mitigate the negative effects of climate change residents of Ngandu location in Mathira have embarked on fruit trees planting campaign.

The residents have partnered with an international logistics company to actualise the 10,000 fruit trees bid that will also involve the seven schools in the area.

HAE Group that has its headquarters in London and operates in 45 countries worldwide has kicked off the programme by providing Over 2000 avocado, macadamia and pixie orange seedlings that over 200 farmers have already planted.

The project was initiated by the company's executive assistant Ilona Dane after she was approached by one of the staff members, Catherine Njoki Miriri who works in the company's Nairobi office and comes from Gituri village in the location.

Ilona personally kicked off the project and distributed the tree seedlings during her vacation one and a half months ago.

The company's country manager for Kenya, Peter Kimani Njambi said that the company is intent on mitigating on negative effects of climate change as part of their corporate social responsibility and ensure farmers get both fruit and other trees.

In a ceremony at Kanyama village in Ngandu location in Mathira constituency Njambi said that in view of the fact that part of their courier service the airfreighted over a million tonnes of fruits last year, it would be prudent to ensure that farmers produce more which by extension would improve their business in future.

During the ceremony 2000 cypress and silk oak tree seedlings were distributed to schools where the company workers present assisted in planting over 200 in the nearby Kanyama secondary school.

Njambi assured the villagers that the company would walk the whole stretch to actualise their vision and later extend to the rest of the constituency and even county.

During her visit Ilona extensively toured the county and witnessed firsthand environmental degradation that has some water catchment areas.

In Othaya constituency, she moved around the 260 acre Karima Hill forest where the residents told her that over 15 of the 22 streams that emanate from the hill have dried up after wanton deforestation of indigenous trees in the last four decades.

According to the residents at least 10,000 tree seedlings would be needed to reforest the hill for the benefit of future generations.

The situation was not very different at the Tumutumu hill in Mathira



HAE country manager Peter Njambi (3rd left) joins students of Kanyama secondary school in a tree planting exercise in the school.

where indigenous trees have been clandestine harvested and sold to furniture makers.

Back to fruit trees, Ilona urged the residents to supplement their coffee farming that is the mainstay of their economy with varied fruit trees.

"Fruit trees are economically and socially beneficial as they produce food, money and enhance the environment," she advised.

She further noted that most of the fruit trees are not very labour intensive and can be farmed even by elderly farmers and who indeed need the trees' produce even more.

The government has also lauded project organisers and their sponsors Ana urged other stake holders to come on board.

"Any institution or individual play-

ing a positive role in actualising the government's dream of planting 25 billion trees by 3032 is highly welcome," assured Kirimukuyu assistant county commissioner Zipporah Gatimu.

The administrator further noted that the success of such a project would lessen the unemployment menace that the country is grappling with.

Area chief Patrick Ngunjiri urged the company to avail more seedlings to forestall theft by those that may be needing but not gotten any.

In answering his plea, Njambi said that it is after realising the huge demand that they decided to have a local nursery to prepare the seedlings.

The tree nursery was commissioned with over 1000 avocado seeds prepared and will be grafted sometime

later.

Nyeri county has the highest tree cover at 47percent but according to environment conservationist, degradation is happening extremely fast and should be arrested.

It is estimated that at least 5 percent of the tree cover has been depleted in the recent past.

At the same time uptake of fruit farming has risen at very high levels due to the good prices especially in the export market.

If and when the production of the 100,000 seedlings is actualised, the residents may have to turn it into a commercial venture as they not have enough land to plant all as they have other plants such as coffee livestock fodder and subsistence crops such as maize and beans.



Ngandu location chief Patrick Ngunjiri addressing residents during the launch of 100,000 fruit tree nursery sponsored by HAE Group.

Worth Noting:

- During her visit Ilona extensively toured the county and witnessed firsthand environmental degradation that has some water catchment areas.
- In Othaya constituency, she moved around the 260 acre Karima Hill forest where the residents told her that over 15 of the 22 streams that emanate from the hill have dried up after wanton deforestation of indigenous trees in the last four decades.
- According to the residents at least 10,000 tree seedlings would be needed to reforest the hill for the benefit of future generations.
- The situation was not very different at the Tumutumu hill in Mathira where indigenous trees have been clandestine harvested and sold to furniture makers.

Govt Partnering With Private Sector To Set Up Sh5.8bn Kenya Gold Refinery

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki says the government through the National Mining Corporation is partnering with the private sector to set up a Sh5.8bn Kenya Gold Refinery.

Speaking in Kakamega, the deputy president indicated that the project is a first of its kind in the Country.

He pointed out that the National Government through the National Treasury is an equity partner in the factory.

The County Government of Kakamega has provided the land on which the factory is being built. The Gold Refinery is 65% complete," he stated.

He indicated that the construction of the essential phase 1 components

will be complete by August 31, followed by the installation of equipment and actual operationalization by May 2026.

He explained that the factory will offtake gold from artisanal miners, provide jobs to the local community and pay royalties to the local community, the County Government of Kakamega and the National Government.



Government Moves To Deregister Fraudulent Overseas Recruitment Agencies

By: KBC Digital

Principal Secretary for the State Department for Labour and Skills Development, Shadrack Mwandime, has reaffirmed the government's dedication to reforming the overseas job recruitment industry to eliminate unscrupulous agencies.

Speaking yesterday during a graduation ceremony for 24 divers from Kerio Valley who completed rigorous training at Bandari Maritime Academy, the PS acknowledged the challenges faced by job seekers, noting that they have received numerous complaints from young people who have fallen victim to deceitful agencies.

"It is our responsibility as a government to clean up this sector. While local job opportunities may be scarce, there are prospects abroad," he stated.

Mwandime pledged to continue the process of deregistering fraudulent agencies that exploit and deceive unsuspecting Kenyans seeking employment abroad under false pretences.

"To our youth, before you hand over your hard-earned money to any agency, please check the National Employment Authority website. Agencies marked in red are questionable and should be avoided, even if they advertise in print or on social media," he advised.

"Conversely, those listed in black are legitimate. We acknowledge the challenges that exist; we encounter them daily. However, the government is intensifying its efforts because we understand that if we do not seek job opportunities for our youth, we will not fulfil the mandate for which we were elected," he added.

He reiterated the government's commitment to regulating the industry, promising that anyone who has been cheated by these agencies will be reimbursed and that the offenders will be brought to justice.

"Yes, we recognize that many Kenyans are in desperate situations, but we cannot allow them to be taken advantage of," the PS emphasised.

Mwandime clarified that the government's role is to facilitate the recruitment of Kenyans for overseas work by bringing together recruitment agencies. He explained that the economy is driven by the private sector, and the government does not have an agency that directly recruits young people for jobs abroad.

"We rely on private recruitment agencies. It's important to clarify this because there is often misinformation. Our role is purely facilitative," he stated.

These remarks come just days after Amnesty International released a comprehensive report titled "Locked In, Left Out: The Hidden Lives of Kenyan Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia." The report highlights the experiences of



over 70 women who previously worked as domestic workers in the Gulf nation.

The report urged the government to ensure that its bilateral labour agreement with Saudi Arabia is rights-based and includes clear protections for domestic workers.

These protections should align with international standards and address critical areas such as ethical recruitment, the employer-pays principle, working and

living conditions, fair wages, non-discrimination, dispute resolution, and access to justice.

To enhance job opportunities in the maritime sector, PS Mwandime announced that the State Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs is collaborating with the State Department of Immigration to develop strategies for the efficient issuance of Seafarer's Identification Documents (SID).

This essential travel document allows seafarers to board vessels for shore leave, transit, transfer, or repatriation in various countries.

"Rest assured, there are positive developments underway. We are working on solutions, and soon, seafarers will receive their documents," the PS assured.

My Literary Portrait



I read poetry
until morning
Meeting, love, sweet sadness.
In front of my eyes are bad legs,
Discreased helpfull grasses.
I read poetry
of songbirds
About free flight.
Afghan birds in front of my eyes,
It passes away in a withered tree.
I read poetry
my grandfather Alpomish!
I swear, we are the sons of the Alps!
There is no Kuntugmish in front of my
eyes,
Neither Rustam nor Gorogli.
I read poetry

higher emotions:
Faith, honesty, kindness.
Brothers and sisters in front of my
eyes,
They do not show mercy to each other.
I read poetry
the world is bright.
I'm here, the sky is clear.
It is clear before my eyes,
A world of steppe wolf
I read poetry
again and again.
Loud claps are played.
I have eternal applause in front of my
eyes,
Curse the father of clappers.
I read poetry,
deceiving the nation,
Close your eyes to everything.
I do not tremble on any page,

I read poetry and call myself a poet...

Farrukh Amirov
Young uzbek poet

Sijikombi



Nathamini kujjua, mwenyewe moja kwa
moja,
Kihali ninavyokua, na mengine nikitaja,
Siwezi kuzichambua, yote hayo kwa pamoja,
Lakini kuniumbua, staha unaichuja,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.
Simi mwenye kuteua, vyote vitakavyokuja,
Iwe gari na mashua, na mengine yenye haja,
Niambe eti chukua, kwa halaiki ya waja,
Ila Mola mteua, ndiye mvishaji koja,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Nikizipiga hatua, kwa kuanza kwaayo moja,
Fahamu nimeamua, na wala sio miuja,
Kama ni kujitanua, mniseme sina hoja,
Vipaji tukiufua, pamwe na mwenza mmoja,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Nitapenda ukuruba, ni kwa sababu fulani,
Si palipo nayo miba, na wajua ikhiwani,

Kama ni urongo toba, anisamehe Manani,
Ukuruba kwangu tiba, iwe nini au nani?
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Na bia nikizichanga, hayo kwa maendeleo,
Katika kujengajenga, mwanzoni hadi upeo,
Dhamira 'kiwa kuenga, ishitadi kila leo,
Giza hufuatwa na mwanga, kubadili
mwelekea,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Nitoapo langu wazo, nina mazuri mbeleni,
Ambayo huwa ni nguzo, ya kutia ujenzini,
Mwengine mwenye uwezo, hukaribishwa
ngomani,
Wala hapawi mzozo, kushikana ukosini,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Nashadidia fanaka, kwa kila ajitumaye,
Asiyejali kuchoka, naye ni ata futaye,
Ajaliwe bila shaka, na nyota imtuliye,
Ujivu isije kuteka, utengano vingiye,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Dali imi nimechoka, naomba kufunga tungo,
Tungo hili ni la mwaka, litakalo ziba pengo,
Pengo na hata viraka, vilivyo kwenye ulingo,
Ulingo wenye mashaka, ndani yayo mviringo,
Sijikombi mwafulani, abadani kataani.

Mtunzi: Alfred Lobawoi
Lakabu: Mweledi Chipukizi
Ruiru

You Are Only Mine, Truly Mine



Your eyes shine like stars in the night,
Lighting my soul with a glow so bright.
A trace in my heart that will never fade,
You are only mine, truly mine.

Like a flower, you blossomed, my spring
so dear,
My dawn that chased away night's fear.
If they ask of you, I'll say without sign:
"You are only mine, truly mine."

Let no stranger's words ever touch your
heart,
You belong to me, never torn apart.

The sacred feeling my soul designed
You are only mine, truly mine.
Your hair dances, a breeze at play,
The world itself sways when you look my
way.
A star in the heavens meant only to shine
You are only mine, truly mine.
If you ever feel lonely, know I am near,
My heart holds your love, forever sincere.
Devotion and passion, this pain divine
You are only mine, truly mine.
My heart repeats these words each day,
A pure and honest love, never astray.
My soul's unbroken, endless rhyme
You are only mine, truly mine.

Nuriddinjon Abdurasulov, an English
language teacher and a Press Officer of
School No. 41, under the Department of
Preschool and School Education of Sharof
Rashidov District, Jizzakh Region, Republic
of Uzbekistan.

Hayafai Majisifu



Kawaida ya sikio, kichwa halikizidipo
Kadhalka makalio, tumboni hayakaipo
Sehemuye hio sio, wala hutayaonapo
Usijisifu kwa mbia, kumbe hujafukuzwapo

Mkamiliifu ni Mungu, mwengine katu
hayupo

Muumba wa walimwengu, wa zama na
waliopo
Ndie mgawa mafungu, popote pale walipo
Usijite mcha Mungu, na hujajaribiwapo

Walijisifu wangapi?, wa sasa na tangu
hapo
Nyoyo zilijaa hepi, kufuru yao malipo
Leo hii wako wapi?, kwenye dunia hawapo
Sijidai huogopi, na wala hujatishwapo

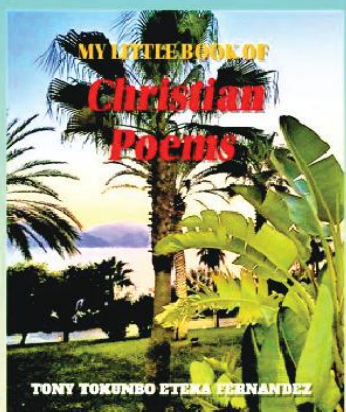
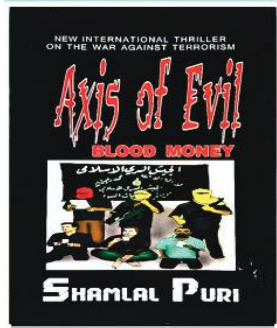
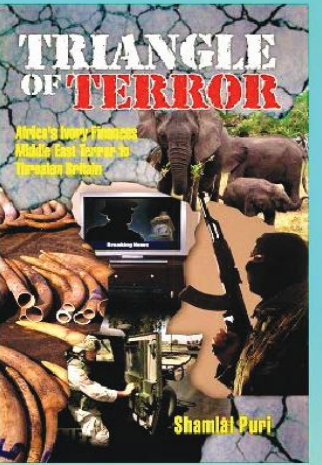
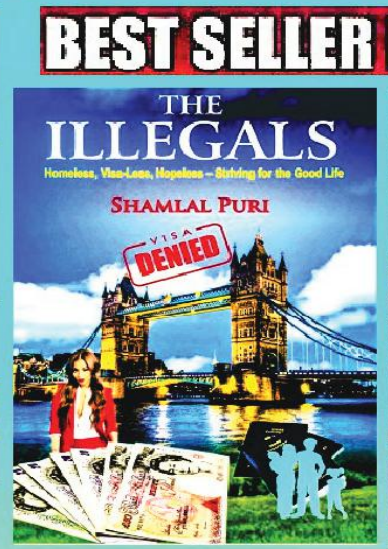
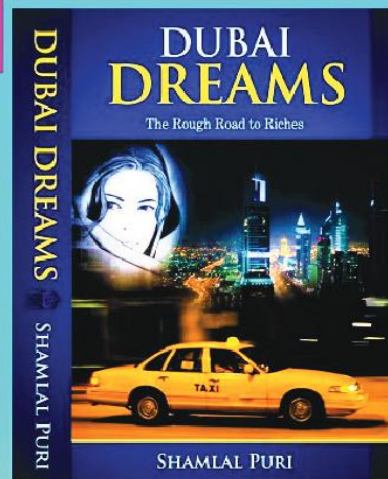
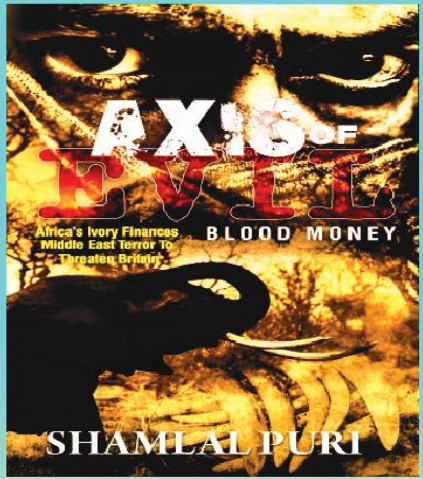
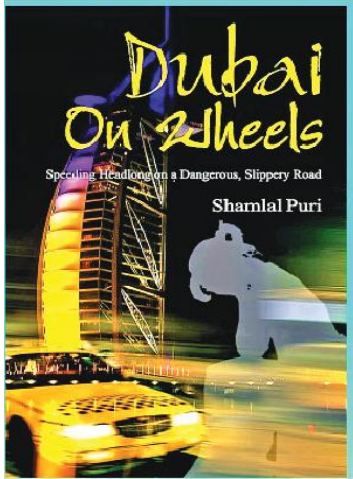
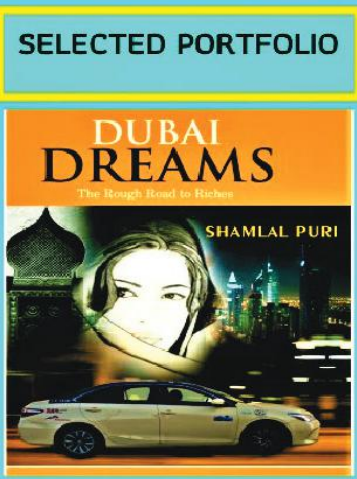
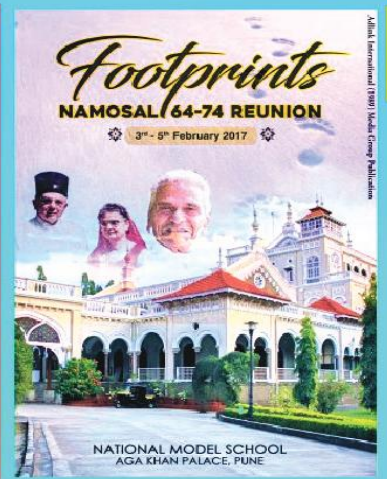
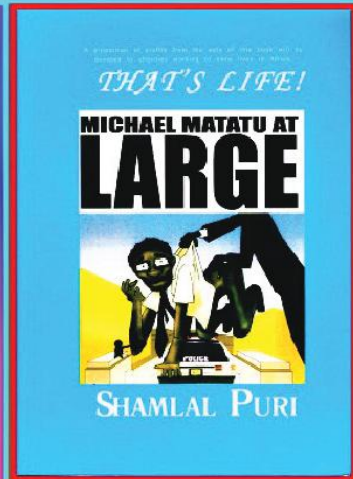
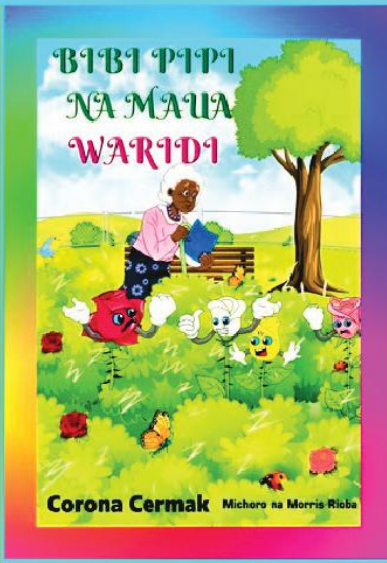
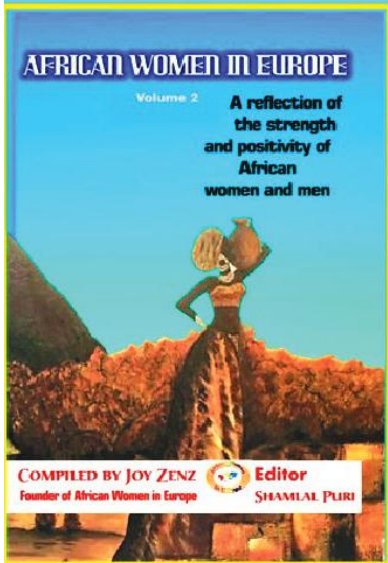
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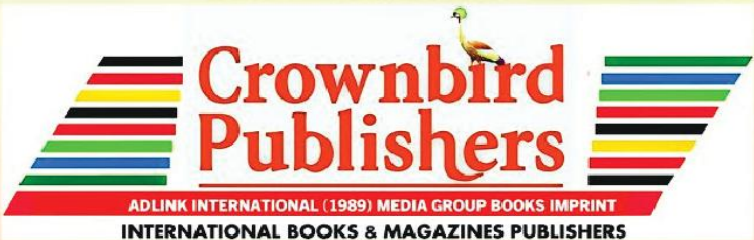
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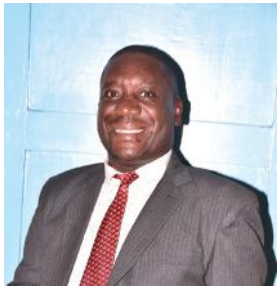
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BUSINESS

A Case For Continuous Learning For Organizations



By: Raphael Ndakala Atanda
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Continuous learning can be achieved through formal education, on the job training and professional development, self-learning (online, tutorials and podcast) and informal ways. Self-learning can be through reading, online, tutorials and podcasts while informal learning can be through mentorship and collaboration. Continuous learning is not only continuous as the name suggests but also self-motivated and lifelong.
- Organizations, on their part, should embed learning and improvement into their cultures, operations and structures to ensure they adapt to change and innovate appropriately in order for them to remain competitive.
- There must exist a culture that allows curiosity, trial and error. Sharing knowledge should happen at all levels across the organization. Members of staff should have opportunities for training, upskilling and re-skilling through courses, workshops and mentorship and coaching programs.



Vijay Gidoomal, CEO for Car & General (left), Carol Omanjo, COO for C&G (centre) and Erick Sangoro, MD of Cummins C&G and head of the CarGen Academy (right) during the official launch of the academy that will drive training, innovation, mentorship and continuous learning at the Car & General Group.

Our world today is constantly changing. Everything is moving very fast in almost all aspects – technology, health, business – name it. How do we keep abreast with the goings-on?

It is an open fact that staying current is essential in this ever changing world, and that this is important to personal development and adaptability. In short, agility. People not only need to think and understand quickly, but also move quickly and easily – changing with the times,

This calls for continuous learning. We must always seek to acquire new knowledge, ideas, skills and abilities throughout life. We must always seek to grow, improve and adapt as individuals – personally, professionally and even academically.

Continuous learning can be achieved through formal education, on the job training and professional development, self-learning (online, tutorials and podcast) and informal ways. Self-learning can be through reading, online, tutorials and podcasts while informal learning can be through mentorship and collaboration. Continuous learning is not only continuous as the name suggests but also self-motivated and lifelong.

Organizations, on their part, should embed learning and improvement

into their cultures, operations and structures to ensure they adapt to change and innovate appropriately in order for them to remain competitive.

There must exist a culture that allows curiosity, trial and error. Sharing knowledge should happen at all levels across the organization. Members of staff should have opportunities for training, upskilling and re-skilling through courses, workshops and mentorship and coaching programs.

It is important that leaders invest in employee development. While a knowledge management system that will organize and share organization knowledge must be developed, the company should also avail digital platforms that will facilitate learning while ensuring a feedback process that will enable learning from successes and failures of the ongoing processes.

If this is done, the organization will become agile, resilient, adaptive, innovative and forward thinking. It will also be ready to face challenges and opportunities that will come with the ever-changing business environment.

It has been noted that organizations with continuous learning strategies experience higher employee engagement and retention, improved performance and productivity. They as

well develop better problem-solving and decision-making capabilities that lead to enhanced both employee and customer satisfaction.

As stated earlier, continuous learning offers long-term success to individuals as well. An employee who learns new skills and is up to date with industry trends will perform better and increase better chances for growth, apart from attracting new roles and opportunities. Such an employee will stay relevant and adapt to new changes in the working environment in the rapidly changing world. This in turn offers job security since he will be less likely be displaced.

An employee who embraces continuous training develops a new way of thinking and solving of problems. This makes him contribute creatively and innovatively to the team. Doing this boosts his self-confidence and motivation, expands perspectives and gives a sense of self-fulfilment. Continuous learning makes people thrive in their careers and personal lives.

One of the organizations which has taken continuous learning seriously is Car & General (Kenya) Plc. The listed diversified distributor of motorcycles, three wheelers, tractors, forklifts, generators, earthmovers among

other equipment in East Africa understands that continuous learning is important to the Group's sustainability.

C&G launched the CarGen Academy as part of its wider sustainability initiatives. The academy will drive training, innovation, mentorship and coaching for its members. It also aims to develop leadership talent and foster a culture of innovation through programs that cultivate sustainable growth.

“The fourth industrial revolution is reshaping the way we work. Organizations should adapt to rapid technological advancements like AI, automation, data analytics and leadership strategies. The CarGen Academy will help bridge the gap at C&G. it will be the recognised training arm that will align employees to C&G's business objectives”, said Vijay Gidoomal, C&G's Chief Executive Officer.

This initiative underscores the Company's commitment to fostering continuous learning within its workforce, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills to navigate the rapidly evolving business landscape.

Raphael Atanda works at Car & General (Kenya) Plc as Head of Communications raphael.atanda@cargen.com



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The Performance Divide: Public Vs. Private Sector In Namibia



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Introduction

The disparity between public and private sector performance is a global phenomenon, with Namibia being no exception. While government institutions are tasked with providing essential services, they often struggle with inefficiency, resource constraints, and bureaucratic hurdles. In contrast, private enterprises thrive on competition, innovation, and profit-driven efficiency. This article explores the reasons behind this divide, focusing on Namibia's healthcare, education, and financial sectors, and provides recommendations for improving public sector performance.

Public vs. Private Sector Performance in Namibia

1. Healthcare Sector

Namibia's healthcare system exemplifies the performance gap between public and private institutions. Government hospitals, such as Katutura State Hospital, often face shortages of medical personnel, outdated equipment, and long waiting times. In contrast, private hospitals like Medipark Private Hospital, Medclinic, and Lady Pohamba Hospital offer superior facilities, specialized care, and shorter waiting periods. The government frequently refers patients to private hospitals when public institutions cannot manage complex medical cases.

2. Education Sector

The education sector follows a similar trend. Private schools consistently outperform public schools in national examinations due to better funding, smaller class sizes, and highly qualified teachers. Public schools, constrained by limited resources and overcrowding, struggle to maintain high academic standards. The disparity in infrastructure and teaching quality further widens the gap.

3. Financial Sector and Public Enterprises

Namibia has witnessed the collapse of several government-owned enterprises, including Air Namibia and the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank (SME Bank). These failures stem from financial mismanagement, lack of accountability, and political interference. In contrast, private banks and airlines operate efficiently, driven by market forces and stringent financial oversight.

Why the Private Sector Outperforms the Public Sector

1. Efficiency and Accountability

Private sector organizations operate under strict performance metrics, ensuring accountability and efficiency.



Public Sector



Private Sector

In contrast, public institutions often suffer from bureaucratic inefficiencies, leading to slow decision-making and resource misallocation.

2. Incentives and Motivation

Private sector employees are motivated by competitive salaries, performance-based incentives, and career growth opportunities. Public sector employees, on the other hand, often face stagnant wages, limited career progression, and bureaucratic constraints.

3. Innovation and Technology

Private enterprises invest heavily in technology and innovation to remain competitive. Public institutions, constrained by budget limitations and slow procurement processes, struggle to adopt modern technologies.

4. Financial Management

Public enterprises frequently rely on government bailouts, leading to financial complacency. Private companies, driven by profit motives, prioritize financial sustainability and strategic investments.

5. Recruitment and Job Security As A Critical Factor in Performance Disparities

One of the fundamental reasons private sector employees often outperform government employees is the stark contrast in recruitment and dismissal procedures. In the private sector, performance is the primary determinant of job security. Employees are hired based on merit and specific skill sets, and underperformance or misconduct can lead to immediate termination. This creates a high-performance culture where individuals are motivated to meet or exceed expectations, knowing that accountability is immediate. On the other hand, government employees are often shielded by extensive bu-

reaucratic processes, labor laws, and union protections. Even in cases of gross incompetence or ethical violations, dismissal requires prolonged investigations, hearings, and legal interventions. This layer of job security can foster complacency, where underperforming individuals remain employed despite inefficiencies, leading to stagnation in service delivery. The prolonged disciplinary procedures within public institutions also contribute to a culture where inefficiency is tolerated rather than corrected. Government employees, aware that their positions are safeguarded by layers of administrative and legal protections, may lack the urgency to enhance their productivity or innovate within their roles.

The private sector, driven by competition and profit incentives, enforces strict performance evaluations that push employees toward continuous improvement. Without these mechanisms, the public sector struggles with a cycle of inefficiency, where poor performers remain employed, morale among high-performing individuals drops, and institutional effectiveness declines. To bridge this gap, government institutions must introduce merit-based employment policies, streamline disciplinary procedures, and implement robust performance evaluation systems that reward excellence and penalize inefficiency.

Recommendations: Strengthening Namibia's Public Sector

1. Improve Governance and Accountability

The government must implement stringent oversight mechanisms to curb financial mismanagement and corruption in public institutions.

2. Enhance Employee Incentives

Introducing performance-based incentives and professional development programs can boost motivation and efficiency among public sector employees.

3. Invest in Technology and Infrastructure

Modernizing public institutions through technological investments can enhance service delivery and operational efficiency.

4. Foster Public-Private Partnerships

Collaborations between the government and private sector can bridge resource gaps and improve service delivery in healthcare, education, and financial sectors.

5. Strengthen Financial Management

Public enterprises must adopt sustainable financial practices, reducing reliance on government bailouts and ensuring long-term viability.

Conclusion

The performance gap between Namibia's public and private sectors is evident across multiple industries. While private enterprises thrive on efficiency, innovation, and accountability, public institutions struggle with bureaucratic inefficiencies and financial mismanagement. By implementing governance reforms, investing in technology, and fostering public-private partnerships, Namibia can revitalize its public sector and restore confidence in government institutions.

Worth Noting:

- The education sector follows a similar trend. Private schools consistently outperform public schools in national examinations due to better funding, smaller class sizes, and highly qualified teachers. Public schools, constrained by limited resources and overcrowding, struggle to maintain high academic standards. The disparity in infrastructure and teaching quality further widens the gap.
- Namibia has witnessed the collapse of several government-owned enterprises, including Air Namibia and the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank (SME Bank). These failures stem from financial mismanagement, lack of accountability, and political interference. In contrast, private banks and airlines operate efficiently, driven by market forces and stringent financial oversight.

Kenya Launches Child-Friendly Guidebook To Promote Safe Internet Usage Among Children

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themtkenyatimes

In a significant step towards safeguarding children in the digital age, the Directorate of Children Services, in partnership with ChildFund Kenya through the SafeClics Project, today launched the much-anticipated Safe Online Guidebook for Children. The event, held at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in Ngara, marks a milestone in national efforts to promote safe, responsible, and empowering internet usage among Kenya's youngest netizens.

The Safe Online Guidebook is a comprehensive, child-friendly resource developed to address the growing need for digital literacy and online safety among children. As internet access expands rapidly across the country, so too do the risks and challenges that children face online, including cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content, and online

exploitation. The guidebook aims to bridge this knowledge gap by equipping children with the essential skills and awareness needed to navigate the digital world confidently and securely.

Speaking at the launch, the Ps for social protection Achieng Ageng'o emphasized the importance of proactive measures in protecting children online. "The internet is an incredible tool for learning, communication, and creativity, but it also presents unique risks to our children. This guidebook is a timely and necessary intervention that empowers our children to make informed decisions and stay safe online," said The Ps of social protection.

What sets the Safe Online Guidebook apart is its child-led approach. Developed with input from children themselves, the guidebook reflects the real concerns, experiences, and ideas of its intended audience. This participatory process ensures that the content is relatable, engaging, and practical for children of various ages and backgrounds. The guide-

book covers a range of key topics, including recognizing and reporting online dangers, protecting personal information, dealing with cyberbullying, and fostering positive digital citizenship.

Mr. John Mugo, Country Director of ChildFund Kenya, highlighted the collaborative nature of the project. "Through the SafeClics Project, we have worked closely with children, educators, parents, and technology experts to create a tool that truly meets the needs of Kenyan children. Our goal is not just to protect children, but to empower them to become active participants in creating a safer and more inclusive internet for all."

The launch event was attended by government officials, educators, child rights advocates, and students, who applauded the initiative and called for its widespread adoption in schools and communities nationwide. Plans are underway to distribute the guidebook to schools, community centers, and children's groups, with training sessions for teachers and parents to maximize its impact.



PS for social protection, State department of children welfare, CPA Achieng Ageng'o issuing her address to the stakeholders.

As Kenya continues to embrace digital transformation, the Safe Online Guidebook stands as a testament to the country's commitment to child protection and digital empower-

ment. By equipping children with the knowledge and skills to thrive online, stakeholders hope to ensure that the benefits of connectivity are enjoyed safely and responsibly by all.

Six African Nations Commit To Eliminate Deadly Neglected Disease, Visceral Leishmaniasis

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

In a landmark move to combat one of the world's deadliest neglected tropical diseases, six African countries Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis.

The signing took place during a ceremony held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva, under the auspices of the African Union and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Also known as kala-azar, visceral leishmaniasis is a life-threatening parasitic disease that causes prolonged fever, extreme fatigue, weight loss, and enlargement of the spleen and liver.

Without treatment, it is almost always fatal. Over 70 percent of the global burden is found in Eastern Africa, where nearly half of those affected are children under the age of 15.

The six signatory countries were joined by Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania in calling for stronger cross-border cooperation and coordinated action against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

These diseases affect over one billion people annually, disproportionately impacting vulnerable and impoverished communities.

"Visceral leishmaniasis patients and their communities urgently need new, improved oral treatments. To reach elimination, we need more medical innovation. The recent successes of countries like Bangladesh in eliminating kala-azar show that global eradication is within reach," said Dr Luis Pizarro, Executive Director of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi).

"I commend the inspiring leadership, unity, and commitment shown today by our African partners."

The signatories committed to invest resources, develop regional strategies, and collaborate closely to meet the targets outlined in the visceral leishmaniasis elimination framework, which was launched by Eastern African countries in June 2024.

Dr Ibrahima Socé Fall, Director of



WHO's Global Neglected Tropical Diseases Programme, highlighted the importance of country-led efforts and regional collaboration.

"As we reach the halfway point toward the 2030 roadmap targets and nearly a year after launching the strategic framework for elimination, the critical role of cross-border cooperation cannot be overstated," he said in his opening remarks.

During the Geneva event, Ministers of Health from Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria also issued a joint Call for Action urging countries to intensify efforts against all NTDs. They were joined by counterparts from other participating nations.

"We know diseases do not stop at borders—and neither should our

response," said Dr Jean Kaseya, Director General of the Africa CDC, in a statement read on his behalf by Dr Landry Tsague Dongmo, Director of Africa CDC's Center for Primary Health Care.

"More than 600 million people on our continent remain at risk of at least one neglected tropical disease."

Dr Kaseya emphasized the need for enhanced surveillance systems, citing Africa CDC's Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response framework as a key tool, developed in collaboration with WHO.

Many NTDs are zoonotic transmitted between animals and humans and are exacerbated by climate change, migration, and poor health infrastructure, making cross-border coopera-

tion essential.

The event was convened by the African Union Commission, the WHO, and the Global Onchocerciasis Network for Elimination (GONE), with support from the END Fund and DNDi.

Globally, momentum to eliminate NTDs is growing. As of May 2025, 56 countries have eliminated at least one NTD.

In Africa, countries such as Togo (four NTDs), Benin, Ghana, and India (three NTDs each) have recorded significant progress. Recently, Mauritania, Chad, Guinea, and Niger were recognized by WHO for eliminating at least one neglected disease.

A Teacher's Take On Laziness

By: Besigye John Kenneth

@themtkenyatimes

Laziness in anything you do is a painless way to death. One can liken laziness to what economists call excess capacity: underutilization of available resources, working below optimum capacity. And it can manifest itself in ways more cunning than the Biblical serpent. It's amazing how even the most hard working people can be classified as lazy:

How you spend your time.

With whom you spend your time.

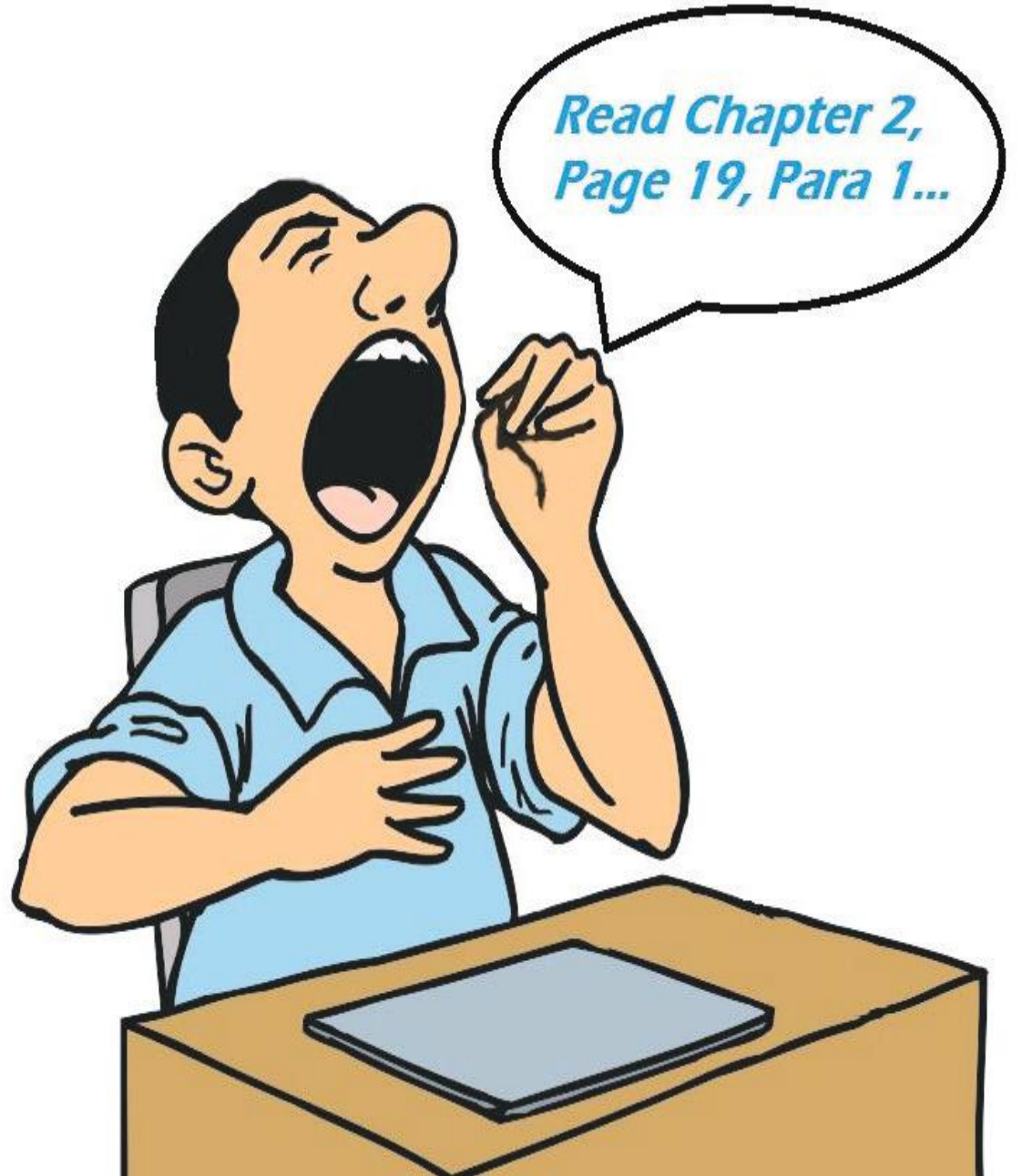
Where you spend your time

And time, includes money in this given context.

You have decided that you'll be a doctor, but your mind convinces you that a good doctor in making should spend half of his time out of class playing, watching or at least discussing football. Well, that's hard work, in the wrong direction, which is laziness. Laziness therefore can be failure to be intentional about your choices.

Laziness can also be the ability to see the end result without accounting for the process. Any grand vision may lack an end result, but with a clear process, it sure must be realized. No great achievement ever came by sheer good fortune. Writers don't just land on stories, poets don't just muse, scientists don't find discoveries on sea shores. Stories are told of chemists who discover things by "excessive" experimenting. Someone spends endless hours with chemicals and a portal opens. He could discover something entirely different from what he expected but he sure discovers something.

Laziness also lies in the statement "reading is not really my thing". A blatant admission of refusal to learn and grow. A joke is told that in Africa we discover archived knowledge. If you don't know what already exists in documented knowledge, you're bound to "rediscover" it. (which is a plausible waste of time or pass time). Show me one who reads not and I will show you a mediocre. A mediocre in everything including conversation, except of course with his fellow mediocres. Reading is hectic, tiresome, hard, time consuming, over demanding. And yes, the other side of the same coin is laziness. The only problem is that laziness only postpones all the same into your future life, only a bit late for catching up. Opening a book and actually reading it to the end is painful but perpetual mediocrity is way more painful. More painful when you realize you're in its grips. This realization only comes to a lucky few who by sheer good fortune get



in the company of a "genius".

Doing only what one is supposed to do can also be a manifestation of laziness. "I read when I'm supposed to, jog when I'm..., I research when I'm..." How often you push yourself beyond the finish line, beyond the necessary, beyond the required is a clear indicator of where you fall on the laziness meter. Much of what we desire to be in life lies on the other side of "I'm supposed to". That's where the actual will lies. Anyway obligations are usually temporary. One ought to cultivate a personal culture of pushing beyond what's required, so that there's still a safe landing ground for when the obligations stop.

Laziness is also a fluid thing, its mark is always extending. One should always be on the look out for when the once hard tasks (the effort to beat laziness) become comfortable. That is an indicator that it's time to move the mark. Reading one book a month may be

a good start for a beginner reader, but keeping there forever even after you start reading the whole book in two weeks is laziness. The point is this: the challenge today can't be the challenge for tomorrow and forever. An athlete can't keep competing in the same race all the time; he must advance if his career is to grow.

It's also laziness to always escape discomfort. Discomfort is unpleasant, undesirable and the body naturally resents it. The King Uzziah had to die for Isaiah to receive his actual call, to start his actual prophetic journey. He had lived in the comfort of the palace his entire life, shielded from the real work he had been called to do as a prophet. Indeed not much is written about his life in the palace. Jesus, our Lord, commanded us to carry our crosses every day. He had to carry his own to the point of dying on it. Most times, God hides our glory, our victory in the crosses He gives us to carry. Even Jesus is only glorified after the cross. Some-

times our comfort may seem to give us the glory we desire, but remember, Isaiah thought his mission, his glory was in the palace.

As you set out to examine the points of laziness in your life, be open to criticism- open and honest criticism. Sometimes everyone needs a third eye, an outside observer to pinpoint our weakness- our laziness. Read widely; intensively and extensively, about anything and everything. Remember that anything you read helps you to see the world better, in a new perspective, a new light. Talk to, talk with people. Talking with people, indulging in actual conversation with actual people about their lives, their opinions, their perspectives is the actual anthropology. Allow yourself to learn, be open to change in anything you do, believe or even think. Question everything, because what is true will remain true even after deep dissection.

Worth Noting:

- Doing only what one is supposed to do can also be a manifestation of laziness. "I read when I'm supposed to, jog when I'm..., I research when I'm..." How often you push yourself beyond the finish line, beyond the necessary, beyond the required is a clear indicator of where you fall on the laziness meter. Much of what we desire to be in life lies on the other side of "I'm supposed to".
- That's where the actual will lies. Anyway obligations are usually temporary. One ought to cultivate a personal culture of pushing beyond what's required, so that there's still a safe landing ground for when the obligations stop.

Activist Boniface Mwangi Released From Tanzania

By: Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Activist Boniface Mwangi has been released in Ukunda, Kwale after being deported from Tanzania where he had been detained.

According to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) Mwangi is to be transferred to Nairobi for treatment.

“He is in high spirits. The Commission and other partners are making arrangements to transfer him to Nairobi for medical attention,” KNCHR stated.

The release comes after the Kenyan government wrote a protest letter to the Tanzanian government over the lack of access to activist Boniface Mwangi following his arrest in the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs not-

ed that since Mwangi’s arrest, consular officials were able to access him despite several requests.

It added that it was concerned about his health and well-being, as information about his whereabouts remained unknown.

“The Ministry notes that, despite several requests, officials of the Government of Kenya have been denied consular access and information to Mr. Mwangi. The Ministry is also concerned about his health, overall wellbeing and the absence of information regarding his detention,” the letter by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs read in part.

The ministry noted that his detention was against the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963), to which both the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania are State Parties, which allows consular officers to visit any national of the sending State who is in prison, custody or



detention.

Kenya further demanded that Tanzanian authorities give expedited access to the activist by Consular officials or release him as international law dictates.

“The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs respectfully urges the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to expeditiously and without delay facilitate consular access to or release of Mr. Mwangi, in

accordance with international legal obligations and diplomatic norms,” the letter read.

The Hidden Harm: How Emotional Manipulation By Toxic Parents Shapes Adult Children’s Mental Health

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

I used to believe my dad was dead. That’s what I’d been told my whole life. But during my second year of secondary school, I saw him alive. The shock was indescribable. In that moment, everything I thought I knew about my family crumbled. The truth was, my mother had lied to me, manipulating my reality for reasons I couldn’t fully understand at the time. This was only one of the many emotional manipulations I faced growing up in a toxic household.

Toxic parenting is not always loud or overt. It’s subtle, sometimes so ingrained in daily life that it feels normal. In my case, I was taught to doubt my own reality, my feelings, and my worth. Emotional manipulation became my norm, disguised as love or concern. I was told things like, “You’re too sensitive” or “You should be grateful,” which eroded

my self-esteem over the years. These comments, though seemingly harmless, were part of a pattern of control. Children raised in toxic environments often grow up with emotional scars that are invisible but deeply ingrained. Emotional manipulation, whether through guilt-tripping, gaslighting, or withdrawal of affection leaves lasting marks on a child’s psyche. For me, it wasn’t just the lie about my father. It was the constant gaslighting, where my reality was constantly questioned. I was made to feel like I was the one who was wrong for feeling hurt, or that my emotions didn’t matter.

The effects of these toxic behaviors didn’t stop at childhood. As an adult, I found myself struggling with anxiety, low self-esteem, and a constant fear of rejection. Relationships were challenging, as I had difficulty trusting others and setting boundaries. I often questioned whether I deserved love or if my feelings were valid.

The emotional manipulation took its toll. But it wasn’t until I began therapy and started confronting the past

that I understood the full extent of the damage. Recognizing the toxic patterns was the first step in breaking free. The next challenge was unlearning the behaviors and beliefs I had absorbed over the years.

Breaking free from the grip of toxic parents is not an easy journey. For many, there’s a deep sense of obligation to stay connected or feel guilty about distancing themselves. Society often places immense pressure on individuals to forgive family members because “family is everything.” But sometimes, the most loving thing you can do for yourself is to set boundaries and protect your mental and emotional health, even if it means cutting ties.

Healing takes time, and it’s a process that looks different for everyone. For me, therapy was instrumental in understanding the emotional manipulation I had experienced. It helped me rebuild my self-worth and learn how to set healthy boundaries in my relationships. Slowly, I began to understand that I didn’t have to carry the weight of others’ toxicity. I could



choose peace.

The road to recovery isn’t linear, and it’s filled with both progress and setbacks. But by acknowledging the harm caused by toxic parents or relatives and seeking support, healing becomes possible. No child deserves to grow up in an environment where their reality is twisted or their emotional needs are ignored. We deserve love, respect, and validation, not ma-

nipulation.

If you’ve experienced similar emotional manipulation, remember: It’s okay to prioritize your well-being. Recognizing the toxicity is the first step toward reclaiming your life and your mental health. You are worthy of a future free from the scars of the past.

By David Nyaga,
Journalist.

Sports >> *Five people have been handed suspended prison sentences for racially abusing Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr in an "unprecedented" ruling in Spain, La Liga said on Wednesday.

SPORTS NEWS

- PHOTOS
- SCORES
- OPINIONS
- STATISTICS
- SCHEDULES
- BREAKING NEWS



Five Guilty Of Hate Crimes For Racist Abuse Of Vinicius Jr



Vinicius Jr brought to tears..

Five people have been handed suspended prison sentences for racially abusing Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr in an "unprecedented" ruling in Spain, La Liga said on Wednesday.

Spain's top division said it is the first time racist insults in a football stadium have been condemned as a hate crime in Spain. Vinicius, 24, appeared to be subjected to racist abuse during a game against Real Valladolid in September 2022 while he walked past fans after being substituted at Jose Zorrilla stadium.

The Provincial Court of Valladolid gave the five offenders a one-year prison sentence, which has been suspended on the con-

dition they do not commit any further offence in the next three years.

They are also not allowed to attend any matches within the same period.

The court also handed out fines to the five individuals that range between 1,080 euro (£913) and 1,620 euro (£1,369).

"Thanks to the efforts of La Liga, which filed the complaint and initially acted as the sole private prosecution – later joined by the player Vinicius and Real Madrid, as well as the Public Prosecutor's Office – this exemplary ruling has been achieved," La Liga said in a statement.

"This judicial decision rep-

resents an unprecedented milestone in the fight against racism in sport in Spain, where, until now, rulings had addressed conduct against moral integrity with a racial aggravating factor.

"The fact that this ruling explicitly refers to hate crimes associated with racist insults reinforces the message that intolerance has no place in football."

Brazil international Vinicius has faced racist abuse several times during his time in Spain.

In June 2024, Vinicius said "I'm not a victim of racism. I am a tormentor of racists" after three Valencia fans were sentenced to eight months in prison for abusing him in May 2023.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Tottenham Hotspur ended their 17-year trophy drought after beating their EPL counterparts Manchester United 1-0 to claim the UEFA Europa League

Tottenham End 17-Year Trophy Wait As They Beat Man U To Lift Europa League Title



BILBAO, SPAIN - MAY 21: Son Heung-Min of Tottenham Hotspur lifts the UEFA Europa League Trophy with teammates after his team's victory in the UEFA Europa League Final 2025 between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United at Estadio de San Mames on May 21, 2025 in Bilbao, Spain. (Photo by Michael Regan - UEFA/UEFA via Getty Images).

Tottenham Hotspur ended their 17-year trophy drought after beating their EPL counterparts Manchester United 1-0 to claim the UEFA Europa League, earning them UEFA Champions League (UCL) qualification in a largely turgid affair at the San Mamés Stadium in Bilbao, Spain, on Wednesday night.

The win-or-bust clash between two desperate English giants with a woeful season offered a golden

ticket to the UCL next season.

Both sides displayed an average contest with united bragging with huge ball possession throughout the entire match and creating realistic chances, but all went up in smoke.

Ange Postecoglou's side broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute when a whipped cross from Sarr caused havoc in the area, with Johnson getting to the ball at the near post before Luke Shaw inad-

vertently applied the final touch, the goal being decisive in separating boys from men.

Tottenham defended the slender lead by the skin of their teeth for the entire 2nd half, which saw the Red Devils going all out attacking, to earn a sumptuous victory.

The victory ended Man United's 14-match unbeaten streak in UEL competition, as they also prepare for a season without European competition after surviving a rel-

egation scare this season.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



Asiyekusaidia Hakupunguzii Wala Hakuzidishii



By: Alfred Lobawoi
@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

“Usisahau kuwa wakati mtu huyo anapotoa msaada kwako yeye huwa katenga mda wake, kakuthamini wewe mda huo, kakufanyia heshima, akakuona wastahili kueleweshwa miongoni mwa sababu zingine nyingi kwa minajili ya kukufaa wewe. Msaada si haki yako yakhe. Katika ujenzi wa urafiki na watu huwa muhimu sana kujua nia au msukumo wa mtu fulani kutaka urafiki nawe au kwenye kundi la watu.”

Kwenye makala yaliyopita nilianzilia kuhusu jinsi ya kutengeneza Muamana kupitia mkabala mzuri na watu. Mtu ni watu. Watu huwa na nyoyo tofauti sana. Kuna yule ambaye anaweza penda kabisa kwa dharti ya moyo wake na kuna yule ambaye anaweza chukia. Yaani asiwe anapenda hata kidogo. Hayo yanaweza kuwa kwa sababu tofauti au sababu maalum ya mtu kuchukia. Mathalan, mapenzi yanaonekana wazi hata ukijaribu kujificha au kuyaficha vipi. Ni kama kikohozi eti. Japo kuna wengine hupenda bila ya idhini ya moyo wao na kuishia kutojua watakacho hasa. Nimeamua kutumia muktadha huo wa mapenzi kusudi; ili nikueleweshe wewe kuhusu huo mkabala uliotengeneza na watu ni kwa jinsi gani. Mwanzo lazima anayeamua kukusaidia ahiari kukupenda au kukukubalia uwe sehemu ya wale ambao mtafanya kazi.

Hapo ndipo sasa utapata kuwa mwafulani huyo anakusaidia kwa njia moja au nyingine ukihitaji msaada wa aina yoyote ile. Usisahau kuwa wakati mtu huyo anapotoa msaada kwako yeye huwa katenga mda wake, kakuthamini wewe mda huo, kakufanyia heshima, akakuona wastahili kueleweshwa miongoni mwa sababu zingine nyingi kwa minajili ya kukufaa wewe. Msaada si haki yako yakhe. Wengi huwa wana hisi eti kwamba anayekutendea hisani huwa anataka malipo baadaye ila siyoye. Hiyo huwa dhana potovu miongoni mwa wale ambao husaidiwa. Hata hivyo, kuna wale ambao lazima watahitaji malipo ili wakusaidie.

Hivyo ndivyo hali ilivyo ndio kwa sababu nilitanguliza pia kwa kusema kuwa ‘watu huwa tofauti sana’ hayo yote hulingana ni kwa nini mtu huyo aliamua akutoze ada akutendeapo jambo au anapokuonyesha jambo au ni kwa sasabu gani ulihitajika kutoa ada hiyo. Iwapo ni kununua kitu hapo napo itabidi umelipa. Hauwezi kupewa kitu bure ikiwa hauna hela hata ingawa aliyekuuzia alikutendea hisani ya kukuuzia na kukufanya umiliki kitu hicho. Kumpa ni kumpa akupaye, kumpa asokupa ni kama kutupa.



Umuhimu wa marafiki huendeshwa na sababu zizo hizo. Unaweza ukajenga urafiki na watu wengi mno na urafiki huo usikufaidi hata kidogo. Tofauti na yule ambaye anaweza jenga urafiki na wachache ambao ni wa uaminifu na ukamfaa miaka nenda miaka rudi. Katika ujenzi wa urafiki na watu huwa muhimu sana kujua nia au msukumo wa mtu fulani kutaka urafiki nawe au kwenye kundi la watu. Hapawezi kosekana mmoja au wawili ambao wamejiunga na kundi la watu kuonyesha tu kiwiliwili chao kwamba wapo hapo ilhali hawapo. Nia yao yaweza kuwa kuja kuchonganisha watu, kulete fikra mbaya, kufyonza wengine kama kupe na kutaka kufaidi bila kuchoka. Ukweli japo ni mchungu usinifiche niambie.

Si hayo tu, aina ya marafiki kama

hao wa kuja miongoni mwa watu kwa sababu ya kitu huishia kutofaidi na hata chembe cha kitu. Ila wao hujihisi kuwa wamepea na kuwa bora zaidi ya wale marafiki zao ambao wamewafaa na kuwaona sasa kuwa si kitu. Hasara humfika mwenye mabezo.

Ni vyema kujua kuwa pasipo urafiki hudumu na panapo urafiki urafiki haudumu. Wapo waliojivalia ngozi ya kondoo na wenye ulimi tamu ya kudanganya watu wa aina hii ni hatari sana. Wana uwezo mkubwa wa kuharibu uhusiano uliopo na kuacha kumbukumbu mbaya isiyosahaulika. Jambo zuri ni kutahadhari watu kama hawa na kutambua nia yao mapema na kuwazima wasije wakatuachia makovu yasiyotibika.

Kila mara tunaposalitiwa tuchukulia kama sehemu mojawapo ya ukuaji wa wetu. Usaliti huja baada ya kujuana na mtu kwa mda. Akakujua na pia akajua njia zako vyema au mwafulani huyo akafanikiwa kupata alichokipata na kuona ni mda wake mwafaka wa kugura. Ndiyo atagura. Akusaliti. Yale yote ambayo mlikuwa mmeyatenda yatakuwa si kitu tena. Mafunzo ya kujijua huanzia hapo. Usijichukie bali ni njia ya kujijasirisha na kusonga mbele. Ikiwa mtu huyo hakuwa na mchango wowote katika ukuaji wako au urafiki huo haoana haja ya kuwa na wahaka. Bado unaweza sana hata zaidi ukajenga ukuruba na wengine na mambo yakawa sawa. Mshumaa huwa hauzimiki uwashapo mshumaa mwingine.