



African Experts Laud China's Role In Propelling Africa's Right To Development

African experts have praised China's role in advancing the right to development across the continent, highlighting its respect for each country's unique development path. The remarks were made as the First China-Africa Human Rights Seminar was held on Friday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, under the theme "Building the China-Africa community with a shared future and working together to realize the right to development." Page 18

NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW

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

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News>>Mount Kenya University Drama Team Performances Thrills East Africans In Kampala

P. 8. Mount Kenya University (MKU) drama students presented various items during the (MDD) East Africa Music, Dance and Drama festival in Kampala Uganda.



News>>CS Ruku Calls For More Decentralised Huduma Services

P. 12. Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programs, Geoffrey Ruku, has urged all government ministries, departments, and agencies to decentralise their operations by availing more services through Huduma Centres across the country.

Men Turning To Suicide In Central Kenya

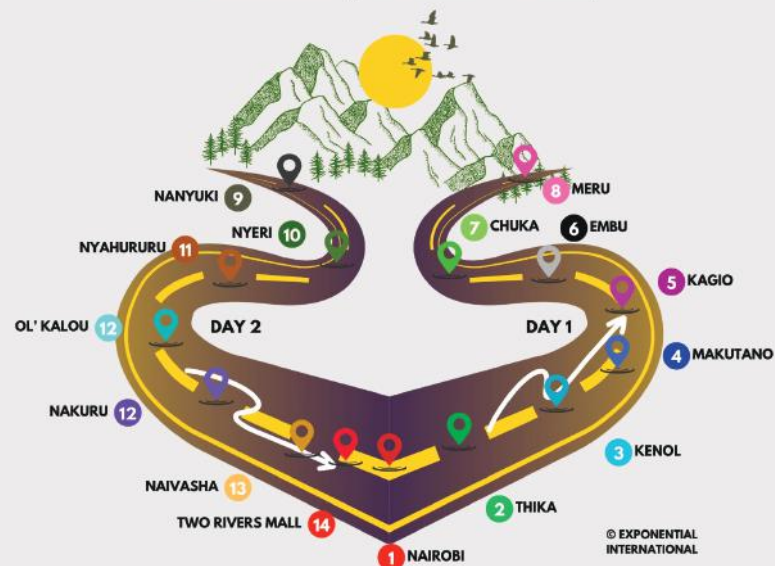
⚡ Abandonment by spouses, family disputes, and mounting social pressures have emerged as key drivers of rising suicide cases in central Kenya, where government data shows between three and eight people die by suicide each month. Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen on Saturday described the trend as alarming, warning that the region is facing a silent crisis requiring urgent and coordinated intervention.



Nyeri, Kirinyaga, and other central counties have persistently raised concerns over the social and psychological distress fueling the crisis/Illustration

STORY ON PAGE 9

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



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MKU Superb Performance At East African Regional Festivals

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyetimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Mount Kenya University (MKU) was among several learning institutions that ably represented Kenya during the regional Music and Drama festivals held last week. The MKU team performances thrilled at the East Africans fete in Kampala, Uganda. The university students presented various items that included solo dance, stand-up comedy, solo verse, spoken word, mime, narrative and live broadcast.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson

Our Contacts
P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyatypes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyatypes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyatypes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyatypes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Recognising the critical importance of vaccine self-sufficiency, the government has placed the Kenya BioVax Institute at the centre of its Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and biomanufacturing strategy. Last week, the Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, undertook a familiarisation tour of the Institute. He was received by Dr Charles Githinji, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Dr Cecilia Wanjala, Acting Chief Executive Officer. Also present was Dr Emmanuel Nzai, Chairperson of Kenya Vision 2030. The visit highlighted the pivotal role of BioVax in bolstering national health security, particularly in the face of global health vulnerabilities. Discussions centred on aligning BioVax's mission with the broader objectives of Vision 2030, especially under the pillars of Universal Health Coverage and Local Manufacturing.



Former Laikipia North Member of Parliament Mathew Lempurkel died yesterday, days after being hospitalised in KNH's ICU following a road accident in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado County. Among those who mourned him was DCP Party Leader Rigathi Gachagua.



The Coast Development Authority (CDA) has launched the construction of three water pans worth Sh90 million to address persistent water scarcity in Fafi Constituency, Garissa County. The initiative, aimed at cushioning both residents and livestock against the harsh effects of climate change, will see new water pans built in Kaltum, Gure, and Hiribei. Kaltum and Gure water pans, each costing Sh20 million with a storage capacity of 20,000 cubic meters, are expected to provide much-needed relief to locals who often trek long distances in search of water. The Hiribei project, valued at Sh50 million, will hold 80,000 cubic meters of water. Speaking during the handover of the project sites to contractors, CDA Chairman Mzee Mwinyi said the Authority is implementing several drought mitigation interventions in the constituency. By the end of the year, he noted, a total of eight projects will have been rolled out.



Othaya constituency Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina yesterday joined faithful at Kamoko AIPCA Church, where outlined various development projects worth hundreds of millions of shillings that the Kenya Kwanza administration has undertaken in the constituency. These include markets, roads, electricity and water projects. The service was presided over by Bishop Kariuki Muriithi.



Laikipia East MP Mwangi Kiunjuri has urged Kenyans to acknowledge the Kenya Kwanza administration's commitment to improve their well being. At the weekend, Kiunjuri noted, "Our commitment remains to engage, review, and ensure balance through a collective approach even as we press for more action and the completion of the pending projects and unresolved issues." He spoke when he joined other leaders and residents of Kibuline Village, Mbeu Ward, Tigania West Constituency, Meru County, during the National Government Ward-Based Outreach Programme. The residents gave insights and opinions and key priority areas that require government action. Other leaders present included their host John Mutunga, Imenti Central MP Kirima Nguchine, Meru County MP Elizabeth Kailemia, Tharaka Nithi County MP Susan Mwindu and local leaders.

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**THEME: "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and
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NHC Hands Over Estates, Spurs Kisii Housing Growth

By: Mercy Osongo
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- The transfer involved the management of two rental schemes comprising 49 housing units, together with records for a site-and-service project that NHC previously managed.
- The handover ceremony was formalized at the Kisii Governor's office, symbolizing a new era of collaboration between national housing agencies and the devolved units.
- The housing units and service schemes were originally constructed between 1974 and 1991, with NHC funding the projects to provide decent, low-cost accommodation.

The National Housing Corporation (NHC) has officially handed over housing schemes to the County Government of Kisii, marking a milestone in efforts to strengthen affordable housing and urban development in the region.

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The handover ceremony was formalized at the Kisii Governor's office, symbolizing a new era of collaboration between national housing agencies and the devolved units.

The housing units and service schemes were originally constructed between 1974 and 1991, with NHC funding the projects to provide decent, low-cost accommodation.

However, in 2011, NHC assumed control of the properties after the defunct Municipal Council defaulted on loan repayments, as provided for under Section 9 of the Housing Act CAP 117.

Following years of negotiations, Kisii County agreed to settle the outstanding debt, which was reduced from Sh43.9 million to Sh39.4 million. The repayment plan spans three financial years: Sh13 million already cleared in the last financial year, Sh18 million earmarked for this year, and the balance of Sh8.45 million scheduled for 2026/2027.

The handover also unlocked two acres of prime land adjacent to the existing estates, creating an opportunity for new housing projects in the fast-growing town.



NHC chairman Yussuf Chanzu with Kisii Governor Simba Arati during the handover ceremony.

Speaking during the event, NHC Board Chairman Yusuf Chanzu praised Kisii County's commitment to resolving the long-standing debt dispute.

"This is a clear demonstration of goodwill, fiscal responsibility, and partnership. We are confident that under Governor Simba Arati's leadership, the county will utilize these assets effectively to provide dignified and affordable housing to residents," Chanzu stated.

On his part, NHC Managing Director David Mathu emphasized the Corporation's readiness to collaborate with counties in addressing the national housing gap.

"We are confident that this step will

enable Kisii County to expand its capacity to provide affordable and decent housing for its residents. We look forward to working together on new housing initiatives, including development of the newly unlocked land," he said.

Mathu also encouraged other counties with outstanding debts to expedite settlement so that similar handovers and partnerships could be realized nationwide.

Governor Simba Arati welcomed the handover, terming it a breakthrough for the county's housing agenda.

"We appreciate the flexibility shown by NHC in renegotiating our debt. This handover not only clears long-standing obligations but also paves the way

for new housing developments that will benefit our citizens," he said.

Arati reaffirmed Kisii's commitment to inclusive housing development, pledging to align projects with both national and county development plans, while ensuring sustainability, affordability, and community participation remain at the core.

The event signified more than a financial settlement — it laid the foundation for joint projects that could transform Kisii's urban landscape and serve as a model for county-national collaboration in the housing sector.

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Mount Kenya University Drama Team Performances Thrills East Africans In Kampala

By: James Wakahiu
@themtkenyatimes

Mount Kenya University (MKU) drama students presented various items during the (MDD) East Africa Music, Dance and Drama festival in Kampala Uganda. The festival took place from Monday last week to yesterday. Among the exciting performances presented were the solo dance, stand-up comedy, solo verse, spoken word, mime, narrative and live broadcast. The students were thrilled to perform at this high-end level just days away after winning numerous awards and subsequently winning the Kenya National Drama Festival best overall university and most prolific university. Henry Jomo the MKU drama group leader was full of joy participating in the festival for the second year in a row, 2024 as a high school student under Fesbeth academy and now as a university student representing Mount Kenya University, in his

words; this is the epicenter of creative arts, this festival gives the East African vibe and here we are able to learn from the east African institutions. We have seen some of the best east African performances ever, especially dances. Mount Kenya University sports, film and creative arts coordinator Mr. William Luta commended organizers and the host country Uganda for the wonderful hosting and planning, the levels have been top notch at these festivals compared to the previous year, this is the growth we want in creative arts and cultural performance growth economy. I can see good viable presentations that are deep routed in cultural holdings. Mount Kenya University performing here is a great value addition to our thespians, we are committed to continue exposing and giving our students opportunities to excell in what they love doing on matters talent growth. At the opening ceremony Chief Guest Mrs. Janet Museveni, Uganda Minister of Education together with Kenyan Director General Ministry of Education Mr. Hassan Abdi promised to strengthen the cooperation be-



tween Kenya and Uganda in matters Education. It was noted by the Director General that Mount Kenya university was the first university to be invited for the East African music and drama Championship in 2023 and they were making a second appearance after being crowned the best University in Kenya Drama and Film Festival. The festival performances took place at three different venues namely, Kings College Buddo, Buddo Senior School and Trinity College Nabingo. Among many other institutions in the festivals were Kenyan teams that excelled well in both Kenya national drama festivals and the Kenya national Music festivals. In the Music category were; Alliance High School, Ngenia High School, Friends school Senende, Karen C, Dakabaricha High School, Sosit girls, Muthetheni Girls, Mandera High School, Narok High School and Alupe University. In the Drama section were; Alliance Girls High School, Fesbeth Academy, Moi High School Mbiruri, Laiser hill Academy, Moi Girls Isinya, Sega Girls, Ramba High School and Kenya Institute of Curriculum development.

The 44th Edition Of KECOSO Games Kicks Off In Embu

By: Samuel Waititu
@themtkenyatimes

The 44th edition of the Kenya Communications Sports Organization (KECOSO) Games kicked off in Embu on Saturday in a colourful ceremony presided over by Governor Cecily Mbarire at Embu Moi Stadium. Ten teams from key state organizations are participating in this year's games. They include the Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK), Kenya Airports Authority (KAA), Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC). Others are the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Kenya National Highways

Authority (KeNHA), and Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB). The week-long competition will feature a variety of sports disciplines, ranging from athletics and ball games such as football, volleyball, basketball, and netball to indoor games including darts, table tennis, pool, scrabble, chess, and snooker. Speaking during the opening ceremony, KECOSO Governing Council Chair Antony Njagi underscored the significance of the games in promoting unity, talent development, and networking across sectors. "The games bring together participants from across the 47 counties, reinforcing their role in fostering national cohesion, nurturing sports talent, and raising awareness about the role of public service at the grassroots level," he said. Njagi noted that since their inception in 1978, the KECOSO Games have grown into one of Kenya's largest inter-parastatal sporting events, attract-



Embu County governor Cecily Mbarire kicking a ball to officially launch KECOSO Games.

ing thousands of participants every year. He also hailed the milestone achievement of registering KECOSO as a sports federation under the Sports Act 2013. Governor Mbarire assured athletes of adequate security during their stay in Embu and thanked the Council for granting the county the opportunity to host this year's games.

Abandoned Men Turning To Suicide As Cases Surge In Central Kenya

By: Bruhan Makong
@themtkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- Speaking in Kerugoya during the 33rd Jukwaa la Usalama grassroots security forum, Murkomen revealed that most of the victims are men aged 50 and above, grappling with broken families, gender-based violence, inheritance wrangles, and the trauma of being abandoned by their spouses.
- “There is a very unique phenomenon in this region in general, and in this county in particular, about suicides. A significant number of people are taking their own lives, with causes ranging from family disputes to withdrawal from drugs and alcohol abuse,” Murkomen said.
- The CS noted that chiefs across Nyeri, Kirinyaga, and other central counties have persistently raised concerns over the social and psychological distress fueling the crisis.

Abandonment by spouses, family disputes, and mounting social pressures have emerged as key drivers of rising suicide cases in central Kenya, where government data shows between three and eight people die by suicide each month.

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The CS noted that chiefs across Nyeri, Kirinyaga, and other central counties have persistently raised concerns over the social and psychological distress fueling the crisis.

He announced that the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC), which falls under his ministry, will conduct an in-depth study to establish the root causes of suicides in the region.

Murkomen underscored the need for stronger partnerships between national and county governments to address the underlying challenges, lamenting that mental health support remains severely underfunded despite its devastating toll.

He also warned that drug and alcohol abuse is worsening the problem.

Socio-economic pressures

In Kirinyaga County, he said, many young people have become addicted to Makabo—a cheap local brew made from molasses and other ingredients.

The CS further raised concern over cannabis smuggling into the region from counties including Kajiado, Kakamega, Machakos, Vihiga, and Nairobi, promising an intensified crackdown.

Central Kenya has consistently recorded some of the country’s highest suicide rates, with local administrators and health officials attributing the trend to socio-economic pressures,



Interior and National Administration Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen with Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru

about 727,000 people die by suicide every year, while many more attempt to take their own lives.

Suicide was the third leading cause of death among 15–29-year-olds worldwide in 2021.

“Suicide does not just occur in high-income countries but is a global phenomenon in all regions of the world,” WHO notes, adding that nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of suicides in 2021 occurred in low- and middle-income countries.

The organization stresses that suicide is a serious public health problem requiring a public health response, noting that it can be prevented through timely, evidence-based, and often low-cost interventions.

Globally, suicide remains a major health challenge. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that



KALRO Gets Welcomes New Deputy DG For Crops

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) has a new Deputy Director General in charge of Crops.

Dr Alice Warukira Murage took over the docket leadership last Friday during a ceremony that was attended by top KALRO leadership, led by the chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge and Director General, Dr. Eliud Kireger.

The ceremony, held at the institution's headquarters was prompted by the retirement of Dr. Felistus Maki-ni, who concluded her distinguished tenure upon reaching the mandatory retirement age.

In her inaugural address, Dr. Murage called on staff to foster collaboration and extend their support as she embarks on this new chapter of leadership.

On his part, Dr Mathenge stressed the importance of staff serving as

ambassadors, urging them to be the first to embrace KALRO technologies within their communities.

He also stressed the need for discipline and mutual understanding among colleagues. Additionally, Dr. Mathenge recommended the establishment of a sales and marketing department to promote the organization's innovations and elevate KALRO's impact.

KALRO chairman Dr Thuo Mathenge with Dr Alice Warukira Murage. Photo/ Courtesy.



Corruption: Lari Politician Calls For Dissolution Of Parliament

By: George Mugo
@themtkenyatiimes

A Kiambu based politician has urged the government to dissolve the Parliament if it was sincere about fighting corruption.

Peter Njau said that it was painful for President William Ruto to reveal that the legislators were corrupt and needed to be bribed to pass a bill.

Njau said the revelation was very sensitive since electorates have realized that the legislators were not representing them as they wished.

The politician who has declared his interest for Lari parliamentary seat in the forth coming general election says that the president’s revelation should not be taken for granted.

“The revelation means that there are so many ills that we do not know. If the president is in pain, we are also in pain since how can they represent us?” he wondered.

The politician said the unity between the ruling party UDA and opposition leader ODM Raila Odinga’s party will not help the country.

“Since the Raila joined the government, they ought to have done something in the war on corruption, but the president is speaking about it a few days ago. Meaning, he is in a painful corner” he said.

During UDA and ODM meeting, President revealed the issue that caused MPs to get angry with him, while denying the vice.

Njau said even as the investigators probe the issue which has sparked criticisms, the parliament ought to be dissolved since Kenyans have lost trust with it.

Church leaders have joined in the debate asking the government not to investigate the current legislators, but send them home.

Pastor Isaac Ndung’u said many Kenyans were discussing the matter and felt disappointed by the legislators.

Ndung’u asked other church leaders to pray for the country’s peace as we approach the 2027 general elections.

“We need each other and therefore we have a duty of praying for each other. We need peace and coexistence. We also need to be faithful and we feel bad when we are led by unfaithful people” he noted.



Lari politician Peter Njau

EACC Calls For Fairness And Accountability In Recruitment Processes

By: KBC Reporter
@themtkenyatiimes

Ethics and Ant-corruption Commission (EACC) North Rift Regional Manager Major (Rtd) Kuntai Ole Tingisha, has called for enhanced transparency and accountability in County Government recruitment processes.

Speaking in Lodwar during a meeting with the Turkana County Public Service Board (TCPSB), Kuntai emphasized the need for integrity in public service, noting that recruitment must be free from corruption and favoritism to ensure fairness.

The visit, which also introduced him as the new Regional Manager, aimed at strengthening collaboration with the Board in promoting ethical

governance, improving transparency, and enabling the public to access services more efficiently in line with the county’s mission of open and honest governance.

TCPSB Chairperson, Peter Ekunyuk Ingollan, revealed that the Board is in the process of automating its recruitment system to make it more transparent and accessible.

Ingollan also affirmed the Board’s commitment to working closely with the EACC to implement anti-corruption recommendations, citing policies such as the Procedure on Prevention of Bribery and Corruption.

He noted that preparations were already underway for the 2025 Wealth Declaration exercise scheduled for November.



CS Ruku Calls For More Decentralised Huduma Services

By: Amenya Ochieng
@themtkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking during a government relief outreach in Lamu East, CS Ruku stressed that no Kenyan should be forced to travel long distances to access government services that should be available in nearby Huduma Centres.
- “I am urging all ministries and government agencies to urgently make all possible services available in Huduma Centres. Kenyans deserve easy, convenient, and efficient access to public services, regardless of their location,” said Ruku.
- The CS reaffirmed the government’s commitment to the operationalisation and digitisation of a Huduma Centre in Lamu East, saying the facility will bring essential services closer to residents and significantly improve public service delivery in the region.

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programs, Geoffrey Ruku, has urged all government ministries, departments, and agencies to decentralise their operations by availing more services through Huduma Centres across the country.

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The CS reaffirmed the government’s commitment to the operationalisation and digitisation of a Huduma Centre in Lamu East, saying the facility will bring essential services closer to residents and significantly improve public service delivery in the region.

He emphasised that the initiative aligns with the government’s broader agenda of decentralising services and promoting inclusive development.

Ruku further pledged to personally follow up to ensure that more services are integrated into Huduma Centres, underscoring the need for consistent implementation by all government agencies.

Highlighting infrastructure progress, the CS pointed to ongoing road construction projects in Lamu County, noting that enhanced road networks will open up the region, improve connectivity, and stimulate local economic activities.

On healthcare, Ruku encouraged locals to register with the newly established Social Health Authority (SHA), emphasising that the universal health coverage model is designed to shield vulnerable households from the burden of high medical costs.

While in Lamu, the CS also supervised the distribution of relief food to households affected by drought and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to supporting vulnerable communities in times of need.

Turning to national politics, Ruku defended President William Ruto’s administration, asserting that the Head of State continues to enjoy strong support across the country, particularly in the Mt. Kenya region, contrary to opposition claims.

He dismissed critics as “self-absorbed individuals guided by empty rhetoric”, accusing them of attempting to divide Kenyans for political



Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programs, Geoffrey Ruku (R), confers with Lamu East MP Captain Ruweida Obo (L) during his official visit to the county. Photos/Amenya Ochieng.

gain.

“We are focused on service delivery and improving the lives of ordinary Kenyans. The noise from the opposition is nothing but a distraction,” said Ruku. “Unity and collective effort are essential if we are to fully realise the promises made to the people.”

Lamu East MP Captain Ruweida Obo echoed the CS’s sentiments, emphasising the need for national government departments to expand services to far-flung frontier areas such as Kiunga, Boni, and Ndau Island, where residents have remained marginalized.

She pledged her support in ensuring her constituency works with the national government to set up critical public service outposts, stressing that all Kenyans deserve equal access to services regardless of religion or ethnicity.



Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development, and Special Programs, Geoffrey Ruku, supervises the distribution of relief food to households affected by drought..

Kindiki: Govt To Intensify Investment In Harambee Stars, Other Sports

By: Contributor
@themkenyetimes

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has lauded Harambee Stars for fighting hard to the quarter finals in the ongoing CHAN tournament promising full support for upcoming games.

Speaking on Sunday at Tarbaj Teachers Training College at Tarbaj Constituency Economic Empowerment Programme in Wajir County, the Deputy President said the national team made Kenyans proud despite being eliminated in the quarter finals by Madagascar through penalties.

“We are proud of what Harambee Stars have done to our country, we will be going forward to motivate our players and the technical bench. We will improve their welfare and motivate them as they prepare for AFCON 2027 and the coming World Cup qualifiers,” assured Prof. Kindiki.

The Deputy President said the Kenyan government is committed to improving stadiums so that Kenyans of all spheres can develop their talents and show prowess in sports.

“We are committed in building stadiums and improving all the sports fields including soccer, volleyball, handball, netball, rugby and all sports so that our youths can utilize their talents and earn their living through sports,” DP emphasized.

At the same time, the DP reiterated Kenya Kwanza government’s commitment in developing all the regions without discrimination.

He said President Ruto’s government is working hard to unite Kenyans through development without isolating any region.

He also assured that the famous road network connecting the North Eastern region is on course and affirmed that the Northern Kenya region will open up for development.

“The road from Mandera-Rhamu-Garre-Elwak-Kobo-Kotulo-Tarbaj-Wajir-Samata-Abaswein-Modogashe-Kula Mawe to Isiolo will be completed on time,” affirmed Prof. Kindiki.

The DP also highlighted some other key road networks being undertaken in different parts of the country including the Lapsset Road from Lamu through Marsabit-Garissa-Isiolo through Samburu to Turkana.

On last-mile electricity connectivity, he said that the government is connecting over 18,500 families to electricity at Sh3 Billion in Wajir County.

The government will also boost the power grid through hybridization of electricity generation programs at a cost of Sh500 billion.

The plants are going on in Merti, Habaswein, Eldas and Elwak.

He also outlined other projects being undertaken by the government that include fresh produce, modern markets and affordable houses in all the constituencies. Also affordable hostels for Tarbaj Vocational Training Centre, Tarbaj Teachers Training College and other institutions.

Leaders Present were National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetangula, Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi, Kimani Ichungwa (Majority Leader National Assembly), Abass Sheikh Mohamed (Wajir Senator), MPs Japheth Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North), Fatuma Abdi Jehow (Wajir County MP), Farah Maalim (Dadaab), Abdirahman Mohammed Abdi (Lafey), Adan Kenyan (Eldas), Abdi Hussein Barre (Tarbaj), Sulekha Hulbale Harun (Nominated MP), Sheikh Umul Jer Kassim (County MP Mandera), Innocent Mugabe (Likuyani), John Bwire (Taveta), Major Dekow Barrow (Garissa Township), Hussein Weytan (Mandera East), Abdisirat Khalif (Nominated) and a host of MCAs from Wajir County.



Deputy President Kithure Kindiki

Former Meru Governor Mwangaza Accuses Mutuma Of Failing To Deliver Meaningful Development

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themkenyetimes

Former Meru Governor Kawira Mwangaza has accused her successor of dismal performance since taking office for six months.

Mwangaza spoke on Sunday during the Okolea program in Kamunde stadium Igoji, South Imenti constituency.

Mwangaza accused the current administration led by Governor Isaac Mutuma of failing to deliver despite mudslinging her and taking the seat through ‘backdoor’.

“This is the sixth month since Mutuma assumed office, and there is nothing tangible to show,” Mwangaza stated.

She said she would no longer remain silent about she termed as failed leadership in the county.

Mwangaza also used the opportunity to promote her new political vehicle, the United Movement Party (UMP),

assuring Meru residents she is working to register supporters across the country.

During the event, which focused on community empowerment, Mwangaza gifted a cow to a needy woman as part of the Okolea initiative.

Her husband Murega Baichu threatened they might join Rigathi Gachagua if Mwangaza is not reinstated as Meru county boss or given another a meaningful state job within 45 days.

Several political figures were present, including Nkirote Biriri, who has declared her interest in vying for the Meru Women Representative seat in the 2027 general elections.

Biriri told attendees that she would be on the ballot in 2027, stating that she believes in equal opportunity and that the position should not be held by the same person for two consecutive terms.

Lawyer Mugambi Imanyara who is vying for senator said he has been approached by individuals trying to persuade him to leave Mwangaza’s camp but he declined.

He reaffirmed his loyalty to her, saying he would not be swayed.

Politician and opinion leader Michael Mutembei popularly known as Makarina also weighed in, accusing Governor Mutuma of taking over the governorship “through the back door.”

He called on President William Ruto and Deputy President Kithure Kindiki to consider reinstating Mwangaza to her former position, claiming that she was unjustly removed and was committed to serving the people of Meru.

Meru senatorial aspirant Mugambi Imanyara, Meru Women Rep Felicity Biriri and former Meru governor Kawira Mwangaza at Kamundi Stadium South Imenti yesterday. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.



Freedom



Oh! my motherland You got Freedom like Bird
 Even your wings are broken
 You fly over the sky to heaven.

Freedom cost as more price.
 Freedom cost as more lives.
 We lost precious soul of patriots.
 Their blood shedding thing Freedom.

But now.....

Our land is in political throes.

People simply flattering foes.
 What we have carried with us.
 We have improved in art and culture.
 Yet many people died of torture.

Politicians are arrogance.
 They lite the dead lamps.
 They built tombs.
 They give lies as promise.

They corrupted the nation.
 They have no dedication.
 The day when everyone feels free That day is
 our independence day.

R.Mumtaj begham
 Creative writers
 B.T Assistant
 Trichy district

Appreciate All, Appreciation Is An Art



watch all struggles fade away
 Only happiness will remain if we appreciate mutually

Appreciate little things, and find big joy,
 Appreciate strangers, and unknown people
 Appreciate nature's beauty,
 Day and night, mountains, valleys, flowers serene.

Appreciate animals, insects, birds, and fish too,
 All creatures great and small, with full heart
 In appreciation, we find peace and joy
 A sense of gratitude we get
 It keeps our souls fresh

Appreciate the creator, for this wonderful creation
 A world of wonder, a masterpiece
 For in appreciation, we find love and happiness
 A sense of unity, that shines through day and night.

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

Appreciate all, that brings happiness to all,
 Brings a smile on the face, and makes the heart
 light
 Gives a boost to perform, better
 This is what everyone wishes,
 Appreciate in the morning, noon, and night.

A word of appreciation costs nothing, yet it gives
 good result
 Brings transformation, and touches every heart
 People from all walks of line like appreciation
 People , high or low, rich or poor,
 Love appreciation, and do more and more

In homes and workplaces, appreciation plays a
 big role,
 More than money or incentives, appreciation is
 important
 Try to appreciate all, and see great improvement

My Memories



Long long ago, so long ago, There rings a
 long, long bell, What does its sweet tone
 tell, it speaks of a grand old story,
 That never leaves human memory.

A family bonding,a get together,
 Happened in a village to gather,
 Kith & kin, in crores, hop & pop,
 With laughter all around in claps,

What a thunderstorm in the house,
 Happiness,the only mantra to browse,
 Unknown stories to relate under the moon,
 A swim in the Cauvery with songs in tune.

Will those days come back again? It's still a
 question to regain.
 How to bring them into reality,
 Unless we move from the digital to
 nativity.....

Usha Ramesh
 Creative Writers
 Academic Advisor
 Bharath Montessori School, Ilanji
 Courtallam
 Tamilnadu, India

My Lord



First of all, Control your emotions ,
 Before they control you.
 A single wrong thought can stir an
 emotional storm,
 A right and reasonable one dissolves it into
 calm waters.

Anger burns everything before we realize
 it.
 Vain sadness rains in our heart until it
 sinks.
 Jealousy blinds our eyes to our own

abilities.
 Fear shuts the doors of possibilities.
 Joy blooms within us, turning the smallest
 moment golden.
 Calmness steadies our trembling and
 exploited mind.
 Love binds broken pieces into a whole
 again.

Every feeling is a seed—what we sow
 yesterday, we harvest today.
 And the garden of our feelings will either
 bloom into beauty or burn into chaos.
 It depends on us. Control your emotions,
 To live your life beautifully.

Master your emotions, or they will master
 you.

By, SuFyan,
 XI- Biomaths, thiruvalluvar matric hr. sec.
 school, cuddalore district



Gift me a humble hut in Paradise,
 My Lord,
 Take me far away with You,
 My Lord.

— Sabina Nafasova

My name is Sabina Nafasova, and I was
 born on May 22, 2008, in Shakhrisabz
 district, Kashqadaryo region, Uzbekistan.
 I am currently a senior student at School
 No. 74 in my hometown.

I am actively involved in the SMORM
 project, which focuses on social
 awareness, media literacy, and
 responsible digital behavior.

In 2025, I was selected for the third
 round of the MGIMO-Tashkent Model
 United Nations (MUN) conference as
 a delegate representing the UNESCO
 committee. Participating in MUN has
 strengthened my leadership qualities and
 broadened my understanding of global
 issues.

Take me far away with You,
 My Lord,
 I keep every word of Yours in my heart,
 My Lord.

Protect me from sudden slander,
 My Lord,
 Do not let false partners be the solution
 to my sorrow,
 My Lord.

Grant me patience for hardships and
 trials,
 My Lord,
 Do not let my tender heart be broken,
 My Lord.

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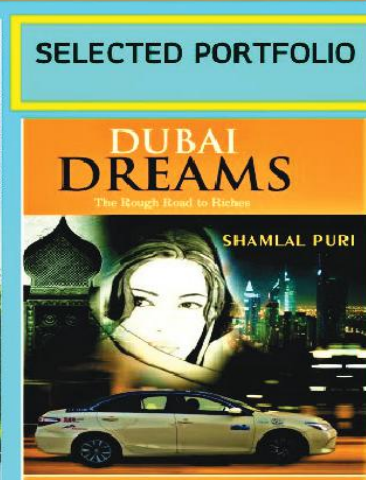
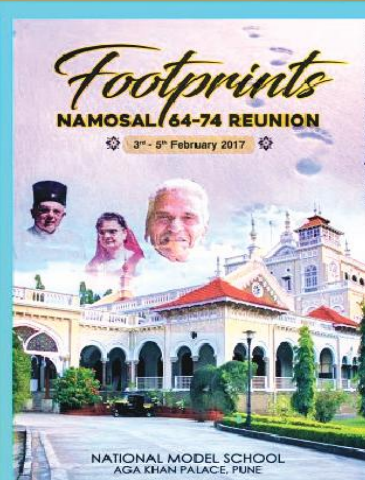
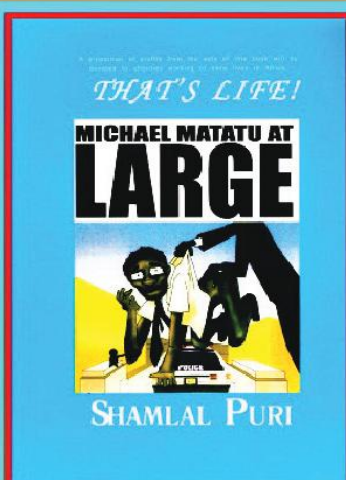
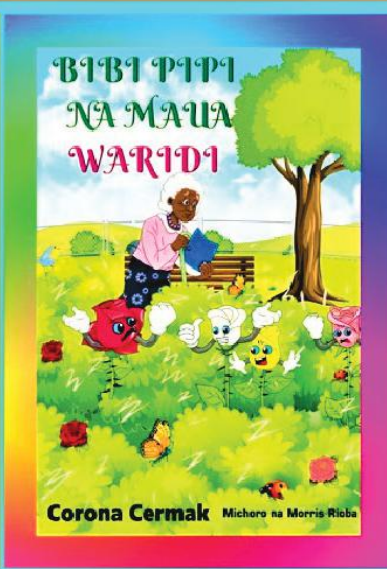
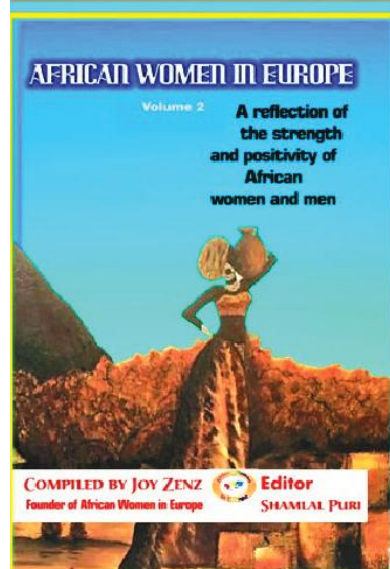
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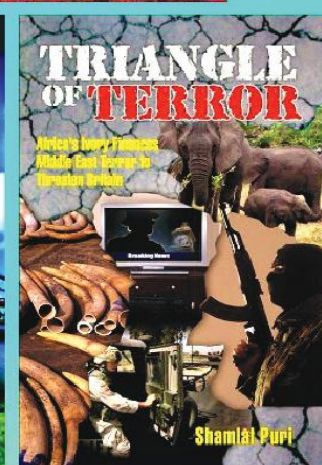
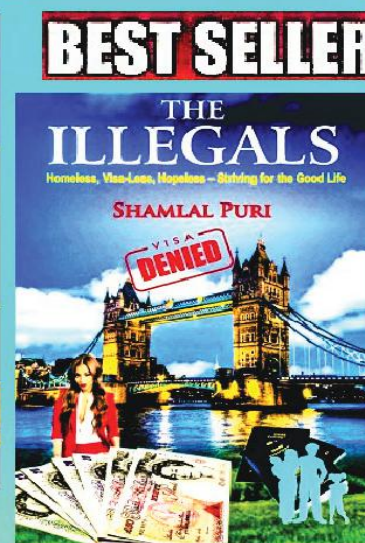
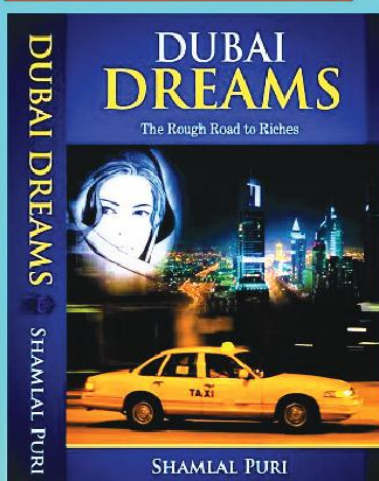
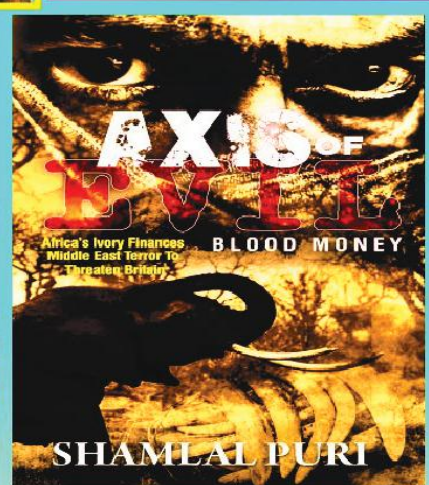
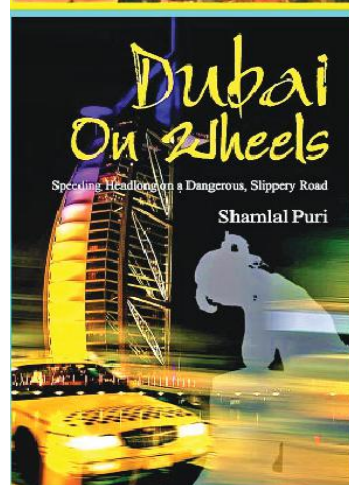
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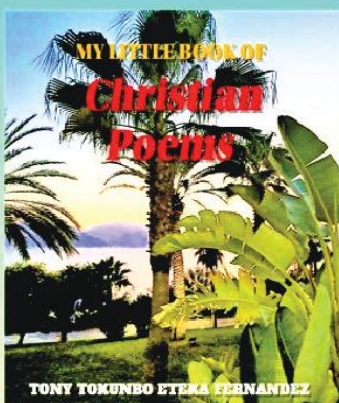
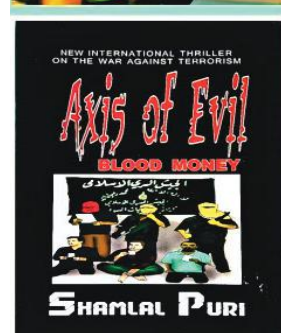
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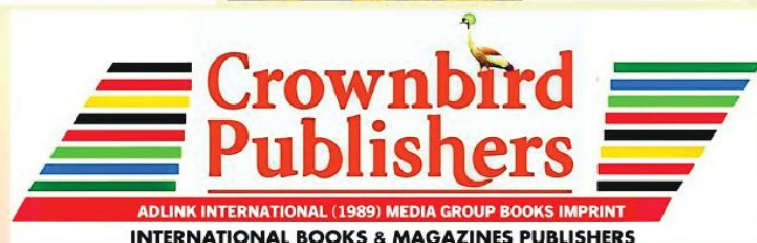


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CORRUPTION

‘Table The Evidence!’: Guyo Dares Ruto On Sh150mn Senate Bribery Claim

By: Phidel Kizito
 @themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- Speaking on Saturday, Guyo urged the President to present proof before the relevant parliamentary bodies instead of making sweeping statements.
- “If he has evidence that there are senators who were bribed, he should table it before the Powers and Privileges Committee,” Guyo said.
- “The committee will investigate, and if there are senators found culpable, then the necessary anti-corruption agencies will take action.”
- His remarks came after President Ruto, during a joint Kenya Kwanza-ODM Parliamentary Group meeting in Karen on August 18, accused lawmakers of turning oversight roles into avenues for extortion.
- Ruto specifically suggested that senators had allegedly pocketed up to Sh150 million to influence proceedings.

Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo has challenged President William Ruto to table evidence to back his explosive claim that senators received Sh150 million to save an unnamed Governor from accountability.

Guyo, who survived an impeachment in Senate in July, warned that such allegations cannot remain at the level of political rhetoric.

Speaking on Saturday, Guyo urged the President to present proof before the relevant parliamentary bodies instead of making sweeping statements.

“If he has evidence that there are senators who were bribed, he should table it before the Powers and Privileges Committee,” Guyo said.

“The committee will investigate, and if there are senators found culpable, then the necessary anti-corruption agencies will take action.”

His remarks came after President Ruto, during a joint Kenya Kwanza-ODM Parliamentary Group meeting in Karen on August 18, accused lawmakers of turning oversight roles into avenues for extortion.

Ruto specifically suggested that senators had allegedly pocketed up to Sh150 million to influence proceedings.

“Where does one even get Sh150 million? Did you know that a few members of parliament collected Sh10 million so that you could pass the Anti-Money Laundering Bill? We are not going to shame them. We are going to arrest them. Whoever is giving and whoever is being given, we are going to sort them out,” Ruto said.

‘Soko huru’

The President’s claims have placed the Senate under renewed scrutiny, amplifying long-running accusations that impeachment hearings often resemble a soko huru (free market) where governors’ survival depends on political bargaining and financial inducements.

The debate comes just weeks after Governor Guyo narrowly survived an impeachment motion that collapsed on procedural grounds — a case that itself reignited speculation about money changing hands in Senate proceedings.

Since the advent of devolution, dozens of impeachment motions against governors have been tabled, but only a handful have succeeded.

Critics argue that procedural loopholes, political compromises, and lobbying have turned the Senate’s



President William Ruto

oversight role into a negotiation arena rather than a judicial process.

While Ruto did not name specific senators or clarify which case he was referring to, his remarks have triggered political backlash.

Kiambu Senator Karungo wa Thang’wa accused the President of undermining the Senate’s indepen-

dence, while other lawmakers warned that the Head of State could even be summoned over the claims.

The timing of the remarks has also raised eyebrows, with critics suggesting they were meant to influence the Senate’s looming impeachment trial of Kericho Governor Erick Mutai.

By throwing the gauntlet, Governor

Guyo has now joined a growing list of leaders pressing the President to either present tangible evidence or withdraw the claims — a move that has reignited debate over parliamentary integrity, corruption, and the credibility of Kenya’s impeachment process.



Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo..

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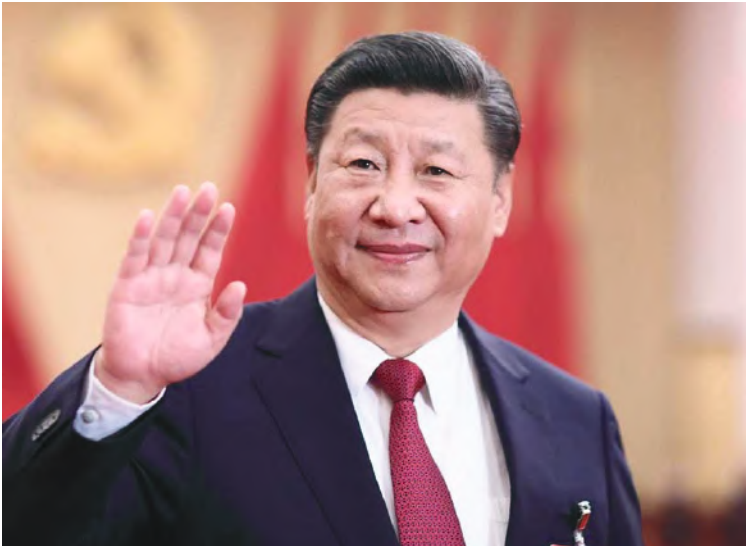
African Experts Laud China’s Role In Propelling Africa’s Right To Development

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

African experts have praised China’s role in advancing the right to development across the continent, highlighting its respect for each country’s unique development path. The remarks were made as the First China-Africa Human Rights Seminar was held on Friday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia’s capital, under the theme “Building the China-Africa community with a shared future and working together to realize the right to development.” The event brought together more than 200 policymakers, scholars, diplomats, and media representatives from China and Africa to explore ways to advance human rights, particularly the right to development. In an interview with Xinhua, Fredrick Mutesa, secretary

general of the Zambia-China Friendship Association, said China continues to engage with Africa and the wider Global South by respecting each country’s governance architecture and socio-economic development path. “China is offering the African continent a real opportunity to renegotiate the participation in the international order based on non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, mutual respect, and win-win outcomes. In that regard, China is playing a very crucial role in helping Africa realize the right to development,” Mutesa told Xinhua. The expert called for concerted efforts among African and Chinese scholars and think tanks to develop a broad strategy to safeguard the benefits of Africa-China cooperation. “You cannot have a continent where over 300 million are suffering from hunger, and we are just a few years from the 2030 goal of ending

hunger,” he said. “It is important that we talk about the right to development and also look at who is partnering with Africa to create conducive conditions for the realization of this right.” “China is at the forefront by investing in unlocking the potential of the African continent through infrastructure development and other sectors of the economy,” he added. Balew Demissie, a researcher at the Policy Studies Institute of Ethiopia, echoed Mutesa’s views, stressing China’s role in promoting a diverse approach to human rights while respecting each country’s unique development path. “China advocates for human rights cooperation based on mutual respect, free from politicization or double standards. China sees economic growth and poverty alleviation as essential foundations for realizing human rights, especially in developing nations,” Demissie emphasized. Highlighting China’s



President Xi Jinping

positive contributions to promoting Africa’s right to development across various bilateral and multilateral platforms, the scholar said China supports reforms in international institutions to amplify the voices of the Global South and uphold national sovereignty.

M23 Confirms Delegation In Doha For Limited Talks With DR Congo Gov’t

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

The rebel group March 23 Movement (M23) confirmed Friday that it has dispatched a delegation to Doha, Qatar’s capital, for talks with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Speaking at a press conference in Goma, the capital of North Kivu Province, which has been under M23 control since late January, M23 political leader Bertrand Bisimwa stressed that the two-member team was tasked “only with discussing the mechanisms for a ceasefire and the release of prisoners.” Talks between the DRC government and the M23 resumed this week in Doha under Qatari mediation, following missed earlier deadlines, according to Radio Okapi, a United Nations-backed outlet in the DRC. The Decla-



ration of Principles signed by both sides on July 19 in Doha called for negotiations toward a peace deal to begin by Aug. 8 and conclude by Aug. 18. Though the timetable lapsed, Qatar circulated a draft agreement last week to both parties. “When we finish this stage, we can move on to something else,” Bisimwa said, acknowledging “blockages” in the Doha process. The M23 had earlier insisted that provisions of the declaration, particularly the release of its members detained by the DRC government, be implemented before broader peace talks could advance. The DRC government has yet to respond to the M23’s

latest remarks but has reiterated its “firm commitment” to constructive dialogue while underscoring its determination to defend national sovereignty and restore lasting peace in the east. Both sides have accused each other of violating the ceasefire agreed in Doha. Since January, the security situation has deteriorated sharply, with the M23 seizing several strategic towns, including Goma and Bukavu, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis. According to the United Nations, more than 27.8 million people in the DRC face food insecurity, with over seven million internally displaced, many of them multiple times.

Nigerian Military Airstrikes Kill 35 Terrorists Near Cameroonian Border



By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

At least 35 suspected terrorists were killed Saturday morning during a series of airstrikes by Nigeria’s military at a town in the country’s north-eastern state of Borno, which borders on Cameroon, the Ni-

gerian Air Force said. Ehimen Ejodame, the air force’s spokesman, said in a statement that the airstrikes were carried out following reports of an attempted attack on ground troops in Borno’s Kumshe town. The military launched “successive strikes at four identified assembly areas,” Ejodame said, with ground troops later confirm-

ing that the situation had stabilized around their location. Recent sustained operations aim to provide close air support to ground forces and disrupt terrorist logistics and movement corridors in the Nigeria-Cameroon border region, he added.

SUPKEM Finalizes Hajj Preparations Amid Rogue Agent Scandal And Calls For Government Oversight

By: Cynthia Masibo
@themkenyatimes

The Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims (SUPKEM) has finalized the first phase of preparations for the 2026 Hajj season as Kenya gears up to send over 5,000 pilgrims to the holy sites in Saudi Arabia. Despite the logistical progress, the preparations have been overshadowed by a brewing controversy involving accusations of mismanagement and concerns about pilgrim welfare.

SUPKEM, the body responsible for coordinating the Hajj mission in Kenya, announced that the preparations include securing prime accommodation locations in Mina and Arafat, ensuring essential services such as tents, beds, and meals are in place for pilgrims. This is a notable increase from last year's attendance, prompting commendation for the registered Hajj agents who have successfully raised the necessary funds.

However, the mission has faced growing criticism from Muslim legislators and members of the public who have called on the government to

exercise greater oversight. Concerns have been raised over rogue agents involved in activities that include the issuance of fake visas and the mis-handling of pilgrim payments. These agents, SUPKEM leaders confirmed, have been suspended following investigations into their malpractice, illustrating the council's commitment to disciplinary action and maintaining the integrity of the mission.

The controversy was further intensified by circulating videos that falsely purported to show Kenyans facing hardship while on Hajj. SUPKEM dismissed these videos as misinformation and propaganda. The council clarified that the videos were taken outside the sacred sites and do not reflect the true conditions experienced by pilgrims. They also noted that such misinformation casts a negative image on both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kenyan Hajj mission.

SUPKEM's leadership defended their disciplinary process, attributing the current allegations to propaganda linked to the previous mission leadership. The council has assured the public that there will be an independent and full audit by the Auditor General to enhance transparency and



Abdul Mashar representing the Islam community issuing his address to the media

accountability in the management of funds and pilgrim welfare.

As preparations advance toward the next phases, stakeholders remain alert to the challenges faced in managing a mission of this magnitude. SUPKEM's efforts to navigate the

complex logistics while addressing allegations of misconduct highlight the delicate balance between ensuring pilgrim safety and welfare and maintaining public trust.

This season's Hajj mission remains pivotal for Kenya's Muslim commu-

nity, with Abdul Mashar reporting on the ongoing developments and the council's readiness to deliver a successful pilgrimage experience amid the mounting scrutiny and internal reforms.

Kenya's Gaming Culture Thrives at Otamatsuri 2025 with Safaricom's 5G Boost

By: Aoma Keziah
@themkenyatimes

Hundreds of Kenyan gaming enthusiasts gathered at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) for the thrilling 2025 Otamatsuri Gaming Convention.

The event transformed the venue into an electrifying hub of energy, skill, and creativity, as gamers competed and showcased their talent in an immersive high-energy environment.

As part of its support, Safaricom powered the gaming experience with 5G network connectivity, giving participants a chance to experience first hand speed, low latency, and reliability of the network. This ensured smooth gameplay and seamless online interactions, a critical component for competitive and social gaming alike.

"We are proud to partner with Otamatsuri to power this year's convention with our 5G network. This is

not just about showcasing speed and reliability, it is about enabling experiences, connecting communities, and supporting the growth of gaming culture in Kenya," said, Fawzia Ali, Chief Consumer Business Officer at Safaricom PLC.

Beyond gaming, the event celebrated diverse aspects of pop culture including movies, TV shows, music, technology, cosplay, performances, and merchandise exhibitions.

"The turnout this year has been incredible, with an overwhelming number of gamers joining us to experience the event and showcase their talent. I would like to thank our key sponsors, especially Safaricom, for their strong support in powering this event with 5G. The speed and stability of their network has been a game-changer for our competitors. We are optimistic about growing this convention to even greater heights in the coming year," said Jotham Michah, organizer.

The highlight of the event was a Local Area Network (LAN) Party, an electrifying all-night gaming marathon where participants brought

their own PCs or consoles, connected to a blazing-fast local network, and battled head-to-head in nonstop competition. Mixing the thrill of a tournament with the atmosphere of a festival, the LAN Party featured intense matchups across multiple genres, including shooters, strategy games, sports titles, and more. Fueled by adrenaline, energy drinks, and the drive for victory, gamers played through the night, competing for prizes, bragging rights, and community glory.

Otamatsuri, an annual anime, manga, and multi-entertainment convention, has become one of the most vibrant pop culture festivals in Kenya, attracting a youthful and dynamic fan-base. Beyond gaming, the event celebrates diverse aspects of pop culture including movies, TV shows, music, technology, cosplay, performances, and merchandise exhibitions.

Murray Lidambiza, a veteran gamer with two decades of experience, reflected on the journey of local e-sport. "I started gaming 20 years ago and seeing how the community has grown is incredible. Events like this



In picture, Kenya's iconic video gamer Brian Diang'a, alias The Beast (left), showcases his army character skills to Fawzia Ali, Safaricom's Chief Consumer Business Officer (right), during the 2025 Otamatsuri Gaming Convention at KICC in Nairobi. The event brought together hundreds of gaming enthusiasts to compete and display their talent in a high-energy atmosphere powered by Safaricom's 5G network.

show how far we have come. Reliable network connectivity is at the heart of gaming, and providers like Safaricom have been instrumental in making gaming and e-sports possible in Kenya. Without strong internet, we simply can't game," he explained.

With thousands in attendance, a

buzzing atmosphere, and Safaricom's 5G network connectivity at its core, the 2025 Otamatsuri Gaming Convention reaffirmed its position as one of Kenya's biggest gaming and pop culture events.

The Pursuit Of Leadership: A Strategic Analysis Of Competition Vs. Power-Based Conflict



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyetimes

Executive Summary

The discourse surrounding professional advancement often conflates two fundamentally distinct approaches: “competing” for leadership and “fighting” for it. This report provides a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary analysis that deconstructs this critical distinction. “Competing” is defined as a merit-based, skill-driven process operating within a framework of transparent rules and shared values. It is an assertive approach focused on achieving goals through demonstrated competence and contribution to a collective vision. In stark contrast, “fighting” is a zero-sum power struggle characterized by a cynical, self-serving ethos that often employs manipulation, deceit, and a disregard for ethical norms.

This analysis, drawing upon research from organizational psychology, sociology, and historical case studies, demonstrates that the choice between these two approaches is not a matter of personal style but a fundamental strategic decision with profound implications for an organization’s character and long-term viability. A culture of healthy competition fosters innovation, motivates employees, and builds institutional resilience. Conversely, a culture defined by power-based fighting inevitably leads to systemic decay, compromises strategic coherence, and erodes the trust and morale essential for sustainable success.

The report identifies critical failure points in traditional leadership selection processes, particularly the overreliance on self-selection, which often rewards ambition over genuine aptitude. It further reveals that a culture of fighting is not merely the result of a few malicious actors but is frequently a symptom of systemic weaknesses, such as a lack of transparency and a perception that the existing meritocratic system is an illusion.

Ultimately, the report concludes with a strategic imperative for modern leaders: to reject the destructive ethos of power struggles and, instead, to systematically build and reinforce robust meritocratic frameworks. This involves a commitment to ethical leadership, the implementation of transparent, competency-based selection processes, and the active cultivation of a culture where competition and collaboration are symbiotic forces for positive, collective growth. The path forward is one of deliberate



and conscious effort to ensure that the pursuit of leadership remains a constructive force for the common good.

1. Introduction: Deconstructing the Leadership Pursuit

Defining the Semantic and Behavioral Divide

The ascent to a position of leadership is often viewed through the lens of a single, all-encompassing concept: ambition. Yet, a deeper examination reveals that the pursuit of power manifests in two fundamentally different ways. This analysis distinguishes between “competing” for leadership and “fighting” for it. While both behaviors are driven by a desire for influence and control, they are separated by a chasm of ethical, psychological, and systemic differences.

In a professional context, “competing” for a leadership position is a process rooted in meritocracy, the ideal political or social system in which power is vested in individuals based on ability and talent rather than on wealth or social class. This approach is characterized by a high level of assertiveness in achieving one’s goals, often with a low emphasis on cooperation in the initial stages of a conflict. Individuals who compete for leadership do so by focusing on winning or achieving their objectives, believing their perspective to be the correct one, or because a situation demands quick, decisive action. This model of advancement is meant to promote a strong work ethic, fairness, and equality, thereby challenging forms of nepotism or aristocracy. The “competing” style of conflict management, when em-

ployed effectively, allows for rapid decision-making, provides clarity and direction, and can be crucial in emergency situations or when protecting vital interests.

Conversely, “fighting” for a leadership position is a raw struggle for power and resources, a concept central to conflict theory in sociology. This approach views society and, by extension, the workplace, as a continuous battle between groups or individuals vying for control and resources. The tactics employed in this pursuit are self-serving and often unethical, aimed at personal gain at the expense of others and the organization. Such actions include spreading rumors, withholding critical information, talking behind colleagues’ backs, and deliberately sabotaging others’ work. The pursuit of leadership through “fighting” is a zero-sum game, where one’s ascent is predicated on the downfall of a rival. The objectives are not always increased pay or a promotion, but can be a desire for power or control for its own end, or simply to discredit a competitor.

Scope and Objectives of the Analysis

This report’s objective is to move beyond these initial definitions to provide a comprehensive, multi-dimensional analysis of the two approaches. It integrates a wide body of knowledge from organizational psychology, sociology, political science, and history. The analysis seeks to illuminate the causal links between specific behaviors and their organizational consequences, providing a strategic guide for leaders and governance professionals. It aims to answer the fundamental

question of which approach serves the long-term health and prosperity of an institution, and how organizations can proactively foster one while mitigating the other.

The Foundational Hypothesis: One Builds, the Other Destroys

The central premise of this report is that the choice between competing and fighting is not a minor stylistic difference, but a fundamental strategic decision that determines the character, health, and long-term viability of an organization. The hypothesis is that competition, grounded in merit and ethical conduct, is a constructive force that builds and strengthens institutions by harnessing individual ambition for a collective purpose. In contrast, fighting, which is a corrosive, self-serving force, inevitably leads to systemic decay, erodes trust, and compromises the very foundations of organizational success. The following sections will provide the evidence to support this foundational argument.

2. The Theoretical Landscape of Leadership Pursuit

2.1 Competition: The Promise and Perils of Meritocracy

Meritocracy as a Foundational Ideal

The concept of meritocracy, where personal advancement and success reflect an individual’s capabilities and merits, is widely accepted as a cornerstone of modern societies and

Worth Noting:

- The report identifies critical failure points in traditional leadership selection processes, particularly the overreliance on self-selection, which often rewards ambition over genuine aptitude. It further reveals that a culture of fighting is not merely the result of a few malicious actors but is frequently a symptom of systemic weaknesses, such as a lack of transparency and a perception that the existing meritocratic system is an illusion.
- Ultimately, the report concludes with a strategic imperative for modern leaders: to reject the destructive ethos of power struggles and, instead, to systematically build and reinforce robust meritocratic frameworks. This involves a commitment to ethical leadership, the implementation of transparent, competency-based selection processes, and the active cultivation of a culture where competition and collaboration are symbiotic forces for positive, collective growth. The path forward is one of deliberate and conscious effort to ensure that the pursuit of leadership remains a constructive force for the common good.

The Pursuit Of Leadership: A Strategic Analysis Of Competition Vs. Power-Based Conflict

Contd from page 20

is often synonymous with the idea of equality of opportunity. In a business context, the merit model holds all employees, including family members in succession planning, to the same standards, thereby promoting fairness, equality, and a strong work ethic. By fostering a culture of meritocracy, an organization can avoid perceptions of favoritism or nepotism and ensure transparency in decision-making.

Despite its theoretical appeal, the contemporary conception of meritocracy is complex and often viewed as an illusion. The very idea of a meritocratic worldview, which underpins the belief systems of many democratic societies, can function as a “key means of cultural legitimation for contemporary capitalist culture”. This means that the notion of a system where rewards are based on talent and effort can exist alongside significant social inequality and inherited wealth. In such a system, those who are already privileged often have more opportunities to demonstrate their “merit,” creating a self-reinforcing cycle where the privileged remain so. The consequence is that while a society may believe that success is due to merit, a reality of restricted mobility and unequal opportunity persists. This disconnect can undermine trust in institutions, especially when it is perceived that the system is unfair and serves to perpetuate existing inequalities rather than challenge them.

The Psychological Engine: Ambition and Its Disconnect from Aptitude

Ambition is a powerful psychological driver that fuels leadership by pushing individuals to take responsibility, imagine alternatives, and mobilize others toward a vision. It is the force that leads individuals to proactively seek leadership roles and promotions, a process known as self-selection or “opt-in”. The implicit societal assumption is that those who are ambitious and want to lead are also the most suited to do so.

However, a study conducted at Stanford Graduate School of Business challenged this assumption by examining the relationship between leadership ambition and leadership

aptitude. The research found a significant discrepancy between how highly ambitious executives rated their own leadership effectiveness and how they were rated by their managers, peers, and direct reports. The study revealed that while individuals with higher ambition were more likely to hold a positive self-view of their own effectiveness, they were no more effective in a leadership role than their less-ambitious peers. This perception gap was pronounced across many key competencies, with the most ambitious individuals being four to ten times more likely to believe they had above-average leadership ability.

This disparity reveals a critical flaw in traditional leader selection processes. When an organization relies on self-selection as the primary mechanism for populating its leadership pipeline, it is inadvertently prioritizing ambition over a proven aptitude for the role. This approach can lead to a significant amount of “untapped potential” being overlooked. Many highly competent individuals, who may be less inclined to seek the spotlight or take risks, may not put themselves forward for leadership opportunities, even if they are top performers. The system, by rewarding the willingness to “opt-in,” misses a large pool of talented individuals who could become outstanding leaders but lack the specific trait of high ambition.

The Double-Edged Sword: Fostering Innovation vs. Breeding Stress

When an organization successfully implements a culture of competition based on merit, the results can be highly beneficial. Such a culture motivates employees to perform at their best, knowing that their efforts will be recognized and rewarded. Merit-based planning, which links rewards to performance, creates a sense of fairness that boosts motivation, productivity, and morale. This approach encourages individuals to take on new challenges and continuously improve their skills, leading to greater innovation and overall organizational excellence. In certain scenarios, such as those requiring quick, decisive action, an assertive or “competing” style can provide clarity and direction, proving particularly effective in emergencies.

However, the pursuit of individual excellence in a highly competitive environment carries significant risks. It can create intense pressure for employees to constantly outper-



form their peers, which may lead to high levels of stress, burnout, and a decrease in job satisfaction. When this pressure is not managed properly, it can foster a culture of competition over collaboration, where individuals are pitted against each other rather than working toward a shared goal. The over-application of the assertive, “competing” conflict management style can also lead to strained relationships, decreased morale, and resistance from others who feel steamrolled.

2.2 Fighting: The Dark Triad of Power Struggles

The Ethos of the End Justifying the Means

The philosophy that underpins “fighting” for leadership is Machiavellianism, a personality trait characterized by a cold, cynical, and exploitative orientation. In a leadership context, this translates to a belief that the end justifies the means, regardless of the ethical implications. Leaders with these traits are adept at strategic thinking and tactical planning, but they view others as tools to be used for personal or organizational gain, often at the expense of others’ well-being and ethical considerations. They are skilled in manipulation, using a mix of charm and deceit to achieve their goals, a duplicitous interpersonal style that allows them to mask their true intentions.

This kind of conflict is not only ethically compromised but also inherently unpredictable. While a conflict may begin as a rational, strategic pursuit of incompatible goals, it can easily devolve into a non-rational, emotionally driven struggle fueled by hostility. This is because hostility and conflict have a reciprocal relationship: hostility can add fuel to and intensify a conflict, and the

conflict, in turn, can intensify the hostility. A power struggle that starts with a clear, strategic objective can quickly become an unmanageable, self-destructive battle that serves no rational purpose, consuming time and resources for the sake of personal animosity.

The Unholy Trinity: Machiavellianism, Narcissism, and Psychopathy in Leadership

The presence of “fighting” in a workplace can often be linked to the “Dark Triad” of personality traits: Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy. Individuals who score high on these traits are more likely to engage in negative workplace politics and destructive behaviors. High-Machs, for example, are known for their ability to manipulate and exploit others to further their own agendas. Their tactics include deliberately sabotaging colleagues’ work, practicing deception, and strategically undermining others’ reputations with management. This behavior is often associated with “hard” tactics, which are forceful and aggressive, rather than “soft” ones.

The presence of these traits in a leader can have a profoundly negative impact on subordinates’ career success and well-being. While these individuals may find it easier to obtain leadership positions and better salaries due to their manipulative skills, their leadership style can be highly destructive and unethical. The focus on short-term gains and personal success often creates strategic blind spots that can lead to significant long-term organizational failures. The Enron scandal, where senior executives engaged in deceitful practices for personal gain, serves as a classic contemporary example of Machiavellianism in lead-

ership.

The Zero-Sum Game: How Conflict Theory Explains a Culture of “Fighting”

Conflict theory, which posits that inequality produces conflict and that this conflict is productive of new social relations, provides a framework for understanding the culture of “fighting”. In a business context, this is a competitive environment where individuals battle for attention and authority, viewing the ascent of a peer as an obstacle to their own. This zero-sum paradigm, where the gain of one person comes at the expense of another, creates an atmosphere where employees use a mix of “deception, intimidation, cunning, and subterfuge” to advance.

This destructive behavior is not merely the result of a few bad actors; it is a symptom of a systemic breakdown. When an organization’s meritocratic system is perceived as an illusion—a system that legitimizes and perpetuates existing inequalities rather than rewards true competence—the conditions are ripe for power struggles to flourish. A lack of clear, transparent processes for succession planning, as seen in family businesses, can lead to power struggles because the selection of a successor is not based on merit but on other factors. In the absence of a truly fair system, the power vacuum will inevitably be filled by those who are most willing to manipulate and exploit others. The more a society or organization rests on the belief in a meritocracy that does not exist in practice, the more likely individuals are to turn to cynical and deceptive tactics to get ahead.

SPORTS
NEWS

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SCORES
OPINIONS
STATISTICS
SCHEDULES
BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Manchester United remain without a Premier League win this season after being held 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday, while a Jack Grealish-inspired Everton opened their new stadium with a 2-0 victory over Brighton.

Man Utd Still Winless After Fulham Draw, Everton Win To Open New Stadium

Manchester United remain without a Premier League win this season after being held 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday, while a Jack Grealish-inspired Everton opened their new stadium with a 2-0 victory over Brighton.

Ruben Amorim's United were left to rue Bruno Fernandes' wayward first-half penalty as they were pegged back at Craven Cottage.

Rodrigo Muniz's own-goal put United in front on the hour mark, but Emile Smith Rowe came off the bench to rescue a point for Fulham.

Amorim is seeking an upturn on a disastrous 15th-placed finish last season, but so far his new £200 million (\$270 million) forward line of Matheus Cunha, Bryan Mbeumo and Benjamin Sesko, who again started on the bench, is yet to fire.

Despite an encouraging performance, United lost 1-0 to title-chasing Arsenal in their season opener last weekend and will feel another two points slipped away in west London.

Fulham, though, felt the visitors got the better of two controversial calls.

United's penalty was awarded after a VAR review for grappling by Calvin Bassey on Mason Mount.

Fernandes is normally reliable from the spot, but blasted his effort high over the bar.

When United did finally get their first goal of the season it came via a Fulham body as Muniz deflected Leny Yoro's header into his own net.

However, the home side were furious that this time VAR did not intervene for a push by Yoro on Bassey.

Fulham still managed to rescue a point when former Arsenal midfielder Smith Rowe's run into the box was not tracked and he turned in Alex Iwobi's cross 17 minutes from time.



Fulham's English midfielder Emile Smith Rowe (C) celebrates after scoring the equalising goal during the English Premier League football match between Fulham and Manchester United at Craven Cottage in London on August 24, 2025..

- Everton's new era -

After an emotional goodbye to Goodison Park, the club's home since 1892, Everton are hoping the move to a new 53,000 capacity stadium will rekindle their bygone glory days.

Only four clubs have won more English top-flight titles than Everton's nine.

However, they have not won a major trophy for 30 years and spent their final seasons at Goodison battling relegation.

"We're trying to find a way of moving the club on. I think this is a big step forward for Everton," said manager David Moyes.

Grealish has so far been the marquee new addition to Moyes' squad and showed glimpses of the talent that saw Manchester City pay Aston Villa £100 million for him four years ago, providing the assist for both goals.

Iliman Ndiaye scored the final goal at Goodison against Southampton in May and made more

history with the first goal at Everton's new home.

Grealish was the creator with a drilled left foot cross that Ndiaye timed his run perfectly to meet at the back post on 23 minutes.

Brighton should not have come away from Merseyside empty-handed but wasted a series of chances.

Kaoru Mitoma struck the bar and Jan Paul van Hecke's effort came back off the post, while Danny Welbeck spooned over with the goal gaping.

James Garner doubled Everton's lead early in the second period with a blistering strike from Grealish's lay-off.

Brighton still had the chance to set up a nervy finale, but Jordan Pickford saved Welbeck's poor penalty to round off a memorable afternoon for the Toffees.

- Nuno no go -

Nottingham Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo insisted he wants to remain in charge after

his side's 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace.

Callum Hudson-Odoi rescued a point for Forest after Ismaila Sarr's first-half opener for Palace.

Nuno said on Friday his relationship with owner Evangelos Marinakis had deteriorated as odds on him being the first Premier League manager of the season to be sacked were slashed.

"That is nonsense. That does not make any kind of sense," said the Portuguese coach on whether he is trying to engineer an exit from the club.

AFP

Sports >>> *Everton’s new era at the Hill Dickinson Stadium got off to a bright start with a 2-0 win over Brighton in front of a crowd of just under 52,000 yesterday.

Everton Beat Brighton In New Stadium Opener



Brighton’s English striker Danny Welbeck reacts after Everton’s English goalkeeper Jordan Pickford (R) saved his penalty during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Brighton and Hove Albion at Hill Dickinson Stadium in Liverpool, north west England on August 24, 2025. (Photo by Darren Staples / AFP).

Everton’s new era at the Hill Dickinson Stadium got off to a bright start with a 2-0 win over Brighton in front of a crowd of just under 52,000 yesterday.

Iliman Ndiaye and James Garner struck for the Toffees either side of half-time as Jack Grealish claimed two assists on his first Everton start.

Brighton were left to rue a series of wasted chances, including a missed penalty by Danny Welbeck. The Seagulls remain without a win this season.

Everton are a work in progress with David Moyes desperate to make more additions to his squad in the final week of the transfer window.

But the green shoots of a brighter future were on show on a day that has been years in the making.

Only four clubs have won more English top-flight titles than Everton’s nine.

However, they have not won a major trophy for 30 years and spent their final seasons at Goodison Park, the club’s home since 1892, battling relegation.

Grealish has so far been the marquee new addition to Moyes’ squad and showed glimpses of the talent that saw Manchester City pay Aston Villa £100 million (\$135 million) for him four years ago.

Ndiaye scored the final goal at Goodison Park against Southampton in May and made more history with the first goal at Everton’s new home.

Grealish was the creator with a drilled left foot cross that Ndiaye timed his run perfectly to meet at the back post on 23 minutes.

Brighton should have been well ahead by that point and will be wondering how they left Merseyside empty handed.

Kaoru Mitoma struck the bar after an outlandish flick over James Tarkowski before volleying towards goal.

Welbeck then skewed over with the goal gaping from Yankuba Minteh’s cross.

Even after the blow of conceding, the visitors could have gone in ahead at half-time.

Jan Paul van Hecke’s deflected

shot came back off the post.

Matt O’Riley then failed to capitalise on Tarkowski’s poor pass-back as Jordan Pickford rushed off his line to block.

Brighton’s wastefulness was punished once more seven minutes into the second period.

Grealish was credited with another assist but Garner did the hard work as his blistering strike from outside the box flew past Bart Verbruggen’s outstretched hand.

-Pickford’s penalty heroics -

Brighton were offered a lifeline 15 minutes from time when Kieran Dewsbury-Hall blocked Minteh’s shot with an outstretched arm.

Pickford, though, ensured there was no spoiling Everton’s big day as he dived to his left to stop Welbeck’s spot-kick.

At Selhurst Park, the points were shared in a 1-1 draw between Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest amid an off-field feud between the clubs.

Palace supporters were angered by what they perceived as Forest’s meddlings in their demotion by

UEFA from the Europa League to the Conference League.

Forest were the beneficiaries of Palace’s punishment for a breach of multi-club ownership rules as they moved up to the Europa League at the Eagles expense.

A lively atmosphere grew even louder as Ismaila Sarr turned in Daniel Munoz’s cross to open the scoring.

Forest’s preparations were overshadowed by uncertainty over the future of manager Nuno Espirito Santo.

The Portuguese coach said on Friday his relationship with owner Evangelos Marinakis had deteriorated as odds on him being the first Premier League manager of the season to be sacked were slashed.

The visitors hit back to secure a point when Callum Hudson-Odoi fired home from Dan Ndoye’s pass.

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SCHEDULES
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Factors For Developing Students' Communication Competence

By: Navanova Sabina
@themkenyaytimes

Shahrisabz State Pedagogical Institute

Lecturer: Rayimova Dilfuza Abdinabiyeвна

Abstract

This article discusses the theoretical foundations of developing students' communication competence, the importance of mastering their native language and improving the level of speech communication skills, and highlights the system of professionally significant qualities. It also emphasizes the need to focus on methodological support for diagnosing professional mastery.

Keywords: language education, ability to communicate, fostering the quality of enjoying communication, cultivating aesthetic education, developing independent thinking. The aim is to enhance student competence through such communication.

Main Part

Taking into account that language develops as society progresses, the issue of enriching native language teaching with new developmental methods is becoming increasingly relevant. Students should be explained that learning and teaching the secrets of our native language through interactive and innovative methods, while ensuring deep and nationally rooted understanding, is necessary.

In higher educational institutions, it is important to ensure the continuity of teaching the Uzbek language, strengthen students' orthographic and stylistic literacy, and create mechanisms to raise language skills and communication competence to an advanced level.

The necessity of implementing reforms and modernizing the content of native language (Uzbek) education at all levels of schooling is essential. This enables students of higher education institutions to further develop their abilities of deep thinking, listening, and communicating in their mother tongue, while also applying innovative educational technologies in this process. Uzbek pedagogical scholars have underlined that developing students into well-rounded individuals requires systematic scientific-theoretical approaches. In Uzbekistan, purposeful and systematic measures are being carried out to improve the content and thematic quality of Uzbek language education as the national and state language.

For example, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor U.I. Inoyatov emphasizes the theoretical and organizational-methodological foundations of monitoring and managing the quality of education, stressing that one of the important factors in professional and human thinking is language and speech competence. Methodologist M. Sobirova's fundamental research explores theoretical and practical aspects of improving professional specialization. Researcher O.A. Abduquddusov addresses integrative approaches in training young and future specialists, focusing on solutions to the problems of thinking, language, and speech. D. Yuldasheva highlights the problem of preparing specialists with professional mastery and eloquent speech. Scholars such as Ibragimova G., Azimova I., Ziyodullayeva G., and Murodova A. explore issues such as developing interactive creativity, the psycholinguistic basis for improving linguistic skills in native language teaching, the role of rule systems in shaping communicative competence, and the importance of listening and comprehension in native language learning.

Teaching our national language requires clearly explaining and instilling the unique lifestyle, ethnography, and traditions of the Uzbek people that are preserved in the language. For this, it is essential to effectively use comparison, contrast, and generalization methods and technologies in teaching. It is the duty of a native language teacher to ensure that students understand the essence of concepts and terms, which are linguistic units. Therefore, a university teacher must themselves fully master Uzbek language and speech competence.

Based on the theoretical foundations of developing communication skills among university students, it can be said that language and speech etiquette are the essence of Uzbek national life. In any time, place, or society where good behavior and proper speech prevail among members of the community, that society prospers, its living conditions improve, and peace reigns.

When addressing the issue of improving students' knowledge of their native language and communication skills, attention should first be directed toward identifying the system of professionally important qualities. This serves as both the basis and the methodological provision for diagnosing the dynamic individuality of a professionally skilled person.

Naturally, communication has several functions. The most frequently used is the conversation between interlocutors, beginning with greet-

ings and extending to the highest levels of communication. National characteristics also dominate communication. Among Uzbeks, from a simple and sincere greeting to parting, such features are clearly visible.

Another important aspect of communication is that it encourages activity. Particularly in the educational process, communication creates activity. To meet the need for communication, a person must master the art of speech and etiquette. Communication is carried out through verbal expression.

In our wise nation, there are many proverbs and teachings about the rules of speaking, caution in the use of language, and the importance of thinking before uttering every word and sentence. One such saying states that a person's honor and dignity are reflected in their cultured way of speaking. If one does not follow the etiquette of speech, their humanity will not be visible. If speech is expressed appropriately and meaningfully, it is better to listen in silence. Mastery of literary language requires not only spelling but also correct pronunciation, as these are two sides of the same coin. Deviating from literary pronunciation norms is equivalent to semi-literacy in writing.

The structural elements of speech communication include:

- a) transmitting communicative information;
- b) acting in interactive cooperation;
- c) jointly perceiving in a perceptive way.

For example, in the communicative process, when a teacher explains a topic, they first set a communicative goal and then demand interactive actions (cooperation) from students. In practical and seminar classes, as well as lectures, the teacher addresses students with various questions and evaluates them accordingly. Most students show activity in this regard, though some find it very difficult to raise their hands and answer. A student forced to respond may show uncertainty in speech at the very communicative stage. Or, even if both sides act interactively, if they do not perceive the expressed idea together, the perceptive aspect of communication is disrupted, leading to poor comprehension of the lesson. Neglecting these aspects during communication results in misunderstanding.

Therefore, developing students' speech communication culture should be determined in advance as parameters in the form of knowledge, skills, and abilities aligned with small-scale objectives. For



Rayimova Dilfuza Abdinabiyeвна

example, the content of dialogue replicas forms separate units. Verbal communication is not limited to questions and answers; it also includes listening to the interlocutor, asking counter-questions, rejecting questions, encouraging action, making proposals, and so on. This requires the use of various lexical and grammatical tools and formulaic sentences. Hence, mastering speech communication (dialogue) requires a broad approach.

Our observations show that most sentences constructed and presented by students have logical connections, but the normative level of words and grammatical forms used to construct syntactic structures does not fully meet the requirements. Cases were observed where auxiliary words, word-forming, form-building, and syntactic relation-forming affixes were not used appropriately. To improve students' native language knowledge and communication skills, teachers should encourage them to read more literary books, do more writing exercises, and develop the habit of working with dictionaries.

In higher education institutions, developing the speech competence of future specialists is crucial for encouraging creativity, carrying out projects, and fostering literary reading and writing practices. Developing students' communication culture should be set in advance as parameters in the form of knowledge, skills, and abilities aligned with small-scale objectives.

From modern requirements, we can identify the following main ways and requirements for developing

language and speech competence of future specialists, based on the content of education:

1. A specialist with sectoral scientific-theoretical training and creativity must possess speech competence.
2. Engaging in scientific-research and experimental activities, they must be able to express the realities of their work in both written and oral forms appropriate to speech styles.
3. When introducing new technologies, they must be able to fully explain and demonstrate their specific features using professional terminology.
4. Through modern electronic media, they must be able to express virtual communication clearly, simply, concisely, and without vagueness, using national and professional styles. They must ensure the clarity and validity of information through the words they use.

Conclusion

The successful resolution of political, economic, and social tasks in society largely depends on how well each member of society knows their native language and can apply it in practice—that is, in speech situations, environments, and among people of different social groups—freely, clearly, simply, and fluently.

Cultivating in students the ability to communicate correctly, fluently, and meaningfully, while at the same time enhancing their aesthetic taste and developing their independent thinking capacity, is one of the key tasks in achieving communicative literacy and developing student competence.