



Africa Urged To Prioritize STEM For Industrial Growth

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has called for renewed commitment among African nations to prioritize investment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as a critical driver of industrialization and youth empowerment across the continent.

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NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW

WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI
WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

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News>>Tharaka Nithi: Enhancing Fish Farming Through Strategic Partnerships

P. 8. In a significant step toward boosting aquaculture in Tharaka Nithi County, the County Government's Fisheries Department has initiated strategic engagements with national research institutions to scale up fish farming across the region.



News>>Kenya Launches NYOTA Youth Program To Unlock Over 200,000 Job Opportunities

P. 12. Kenya in collaboration with the World Bank has officially launched the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Program.

CJ Koome Denounces DPP Justification For Terrorism Charges Against Protesters

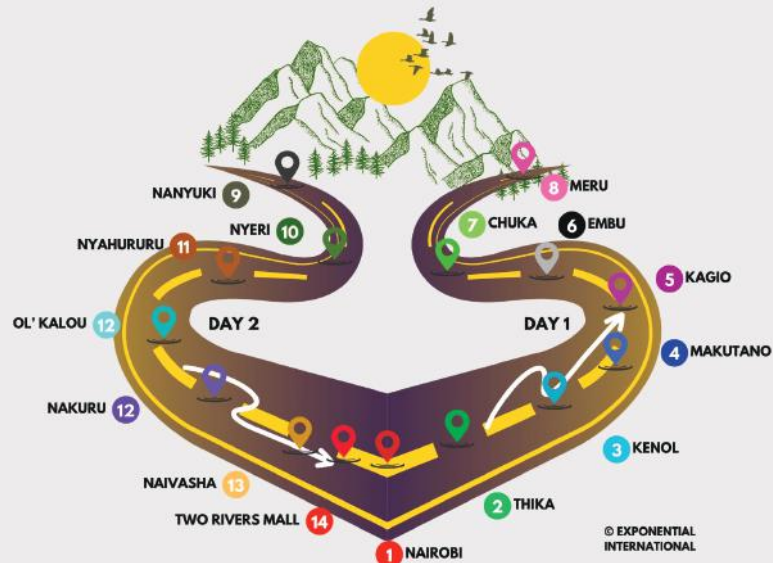
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Chief Justice Martha Koome

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NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



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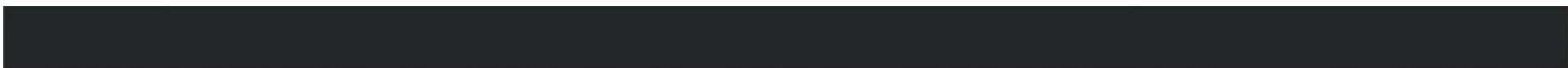
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President Ruto At Nairobi Securities Exchange Bell-Ringing To Celebrate The Listing Of Linzi Asset-Backed Security

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

President William Ruto yesterday presided over the bell-ringing ceremony to celebrate the listing of the Linzi asset backed security at Nairobi Security Exchange. The listing of the Linzi 003 Infrastructure Asset-Backed Security, raising over KSh44 billion, is a historic milestone in the country. It confirms the country's confidence in market-based financing and demonstrates how the nation can sustainably fund large-scale infrastructure through our financial markets. The proceeds from the listing will support the construction of the world-class 60,000-seater Talanta Sports City Stadium that will redefine the nation's global reputation as a sporting powerhouse.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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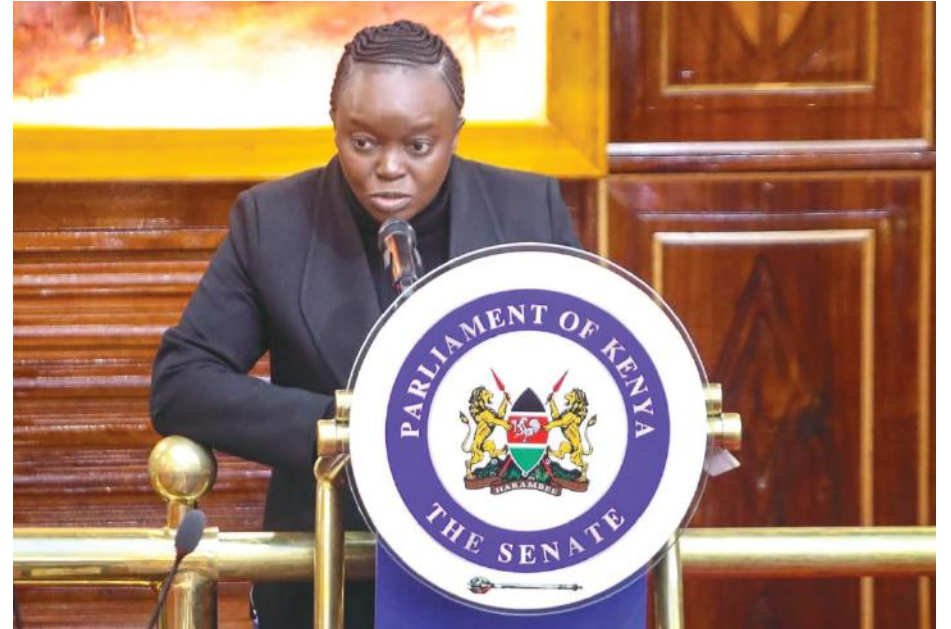
NEWS IN BRIEF



The Kenya Veterinary Board is hosting Dr Sunday Agbonika and Dr Farhan Akorede from Nigeria who are in Kenya for an official visit. The duo conveyed warm greetings from the Veterinary Council of Nigeria and appreciated the work the Board was undertaking in streamlining the Veterinary Sector in Kenya and which has re-energized other Veterinary Statutory Boards (VSB's) in Africa. The CEO Dr Mary T. Agutu noted the excellent relations between Kenya and Nigeria and called for deepening of the technical collaborations to bolster growth in the Veterinary Practice in Africa in order to assure safe food for Animal origin. Others present included Dr Benson Kibore, Director Compliance and Dr Jaquinvidah Gila, Director Standards.



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Tourism, John Olotuaa yesterday received a delegation led by Finland-based Kenyan musician Laban Asila of Mziki Tours, who paid him a courtesy call at his office. Mziki Tours has been actively promoting tourism through music and is organizing the International Gospel Mziki Festival, which will feature 299 participants from nine countries, including the USA, Finland, Germany, Austria, Sweden, and France, among others. The festival is scheduled to take place tomorrow at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) in Nairobi and on Sunday at Kunste Hotel in Nakuru. PS Olotuaa commended their initiative and pledged his full support to Mziki Tours and all stakeholders working to promote MagicalKenya, both locally and internationally.



Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Cabinet Secretary Deborah Barasa yesterday appeared before the Senate Plenary to respond to questions raised by Murang'a Senator, Joe Nyutu, regarding illegal waste dumping in Murang'a County. In her statement, Barasa informed the Senate Business Committee on the government's strengthened efforts to enhance solid waste management across the country. She reported that the Ministry, in collaboration with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), has conducted inspections of dumpsites in all counties. While most counties have designated waste disposal sites, many fall short of the required standards. Consequently, improvement notices have been issued to counties with substandard facilities, alongside advisories to governors, urging immediate clearance of illegal dumpsites and the implementation of corrective measures. The CS further noted that counties have been directed to establish Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to support proper waste sorting and recycling. She emphasized that all waste must be safely collected, handled, and transported to authorised facilities, and that non-recoverable waste should be disposed of in sanitary landfills instead of open dumpsites, which pose significant environmental and health risks.



The vetting of the 2025/2026 Performance Contract for the Cabinet Secretary for Health is currently underway, marking a critical step in setting performance targets that align with the Ministry's strategic priorities. The targets are tailored to accelerate the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), with a focus on strengthening community health services, improving access to essential health products and technologies, enhancing performance monitoring, and reviewing the Health Benefits Package. Yesterday's exercise was jointly overseen by the Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, and Principal Secretary for National Government Coordination, Ahmed Ibrahim. The process is being led by the Ministry of Health's Planning Department with technical support from the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary.

Cabinet Secretary for Health Aden Duale has announced plans to upgrade the Nakuru County Regional Cancer Centre into a major referral facility serving 24 counties aimed at expanding access to cancer treatment in underserved regions. The initiative forms a key pillar of the Taifa Care Model and supports the government's goal of equitable, accessible healthcare for all. The upgrade will be implemented under the National Equipment Services Programme (NESP), a fee-for-service leasing model. Through this initiative, Nakuru County will receive state-of-the-art medical equipment across key health facilities including CT scans in Molo and Bahati, dialysis and mammography services at Annex, and specialized laboratories, X-rays, ultrasounds, and theatres in several sub-county hospitals. Speaking in Nakuru, the CS also emphasized the Ministry's commitment to strict pharmaceutical regulation. He reiterated that pharmacies will not be allowed to dispense medication without authorization from the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), ensuring that only qualified professionals handle drugs and that the safety and quality of medicines are upheld across the country.

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Kenyan On Death Row In Saudi Arabia Set To Return Home

By: OPCS Press Team

@themkenyaintimes

Worth Noting:

In July last year, while addressing the Senate plenary, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi confirmed that the Ministry had intervened to stop the execution.

“I wish to state that a few weeks ago, I officially wrote to the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, intervening on behalf of Mr. Munyakho. The execution was deferred and did not take place,” Mudavadi said at the time.



Peter Munyakho.



Munyakho's mother Dorothy Kweyu

Stephen Munyakho, a Kenyan national who had been sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia for manslaughter, has been released and is expected to return home as early as today, following sustained diplomatic efforts by the Government of Kenya.

Munyakho's death sentence, handed down last year, was deferred after the family of the deceased accepted diyya (blood money) amounting to approximately KSh129 million, paving the way for his release.

In July last year, while addressing the Senate plenary, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, Musalia Mudavadi confirmed that the Ministry had intervened to stop the execution.

“I wish to state that a few weeks ago, I officially wrote to the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, intervening on behalf of Mr. Munyakho. The execution was deferred and did not take place,” Mudavadi said at the time.

Immediately after the death sentence was pronounced, Dr. Mudavadi wrote to the Saudi Foreign Minister and appealed for clemency.

“This intervention led to a postponement of the execution, initially set for May 15, to allow negotiations over the blood money demanded by the deceased's family. President Ruto also intervened by speaking directly with Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, ruler of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, requesting a delay in the execution as Kenya pursued the matter diplomatically,” said Mudavadi.

Therefore, Mr. Munyakho's release is the culmination of months of high-level diplomatic engagement between Nairobi and Riyadh, underscoring Kenya's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of its citizens abroad.

Upon his release on Tuesday, Mr. Munyakho was facilitated to perform Umrah (minor pilgrimage) at the re-

quest of the Kenyan Embassy to the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before being transferred from prison to a deportation center.

“He has been moved from the prison to the deportation centre, awaiting clearance for immediate deportation,” said Mudavadi.

The Embassy has already prepared an Emergency Travel Document (ETD) for Mr. Munyakho, as his passport had expired during his incarceration. The Saudi authorities have agreed to cover the full cost of his deportation.

“The Embassy is now awaiting confirmation of the date and time of his deportation flight, which could happen today. The government will communicate this as soon as we have the details,” Mudavadi added.

He further recounted that after the death sentence was pronounced, he wrote to the Saudi Foreign Minister and appealed for clemency. This intervention led to a postponement of

the execution, initially set for May 15, to allow negotiations over the blood money demanded by the deceased's family.

At the time, Mudavadi met with Munyakho's family in Kenya, who were struggling to raise the substantial compensation demanded. The government worked to persuade the family of the deceased to lower the amount to enable a quicker resolution.

“We are happy that Mr. Munyakho will be back soon to reunite with his family,” said Mudavadi, commending the collaborative efforts that led to his release.

The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs has reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of Kenyans abroad, and thanked the Saudi authorities for their cooperation in resolving the matter.

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Tharaka Nithi: Enhancing Fish Farming Through Strategic Partnerships

By: Alex Njeru
 @themtkenyatices

In a significant step toward boosting aquaculture in Tharaka Nithi County, the County Government's Fisheries Department has initiated strategic engagements with national research institutions to scale up fish farming across the region.

Yesterday, a technical team from the Fisheries Department, led by Chief Officer Mr. Antony Kiruja, held a consultative meeting with officials from the National Riverine Research and Training Centre based in Mutonga.

The centre operates under the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), and the session was chaired by the Centre Manager, Mr. Elijah Kembenya.

The meeting focused on identifying areas of collaboration that would enhance aquaculture development for both domestic consumption and commercial production. Stakeholders expressed optimism that the partnership would build strong synergies to advance fish farming, improve food



security, and uplift the economic status of local communities.

Mr. Kiruja lauded the county's progress in fish farming, noting that the sector has grown steadily over the past few years. "There is an increasing appetite for fish in Tharaka Nithi, and we are seeing more farmers embracing fish farming as a sustainable source of income," he said.

He pointed out that, until recently, fish farmers were forced to travel long distances — sometimes as far as Sagana in search of quality fingerlings. However, the situation has improved remarkably with the establishment of eight private hatcheries within the county, five of which are performing excellently.

Despite the progress, Mr. Kiruja highlighted the challenge of affordable and quality fish feed. He re-

vealed that the county government has supported a group of farmers to establish a fish feed processing plant in Chogoria Ward. The plant, Chumara, is expected to bridge the supply gap and reduce production costs for farmers.

"There is still a pressing need for continuous farmer training on modern aquaculture techniques," Mr. Kiruja emphasized. "By working closely with institutions such as KMFRI, we can equip our farmers with best practices for higher yields and better returns."

The Chief Officer also cited other challenges facing fish farmers, including predation and disease outbreaks, which continue to threaten fish survival and farm profitability.

On his part, Mr. Kembenya emphasized the importance of fish value



Tharaka Nithi County Government Fisheries officers led by Chief Officer Mr Antony Kiruja meet National Riverine Research and Training Centre in Mutonga for a consultative meeting on possible collaboration areas to boost fish farming. Photo/Alex Njeru.

addition as a way of increasing farmers' income and enhancing competitiveness in the marketplace. "If our farmers can process and package fish products attractively, they will fetch higher prices and even penetrate export markets," he said.

He acknowledged the high-risk nature of fish farming, which has made insurance companies hesitant to offer cover for aquaculture ventures. However, he disclosed that one insurance provider has shown interest in designing a package for fish farmers,

offering a ray of hope for risk mitigation.

Mr. Kembenya further stressed the need for stringent quality control, particularly for fish intended for export, to ensure compliance with international standards.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from both parties to engage in programs aimed at transforming fish farming in Tharaka Nithi County into a thriving, sustainable, and profitable enterprise.

Government Digitalize Procurement Procedure Of Goods And Services

By: Sebastian Miriti
 @themtkenyatices

The government has digitalized the procurement procedure of goods and services starting this Financial Year and field offices are being asked to ready themselves for the changes.

Marsabit County Commissioner James Kamau said the electronic government procurement (e-GP) was mandatory in order to enhance accountability and transparency in government financial operations.

Mr Kamau who was chairing the county heads of department service delivery meeting in his office said the move was also meant to hasten service delivery as digitization infuses efficiency and fairness.

The CC pointed out that the government was fine tuning the laying out of the digital superhighway to ensure that the roll out of the new system was not only effective but reliable.

"The digital superhighway program is part of the bottom up economic transformation agenda (BETA) which is expected to streamline the procurement of public goods and services," he said adding that it would also be an effective tool in the fight against corruption.

Mr Kamau pointed out that with competitiveness and openness, there is bound to be value for money as inflated costs of goods would be checked while operation costs in government offices would be lessened to a large extent.

He underlined that all services related to sourcing of goods and services will only be processed through the new system and asked the departments and agencies to ready their offices on the new changes in order to ensure smooth transition for uninterrupted service delivery.

County head of procurement Jamila Dima said plans to train procurement entities including suppliers were underway.



CJ Koome Dismisses DPP's Use Of Her Remarks To Justify Terrorism Charges Against Protesters

By: Bruhan Makong
 @themtkenyatimes

Chief Justice Martha Koome yesterday firmly distanced herself from the Director of Public Prosecutions' (DPP) use of her remarks to justify terrorism charges preferred against June 25 and July 7 anti-government protesters.

Instead Koome asserted that prosecutorial decisions must be grounded in credible evidence, and not influenced by public statements — including her own.

In a statement issued yesterday, CJ Koome clarified that her comments following the arson attack on the Kikuyu Law Courts on June 25 were specific to that incident and should not be interpreted as a blanket endorsement of terrorism charges in other protest-related cases.

“At the time, based on preliminary security briefings received immediately following the incident, I stated that the destruction was not carried out by local residents or peaceful protesters. Instead, the attackers were individuals brought in from outside Kikuyu, with the specific intention of destroying the court and adjacent public property,” Koome said, referencing her June 26 visit to the scene. Koome emphasized that her remarks

were made in response to a targeted, organized attack on a court and nearby government offices — not a general characterization of protests or protesters.

She reaffirmed that the DPP, under Article 157(10) of the Constitution, is an independent office and should not be influenced by public statements, even those made by the Chief Justice. “Decisions to investigate or prosecute must be based on credible evidence and the law. They are not influenced by public statements made by any individual, including the Chief Justice,” she stated.

Her clarification comes just days after the DPP released a statement defending the decision to charge several protesters under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

The DPP cited CJ Koome's earlier comments in support of the claim that the acts in question amounted to terrorism.

The ODPP argued that the protests of June 25 and July 7—which saw courts, police stations, and other government buildings vandalized or torched—were not spontaneous demonstrations but “calculated and coordinated acts of violence” intended to disrupt essential services and instill fear, thereby meeting the threshold for terrorism under Sections 2 and 4 of POTA.

However, the move has drawn sharp



Director of Public Prosecutions Renson Ingonga

criticism from civil society and legal experts.

A coalition of over 20 rights groups under the Police Reforms Working Group (PRWG) decried the charges as an abuse of anti-terror legislation.

“We are deeply concerned by the continued misuse of the Prevention of Terrorism Act to manage public order in more than 100 other cases,” the group said, warning that the trend threatens civil liberties and erodes Kenya's credibility in global counter-terrorism efforts.

In her statement, CJ Koome echoed concerns over the integrity of the

criminal justice system and reiterated the principles agreed upon at the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) meeting held on July 15.

The Council resolved that law enforcement must remain effective, accountable, and constitutionally anchored, and that civic space and the rights of human rights defenders must be protected.

“Our goal is a criminal justice system that remains true to the Constitution and serves the public interest,” Koome said.

She assured Kenyans that the Ju-

diary remains committed to fairness and the rule of law: “Everyone brought before the courts, regardless of the charge, will be treated fairly and given a full and fair hearing.”

The statement comes at a time of increased concern within Kenya's justice sector over the handling of recent unrest, as pressure mounts on state institutions to balance security imperatives with constitutional protections and human rights.

Coffee Market Registers The Lowest Sales

By: Morris Githenya
 @themtkenyatimes

The Nairobi coffee market in the weekly auction made KSh190,510,891 after the sale of 3,626 bags of coffee, weighing 224,947 kilograms.

The payment at the Nairobi Coffee Exchange (NCE) reflected the lowest achieved payment to the estate and cooperative farmers, compared to last week's KSh316.1 million.

Menu farmers cooperative society in Sirisia, Bungoma county achieved the highest price of KSh50,775 per bag of grade AA brokered by CEBBA, followed by Thuura Coffee Growers that achieved price of KSh48,264 per bag of grade AA, brokered by the New KPCU.

Gakuyu-ini achieved the third best price of KSh46,253 per bag brokered by Alliance Berries Limited.

In the coffee broker's performance, New KPCU sold 1,747 bags for KSh91.1 million, Alliance Berries auctioned 949 bags for KSh50.9 million, Minnesota 420 bags for KSh23.1 million, United Eastern 205 bags for KSh8.5 million, CEBBA 305 bags for KSh15.7 million.

In the dealers category, Kenyacof bought 851 bags for KSh46.3 million, Diamond Coffee 648 bags, for KSh35.9 million, C.Dormans 515 bags for KSh28.3 million.

Others are Sasini 415 bags for KSh22 million, Louis Dreyfus 436 bags for KSh20.4 million among others.

A report from the acting NCE CEO Mr Symon Mburia indicated that in the market only five brokers participated out of 16, while there were 19



coffee dealers.

“The production of AA grade was at 466 bags while that grade AB 1,666 bags,” read part of the report.

John Wanjala, a farmer in Bungoma

congratulated the Menu farmers for achieving the best price for the first time.

“It is proof that coffee, if well nurtured in any part of the country, can

achieve the highest price,” said Wanjala.

Meru Governor Urges Residents To Support Businessmen Whose Property Was Destroyed By Demos

By: Dennis Dibondo
 @themtkenyatimes

Meru county governor Isaac Mutuma has urged residents to support businesses that were looted and vandalized in the recent demonstrations get back on their feet.

He spoke yesterday when he visited Bei Sawa Supermarket that reopened after being looted and vandalised during the Gen Z protests on June 25.

The supermarket was one of the businesses affected by the protests during the Gen Z protest and Saba Saba demonstrations in Meru.

The county boss did shopping and also bought foodstuffs for residents at the facility as a way of supporting the business to get back to normalcy.

“The supermarket has been closed for one month since the protests, the employees, farmers and others who supply the commodities have been affected,” Mutuma said.

He said that businessmen should insure their property so that they can be

compensated.

“We want Meru to be vibrant so we condemn the destruction of property. It should never happen again because our people will lose their income,” Mutuma said.

Mutuma said that the destruction that was witnessed recently in Meru has never occurred before in the county.

“Even in post election violence in 2007 there was no destruction like that which was witnessed on June 25 and July 7 this year. We regret it and our people should not allow that to happen again,” Mutuma said.

Mutuma said the county government will continue encouraging and supporting businesses and even investors in the county.

The governor was accompanied by deputy governor Linda Kiome, county executive incharge of sports Elias Murega, County executive incharge of legal among other leaders.

Kiome said she was delighted to see the humility and generosity in governor Mutuma and they will continue working together to help businesses.



Meru governor Isaac Mutuma gives foodstuffs to Meru residents on Wednesday. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Kajiado Embraces One Health Approach To Save Lives And Livelihoods

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Mary Mathenge, Amref Health Kenya personnel and the team lead for Africa CDC in Kenya says that the one health program is a very critical program in Kajiado as they have realized that 75 percent of the diseases and outbreaks in the county are zoonotic related.
- “Due to that, we felt that it was important to introduce the one health approach where we bring together the human, animal and environmental health as they are all interconnected. We are therefore engaging the County Departments of Health, Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to ensure that all work together to address the issues that affect human health,” said Mathenge.

Kajiado County government has partnered with Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Mastercard Foundation under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative to address public health challenges facing Kajiado residents in a one health approach program.

The one health approach brings together the County Departments of Health, Agriculture and Environment and Saving Lives and Livelihoods implementing partners such as Amref Health Kenya, Unicef and Kenya Red Cross.

Mary Mathenge, Amref Health Kenya personnel and the team lead for Africa CDC in Kenya says that the one health program is a very critical program in Kajiado as they have realized that 75 percent of the diseases and outbreaks in the county are zoonotic related.

“Due to that, we felt that it was important to introduce the one health approach where we bring together the human, animal and environmental health as they are all interconnected. We are therefore engaging the County Departments of Health, Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to ensure that all work together to address the issues that affect human health,” said Mathenge.

She cited that due to the presence of the Amboseli national park, and most residents of Kajiado are pastoralists, livestock and people usually interact with wildlife and coupled with the various issues affecting the environment, there is much need for the one health approach.

So far, the program has successful-

ly supported 82 one health outreaches and 111 integrated medical outreaches through 78 health facilities reaching last mile communities.

“This has been made possible through the holistic approach whereby this is a pastoralist community and their biggest priority is livestock, we ensure that we also show them that we are also concerned with the animals and we get closer and educate them on health and the importance of why they should look after their own health and prevent the spread of diseases,” said Mathenge.

The County Executive Committee Member for Health Alex Kilowua, cites that the majority of the residents especially those living in rural parts of Kajiado have poor health-seeking behavior but through the one health approach, there has been an increase in the number of people seeking health services in the county.

“The one health approach has been very critical in saving lives and livelihoods in Kajiado because if we only focus on human health and ignore animal health, we won’t be achieving much considering this is majorly a pastoral community and they interact with animals daily,” emphasized Kilowua.

He revealed that ever since the one health approach program started, 9,607 people have been reached in the outreaches through curative, hypertension and diabetes screening services among others while 3,319 people have been reached through one health talk at the community level.

Kilowua remarked that due to the porous Namanga border, the county usually witnesses disease outbreaks with the most recent one being a measles outbreak in Kajiado Central constituency.

“Through the Saving Lives and Livelihoods program, we started targeted outreaches and we were able to vaccinate most children against the disease,” he said.

The CECM also added that through the increased integrated outreaches, they are also registering residents on Social Health Authority so that when the partners exit, the residents will be able to still access health services in an affordable, convenient way.

Francis ole Sakuda, the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries reiterates that the one health approach is important because most diseases which affect livestock in Kajiado, like anthrax, Rift Valley fever, and rabies, are transmissible to humans.

He remarked that cases of rabies have been lately reported in Kajiado Central and through the One Health approach, 639 rabies vaccines have been administered and over 5,000 children have been sensitized on dog bites and management in Kajiado South.

Zoonotic diseases have been on the rise across Africa and to respond to this, African Union in partnership with Africa CDC have launched the Zoonotic Disease Prevention and Control Strategy (2025-2029) to help reduce illness and death, strengthen health systems

and prevent the next outbreak before it starts.

“

Due to that, we felt that it was important to introduce the one health approach where we bring together the human, animal and environmental health as they are all interconnected. We are therefore engaging the County Departments of Health, Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to ensure that all work together to address the issues that affect human health,” said Mathenge.

Kenya Launches NYOTA Youth Program To Unlock Over 200,000 Job Opportunities

By: Amina Bakari and Esther Mulongo
@themtkenyatimes



CS Salim Mvurya

Worth Noting:

- The launch, held at a hotel in Nairobi, was presided over by Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, the Creative Economy and Sports, Salim Mvurya, alongside the ministry's Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, Fikirini Jacobs.
- It brought together youth leaders from all 47 counties, implementing partners, and stakeholders from government and the private sector.
- Speaking at the event, Mvurya said the program is a strategic milestone in the government's efforts to harness the potential of Kenya's youth.
- "NYOTA is not just a project; it is a national platform for the transformation of youths and an initiative that seeks to provide young people with equitable access to opportunities that will help them realize their aspirations," he added.

Kenya in collaboration with the World Bank has officially launched the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement (NYOTA) Program.

The program is a transformative initiative aimed at empowering over 200,000 youths across the country through access to employment, entrepreneurship, digital technology, and creative industry opportunities.

The launch, held at a hotel in Nairobi, was presided over by Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, the Creative Economy and Sports, Salim Mvurya, alongside the ministry's Principal Secretary for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy, Fikirini Jacobs.

It brought together youth leaders from all 47 counties, implementing partners, and stakeholders from government and the private sector.

Speaking at the event, Mvurya said the program is a strategic milestone in the government's efforts to harness the potential of Kenya's youth. "NYOTA is not just a project; it is a national platform for the transformation of youths and an initiative that seeks to provide young people with equitable access to opportunities that will help them realize their aspirations," he added.

Mvurya emphasized that the application process is fully digital, accessible via mobile phones, and deliberately free from bureaucrat-

ic barriers, adding, "You no longer need to know anyone in the government to access youth empowerment opportunities. If you are applying for business support or recognition of prior learning, all you need is a phone, internet access, and your ID."

He revealed that NYOTA was already making headway with applications surpassing expectations and was now moving to rollout and implementation phases.

Mvurya praised the transparency of the project's recent logo competition, where winners were awarded after a public, inclusive selection process.

The CS also announced that NYOTA will be fully rolled out during the International Youth Week in August, noting that by then, many applicants will have been certified to begin receiving support.

On his part, Fikirini echoed the CS's sentiments and urged youth to make use of the available opportunities.

"This is a call to action; we are currently accepting applications under the On-Job Experience (OJE) program through the *254# platform, hence I urge all youths to apply only for the currently open components to avoid application errors," he advised.

The PS emphasised that the NYOTA also targets vulnerable youths

who lack formal educational qualifications, providing avenues through recognition of prior learning and national certification frameworks.

He added that social enterprises, access to government procurement, and financial inclusion programs are embedded within NYOTA's design to reach underserved youth.

Fikirini highlighted the government's ongoing commitment to international job placements through the Labour Mobility Program, supported by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF).

"The State Department is currently facilitating 600 youths, each with up to Sh300,000, to enable them to take up job opportunities abroad and is keen on ensuring no youth is left behind due to lack of facilitation," he stated.

Fikirini also noted that global remittances from Kenyan youths working abroad under the program contributed over Sh5 billion to the economy last year, affirming the value of the diaspora in national development.

To improve access to youth services, the PS announced the development of a digital Youth Opportunity Passport, consolidating all youth-targeted government programs in one platform.

He called on the National Youth Council to expedite digitization to allow for real-time updates.

Reflecting on his journey, Fikiri-

ni recounted how attending International Youth Day as a student in 2018 shaped his public service path.

"I came from Bamba, Kilifi, one of the most disadvantaged areas, to attend Youth Day in Nairobi, and today, I am privileged to be a principal secretary; that is the power of platforms like these," he remarked.

Both the CS and PS urged youth to reject manipulation by political actors and instead focus their energy on building their future.

"Those inciting you to violence have already reached their destination, so focus on your journey and use these platforms to shape your legacy," said Mvurya.

The NYOTA Program, a flagship under President Dr. William Ruto's youth empowerment agenda, is expected to consolidate youth-focused development efforts, streamline service delivery and create a coordinated framework for youth engagement across Kenya.

Respite For Motorists And Traders As KURA Allocates KSh64M For Nyali Road Rehabilitation

By: KNA
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA) has announced the closure of Links Road, Nyali, which becomes impassable during the rainy season for six months to facilitate its construction.

In a public notice, KURA stated that the road will be closed from 6.00 am next Friday, August 1st, to 6.00pm on Friday, January 30th, 2026.

“This closure is necessary to facilitate the construction works with the aim of providing a lasting solution to the regular flooding and drainage challenges that usually affect that section of the road,” read the notice that also advised motorists to exercise caution when approaching the affected section and to follow all road signs. Police Officers and Traffic Marshals

will be on site to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

Motorists have been urged to use the diversion to Mt. Kenya road as an alternative route as construction is set to commence to improve mobility on the flood-prone section.

In May, a woman lost her left eye after being struck by debris while travelling in a tuk-tuk that got stuck in a flooded section of the road near the Basic Mall an incident that underscored the urgency of repairs.

“We want to address those issues so that we can have traffic and pedestrians moving smoothly without being affected by the water,” KURA Coast region Deputy Director Eng. Endelinah Eustace stated during a stakeholders’ consultation meeting.

The Deputy Director said the contractor who is already on site will raise the road akin to a causeway, and vertical drains will also be constructed. She urged the Mombasa County



Government to do drainage works in the upmarket suburb as new buildings are being constructed to avert destruction of roads by storm water.

Both traders and motorists have welcomed the project, expressing hope that it will finally put an end to the long-standing flooding issues that

have disrupted business and damaged vehicles.

KNBS Launches 2025/26 Household Budget Survey

By: Hellen Lunalo
 @themtkenyatimes

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has announced a nationwide data collection exercise for the 2025/26 Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS).

This crucial initiative, spanning 12 months from July 2025 to July 22, 2026, aims to gather essential data to inform national planning, policy development, and the monitoring of living standards across Kenya.

KNBS officials will visit 24,480 scientifically sampled households in all 47 counties, including 960 households located in refugee camps.

The comprehensive survey will cover a wide range of vital information, including income distribution, household expenditure patterns, and key indicators related to education, health, employment, and labor conditions.

The Bureau will also collect data on child health and nutrition, fertility and mortality rates, and access to housing, water, sanitation, and

energy.

Trained enumerators will conduct face-to-face interviews using tablet computers while collecting data. To ensure the authenticity of the enumerators, KNBS has stated that all personnel will carry official identification badges with QR scan codes for verification, along with introduction letters from the Bureau.

Furthermore, KNBS emphasizes that all responses provided by households will be kept strictly confidential and used solely for statistical purposes, underscoring their commitment to data privacy.

The KIHBS is recognized as Kenya’s most comprehensive household surveys, playing a pivotal role in shaping the nation’s economic and social development agenda and KNBS has urged all selected households to cooperate fully and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this important national exercise.

For any inquiries, the public is encouraged to contact KNBS by visiting their website www.knbs.or.ke



One More Try



In every Fall, I rise
and succeed with
one more try.

I learn From mistakes,
and with one more try,
I succeed.

I asked my mom one more time to cook,

and I succeeded.

I asked my dad one more time to take me
swimming, and I succeeded.

I asked my teacher one more time to help
with my handwriting,
and I succeeded.

I begged God one more time to spare my life,
and I succeeded.

T. Vasugi,
B.T Asst,
Kamaraj Matriculation Higher Secondary
School,
Kovilpatti,

No Teacher Can Teach Experience



When? Where? How?

To listen, to speak, to respond—
Experience becomes our greatest
teacher.

It imparts knowledge,
It shares wisdom,
It lights the path ahead.

Silence and a smile add value to our
growth,

No teacher can teach experience.
We learn its lessons on our own,
Day by day, moment by moment.

KUMARESWARI S
GRADUATE TEACHER- ENGLISH
VKGHSS AYYANKALIPALAYAM
TIRUPPUR

Lessons learned in schools and
universities may last a lifetime,
But the lessons of life are etched even
deeper.

Who guides us in understanding people?
Who enlightens our minds with wisdom?
Who truly educates us?

Unexpressed Love.....



it is like a secret.
It is very painful thing
Unexpressed love
is totally different from expressed love.
True love live for a long time
True love gives more happiness.
Unexpressed love is
always for my mother,
father and my brother.

S. Priya
10th A
Govt. High School
Melpattampakkam
Cuddalore district
Tamil Nadu, India

Unexpressed love gives more pain.
It makes you depressed.
Unexpressed love is always in our heart.
we do not tell to any one.

Where Are You Living?? Past, Present Or Future?



All these experiences become my
perception

In past I stuck in over analyzing
At present I clear out myself optimizing
Maintain the inner peace, future will be
astounding

Be grateful, everything will be
harmonizing.....

DHANALAKSHMI DM
BT ASST
VKVM GGHSS VELAPADI
VELLORE DISTRICT
TAMILNADU , INDIA

Past life made me feel shame and guilty
At present I am aware of my peculiarity
For future it will lead good self authority
These realization gives confidence and
clarity

Past regrets left me in depression
But present acceptance leads to
progression
It will help to build my future projection

Just Try One More Time To Succeed



Though it's difficult, it's not impossible to
achieve,
Keep moving forward, with all your might
Failures will come, and may bring you down,
But rise up, and try again, with a courageous
heart

Waves of doubt will crash, but don't be
distracted
Keep moving forward, with your might
Try with your heart, soul, and mind as one,
And success will be yours, when the journey's
done.

Brinda. D
CREATIVE WRITERS
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
CUDDALORE,
Tamilnadu India

Just try one more time, to win the test,
Winning is just one step away,
So don't take rest or relax
Don't be discouraged, depressed , disappointed
or heartbroken
Trials will come, but face them with courage
each day.

Be strong in your decision and don't give up
Every failure teaches, and helps you to win,
Each attempt is a chance, to learn and to
grow,
Adapt to success, and failure, though not
practical

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Deputy President Kindiki To Launch Women Empowerment Program In Muhoroni

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

A major Women Empowerment Program is set to take place tomorrow in Muhoroni Sub-County, Kisumu County, with Deputy President Kithure Kindiki expected to grace the event.

The initiative, championed by a group of political leaders from the Nyanza region, aims to tackle key challenges facing women, including economic inequality, limited access to healthcare, and social discrimination.

Speaking ahead of the event yesterday, Muhoroni Member of Parliament James Onyango Koyoo said the initiative seeks to uplift women both socially and economically.

He emphasized that women empowerment programs align with the national government's ambitions targeting to uplift individuals at the bottom of the economic pyramid.

"When you empower a woman, you empower a generation," said Koyoo. "This initiative goes beyond financial aid – it is about restoring dignity, building independence, and giving our women the tools they need to shape the future of Muhoroni."

The event will feature exhibitions by women groups, training on agribusiness and financial literacy, and the distribution of start-up capital and equipment for small-scale businesses.

The initiative is part of a broader national effort by government agencies to support women through training, grants, and strategic partnerships aimed at fostering economic empowerment and capacity building.



Githurai Kimbo Comprehensive School Gets 11 New JSS Classrooms To Bolster Education

By: MKT Reporter
@themkenyatimes

Githurai Kimbo Comprehensive School has officially launched eleven new Junior Secondary School (JSS) classrooms in a major boost to its infrastructure and learning environment.

The new facilities were constructed through the support of the national government under the Ministry of Education in response to the increasing number of learners in Githurai-Kimbo comprehensive institution. The expansion aims to reduce congestion and provide a more comfortable space for both students.

Located in a densely populated urban area, the school has experienced high enrollment, especially following the introduction of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), which established Junior Secondary levels in primary schools. The additional classrooms are expected to ease pressure on available learning space and ensure smooth delivery of

the curriculum.

The new classrooms are spacious, well-built, and in good condition creating a more suitable environment for effective teaching and learning.

Ruiru Member of Parliament Simon King'ara, who attended the commissioning, praised the initiative as timely. "We are investing in education because it is the foundation of any prosperous community. These classrooms will go a long way in ensuring our children learn in dignity and safety," he said.

Parents and community members also welcomed the development. Susan Akinyi, a parent whose son is in Grade 7, expressed relief. "My child used to study in a very crowded classroom. As he progresses to JSS he will have spacious classroom. I'm very grateful," she said.

In addition to Githurai Kimbo, has also benefited from the construction Lang'ata Primary School and Mutuya Primary School. These projects are part of a broader strategy to enhance access to education in fast-growing urban areas.



Ruiru MP Simon King'ara opening the new classrooms

With the new classrooms now complete and ready for use, Githurai-Kimbo comprehensive school

is better prepared to accommodate over 500 Junior Secondary learners in a safe and supportive academic setting.



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Africa Urged To Prioritize STEM For Industrial Growth

By: Ian Chepkuto
@themkenyatimes

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba has called for renewed commitment among African nations to prioritize investment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as a critical driver of industrialization and youth empowerment across the continent.

Speaking while officiating the STEMtastic Adventures! Africa 2025 Symposium hosted by the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEА) in Karen, Nairobi, Ogamba urged states to rethink, collaborate, and act decisively in reshaping Africa's educational landscape.

The symposium attracted government ministers, education stakeholders, and delegates from over 30 African countries.

"Sixty percent of Africa's population is under the age of 30. By 2050, one in every four youth globally will be from Africa. STEM education is not just a necessity but our lifeline to industrial competitiveness and sustainable development," Ogamba said.

The CS emphasised that with such a youthful population, Africa needs to equip its young people with relevant skills to excel in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He underscored that investing in STEM was not optional, but a strategic imperative.

For instance, the CS noted Kenya's commitment to STEM through the Competency-Based Education (CBE), which offers three senior school pathways: STEM, Arts and Sports, and Social Sciences.

"Kenya is home to STEM," he said, adding that CBE enables learners to align education with their passions and aspirations.

To boost STEM delivery, Ogamba announced that the government is constructing 1,600 new laboratories and also recruiting newly graduated STEM teachers.

On strategies to strengthen STEM education in schools, Ogamba revealed that efforts were underway to rationalize the deployment of existing teaching staff to ensure equitable distribution across institutions.

The CS said the Ministry of Education is working closely with the National Treasury to ensure full release of capitation funds to both primary and secondary schools, which is crucial in meeting STEM learning targets.

Addressing broader education concerns, Ogamba reaffirmed the government's zero-tolerance policy on abuse in schools, assuring the public that investigations are underway into

allegations of misconduct involving a teacher at Alliance Girls High School. "We are handling the matter both administratively and through the established legal channels. Any teacher found culpable of molestation or inappropriate conduct will face the full force of the law," he said.

The CS further urged school administrators and education officers to create open channels of communication with students, particularly during these exam periods, to reduce stress and tension. "Mental wellness and discipline are key," he added.

The CS, who toured the bootcamps, was amazed by some young innovators, who burnt the midnight oil to develop creative solutions.

He lauded CEMASTEА for providing a valuable platform that empowers young people to showcase innovations addressing real-world challenges such as environmental pollution, climate change and industrial inefficiencies.

The CS commended CEMASTEА CEO, Jacinta Akatsa, for her visionary leadership in organizing the STEM symposiums and nurturing a culture of innovation among students.

He further called on more learners to take advantage of such bootcamps to harness their creativity, develop problem-solving skills and contribute meaningfully to Africa's transformation agenda.

During the function, one of the notable students, Anzel Cindy Hayo from St. Anne's Girls School, Nairobi, showcased a hybrid water hyacinth harvester powered by solar energy.

Her invention, the ANZDA Hybrid Water Hyacinth Harvester, is designed to clean invasive water weeds like hyacinth from water bodies such as Lake Victoria.

"Our project uses solar energy to power a vessel that uproots and collects water hyacinth. The weed is then processed for use as fertilizer or fish feed," Anzel explained.

She stressed the environmental and economic value of the project, which addresses the pressing issue of water hyacinth clogging local waterways.

"Water hyacinth contributes to global warming by producing methane during decomposition," she said, adding, "We must act to protect ecosystems and local livelihoods. I come from the Lake Victoria region, and I've seen firsthand how this weed disrupts lives."

At the same time, two students from Oololaiser High school in Ngong, Gamaliel Saitabao and Wyne Otieno, equally stole the show after developing automated smart waste bins.



Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba (3rd left), flanked by Education PS Prof. Julius Bitok and CEMASTEА CEO, Jacinta Akatsa admires a STEM project demonstration by students during the STEMtastic Adventures! Africa 2025 Symposium at CEMASTEА, Karen, Nairobi..



CEMASTEА Chief Executive Officer Jacinta Akatsa addressing delegates during the STEMtastic Adventures! Africa 2025 Symposium at CEMASTEА, Karen, Nairobi.



CS Julius Ogamba.

Their innovation project uses ultrasonic sensors to open lids automatically, alongside RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) cards to restrict access once the bins are full, thus ensuring that only authorized waste collectors can access them.

The bins send real-time alerts via Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) to facilitate timely waste collection, enhancing hygiene and efficiency in waste management.

The duo highlighted the project's affordability and student-led innovation, encouraging their peers to use technology in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while urging them to simply "Identify the problem, have faith and solve the challenges we face every other day."

Worth Noting:

- "Sixty percent of Africa's population is under the age of 30. By 2050, one in every four youth globally will be from Africa. STEM education is not just a necessity but our lifeline to industrial competitiveness and sustainable development," Ogamba said.

- The CS emphasised that with such a youthful population, Africa needs to equip its young people with relevant skills to excel in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

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- For instance, the CS noted Kenya's commitment to STEM through the Competency-Based Education (CBE), which offers three senior school pathways: STEM, Arts and Sports, and Social Sciences.

Why Has The Genz Revolution Failed In Uganda?

By: Richard Byamukama

@themtkenyatimes

Since last year, there has been a growing revolutionary influence where young people have ignited a strong revolutionary challenge against governments and the existing global norms of the socio-political and economic spheres of life.

Under the revolutionary code “Gen Z” the revolution is all over the world, and there’s a wide growing threat to governments all over the world about their motivation to address contemporary challenges through political overhauls and change of insensitive governments. We have seen “Gen Z” protests in Togo attempting to overthrow one Africa’s longest oligarchies, in Kenya, and all over the world. Why aren’t these happening in Uganda?

Majority of Uganda’s youths have seemingly either taken sides with president Museveni who has been in

power for nearly 40 years, or chosen silence. How has this been possible?

Despite the growing pressure on social media and from the Civil Society against president Museveni’s 40 years reign. A clear observation still reflects large crowds of young people escorting his recent political comeback with praises and slogans of hope and certainty.

But why, and really why would the debutant voters praise an 80 years old Museveni amidst greater issues as raised by Gen Z’s worldwide including unemployment, corruption and governance immoralities? Will Uganda really survive the Gen Z revolution?

This brings us to a deeper analysis of why many youths are actually determined and also pre-determined towards Museveni’s reign or any of his endorsed successors. Pre-determination means that Ugandan GenZ’s can vote for Museveni’s son, or any other successor endorsed by him.

This could be largely due to the greater desire for peace and stability as largely enshrined in the NRM

ideologies. But also, some claim that government programs like PDM, Youth Skilling, EMYOGA, and government commitment to infrastructure development like roads, public relation schemes by the regime apparatus like NRM propagandists, social media and state own media like TV, radios and newspapers

Some government programs like the universal education in primary and post primary education, education scholarships like district quotas and government merit schemes in Uganda and abroad have created a ready cycle of the Museveni fun base. This is despite of the current raising costs of the education in the country.

Also, some analysts say that it is as a result of the greedy, incompetent and un-trustworthy opposition that is always dealing with the regime and insensitive to angry and violent calls to change the regime.

On many occasions, whenever there is a serious concern or mobilization calling for protests against the regime, the country’s leading opposition leader Bobi Wine finds a trip or



NICHOLAS BAMULANZEKI

a music concert outside the country which has casted doubts to his sensitivity towards regime change. Other opposition leaders and political parties have either taken sides with the NRM through cooperation agreements, or on government payroll, or always taken a moment of silence towards regime change which has left change seeking youths in dire hopelessness.

These conditions have made it dif-

icult for the civil society, political parties, political actors, and foreign governments to ignite a Gen Z uprising in the country and predictably not any arrangements any time soon.

Richard Byamukama is a lawyer and a security studies expert

Government Must Invest In Local Youth Climate Led Solutions

By: Ainembabazi Shallon

@themtkenyatimes

As the world grapples with escalating climate shocks from prolonged droughts to devastating floods and heat waves one truth is becoming clearer: solutions must rise from the ground up. And at the heart of these solutions is a powerful force often underestimated youth leadership. From disrupted education due to floods, to rising food insecurity, to worsening unemployment caused by failed harvests and energy instability, today’s youth are living on the frontlines of a crisis they did not create.

Furthermore, the recurring droughts are threatening the future of farming communities where many young people depend on agriculture for survival. In coastal areas, rising sea levels are displacing families and eroding opportunities. Urban youth are breathing in toxic air from industries and rotting wastes navigating floods in poorly planned neighborhoods. Mental health challenges, climate anxiety, and uncertainty about the future have become part of youth

identity in the age of climate change. Additionally, In communities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, young people are stepping up not just as climate activists, but as innovators and problem-solvers, designing practical solutions rooted in local knowledge. Their work is proving that climate resilience doesn’t always come from billion-dollar projects. Sometimes, it comes from a youth-led community composting initiative, a solar-powered water pump, or a mobile app that alerts farmers to changing weather patterns.

Grassroots innovations are uniquely positioned to reduce climate vulnerability because they are locally relevant, cheap, and community-driven. Unlike the strategic interventions, these solutions understand the ground, the people, and the socio-economic challenges. For example, in Uganda, youth-led groups are restoring degraded wetlands through tree planting and agroforestry while providing green jobs to unemployed youth through making and training of organic fertilizers and eco briquettes from agricultural waste as the alternative to firewood and also preventing deforestation.

And what makes these efforts transformative is not just the innovation itself, but the process behind it youth engagement, community ownership, and inclusive leadership. Young people are not waiting for permission. They are mobilizing peers, educating communities, and building networks of resilience from the grassroots through school clubs, digital platforms, and youth cooperatives, they are shifting climate action from the conference halls to the frontlines of real life.

Technology is another level that youth are leveraging on fully. With the available resources such as smartphones in hand, they are developing apps for climate-smart agriculture and creating digital campaigns that spread awareness at lightning speed. These tools are making climate information more accessible and adaptation strategies more effective.

The most powerful innovation youth bring to the climate fight is hope that is rooted in action. They are not paralysed by the scale of the crisis. Instead, they are planting seeds literally and symbolically for a better future. And their work is not just reducing climate risks today but



preparing communities to withstand and thrive despite the uncertainties of tomorrow.

The call to action now is Governments and development agencies must move beyond symbolic inclusion and instead fund, mentor, and trust youth to lead. Climate adaptation and resilience cannot be achieved without those who are already living and innovating through its toughest impacts.

Moreso Governments should prioritize in investing in education and training programs for youth to equip the workforce with skills required for

the emerging green energy sector. In conclusion, the climate crisis has robbed many young people of certainty, but it has also awakened a generation of visionaries, inventors, and change-makers. If supported, youth-led grassroots innovations could be the turning point in building a more just and resilient world.

*Written by,
Ainembabazi Shallon
Programs Officer
Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WOGEM)*

The Power Of Indigenous Knowledge In Ogiek's Quest To Build Resilience, Adaptation And Mitigation Of Climate Change In Their Lands.

By: John Omondi.
@themtkenyatimes

The Ogiek community holds valuable indigenous knowledge that is crucial for building climate resilience in their mountainous habitat in Chepkitale Mt Elgon Forest. That knowledge includes the understanding of the local ecological patterns, resource management, and traditional practices that are effective for adapting to climate variabilities.

These traditional skills and techniques helps them forecast climatic events, plan resource use, and make informed decisions in a rapidly changing environment. By integrating traditional wisdom into climate resilience strategies, the Ogiek have enhanced their capacity to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

The Mount Elgon bio reserve, a place called home by the community, covers an area of 74,000 hectares. The gazetted forest is a critical water tower and a globally renowned biodiversity hotspot. The source of two major rivers —the Nzoia and Turkweli—which provides the precious commodity to millions downstream. It includes a government protected forest hosting over 1,500 tree species, including the endangered ones like *Juniperus procera*, *Olea chrysophylla* and *Vachellia xanthophloea*.

Teeming with species of birds and animals such as the bateleur eagle, bushbuck and impala; the endangered African forest elephants can also be spotted roaming within the forest. With an elevation of 1500m above sea level, the region receives an average of 1300mm of rainfall annually.

The community continues to coordinate conservation efforts within the forest by promoting sustainable natural resource management and community engagement to protect the Mount Elgon ecosystem against threats such as deforestation, human-wildlife conflict, climate change and encroachment.

Understanding Local Ecological Conditions:

Their elders have a deep and clear understanding of the local ecosystem, including the knowledge of plant and animal behavior, seasonal changes, and the impact of weather patterns on their livelihoods.

They have leveraged that knowledge to enhance climate resilience by integrating traditional practices into climate adaptation strategies and understanding the interplay between their culture and the environment. The knowledge is deeply entrenched in their relationship with nature, helping them with sustainable resource



Ogiek community assembled for a cultural event. By John Omondi .



Untouched natural forest in Ogiek territory photo by John Omondi

Worth Noting:

- The Mount Elgon bio reserve, a place called home by the community, covers an area of 74,000 hectares. The gazetted forest is a critical water tower and a globally renowned biodiversity hotspot. The source of two major rivers —the Nzoia and Turkweli—which provides the precious commodity to millions downstream. It includes a government protected forest hosting over 1,500 tree species, including the endangered ones like *Juniperus procera*, *Olea chrysophylla* and *Vachellia xanthophloea*.
- Teeming with species of birds and animals such as the bateleur eagle, bushbuck and impala; the endangered African forest elephants can also be spotted roaming within the forest. With an elevation of 1500m above sea level, the region receives an average of 1300mm of rainfall annually.

management and environmental protection vital for their survival.

Cultural and spiritual Beliefs.

The Ogiek community in Mt Elgon observes cultural beliefs passed down for generations to enforce customary laws such as a ban on cutting down indigenous trees or hunting specific species of wild animals that are heavily linked to the tribe's spiritual values. These cultural beliefs are dynamic and reflective of the community's ecological knowledge that connects spirituality and taboos to protecting nature.

Adaptative Capacity

The adaptive capacity of the Ogiek can be observed as they utilize traditional knowledge to adapt to climate change impacts, including drought management, water conservation, and agricultural practices. Integration of that knowledge into climate resilience strategies is crucial for empow-

ering the community and ensures that climate solutions are culturally relevant and effective.

Adaptation Strategies

The community has a well developed adaptation strategy, build over time and includes, utilizing traditional farming practices that are resilient to climate change such as diversification of crops.

Communal resource governance systems are in place for managing natural resources sustainably and utilizing local knowledge to predict weather patterns and plan for potential impacts.

The indigenous trees nurtured act as champions by creating a symbiotic relationship that supports pollinators, enriches soil organic matter, and boosts crop yields by up to 40%. This type of approach represents one of the many solutions that helps increase soil organic matter to a minimum of 3-6% (based on national conditions) needed for sustainable farming.

“Our people have lived in harmony with nature. We don't just plant trees we understand which seed belongs to which soil, which plant supports which insect, and how the balance of nature is maintained through careful, intentional living ” says Alexander Kisioi of Program for Heritage of Ogiek and Mother Earth Organization.

The community practices cultural burning– the gentle, regular burning that creates swathes of burned and unburned land, reducing the chances of spreading wildfires by burning fuel loads and creating safe areas during droughts. Ogiek elders are experts in the use of this ancient technique to avoid fire disasters during dry season.

Their beekeeping initiatives supports the sustainable management of a wide range of ecosystems — from the Mau Forest to the foothills of Mt Elgon —

The Power Of Indigenous Knowledge In Ogiek's Quest To Build Resilience, Adaptation And Mitigation Of Climate Change In Their Lands.

Contd from page 20

by generating alternative sources of income. Through the sale of honey and its byproducts, they have developed an alternative livelihood that harmoniously works with nature.

Building Resilience Through Indigenous Knowledge

Bird calls, croaks and sounds of animals are used by the community to predict seasons and other weather patterns. Traditional water management techniques for storing and using water, such as digging wells are used to ensure availability during dry seasons while rotational grazing is practiced to prevent overgrazing and allow the pastures to recover.

Seed sovereignty, a tradition that allows the Indigenous people to keep, preserve and share seeds, passed down the generations is widely used here. The local seeds exhibit resistance to pests and diseases and are resilient in extreme weather conditions. These indigenous seeds are integral to agricultural biodiversity, since they offer a diverse genetic pool that is vital for the resilience of indigenous food systems. "Seed saving is another key part of our heritage," says Mrs Judy Kipkenda, who is a senior member of the Koibatek Ogiek Women and Youth Network (KOWYN).

"Since time immemorial, the Ogiek have carefully collected, preserved, and shared seeds of indigenous plants and crops that suits their land. These seeds keep biodiversity alive and ensures food security is maintained at all times" She added.

The seed saving process begins with inspecting the seeds for moisture content and pest infestation. The step that follows is checking out the seed's dormancy rate. "This is done by picking about 10 seeds, placing them in a bowl, and covering them with a wet tissue. In about 7 days, we observe how many out of the ten have germinated" Cheboi, a local farmer explains. If three or fewer seeds germinate, it means the dormancy rate is high and the seeds are not of good quality hence cannot be stored.

Seeds are then stored in airtight glass bottles while others are stored in buckets depending on quantity. A film of ash from burnt special tree

barks is then spread over the seeds to keep moisture off and ward of pests. Seed saving is an essential part of Ogiek tribe's agricultural productivity.

There is a growing consensus among climate, environmental experts and activists on the significance of the indigenous practices to the planet's future. Emerging body of research suggests that some millennia old traditional methodologies, for food production, land restoration and conservation of endangered species could help stem the decline of natural ecosystems.

In December 2022, government representatives from around the world gathered at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada, and agreed on a new set of goals that will guide global actions on nature until 2030. The framework acknowledges the significant contributions of the indigenous people as stewards of nature and partners in conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

The world's indigenous population standing at 476 million people living across 90 countries and representing 5,000 diverse cultures, manages an estimated quarter of the Earth's land mass. They oversee 40 per cent of all ecologically virgin landscapes across the world. These communities also known as the 'First Nations' are at the forefront of conservation, according to a 2021 report supported in part by the UNEP. Many are experts in living within fragile ecosystems and managing biodiversity

Tending Traditional knowledge

The Ogiek of Mount Elgon have to a written customary bylaws to ensure the continued conservation of their traditions, ancestral lands and natural resources as their precious heritage. The community passes on that knowledge through oral traditions from one generation to the next through traditions that include storytelling; a method used to teach about cultural beliefs, values, rituals, customs, history and ways of life.

In the spirit of the ILO 1989 Convention 169 which recognizes indigenous People's collective rights, including rights to self determination over territories, they have insisted on protocols like Free Prior Informed Consent, a binding legal tool that requires governments to consult indigenous people in good faith before any decisions that affects them are

taken.

Challenges

Seed regulation in Kenya began in 1972 as the Seed and Plant Varieties Act, metamorphosed into the recently updated law on Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) through the Seeds and Plant Varieties (Amendment) Act of 2012.

With stringent protection measures for new plant varieties in place, the 2012 Seed and Plant Varieties Act outlawed farmers from "selling, sharing and exchanging" uncertified seeds, effectively wresting them from owning the rights to these traditional seeds and food systems, something they have been custodians of for ages. Farmers who break this law risk a prison sentence of up to two years or a fine of up to a million Kenyan shillings.

The Ogiek decry the consolidation of the seed industry and have been at the forefront of the movement for seed sovereignty within the indigenous communities. From seed courts and seed exchanges to breeding projects, the community is actively working to reclaim their seed heritage and maintain biodiversity.

In 2017, the African Court on Human and People's Rights ruled in favor of Ogiek, serving an injunction order on infringement on their cultural lands African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights v. Republic of Kenya (2017).

In a follow-up ruling, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights v. Republic of Kenya (2022), the Commission ordered for compensation, demarcation of their lands, and official recognition as In-

igenous Peoples. The government is yet to implement these rulings.

The community continues to face pressure from extractive industries, logging, commercial ranches and evictions enforced by the authorities who consider the area a government reserve. Displacement forced some of them to other areas where they face pressure of assimilation from the surrounding communities contributing to heritage loss and cultural erosion.

Future Sustainability

By resisting the privatization of this vital resource, Ogiek indigenous seed savers stand as guardians of food security and a balanced biodiversity for present and future generations. The remarkable resilience exhibited within the seed sovereignty movement offers an avenue towards a more regenerative, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

In a bid to maintain their cultural ways of adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change, the community enacted bylaws that defines their places for settlement, for grazing, sacred sites, medicinal sites and they do not allow other activities along riverbanks within Chepkitale area.

They fiercely guard their language as a repository of cultural knowledge and tradition. Forging alliances for sustainable initiatives while fighting for their rights—a fundamental principle to their own sustainable future and a healthy planet.



Alexander Kisioi, indigenous knowledge holder. By John Omondi.



Ogiek tribesman showing using indigenous knowledge to lit fire. By John Omondi



Community cultural center photo by John Omondi.

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Sports >> *Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has named a 25-man final squad to represent the country at next month's African Nations Championships (CHAN) in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

McCarthy Names Harambee Stars Final Squad For CHAN

Harambee Stars head coach Benni McCarthy has named a 25-man final squad to represent the country at next month's African Nations Championships (CHAN) in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The team, to be skippered by Kenya Police left back About Omar, sees the last-minute inclusion of former Kariobangi Sharks hitman Masoud Juma.

Juma was called up to the squad last week, having signed for a National Super League (NSL) side after a long stint abroad.

McCarthy said the qualities offered by Juma made his availability too good an opportunity to pass.

"We were informed that he was back in the country and had signed for a second division side so I called him up to have a look at him. He's a player I have worked with before when I signed him for Cape Town City," the South African said.

In line for a debut in Kenyan colours is Shabana youngster Austine 'Lastborn' Odongo who was also called up last week, having shone for Tore Bobe in the just-concluded season.

The forward line will also comprise Ryan Ogam — who scored 15 goals for Tusker in the last season — as well as Posta Rangers Felix Oluoch who McCarthy said caught him by surprise.

"He's a player we had not had the chance to look at but when we played a friendly against a combined side, we saw that he had the qualities that we need in the side hence why we called him up," he said.

The team are currently training at Nyayo Stadium, having arrived from Arusha, Tanzania where they withdrew from the Cecafo Four Nations Tournament.

They begin their CHAN campaign against the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on August 3 at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani.

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Harambee Stars Coach Benni McCarthy follows through his shot. RAYMOND MAKHAYA





GOAL KEEPERS

 1 FARUK SHIKHALO	 30 BYRNE OMONDI	 18 SEBASTIAN WEKESA	 HEAD COACH - BENNI MCCARTHY
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DEFENDERS

 2 SIRAJ MOHAMMED	 29 MANZUR SULEIMAN	 4 PAMBA SWALEH	 3 ABUD OMAR (C)	 5 ALPHONSE OMIJA
 25 SYLVESTER OWINO	 28 MICHAEL KIBWAGE	 24 DANIEL SAKARI	 13 LEWIS BANDI	 35 KEVIN OKUMU

MIDFIELDERS

 6 BRIAN MUSA	 8 ALPHA ONYANGO	 10 AUSTIN ODHIAMBO	 34 BEN STANLEY	 21 MARVIN NDWIRE
--	---	--	--	--

FORWARDS

 7 MOHAMMED BAJABER	 11 BONIFACE MUCHIRI	 16 DAVID SAKWA	 20 RYAN OGAM	 27 MASOUD JUMA
 31 AUSTIN ODONGO	 32 FELIX OLUOCH			

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Sports >>> *Former Kenya Police Bullets goalkeeper Valentine Khwaka turned on the style, saving two penalties as the 'Wangari Warriors' clinched the title at the inaugural 'Empower Mchezaji' tournament staged at the Mashuuru Sports Complex

'Wangari Warriors' Show Class To Win Inaugural 'Empower Mchezaji' Tourney

Former Kenya Police Bullets goalkeeper Valentine Khwaka turned on the style, saving two penalties as the 'Wangari Warriors' clinched the title at the inaugural 'Empower Mchezaji' tournament staged at the Mashuuru Sports Complex in Kajiado over the weekend.

The Warriors beat Chelagat Chargers 2-1 on spot kicks in the seven-a-side single day extravaganza. They had to come from a goal down to force the game to penalties after a 1-1 draw in regulation time.

Mathare United forward Musa Masika's stinging shot had given the Chargers a 1-0 lead, but Harambee Starlets' and Simba Queens' midfield maestro Corazone Aquino levelled for Warriors right at the death with a brilliant shot.

The tournament brought together eight teams, each uniquely named after several women history makers. Wangari Warriors was named after trailblazing Kenyan nobel laureate Wangari Mathai while the Chargers were named after human rights defender Chelagat Mutai.

There was also the Kipyegon Strikers named after world record holder Faith Kipyegon, Nyiva Champs named after Kenya's first ever female cabinet Secretary Nyiva Mwendwa, Wanja Waves, named aptly after departed volleyball queen Janet Wanja.

Other teams included the Obiri Starlets, named after athletics queen Hellen Obiri, Karua Queens, named after vocal politician and Kenya's former minister of Justice Martha Karua as well as the Orié Rogo Falcons named after politician Orié Rogo Manduli.

The teams were composed of top female footballers from across the country and each had one male player. Mathare's Masika, Yanga SC midfielder Duke Abuya was with the Warriors and led them to the title, Former Tusker FC captain Eugene Asike, now in England, Police FC captain David 'Cheche' Ochieng and teammates



Nana Owiti presents the trophy to the winning team.

Kenneth Muguna as well as Jesse Were, Gor Mahia wingback Levin Odhiambo, Mathare United left back Ericson Mulu as well as Kakamega Homeboyz midfielder Francis Omondi were all part of the action.

The tournament was founded and run by journalist and women's football advocate Nana Owiti, to help raise awareness on Gender Based Violence.

"Two seasons ago we had a team in the Women's Premier League called Gaspo who dropped out on allegations of the coach sleeping with the girls and asking for sexual favours from them. I felt there was need to amplify this and a need to give the girls a voice. If this happens a lot in the Premier League, what of the grassroots where there are actually no systems to protect them," Owiti told Capital Sports.

She added; "We had a man in every team for allyship. We needed to tell the men that this is not a gender war but they need to help us make our girls feel safe. On the return, they were saying that yes, these are our sisters and we need to protect them."

The tournament not only brought young and upcoming players from local leagues but also Kenyan internationals. Among those present included Simba's new signing

Cynthia Shilwatso, her new teammate Aquino, departing Jentrix Shikangwa, Yanga Princesses' Lydia 'Ozil' Okoth, USA-based Mwanahalima 'Dogo' Adam, South Korea based Terry Engesha, Moroccan league top scorer Violet Nanjala, Austria based Sylvia Makungu and India-based Elizabeth Katungwa.

"This is a really good platform for us women footballers to join hands and raise our voices on the plight of our game. It is also a chance to interact and learn from each other and now that most of us are on off-season, an opportunity to keep fit," Adam said.

Her sentiments were shared by Shilwatso who said; "It is really great to meet and interact with players from different backgrounds and different set ups. This really helps us to learn from each other and improve as well as build networks."

Shikangwa said; "We usually just meet during national team calls and such but this tournament really offered us a chance to link up, have fun and interact. Above all, it helped send the message that gender violence is not welcome in women's football."

Owiti said that she hopes for a bigger and better second edition.

The Mashuuru Sports Foundation (MASFO) was one of the major

partners of the event and offered the grounds as well as full board accommodation for all the eight teams. Located deep inside Kajiado County, a four-hour drive from Nairobi, the Complex offers a massive and unique sports venue, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

It boasts of a 64-person accommodation facility as well as two full size football pitches, two basketball and tennis courts as well as an upcoming gym.

"We are delighted to have partnered this noble initiative and we are looking forward to do even more. This is a facility which looks to positively impact sports in the country, and such tournaments offer this avenue," Victor Muli, the MASFO Director said.

Other partners in the tournament included the Erick Ouma Foundation as well as the Watenya Foundation.

In the tournament, Khwaka was named best goalkeeper, 'Ozil' Okoth named Most Valuable Player, while Aquino was the top scorer.

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN



The Role Of English In Career Development And Global Job Opportunities



By: **To'raqulov Dostonmurod**
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

The 21st century has been marked by rapid globalization, technological advancement, and digital transformation—forces that have reshaped the global employment landscape. Within this context, English has gained exceptional relevance, functioning not only as a medium of international communication but also as a critical employability skill.

In many developing countries, including Uzbekistan, English is becoming an essential gateway to quality education, scholarships, internships, and global employment. The integration of English into national education strategies reflects its growing value. Students with strong English skills are better equipped to access international knowledge, build global networks, and adapt to dynamic professional environments.

Abstract

In today's interconnected world, English has evolved from merely being a foreign language into a crucial global skill that determines access to international career opportunities. This article explores how English language proficiency significantly contributes to personal career development, employability, and professional mobility in both local and international job markets. It emphasizes the strategic importance of English across modern industries such as technology, business, healthcare, education, and digital services. Furthermore, it highlights how English enables professionals to engage in global conversations, participate in conferences and training programs, and succeed in remote work environments. Through real-world examples, institutional insights, and global statistics, the study illustrates how English serves as a gateway to upward mobility and digital inclusion. Ultimately, English is not just a subject in the curriculum but a passport to global participation, competitiveness, and economic empowerment.

Keywords: English language, career development, global job market, employability, professional skills, digital communication, EFL learners, remote work, international collaboration, globalization, higher education

Introduction

The 21st century has been marked by rapid globalization, technological advancement, and digital transformation—forces that have reshaped the global employment landscape. Within this context, English has gained exceptional relevance, functioning not only as a medium of international communication but also as a critical employability skill.

In many developing countries, including Uzbekistan, English is becoming an essential gateway to quality education, scholarships, internships, and global employment. The integration of English into na-

tional education strategies reflects its growing value. Students with strong English skills are better equipped to access international knowledge, build global networks, and adapt to dynamic professional environments. Additionally, global academic mobility and access to digital knowledge economies have made English an indispensable life skill. The rise of international universities, online degrees, and English-medium instruction (EMI) has brought the concept of internationalization to the forefront of national educational reforms.

As the global job market becomes increasingly competitive, universities are encouraged to promote English not merely for academic purposes but as a strategic tool for career progression and social advancement.

English as the Global Language of Employment

English has become the default language of international employment. Today, fluency in English is key to better job prospects, higher earnings, cross-border collaboration, and long-term professional growth.

Statistical Insight: According to the 2023 EF English Proficiency Index, countries with higher English proficiency demonstrate stronger economies, higher innovation indices, and increased foreign direct investment (FDI). A 2023 LinkedIn global report noted that over 85% of international job listings require English at a minimum B2 level. Furthermore, PwC's 2022 Global Workforce Study found that employees with strong English skills earn up to 30% more than their peers.

Sector-specific roles of English:

Healthcare: Access to global medical journals, international research, WHO protocols, and drug databases
Tourism and Hospitality: Effective communication with international guests, booking platforms, and customer services

Technology and IT: Software documentation, UI/UX design, developer collaboration, and global coding

platforms

Finance and Law: Drafting and interpreting international contracts, compliance documentation, and client communication

Academia and Science: Publishing in indexed journals, participating in global conferences, and contributing to research networks

In Uzbekistan, English is increasingly viewed as a core professional skill by foreign-invested firms, government bodies, and international organizations. Companies such as Coca-Cola Uzbekistan, Ucell, Artel International, and UzAuto Motors prioritize English proficiency for middle and senior-level positions.

The Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of Uzbekistan has introduced several English upskilling initiatives, particularly targeting young professionals in IT and tech sectors, recognizing English as a key factor in attracting global investors and clients.

English for Career Growth and Digital Communication

In the modern digital economy, English dominates professional communication and online content creation. From remote teamwork and freelancing to virtual internships and e-learning, English is the primary language of interaction.

Digital Tools and Platforms: Daily communication in global industries often depends on tools like Zoom, Google Workspace, Microsoft Teams, Slack, and Trello—all of which operate primarily in English. Mastering these tools boosts productivity and enhances one's ability to work remotely.

Online Learning and Certifications: Over 90% of professional development courses on Coursera, EdX, FutureLearn, and Udemy are offered in English.

Leading global companies such as Google, IBM, Meta, and Amazon provide free certifications in areas like digital marketing, AI, and cloud computing—all in English.

English proficiency is essential for securing international scholarships like Erasmus+, Fulbright, Cheve-

ning, and others.

Real-life Success Story: A freelance web developer from Bukhara completed a Google IT Support Certificate in English and created a professional portfolio on Upwork. Within a year, he was collaborating with clients in Canada and Singapore and earning an income comparable to mid-level IT professionals in Tashkent—all while working from home.

Personal Branding and Global Visibility:

English enables professionals to build a strong global presence through:

LinkedIn profiles and publications
GitHub and Behance portfolios
Medium blog articles and YouTube tutorials

Publishing content in English not only showcases expertise but also opens doors to remote contracts, global partnerships, and digital entrepreneurship.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, English has become a vital tool for career advancement and global employability. It enables individuals to overcome geographic limitations, access global markets, and take part in international innovation. For students and professionals alike, English is no longer optional—it is a bridge to opportunity, recognition, and progress.

Educational institutions must therefore reposition English as a transformative life skill, not merely a theoretical subject. By nurturing communicative competence, digital literacy, and cross-cultural awareness, we can empower the next generation for meaningful participation in a globalized workforce.