Beyond Compliance: Embedding Ubuntu In Kenya's ESG Journey

Imagine a Nairobi startup founder who discovers that her solar energy business not only generates profit but transforms entire communities by providing clean electricity to schools, enabling night classes that break generational cycles of poverty

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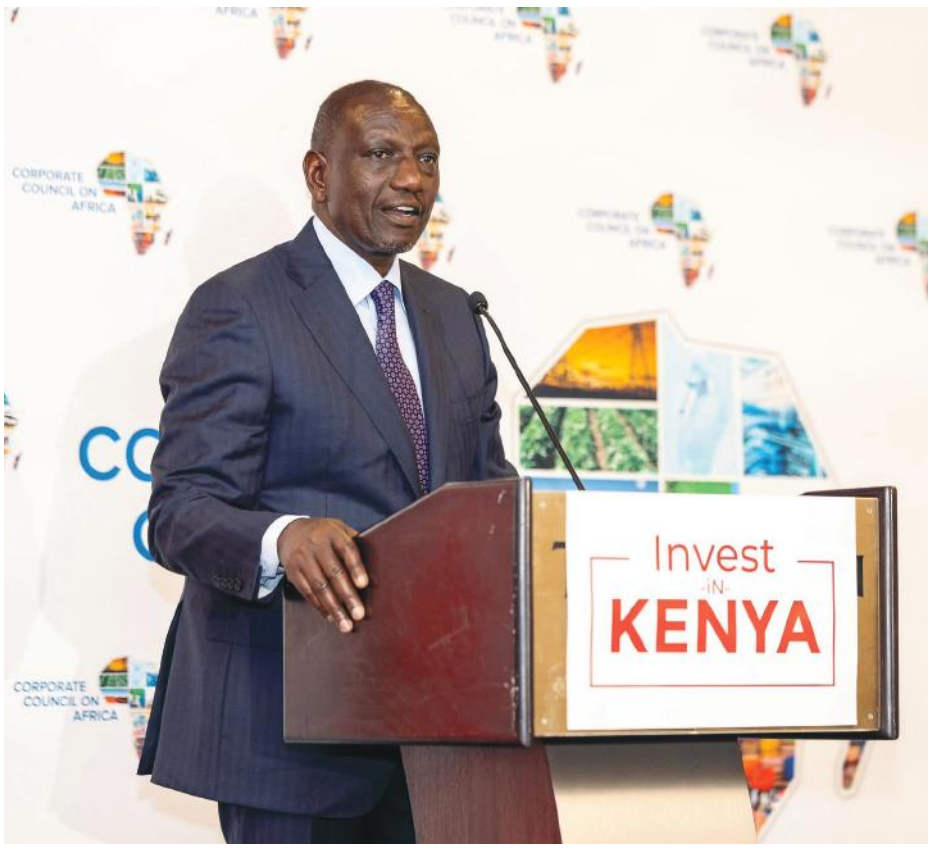
President Ruto Wooes American Investors

"Kenya is a safe and secure destination for your investments, President William Ruto has assured American investors.

The President said Kenya's macro-economic fundamentals make it the ideal investment destination for American corporations seeking business opportunities in Africa.

"We offer stability, world-class talent, green energy, and dependable connectivity, just the qualities investors seek," he said in New York yesterday.



President William Ruto in New York yesterday

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President Ruto Wooes American Investors As The Super Power Pledges Support For MSS Mission Transition

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

President William Ruto yesterday wooed American investors saying Kenya is a safe and secure destination for their investments.

The President said Kenya's macro-economic fundamentals make it the ideal investment destination for American corporations seeking business opportunities in Africa.

"We offer stability, world-class talent, green energy, and dependable connectivity, just the qualities investors seek," he said in New York.

At the same time, the United States pledged to rally support for the transition of the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support mission in Haiti following an impassioned plea by President Ruto.

United States Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said the US and Panama had worked with Haiti to introduce a UN Security Council resolution to establish a larger gang-suppression force with a broader mandate and a UN support office for Haiti.

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs in a way that is both creative and innovative.
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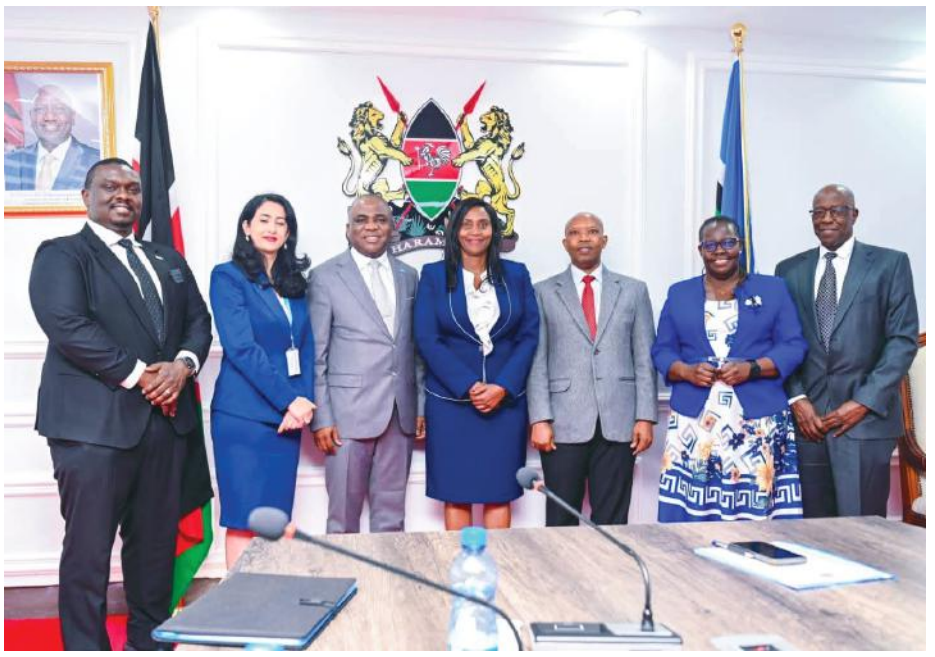

The country continues to strengthen its national medicines regulatory system to guarantee safe, effective, and quality medicines for all. The government is equipping the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) with resources and inter-agency support to enable it to deliver on its mandate as the national regulator. This commitment positions PPB to attain Maturity Level 3, a global standard that recognizes a regulator as stable, well-functioning, and capable of ensuring medicines are consistently safe, effective, and of good quality. Yesterday, Public Health and Professional Standards Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni hosted a delegation from the World Health Organization (WHO) led by the Acting WHO Representative in Kenya, Dr. Adiele Onyeze, together with officials from PPB, ahead of the upcoming WHO onsite evidence verification mission, a key step in confirming progress made and strengthening confidence in the regulatory system.The meeting was also attended by PPB Board Chair, Dr. John Munyu, CEO Dr. Fred Siyoi, and other senior Ministry officials.

The Principal Secretary, State Department for Irrigation, Ephantus Kimotho yesterday chaired a project committee meeting to deliberate on interventions aimed at enhancing the productivity of irrigation projects and schemes, as well as expanding the area under irrigation in Kenya. The meeting highlighted the importance of ensuring the sustainability of community irrigation projects through effective operations and maintenance, strengthening governance structures, boosting agricultural production, promoting market linkages through cooperatives and aggregation centers, and improving data generation and utilization for informed decision-making. In addition, the Project Committee is undertaking an audit of infrastructure status and challenges across various schemes, while reviewing production interventions with the goal of maximizing the impact of irrigation investments. These efforts are designed to enhance food security and progressively reduce the country's reliance on food imports.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday hosted the Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of Delivery and Government Efficiency Mr. Eliud Owalo where they reviewed milestones in the sector. Kagwe noted that agricultural productivity has improved through the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme, which has boosted the production of maize, edible oils, rice, and cotton. The livestock value chain has also registered growth with higher milk production, while the DRIVE Programme has extended livestock insurance cover to more than 238,000 pastoralist households, enhancing resilience in ASAL communities.

President William Ruto's daughter, Charlene Ruto, has formally withdrawn criminal charges against author Webster Ochora Elijah after a successful reconciliation agreement. This comes after Ochora offered an apology and a commitment to the first daughter that he will never publish a book based on her autobiography. Ochora was accused of impersonating Charlene by authoring a book under her name.

The National Gender and Equality Commission hosted the Kenya Girl Guides Association to explore partnerships on menstrual hygiene education & sanitary product distribution; ensuring dignity, health and equal opportunities for every girl. Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) keeps girls in school. It protects dignity, improves attendance and learning, reduces dropouts and stigma, and safeguards health. Schools must provide education, supplies and safe, private facilities so every girl can learn without interruption.

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IN BUSINESS

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United States Pledges Support For MSS Mission Transition

By: PCS
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Mr Landau called on all US partners to join them in pressing for this critical resolution before the MSS mission mandate expires on 2 October, 2025.**
- **"This effort responds to the call from our partners in Kenya and has the full endorsement of Haiti," he said.**
- **The US official went on: "All 32 members of the Organisation of American States have also signed onto a joint statement calling for the urgent passing of this resolution."**

The United States has pledged to rally support for the transition of the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support mission in Haiti following an impassioned plea by President William Ruto.

United States Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau said the US and Panama had worked with Haiti to introduce a UN Security Council resolution to establish a larger gang-suppression force with a broader mandate and a UN support office for Haiti.

Mr Landau called on all US partners to join them in pressing for this critical resolution before the MSS mission mandate expires on 2 October, 2025.

"This effort responds to the call from our partners in Kenya and has the full endorsement of Haiti," he said.

The US official went on: "All 32 members of the Organisation of American States have also signed onto a joint statement calling for the urgent passing of this resolution."

He was speaking during a high-level meeting on Haiti hosted by Kenya and the US at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Haiti Transitional Presidential Council President Laurent Saint-Cyr and President Nataša Pirc Musar of Slovenia were among those present.

Mr Landau said the new force would consist of 5,500 personnel, more than five times the size of the current MSS.

He echoed President Ruto's sentiments that the Kenyan-led mission lacked the mandate and resources necessary to address the challenge in Haiti.

At the meeting, President Ruto asked the international community to step up its efforts to restore peace and stability in Haiti.

The President also called on the international community to support the transition of the Multinational Security Support mission, whose mandate expires in 11 days.

President William Ruto

Without a clear transition, the President said, all the gains made so far would be reversed.

"I want to persuade members of the international community to take the matters of Haiti as seriously as it deserves and hopefully provide a transition that is going to ensure we don't let the people of Haiti down," he said.

For the successor mission to succeed, President Ruto urged the international community to address the gaps that slowed the progress of the Kenyan-led mission.

He said the MSS has made tremendous progress even while operating at only 40 per cent of its intended strength, due to unfulfilled commitments and limited support in resources and logistics.

The successor mission, he said, must have a clear mandate, a predictable financial package, and the full logistical support necessary to deliver results.

"It cannot be what Kenya has gone through, a game of guesswork depending on people's goodwill. It must be predictable if we are serious about solving the matter in Haiti. I don't understand why we cannot be serious," he said.

Saying the people of Haiti deserve better, President Ruto called for decisive action and lasting solutions.

"What is going on in Haiti is unacceptable and indefensible; it is simply wrong," he said.

He said the MSS mission in Haiti had made significant progress in restoring normalcy. President Ruto noted that when the MSS first arrived, gangs controlled the airport and many people considered it unsafe to land.

"Today, the airport is operational, with passenger and cargo flights flying from and landing at the same airport," he said.

He added that the MSS had secured the presidential palace, reclaimed police headquarters and training academy from gangs, and reopened schools and hospitals.

They also cleared blocked routes into most townships where gangs had been charging for access.

"The port had also been captured. Today, the port is operational, with cargo moving in and out, and we have our security personnel stationed there," he said.

The President also honoured the courage and sacrifice of Kenya Police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, standing for peace and stability in Haiti.

"We particularly honour three Kenyan officers – Samuel Tomoi Kaetuai, Benedict Kabiru, and Kennedy Nzuve – who lost their lives in the line of duty. May their precious souls rest in eternal peace," he said.

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Students-Led Innovations Recognized As Problem-Solving As Varsities Urged To Invest In Research And Innovation

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyatimes

University students are increasingly adopting and embarking on crucial innovations that are geared towards solving a myriad of challenges facing the country and communities.

The students-led innovations span from diverse fields including ICT, Engineering, Agritech, fintech and healthtech among others.

At the Commercialisation and Entrepreneurial Institutional Leaders (CEIL) Summit 2025 held by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), several student-led innovations were hailed as transformative as calls were made to higher learning institutions to invest heavily in Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Some of the notable innovations by students at Zetech University include Tugawe Feedback by Joy Mwende, Paul Wako and Brian Mtana, an AI-powered realtime customer feedback for the hospitality sector integrating with payment systems and Whatsapp.

Saadia Essa has invented the Job Matching Resume Tool- a smart tool using algorithms to match job seekers to roles aligned with their strengths and aspirations. Ian Cheruiyot, another student t has invented The Smart Gate- a Multi-layered access control system for infrastructure security.

Others are Block Creative- Blockchain-based platform to help digital creatives protect intellectual property and monetize content, Krypton Baitbox- Smart, eco-conscious pest control solution addressing environmental and health concerns and Chama Management System- a System to manage community savings groups (chamas) more efficiently.

Students Kevin Gitau and Moses Majengo have invented Airsafi- a system that Monitors air quality index and provides real-time alerts about pollution to communities and industries while Francis Ng'ang'a has invented Advanced Face Recognition System- a Biometric security system scanning faces and iris patterns to affirm identity for secure access.

Other innovations include the Water Quality Monitoring System- a System designed to monitor water quality in real time by Michael Kamau and the Smart Pest Deterrent System which is a Technology solution to keep pests away from farms; gained attention from industry bodies.

Zetech University Vice Chancellor Prof Njenga Munene said that the recognition of the innovations contributions of the Zetech University's Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology (iZET) Hub, the institution's flagship centre for innovation and entrepreneurship operating under the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies.

"It further cements our position as a leading technology hub for transformative education and innovation in Kenya," he said.

He noted that through flagship initiatives such as the Wezesha Incubation Programme and strategic partnerships with industry experts, the iZET Hub has catalysed student-driven solutions and ventures that are both innovative and impactful.

The VC further quipped that by integrating academic theory with practical application, iZET Hub has not only strengthened students' innovative capabilities but also delivered measurable social impact, demonstrating how student-led ecosystems can drive sustainable development and societal transformation.

"Over the past years, Zetech University has led in organizing workshops, hackathons, mentorship programmes, and community engagement projects, equipping students with critical digital skills and entrepreneurial mindsets," he averred.

Prof. Njenga Munene, receives the best student-led innovation club award from Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, during the CEIL Summit 2025.

Prof Munene added, "The iZET Hub is tangible proof of how universities can function as powerful engines of innovation, preparing young leaders who design solutions for both national and global challenges."

At the Summit, the Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix K. Koskei, officially backed the establishment of Student-Led Innovation Clubs across 11 universities as part of a national strategy to nurture grassroots innovation.

Democratic Party of Kenya Director of Elections, DK Munene Dies

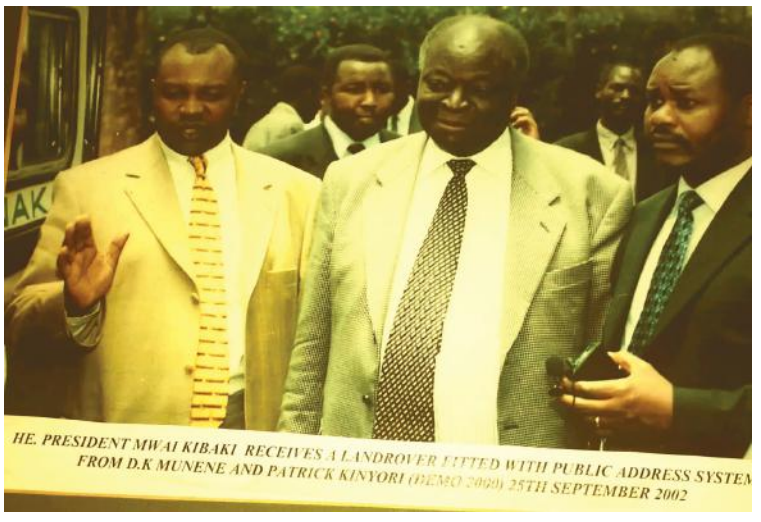
By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Democratic Party of Kenya (DP) Director of Elections, Daniel Kimanyo (DK) Munene is dead.

The party official succumbed to illness on Saturday evening at Coptic Hospital along Ngong road, Nairobi while undergoing treatment.

Apart from being a staunch DP founder and financier, DK Munene was a leading businessman who operated various enterprises such as Bucon Furniture, Soiree Gardens, Bavaria Gardens and Hillside Grill & Restaurant.

A message sent to his friends indicated that he left a hospital bill of nearly KSh2 million which family and friends will be meeting at All Saints Cathedral Church, Nairobi from today to organise on how to settle as well as raise more for the funeral expenses.



DK Munene (left), Mwai Kibaki (centre) and Demo-2000 official Patrick Kinyori when he was handing over the LandRover to then Othaya MP and 2002 General Elections Presidential candidate. Photos/Courtesy.

"The family will further communicate regarding the funeral service and burial arrangements at a later date. We appreciate any financial support. The same can be channelled to Pay Bill No. 247 247. A/C No: 583364," the message from the family read in part.

The DP fraternity mourned DK Munene, terming him as a leading force in the party which he remained a member since its inception.

DK Munene addressing a press conference in the past.

Led by Secretary General Dr Jacob Haji, the party noted that the late DK Munene was instrumental in keeping the party alive for more than three decades.

In 2000, the late DK Munene alongside other youthful leaders affiliated to DP formed Demo-2000, a lobby group that vigorously campaigned for then Othaya MP, the late Mwai Kibaki to be third President.

DK Munene

The late DK Munene is widely remembered for donating a fully equipped LandRover to President Mwai Kibaki's campaign team in 2002 which the late Kibaki used to address public meetings that eventually propelled him to land in the highest political office in the country.

DK Munene hailed from Karigu-ini area, Wamagana ward in Tetu constituency.

President Ruto Wooes American Investors

By: PCS
@themtkenyatimes

Kenya is a safe and secure destination for your investments, President William Ruto has assured American investors.

The President said Kenya's macro-economic fundamentals make it the ideal investment destination for American corporations seeking business opportunities in Africa.

"We offer stability, world-class talent, green energy, and dependable connectivity, just the qualities investors seek," he said in New York yesterday.

He added: "Above all, we bring the resolute commitment to be your trusted partner in building bold ventures that deliver strong returns and lasting impact."

He made the remarks during the United States-Kenya Business and Investment Roundtable meeting at the margins of the 80th Session of United Nations General Assembly.

The President told the meeting that Kenya's economy is stable and predictable as shown by key economic indicators such as low inflation and a stable exchange rate.

"Kenya is now the sixth-largest economy in Africa and recently upgraded by Standard & Poor's from B- to B, a clear signal of stronger macro-economic fundamentals," he said.

Furthermore, he pointed out that diaspora remittances topped $5.1 billion in 2024, while pension assets grew to $18 billion, creating a pool of long-term capital.

In addition, the President noted that the Nairobi Securities Exchange was ranked the best performing exchange in Africa in 2024 and among the top performers globally.

"The NSE now targets 40 new listings by 2029 including the landmark $1.15 billion IPO of the Kenya Pipeline Company later this year. We also launched the Nairobi International Financial Centre to host global financial players," he explained.

To enhance clarity and improve competiveness, the President pointed out that the government has introduced a range of investor-friendly reforms.

These include zero-rating VAT on exported services, tax reforms that allow companies to offset claims against future liabilities, and removal of the 30 per cent domestic equity requirement for ICT companies, thus unlocking more investment in the digital economy.

President Ruto further assured companies and investors that they are

President William Ruto in New York yesterday

safeguarded by a strong legal and institutional framework in Kenya, including constitutional guarantees against expropriation, clear dispute resolution mechanisms, and robust contract enforcement.

He urged the investors to take advantage of Kenya's growing population of 55 million people and the country's strategic location in the continent.

"It is the natural gateway to East and Central Africa and, through the African Continental Free Trade Area, a springboard into a $3.7 trillion market of 1.4 billion people," he said.

Additionally, he said Kenya also enjoys privileged quota-free, duty-free access to the American, United Kingdom, European Union, and the United Arab Emirates' markets through several trade agreements.

"Collectively, these agreements give Kenya access to a combined market worth about $50.1 trillion and 1.19 billion people," he said.

Recently, Kenya also signed a duty-free, quota-free access to the Chinese market of 1.4 billion people.

The President said Kenya's impressive economic growth is underpinned by its fintech backbone, which has seen global conglomerates set up operations in Nairobi.

"From BUPA Health and Lloyd's of London to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, alongside three upcoming UN agencies, Kenya's role as a hub of finance, technology, and trade grows stronger at every turn," he said.

The meeting was organised by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), the Kenya Investment Authority, and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance.

Present were President and CEO of CCA Florizelle Liser, ICT Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo, and several CEOs of top American multinationals.

Raila Says ODM Hasn't Adopted Any Resolution On 2027 Poll, Alliances

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) says it has not adopted any resolution with regard to the 2027 elections or alliances with other parties.

Speaking during the party's Parliamentary Group meeting in Nairobi, party leader Raila Odinga urged members to instead wait for the appointed time when decisions will be made.

Further, he underscored the need for focus to be on service delivery and implementation of agreements reached with the government.

"Stand for what is right for the party and look at what you have signed and remain as an ardent member. We have signed that we will work together until 2027, but have not passed any resolution as a party to say how we are going into the election of 2027," he stated.

"Who told you that ODM does not have a candidate in 2027? We have a clear plan we are implementing."

He stated that ODM's cooperation with the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) began when some members joined the government informally in an agreement that was later formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Odinga opined that the arrangement has stabilised the country and reduced political confrontations that could drag the nation to chaos.

Governor Njuki Reshuffles Tharaka-Nithi County Executive To Enhance Service Delivery

By: Alex Njeru
@themtkenyatimes

Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki has announced a major reorganization of his county executive and chief officers in a move aimed at improving efficiency and service delivery.

In the changes made yesterday, Ms. Kelly Karimi Rwigi, who previously served as Chief Officer for Gender and Children, has been elevated to County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Gender and Social Services.

Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael has been moved from the Department of Revenue and Resource Mobilisation, Cooperative Development, Trade and Investment Promotion, Mining, Energy and Industry to the Department of Roads, Transport, Infrastructure, Public Works, Housing, Urban Development and ICT. He switches roles with Mr. Giti Kijiru, who will now head the revenue docket.

Several executives retained their current positions. Ms. Moreen Nyambura will continue as CECM for Youth, Sports and Tourism, Mr. Lawrence Ireri remains at Finance and Economic Planning, while Ms. Dorothy Naivasha stays at Education, Vocational Training and Culture.

Dr. Gichuyia Nthuraku will continue overseeing Public Health and Medical Services, Mr. Muthini Karangi remains at Administration, Intergovernmental Coordination and Devolution Affairs, and Mr. Njagi Njue will continue heading Agriculture, Crop Production, Livestock, Veterinary Services, Fisheries and Ecosystem Development, Environment, Climate Change, Mining, Energy and Industry.

The governor also announced the appointment of new chief officers. Mr. Alex Kinyua has been named Chief Officer for Youth, Sports and Tourism, while Ms. Winnie Mukiri will serve in Gender and Social Services. Ms. Rose Micheni has been transferred from Public Health to Medical Services, replacing Mr. Karani Riungu, who moves to Revenue and Resource Mobilisation.

Public Health will now be headed by Mr. Benson Kimathi Njeru, who shifts from the Trade, Investment Promotion and Cooperative Development department, now assigned to Mr. Mugambi Kigwari from Revenue and Resource Mobilisation.

Mr. Gikundi Kiruya takes over as Chief Officer for Public Administration, Intergovernmental Coordination and Devolution Affairs. Mr. Mbae Karuku retains his Lands and Physical Planning docket.

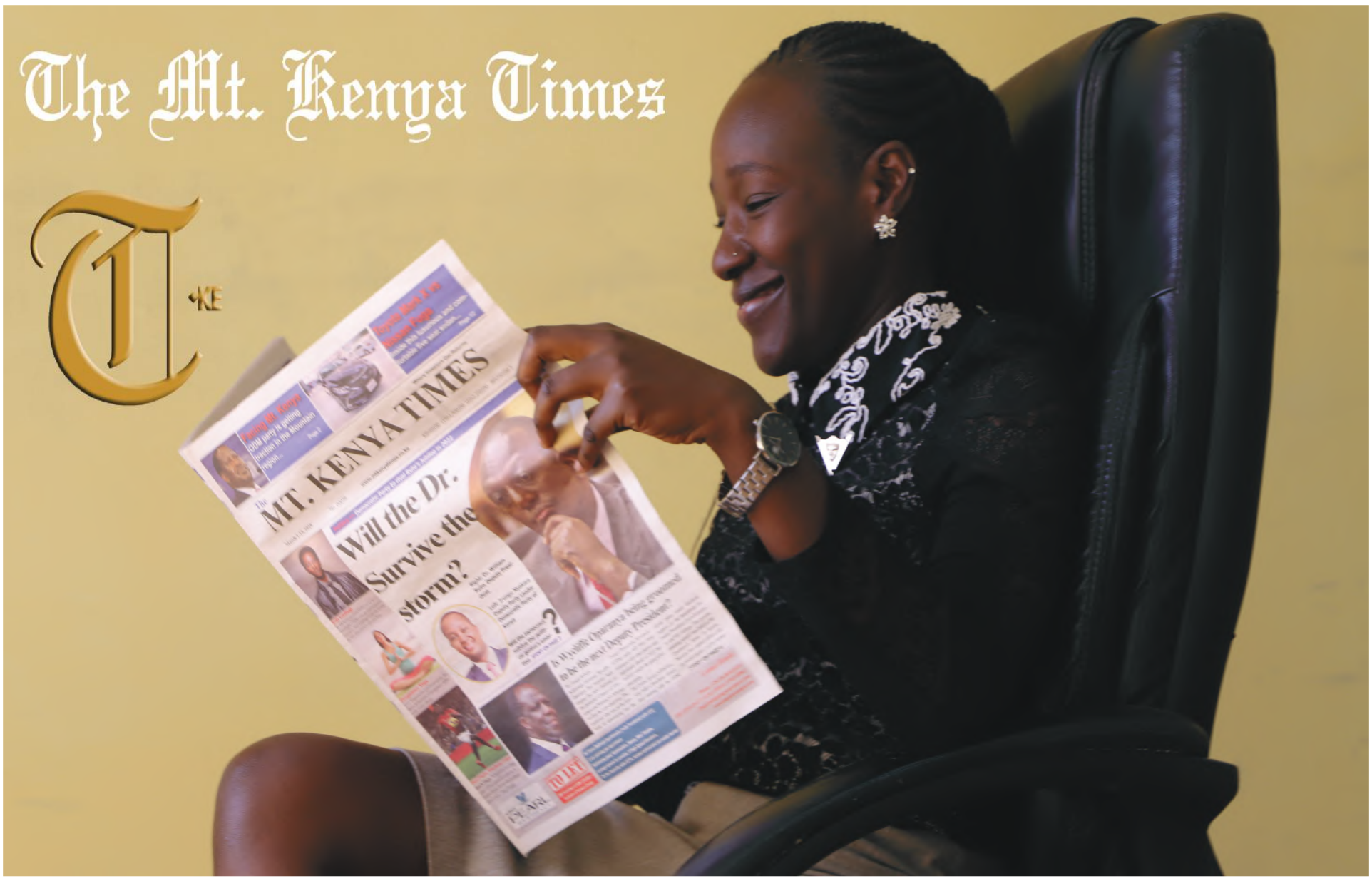
Ms. Irene Nkirote moves to Energy and Industry, while Mr. Peter Kimathi Njeru remains in Agriculture, Crop Production, Livestock and Veterinary Services. Fisheries has been assigned to Mr. Gibson Gikundi, Environment and Climate Change to Mr. Peterson Kathenya, and Water and Irrigation remains with Ms. Loise Wanja.

Governor Njuki said the reshuffle was necessary to strengthen service delivery and ensure county departments operate more effectively. He directed all officers affected by the changes to hand over their duties by Friday this week.

"I want to assure the people of Tharaka-Nithi that I will continue to serve diligently until I hand over the instruments of power to the next governor," Njuki said.

The latest reshuffle comes just a week after the governor made significant changes in the administration and health departments.

Tharaka-Nithi Governor Muthomi Njuki addressing a press conference at county headquarters Kathwana. On his left is Deputy Governor Nyaga Muisrael behind Administration CECM Muthini Karangi and County Secretary Alex Muratha. He made changes in the executive. Photo/Alex Njeru..



Kariminu II Dam Compensation Row Deepens As Victims Decry State Neglect

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyatimes

Kariminu II dam.

Worth Noting:

- **The aggrieved residents led by Siphirra Njoroge decried that the dam water has already submerged their farms and can no longer grow crops.**
- **They decried that some homes are no longer habitable after they developed huge cracks that residents blame on the close proximity to the dam while most lavatories in the villages have caved in as a result of being filled with water from the dam.**
- **"We are living like squatters in our homes. Currently we are facing starvation because we have left with no land to till. This dam has been the cause of all our miseries and we want the government to compensate and relocate us before tragedy strikes," Njoroge asserted.**

The compensation row pitting the government and residents living around Kariminu II dam in Gatundu North has deepened as victims point an accusing finger at the state for neglecting them.

The locals from Gituamba, Kiriko, Kanyoni, Iruri, Gathanji and Buchana claim that they are staring at a tragedy after the water levels rose to their homesteads submerging some structures like pit latrines.

The most affected residents are those living around the dam's buffer zone. The government has been seeking to acquire around 600-acre land surrounding the dam to protect the dam's ecosystem and facilitate control of possible pollution of the water resource through plantation of trees.

The aggrieved residents led by Siphirra Njoroge decried that the dam water has already submerged their farms and can no longer grow crops.

They decried that some homes are no longer habitable after they developed huge cracks that residents blame on the close proximity to the dam while most lavatories in the villages have caved in as a result of being filled with water from the dam.

"We are living like squatters in our homes. Currently we are facing starvation because we have left with no land to till. This dam has been the cause of all our miseries and we want the government to compensate and relocate us before tragedy strikes," Njoroge asserted.

The locals claimed that the multi-billion mega dam that was commissioned by former President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2022 has been the cause of their misery since water impoundment started in May, 2022.

They noted that several people have already lost lives in the dam with the latest incident occurring a few months ago where a school-going boy perished in the deep waters.

"Danger is lurking and we wonder whether the government is waiting for a tragedy to occur for them to hear our cries and relocate us. Our homes have already developed huge cracks because of this water. We are actually staring at landslides," Muiruri said.

Speaking to journalists at Gathanji village, the locals took issue with the government for taking them in circles and occasionally hoodwinking them that they would be paid to facilitate their relocation.

Resident Beth Wangari raised concerns that the families are currently staring at hunger since the water gobbled up their farms and destroyed all crops.

"This dam has continued to impoverish us. We now have no land to cultivate and putting food on the table for our families has become an uphill task. The little food that we had including bananas, arrowroots has been submerged in the water," Wangari said.

The residents asserted that the dam which they thought would address some of their problems like lack of water in their homes has been nothing but a cause of their suffering saying the only thing they get from the dam is mosquitoes and severe colds.

Wangari noted that they are concerned about the safety of their children saying that they fear they might perish in the dam. They also fear that the situation in their villages will worsen when the long rains start pounding the region in October.

"I've already lost a son in this dam and every time I wake up and see the waters it reminds me of him. We fear that our kids will be wiped out by the dam. The government should prioritize relocating us," she said.

Resident Ng'ang'a Karori asserted that they have raised their concerns with all relevant authorities and their local leaders led by MP Njoroge Kururia but no interventions have been made to salvage them.

"We cannot let our children out of our sight whenever they are at home because tragedy can strike anytime. We have been calling out for help but it seems our cries have been falling on deaf ears," he said.

They also accused the government of dragging its feet in compensating and relocating them noting that valuation of their properties has been done countless times but the compensation process has never been concluded.

They said that despite the countless visits by state officials in the area, submission of their title deeds and gazettement of their parcels of land, they are yet to receive any information on when they will get their due compensation.

Chaos Mars Public Forum Over Construction Of Government Offices In Kenol

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

A public engagement forum convened at Kimorori grounds in Kenol yesterday ended in chaos, with police forced to fire in the air and lob tear gas canisters after tensions boiled over between residents opposing and supporting the construction of government offices on the disputed grounds.

The forum, convened by the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC), was meant to address rising concerns over the planned construction of Murang'a South sub-county offices, including an ICT hub and an ultra-modern court.

But even before the official 9 a.m. start time, tension was already high as youths opposed to the project began streaming into the venue as early as 7 a.m.

Matters escalated further with the arrival of the area Member of Parliament, Mary Wamaua, who has previously defended the construction.

Speaker after speaker took to the podium, with proponents and opponents of the project exchanging strong views.

The situation turned volatile after the arrival of the area MCA Warisper, the county government representative Gachucha Manoah, and the Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and NCIC commissioner and lawyer Wambui Nyutu.

It was at this point that police intervened, firing in the air and using tear gas to disperse the restless crowd. The MP's aides were forced to whisk her to safety at the nearby Kenol Police Station.

Residents opposing the project argued that the grounds have long been a vital sports and recreation field, particularly for football, and accused the government of denying them an alternative venue.

"This is the only field we have used for ages to nurture our talents. If it is taken away, where will our youths go? We ask the government to consider putting up storey buildings within the empty spaces instead of grabbing the field," said Paul Muciri, one of the youth leaders.

However, those supporting the construction maintained that the new offices would bring much-needed development to the region, including digital opportunities for the young people.

"These offices will house an ICT hub that will help us acquire skills and even get online jobs. This project is not about taking opportunities away but creating new ones," noted Joyce Wambui.

Two weeks ago, youths had stormed the site and halted construction, demanding wider public participation.

MP Wamaua had emphasised that the land had already been earmarked for government offices, noting that the facilities would boost service delivery in Murang'a South.

Weighing in on the matter Lawyer Wambui Nyutu said she had come to deliver a court order issued by Murang'a Law Courts, as the youths had previously approached her to petition the matter on their behalf.

"I came peacefully to deliver a court order barring construction of any offices on the field. But when they saw us, they disappeared and brought disarray," she said.

County government representative Gachucha Manoah also waded into the matter, urging leaders to listen to the concerns of the youth.

"As the county government, we have listened to the youth and we call on the MP to listen too. We are ready to give her alternative space for construction of the offices apart from Kimorori grounds.

"Even the current offices can be restructured vertically so as to take minimal space," Manoah said.

Situation at the meeting venue. Photos/Florence Kinyua..

Worth Noting:

- **Matters escalated further with the arrival of the area Member of Parliament, Mary Wamaua, who has previously defended the construction.**
- **Speaker after speaker took to the podium, with proponents and opponents of the project exchanging strong views.**
- **The situation turned volatile after the arrival of the area MCA Warisper, the county government representative Gachucha Manoah, and the Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and NCIC commissioner and lawyer Wambui Nyutu.**
- **It was at this point that police intervened, firing in the air and using tear gas to disperse the restless crowd. The MP's aides were forced to whisk her to safety at the nearby Kenol Police Station.**

Nairobi Forum Expected To Tackle African Youth Skills Crisis

By: Michael Omondi
@themtkenyatimes

The World Bank Group is set to convene a high-level Africa Skills for Jobs Policy Academy in Nairobi, Kenya to address the skills gap on the African continent.

The event, scheduled to take place from Tuesday to Friday next week will congregate around 250 participants from more than 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Further, the Academy will focus on sharing evidence-based approaches, examining emerging skills demands in key sectors, including agribusiness, energy, health, manufacturing, and tourism, and developing actionable plans to reform technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Participants will also engage through keynotes, panels, case studies, field visits, and peer learning, gaining tools to assess demand, governance, industry linkages, financing, micro-credentials, and technology integration.

Organised in collaboration with the government of Kenya and the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the event will bring together policymakers, World Bank task team leaders, representatives from the Ministries responsible for Finance and Economy, TVET/skills development and agencies, and private sector representatives to address Africa's skills crisis.

Coinciding with the official launch of the African Continental TVET Strategy 2025–2034, the event will serve as a platform for policymakers and stakeholders to engage and co-create innovative solutions aligned with the vision of 'The Africa We Want'.

Notably, this initiative builds on and complements existing programmes, such as the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP) that have demonstrated the impact of targeted skills development in flagship institutions.

Additionally, the programme supports countries in repositioning TVET as a flexible, inclusive, and demand-driven system for skilling, reskilling, and upskilling at scale.

The World Bank Group Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa Ndiame Diop established that the Skills for Jobs Africa Policy Academy brings governments, industry, and development partners together to co-create solutions and reforms that will lay the foundation to ensure a bright future for Africa's youth and future generations.

"We invite policymakers, donors, and businesses to engage, invest, and partner with us to transform Africa's skills landscape," rallied Diop in a press statement.

Concurrently, the Academy will seek to address and provide solutions to systemic problems in Africa's job market, where more than one million youth enter the labour market every month.

It is estimated that up to 86 per cent of available jobs are in the informal sector. Yet, many young people lack job-relevant skills for both informal and growth priority sectors.

In view of the foregoing, the Executive Secretary, Inter-University Council for East Africa, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, pointed out that persistent system-level challenges, such as limited funding, fragmentation of training provision, weak coordination with industry, poor foundational skills, a mismatch between training content and actual job requirements, and lack of effective career guidance and job-matching platforms, serve

to undermine the responsiveness of skilling systems to evolving labour market needs.

"Africa's youth need hands-on and quality technical and vocational education to thrive in a rapidly changing labour market," stressed Prof. Banyankimbona, adding that TVET can be a catalyst for economic growth and social inclusion when aligned with industry demands.

Meanwhile, the Academy is poised to provide a platform to reimagine Africa's skills development ecosystem, focusing on skills demand and economic/sectoral policies, employer engagement and job placement, skills supply systems including governance, financing, quality standards, digital transformation, monitoring and evaluation and school-to-work transitions for youth.

With global megatrends such as digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, Green skills and climate change reshaping the future of work, the Academy will underscore the urgency of demand-driven, inclusive and high-quality skills systems that can support upskilling, reskilling and lifelong learning for diverse groups, including youth and women in both formal and informal sectors.

Videos, Photos And Child Accounts Lay Bare Horrors Of Shakahola In Court

By: ODPP
@themtkenyatimes

Preacher Paul Mackenzie and other suspects in Shanzu court yesterday.

The DCI officer testifying yesterday. Photos/Courtesy.

The Shakahola massacre radicalization case against controversial preacher Paul Mackenzie and 95 co-accused resumed yesterday before Shanzu Law Courts Principal Magistrate Leah Juma, with the prosecution presenting chilling evidence from four key witnesses, including forensic experts and two minors under witness protection.

Chief Inspector Erastus Sawe, a Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) forensic expert, tabled video evidence of Mackenzie's sermons.

The clips, drawn from months of review, allegedly show the Good News International (GNI) leader preaching against formal education, government authority, and medical care.

Sawe described Mackenzie's message as "strong and convincing," warning that it could easily influence vulnerable individuals. "Being saved is to leave the earthly systems and follow the only true leader, Jesus Christ," one sermon declared.

The officer testified that watching the footage for nearly six months "day and night" left him emotionally shaken. "Ukiwa na imani fukufuku na uone haya, kwa hakika utaangamia," he said in Swahili, meaning, "If you have a shallow faith and see this, surely you will perish."

Senior Sergeant Livingstone Lihanda, a DCI forensic crime-scene investigator, presented photographs documenting the grim discoveries at Shakahola Forest. The images showed exhumations, autopsies, and DNA sample collections, as well as personal effects such as schoolbooks, Bibles, and birth certificates.

Lihanda told the court that investigators uncovered mass graves, some barely two feet deep and five feet long. One contained six bodies laid side by side. He also documented Mackenzie's well-kept home, noting a found meal plan, and the recovery of several motorbikes believed to have been used by followers.

Two minors under the Witness Protection Agency offered some of the most emotional testimony of the day.

Protected Witness AB, a 10-year-old boy, recounted how children in the camp were forced to fast, told they would "go straight to heaven" if they died of starvation.

He testified that his own mother beat him for secretly eating after two days without food, even handing him over to "Steve," described as one of Mackenzie's security aides, who whipped him with a thorny stick. His younger sibling, a toddler, was also forced to fast, given only occasional sips of water.

The boy said he escaped after witnessing burials, including that of three children wrapped in sheets and placed in a shallow grave. He later learned that his mother and youngest sibling had died in Shakahola.

Protected Witness BB, a 16-year-old, told the court he joined the Good News International church in Nairobi in 2019. He recalled Mackenzie twisting Bible verses to convince followers that education, government services, and medical treatment were "the work of the devil."

Proceedings continue today with prosecution led by Jami Yamina, Antony Musyoka, J. V Owiti and Betty Rubia set to present more witnesses.

My Human Medicine Is My Loving Students

My human medicine is my loving students
Their tender faces, remove all worries and fear,
A kind of energy flows, from head to heart,
When I see them smile, my spirit takes flight

They're heavenly angels, sent from above,
It is a blessing to all the teachers,
Their presence makes my heart feel happy and light,
With this joy, we can teach, throughout day and night.

From different backgrounds, they gather in the class,
Each one is unique, with a smile that is everlasting
Their kindness touches every soul,
their love is so true and pure
Their eyes are calm, their words are gentle,

They have the power, to soothe a troubled soul,
Though strangers once upon a time
now so intimate, with a soft touch
They care and love, without expectation
My human medicine are the students
that heals every ailments and give energy

This medicine isn't bitter, or painful to take,
It's simply cute, and amazing, for my heart and soul
I'm grateful for these angels, who bring me happiness
My human medicine is only little kids that shines with love and care

Brinda. D
GRADUATE TEACHER,
GOVT HIGH SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM
CUDDALORE, Tamilnadu India
creativewritersmag@gmail.com

Fading Colours

Laughter once echoed, reviving the ambience
Now it's all fading away into a painful silence
Presence of loved ones enough to cheer one up
Now it's all empty with just memories around

The world was once colorful with joy everywhere
Now it just flickers, much weaker and pale
Still I hear the Chaos, funny yet nostalgic
Now all I see is trails of the peaceful past left

Hope the hearts heal with optimism again
To kick start with a new confidence regained
Stopping the colours from fading away
Illuminating a way to heal the world again

KAVIEYA.R

Don't Underestimate The Effort

Action taken towards our aim everyday is called an effort,
Doing action everyday makes us perfect,
Continuous process leads to success
With Efforts as it's golden key.

We should never miss to give an effort
Continuous efforts to support our goal
It is directly proportional to achieving it.
It's a kind of involvement.

Efforts are never visible
But the results are!
Efforts always pay good yields.
We should not forget.

I am Rajesh Kanna B N
B T Asst,
From Government Model High School, Tirur.
Tiruvallur District.
Tamil Nadu. India.

The Smiling Hypocrite

The man who greets the beggar and the king alike,
counts only coins, not hearts, when he bows low.

The student who cheers both teams on the field,
has never once learned which side he stands on.

The boss who praises every worker in the room,
will fire them all when the profit slips.

The neighbor who nods at gossip on each door,
is but a crow pecking scraps from both plates.

The friend who says "yes" before you speak a word,
is only rehearsing to betray with a smile.

The leader who hugs both tyrant and rebel,
keeps his arms warm while others bleed.

The scholar who praises every book he reads,
has no taste, only appetite for applause.

The lover who whispers "you're the only one,"
has a pocket full of keys for other doors.

The man who feeds both dogs in the same fight,
is not a peacemaker but a butcher waiting.

The courtier who claps before every throne,
wears his palms thinner than his loyalty.

The one who is "good to all" with steady grin,
is often the devil in a saint's disguise.

Durgadevi V
BT Assistant
GHS Nesal
Tiruvannamalai District

A Smile's Secret Power

The smallest smile, so pretty and bright,
Can light up a day—that's its might!
Relax with calm, serene and peaceful,
It makes each moment pure and delightful.

Negativity lingers, in every state,
A woeful key that opens sadness's gate.
But let a smile defeat that dread,
With just one spark, Positivity is spread.

A simple key can open the door,
Just like a smile—it unlocks much more.
Watering plants helps life to grow,
So too a smile, where bliss will flow.

A smile can change, though left unspoken,
It heals, it mends, leaves hearts unbroken.
Yes! Smile, and let go of negativity,
For the smallest smile brings the greatest positivity.

-K.A.Santhoshi,
8th std,
GMGHSS, Komarapalayam,
Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India.

Sometimes It Is Better Not To Open Your Mouth

Before we talk we should pay attention to our surroundings and the details of the situation.

When we don't have enough information we have to avoid sharing opinions.

When we start to talk we create space to listen and learn from others.

If we gather information we can prepared for potential risks or changes ahead.

When we speak less we can prevent unnecessary arguments and misunderstandings.

Sometimes the best thing you can do is keep your mouth shut and your eyes open.

PATRICIA. Q
GRADUATE TEACHER,
P.U. G.M.SCHOOL,
MELPATTAMPAKKAM,
CUDDALORE.DT.

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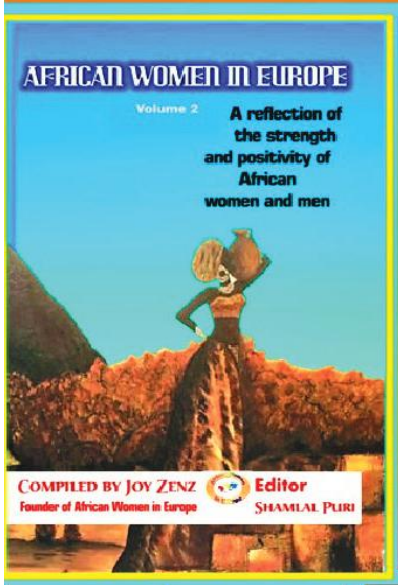

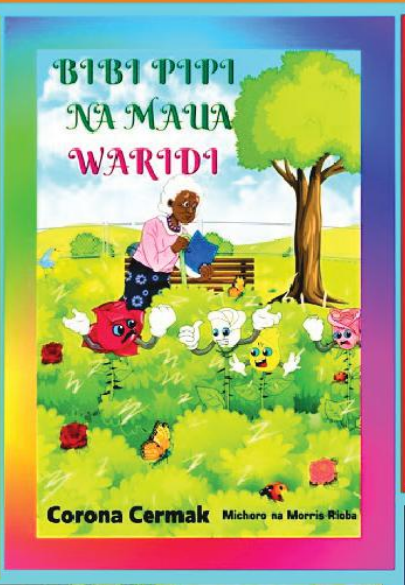

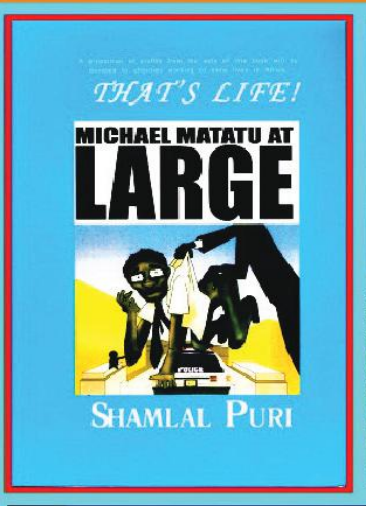

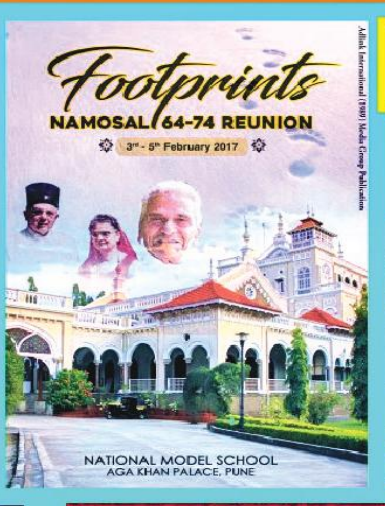

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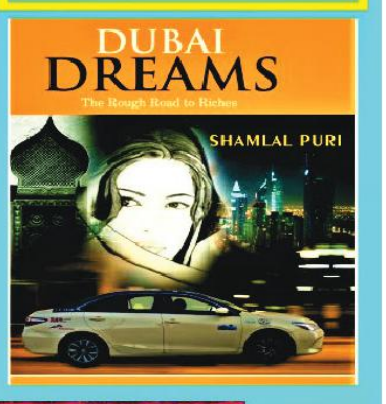

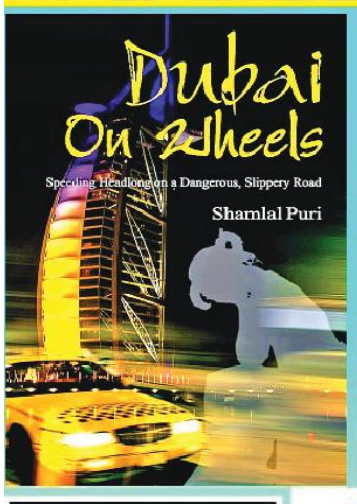

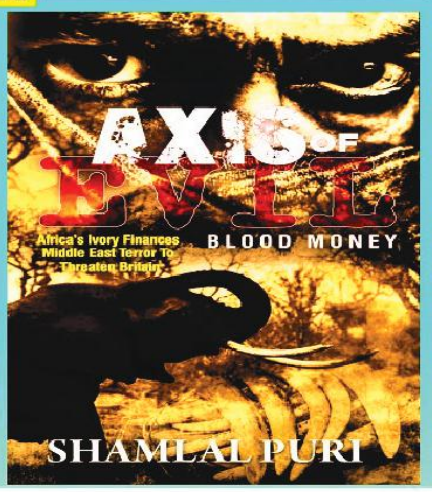

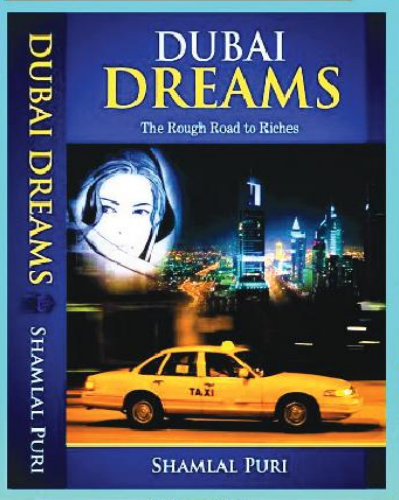

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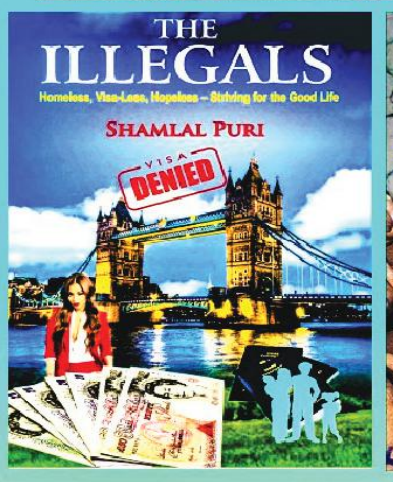

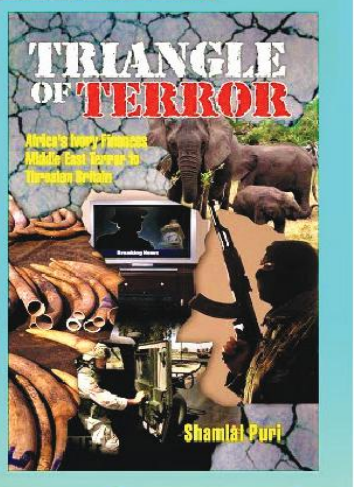

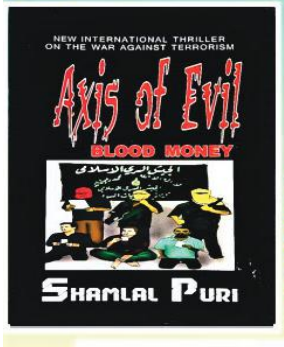

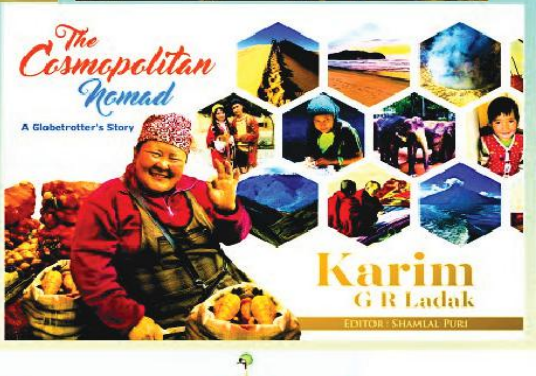

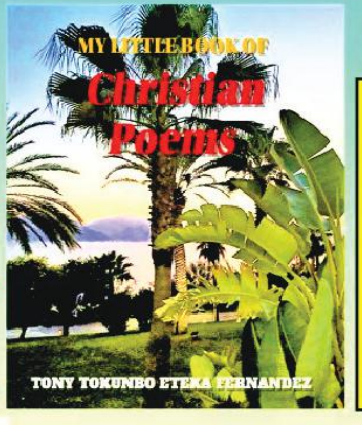

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BUSINESS

DTB Kenya Accepts Offer To Sell Its Burundi Subsidiary

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

The Board of Directors of Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Limited has announced the planned sale of its stake in DTB Burundi following the signing of a conditional sale and purchase agreement with a consortium of primarily Burundian-based investors, including its existing minority shareholder.

The DTB Kenya Board confirmed that the proposed transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, will entail the sale of its entire shareholding in DTB Burundi, which represents 83.67% of DTB Burundi's total issued share capital. The sale follows a recent expression of interest placed by the DTB Burundi minority shareholder, seeking to increase its stake.

Speaking when she confirmed the proposed transaction, DTB Group CEO, Mrs Nasim Devji, said that in accepting the offer from the consortium, the Board recognised the need to support the Burundian investors, who are equally keen to accelerate its already inculcated financial inclusion agenda. The sale of the Burundi subsidiary, Mrs Devji said, is to align with the current DTB strategy, which is for the Group to focus on its core markets of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

DTB, she said, entered Burundi 16 years ago, as part of its financial inclusion agenda, and will be leaving behind a stable, well-managed financial institution.

"The DTB Kenya Board has reviewed the offer from the consortium and our long-standing partner in Burundi and considers that it represents a fair value and return on investment for DTB," Mrs Devji said.

She added, "The consortium has committed to maintaining and further lifting the bank's financial inclusion agenda on an already established platform of good governance and good risk management while applying their local business acumen."

DTB Burundi started operations in 2009 with one branch in Bujumbura, Burundi and has progressively grown to offer an array of banking solutions that are tailored to meet the unique needs of retail, business and corporate customers in the country. The subsidiary has, over the years, grown to four branches and is considered one of the top ten players in the growing Burundian market.

As a listed entity at the Nairobi Securities Exchange and as part of the regulatory requirements, DTB Kenya, through its Company Secretary, Mr Stephen Kodumbe, has issued a Cautionary Announcement, notifying its shareholders and the investing public of the proposed transaction.

"Completion of the proposed transaction is subject to conditions that are customary for transactions of this nature, including receipt of all regulatory approvals from, amongst others, the Central Bank of Kenya and the Bank of the Republic of Burundi, and to notifications to the Capital Markets Authority and, if required, other relevant regulators," reads the Cautionary Announcement.

Pending completion of the proposed transaction, shareholders and the investing public are advised to exercise caution when dealing in DTB Kenya's securities on the Nairobi Securities Exchange.

DTB will make further announcements in accordance with regulatory requirements as and when there are any material developments.

Worth Noting:

- **Speaking when she confirmed the proposed transaction, DTB Group CEO, Mrs Nasim Devji, said that in accepting the offer from the consortium, the Board recognised the need to support the Burundian investors, who are equally keen to accelerate its already inculcated financial inclusion agenda. The sale of the Burundi subsidiary, Mrs Devji said, is to align with the current DTB strategy, which is for the Group to focus on its core markets of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.**
- **DTB, she said, entered Burundi 16 years ago, as part of its financial inclusion agenda, and will be leaving behind a stable, well-managed financial institution.**

DTB Group CEO, Mrs Nasim Devji

Protection Of Children's Rights Worldwide

By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **The impact of this violence is far-reaching. Many children experience physical injuries, but the emotional scars can be just as damaging. Children who endure violence are at greater risk of long-term psychological issues, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These effects can persist into adulthood, with children growing into adults who struggle with emotional regulation, interpersonal relationships, and even holding steady jobs.**
- **Violence also inhibits children's potential by disrupting their education and access to basic services. Children who are victims of violence often miss school or drop out entirely, depriving them of the education that is essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and violence in their communities. They are also more likely to suffer from malnutrition and inadequate healthcare, further limiting their opportunities in life.**

In the face of mounting global challenges, one issue remains unaddressed with the urgency it deserves: the widespread violence against children. Across the world, millions of children suffer in silence, denied their basic rights and subjected to abuse, exploitation, and neglect. The horrific toll violence takes on children's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being is incalculable, and the consequences extend far beyond the individual child, affecting entire communities and societies. Yet despite numerous international declarations, frameworks, and conventions designed to protect children, the global response remains insufficient. A passionate and heartfelt plea has now been issued to the United Nations, world governments, and civil society organizations, urging them to take immediate and sustained action to eradicate violence against children. The appeal calls on these leaders to recognize the moral imperative of safeguarding children's rights and providing them with the protection they need to grow into healthy, empowered, and contributing adults.

The Pervasiveness of Violence Against Children

Violence against children is not a problem confined to any single country or region. It is a global issue that transcends borders, cultures, and socio-economic boundaries. From the streets of war-torn countries to the quiet corners of developed nations, children are subjected to abuse in countless forms. According to the United Nations, one in four children worldwide suffers from some form of physical, emotional, or sexual violence, exploitation, or neglect.

The impact of this violence is far-reaching. Many children experience physical injuries, but the emotional scars can be just as damaging. Children who endure violence are at greater risk of long-term psychological issues, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These effects can persist into adulthood, with children growing into adults who struggle with emotional regulation, interpersonal relationships, and even holding steady jobs.

Violence also inhibits children's potential by disrupting their education and access to basic services. Children who are victims of violence often miss school or drop out entirely, depriving them of the education that is essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and violence in their communities. They are also more likely to suffer from malnutrition and inadequate healthcare, further limiting their opportunities in life.Moreover, violence against children often goes unnoticed and unaddressed. In many cases, children are unable or unwilling to speak out about the abuse they endure, either because they fear retribution, feel ashamed, or lack the support systems necessary to protect them. For children living in conflict zones, displaced from their homes, or in refugee camps, the problem is even more acute, as they are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

The Root Causes of Violence Against Children

To effectively address the issue of violence against children, it is important to first understand the root causes that perpetuate it. While the issue is complex and multi-faceted, several key factors contribute to the widespread abuse and neglect children face.One of the primary causes is poverty. Children growing up in impoverished communities are at greater risk of violence, as economic hardship often exacerbates existing social problems. Families living in poverty may experience heightened stress, making it more difficult to provide safe and nurturing environments for children. Additionally, poverty often limits access to education, healthcare, and social services, making it more difficult for children to escape from abusive situations.

In conflict zones and areas affected by war, children are especially vulnerable. Armed conflict not only threatens children's physical safety, but it also disrupts their access to basic rights such as education and healthcare. Children in war-torn regions are often recruited as child soldiers, forced into labor, or subjected to sexual violence. The instability caused by war creates an environment in which violence against children is rampant, and the international community has a responsibility to intervene.

Cultural and societal norms also play a significant role in perpetuating violence against children. In some societies, practices such as child marriage, corporal punishment, and gender-based violence are still accepted, despite being clear violations of children's rights. These practices often go unchallenged due to ingrained cultural beliefs or a lack of legal enforcement. Until these harmful norms are addressed, violence against children will continue unabated.

The Consequences of Inaction

The consequences of inaction in the face of such widespread violence are grave. Violence against children not only undermines their potential but also perpetuates a cycle of poverty, inequality, and violence that affects entire societies. Children who experience violence are more likely to grow into adults who perpetuate the same patterns of abuse and neglect, creating generational cycles of harm. The impact on societies as a whole is also profound. Children who are not protected from violence and abuse are less likely to become productive members of society. They are more likely to suffer from mental and physical health issues, which place a strain on healthcare systems. They may also become involved in criminal activities, as they have not had the opportunity to develop positive coping mechanisms or gain the skills needed to succeed in life.

Furthermore, the economic cost of violence against children is staggering. In countries where violence is rampant, the financial burden of healthcare, social services, and law enforcement becomes unsustainable. The World Health Organization has estimated that the economic cost of violence against children could be as high as $7 trillion annually. This is money that could otherwise be invested in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social services—investments that would ultimately benefit entire nations.

Sabo a Nigerian human right activist.

Beyond Compliance: Embedding Ubuntu In Kenya's ESG Journey

By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Ubuntu, the Southern and Eastern African philosophy encapsulated in the Nguni phrase "I am because we are," provides a powerful lens through which to reframe ESG implementation. This philosophy recognizes that individual success is inextricably linked to collective wellbeing; a principle that should guide every business decision, policy formulation, and community interaction.**
- **In the Kenyan context, Ubuntu aligns naturally with indigenous values of harambee (pulling together) and community solidarity. When businesses embrace Ubuntu-centered ESG, they move beyond extractive models toward regenerative approaches that strengthen the social fabric while pursuing economic objectives.**
- **Consider how this Ubuntu-ESG integration could transform Kenya's agricultural sector, which employs over 70% of the rural population.**

Imagine a Nairobi startup founder who discovers that her solar energy business not only generates profit but transforms entire communities by providing clean electricity to schools, enabling night classes that break generational cycles of poverty. This is not merely a feel-good story; it represents the transformative potential when Environmental, Social, and Governance principles transcend regulatory checkboxes to become the soul of business operations. In Kenya, where interconnectedness runs deeper than corporate boardrooms, the ancient philosophy of Ubuntu offers a profound framework for reimagining ESG as a living, breathing commitment to collective prosperity.

The current approach to ESG in Kenya mirrors a troubling global trend: businesses treating sustainability and social responsibility as compliance exercises rather than core business philosophy. Companies dutifully file ESG reports, tick regulatory boxes, and proudly display sustainability certificates while their operations remain fundamentally unchanged. This mechanical approach misses the essence of what ESG should represent; a fundamental shift toward business models that recognize the interconnectedness of environmental health, social equity, and economic prosperity. When ESG becomes mere paperwork, it fails to address the systemic challenges that Kenya faces, from climate change adaptation to youth unemployment and governance transparency.

Ubuntu, the Southern and Eastern African philosophy encapsulated in the Nguni phrase "I am because we are," provides a powerful lens through which to reframe ESG implementation. This philosophy recognizes that individual success is inextricably linked to collective wellbeing; a principle that should guide every business decision, policy formulation, and community interaction. In the Kenyan context, Ubuntu aligns naturally with indigenous values of harambee (pulling together) and community solidarity. When businesses embrace Ubuntu-centered ESG, they move beyond extractive models toward regenerative approaches that strengthen the social fabric while pursuing economic objectives.

Consider how this Ubuntu-ESG integration could transform Kenya's agricultural sector, which employs over 70% of the rural population. Instead of viewing smallholder farmers as suppliers to be optimized for lowest cost, agribusinesses operating under Ubuntu principles would recognize these farmers as partners in a shared ecosystem. Environmental practices would focus not just on carbon footprint reduction but on soil regeneration that enhances long-term productivity for farming communities. Social initiatives would move beyond charitable donations to capacity building, technology transfer, and fair value chain participation. Governance would ensure transparent pricing, timely payments, and farmer representation in decision-making processes. This holistic approach creates resilient agricultural systems that benefit all stakeholders while addressing Kenya's food security challenges.

The financial sector presents another compelling case for Ubuntu-centered ESG transformation. Kenyan financial institutions have pioneered mobile money and digital financial inclusion, yet many still operate with traditional risk models that exclude vulnerable populations. An Ubuntu approach would recognize that financial exclusion of some community members ultimately weakens the entire economic ecosystem. Banks would design products that strengthen community resilience rather than simply maximizing individual profit margins. Environmental lending would support not just large-scale renewable energy projects but community-based conservation initiatives. Social impact would be measured not just in loans disbursed but in lives transformed and communities strengthened. Governance practices would ensure that financial innovations serve the broader goal of shared prosperity rather than concentrating wealth among the already privileged.

The technology sector, where Kenya has established continental leadership through innovations like M-Pesa and the Silicon Savannah ecosystem, offers perhaps the greatest potential for Ubuntu-ESG integration. Technology companies guided by Ubuntu principles would design solutions that bridge rather than widen digital divides. Environmental considerations would encompass not just energy-efficient data centers but the entire lifecycle of digital devices, including e-waste management that creates local employment opportunities. Social impact would prioritize digital literacy, local content creation, and platforms that amplify community voices rather than just global market penetration. Governance would ensure data sovereignty, algorithmic transparency, and meaningful participation of local communities in technology development decisions.

The path toward Ubuntu-centered ESG in Kenya requires more than individual corporate commitments; it demands systemic transformation supported by policy frameworks, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. The government can incentivize this approach through procurement policies that favor businesses demonstrating genuine ESG integration, not just compliance. Educational institutions must integrate Ubuntu philosophy and systems thinking into business and engineering curricula. Civil society organizations can serve as bridges between communities and businesses, ensuring that ESG initiatives address real needs rather than perceived priorities. International partners and investors must recognize that sustainable development in Kenya requires approaches rooted in local values and community wisdom. When ESG becomes an expression of Ubuntu rather than a foreign imposition, it transforms from a regulatory burden into a competitive advantage that positions Kenyan businesses as leaders in the global transition toward regenerative capitalism. The question is not whether Kenya can afford to embrace this transformation, but whether it can afford not to for in Ubuntu, as in genuine ESG, the prosperity of each depends on the flourishing of all.

The writer is a legal researcher and lawyer

Israel Slams Recognition Of Palestinian State By Britain, Australia And Canada

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday denounced the decision by Britain, Canada, and Australia to recognize a Palestinian state.

"I have a clear message to those leaders who recognize a Palestinian state after the terrible massacre of October 7," Netanyahu said, referring to Hamas' attack on southern Israel in October 2023. "You are giving a huge reward to terrorism."He added, "It will not happen, there will not be a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River."He added that he will give a response to the latest recognition after his return from the United States. "Wait for it," he said.Welcoming the move by the three countries, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said, "It constitutes an important and necessary step toward achieving a just and lasting peace in accordance with international legitimacy," according to a statement by his office.Earlier in the day, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a video statement that Britain "formally recognizes the State of Palestine," calling for a shift back to a two-state solution.Meanwhile, a joint media release by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong said "Australia recognizes the legitimate and long-held aspirations of the people of Palestine to a state of their own."Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Sunday also issued a statement on Canada's recognition of the State of Palestine.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Global High-Level Meeting To Uphold Humanity In War To Be Held In 2026

By: Xinhua
@themtkenyatimes

A global high-level meeting to uphold humanity in war, to be co-hosted by Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will be held in 2026, according to a joint statement issued on Sunday.

In the lead up to the meeting, the six countries and the ICRC ask all states to consider: starting with international humanitarian law (IHL) at home, by officially allocating adequate resources to invest in and ensure compliance with IHL; advancing the integration of IHL into national legislation and conflict preparedness; and formally joining the Global Initiative to galvanize political commitment for IHL (Global IHL Initiative), engaging actively in the consultations, and encouraging others to do the same. The statement noted that a year ago, the six countries and the ICRC launched the Global IHL Initiative, driven by a deep sense of responsibility and urgency to act decisively to stem the tide of violations of international humanitarian law. To date, 89 states from all regions of the world have formally joined the Global IHL Initiative to uphold humanity in war, and 27 states are co-leading seven thematic workstreams to develop practical recommendations on how to increase compliance with IHL and address challenges posed by contemporary evolutions of warfare. According to the statement, over the last year, more than 130 states participated in global and regional consultations on how to improve compliance with IHL. "We therefore call on all parties to armed conflict to uphold IHL. We reaffirm that all states, including in situations of occupation, are bound to fully respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, including the rules related to the protection of civilians, civilian objects, medical and aid workers, and journalists," the statement said. The United Nations, in line with the UN Charter, and the wider multilateral system play an important role in this regard, it said.

Reimagining Rural Education: Why Namibia Must Build Schools For The 21st Century

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Introduction

In the heart of Namibia's rural landscape, where communities are shaped by resilience and tradition, education remains the most powerful tool for transformation. Yet, the very institutions tasked with delivering this promise - our rural schools - are often constructed without the foundational amenities necessary for effective teaching and learning. While some schools are fully established, many others operate in partial or inadequate conditions, lacking basic infrastructure such as ablution facilities, administration blocks, libraries, laboratories, and inclusive design for differently abled learners. This disparity between rural and urban educational environments not only undermines equity but also threatens the nation's long-term development goals.

As Namibia strides into the 21st century, the question is no longer whether education matters - it is how we build institutions that reflect our commitment to inclusive, quality, and future-ready learning. This article argues that rural schools must be constructed with comprehensive amenities that support both learners and educators. From sanitation and accessibility to digital infrastructure and administrative capacity, the physical environment of a school is inseparable from its pedagogical mission. Without these essentials, rural schools remain trapped in a cycle of underperformance, exclusion, and systemic neglect.

The Infrastructure Divide: Pit Latrines vs. Ablution Facilities

One of the most glaring indicators of infrastructural inequality in Namibian schools is the sanitation divide. In rural areas, schools are predominantly constructed with pit latrines - simple, ground-dug toilets that pose serious environmental and health risks. In contrast, urban schools are equipped with ablution facilities, though many lack backup systems such as pit latrines for water outages. Ironically, some rural schools that later received ablution blocks are now better positioned to function during water shortages, as they retained their pit latrines as contingency options.

However, the continued reliance on pit latrines raises critical concerns. These facilities are not only environmentally unfriendly - disposing waste directly into the ground - but also unsafe, especially for young children and differently abled individuals. The absence of proper sanitation contributes to disease outbreaks, absenteeism, and a general decline in school morale. In a country where climate resilience and environmental stewardship are national priorities, the use of pit latrines in schools contradicts broader policy goals.

To address this, all schools - rural and urban - must be equipped with sustainable, water-efficient ablution facilities that are hygienic, accessible, and environmentally sound. Technologies such as dry composting toilets, rainwater harvesting systems, and solar-powered water pumps can be integrated into school design to ensure functionality even in remote areas. Sanitation is not a luxury; it is a prerequisite for dignity, health, and learning.

Accessibility and Inclusion: The Case for Universal Design

Namibia's commitment to inclusive education is enshrined in policy, yet the physical design of many rural schools tells a different story. Most are not suitable for differently abled individuals, particularly those who use wheelchairs. Steep steps, narrow doorways, uneven terrain, and inaccessible toilets create barriers that exclude learners with disabilities from full participation in school life. This not only violates their rights but also deprives communities of the contributions of these learners.

Universal design principles must be embedded in all school construction projects. Ramps, wide corridors, tactile signage, accessible toilets, and adaptive furniture are not optional - they are essential. Inclusion must begin with architecture. When schools are built to accommodate all learners, they send a powerful message: every child belongs, every child matters.

Moreover, inclusive infrastructure benefits everyone. Teachers with mobility challenges, parents attending meetings, and learners recovering from injuries all benefit from accessible environments. By investing in universal design, Namibia affirms its commitment to equity, human rights, and educational excellence.

Administrative Blocks: The Backbone of School Governance

A school without an administrative block is like a government without a parliament - it lacks the physical infrastructure to coordinate, lead, and support its operations. In many rural combined schools, which serve learners from pre-primary through Grade 11 or 12, the absence of dedicated administrative spaces severely hampers institutional effectiveness. Without offices for heads of departments, principals, teacher counselors, and examination storage, school leadership is forced to operate in improvised or shared spaces, often compromising confidentiality, efficiency, and professionalism.

Administrative blocks are not mere conveniences; they are essential for governance, planning, and staff well-being. A strong room for sensitive materials ensures the integrity of national examinations. A staff room fosters collaboration and morale among teachers. A counseling office provides learners with a safe space for psychosocial support. These are not luxuries - they are the infrastructure of accountability, care, and leadership. If Namibia is serious about building resilient and ethical educational institutions, administrative blocks must be standard in every school blueprint.

Libraries: Cultivating a Culture of Inquiry

In the 21st century, education is no longer about rote memorization - it is about inquiry, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. Libraries are the heart of this transformation. Yet, many rural schools in Namibia operate without libraries, depriving learners of access to books, reference materials, and quiet study spaces. This absence reinforces educational inequality, especially in communities where learners have limited access to books at home.

A school library is more than a room with shelves - it is a sanctuary of imagination, a laboratory of ideas, and a gateway to the world. It supports literacy, research skills, and independent learning. In multilingual contexts like Namibia, libraries can also house materials in indigenous languages, affirming cultural identity and linguistic diversity. Investing in libraries is investing in the intellectual empowerment of learners and the professional development of teachers.

Laboratories: Bridging Theory and Practice

Science education without laboratories is like teaching swimming without water. In many combined schools, learners study physical science, biology, physics and chemistry without ever conducting an experiment. This disconnect between theory and practice undermines comprehension, curiosity, and career readiness. It also disadvantages rural learners in national assessments and tertiary admissions, where practical skills are often evaluated.

Laboratories are not just for elite institutions - they are foundational to equitable science education. Even modestly equipped labs can enable learners to explore concepts hands-on, develop scientific reasoning, and engage in collaborative inquiry. Moreover, practical science fosters innovation, environmental awareness, and health literacy - skills essential for Namibia's development. Every school offering science subjects must be equipped with laboratories that meet safety and pedagogical standards.

Digital Infrastructure: Preparing Learners for a Connected World

In today's globalized and digitized world, digital literacy is as fundamental as reading and writing. Yet, many rural schools lack computer labs, internet access, and basic ICT infrastructure. This digital divide not only limits learners' exposure to technology but also restricts teachers' ability to access resources, deliver multimedia lessons, and participate in professional development.

Computer labs are not optional - they are gateways to opportunity. They enable learners to develop skills in typing, coding, research, and digital citizenship. They also support inclusive education through assistive technologies for differently abled learners. In a country where e-learning is increasingly integrated into national education strategies, rural schools must be equipped to participate fully. Solar-powered labs, offline content servers, and mobile ICT units are viable solutions for remote areas.

Teaching Loads: The Hidden Crisis of Congestion

Beyond infrastructure, one of the most pressing challenges in rural combined schools is the overwhelming teaching load. Teachers are often responsible for multiple subjects across multiple grades, with little time for preparation, assessment, or individualized support. This congestion leads to burnout, reduced instructional quality, and high turnover rates. It also affects learners, who receive fragmented attention and inconsistent feedback.

Reducing teaching loads requires both infrastructure and staffing. More classrooms, specialized subject rooms, and administrative support can ease the burden. Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers - especially in science, mathematics, and languages - is essential. Moreover, digital tools can assist with lesson planning, record keeping, and learner tracking. A 21st-century school must be designed not only for learners but also for the sustainability and well-being of its educators.

Conclusion: Infrastructure as a Moral and Strategic Imperative

Namibia's vision for inclusive, equitable, and future-ready education cannot be realized without addressing the infrastructural deficits that plague rural schools. The absence of ablution facilities, administrative blocks, libraries, laboratories, digital infrastructure, and inclusive design is not merely a logistical oversight - it is a moral and strategic failure.

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Reimagining Rural Education: Why Namibia Must Build Schools For The 21st Century

Contd from page 20

These gaps perpetuate inequality, hinder academic achievement, and undermine the dignity of learners and educators alike.

In the 21st century, a school must be more than a building - it must be a hub of innovation, inclusion, and community empowerment. It must reflect the values enshrined in Namibia's Constitution, the Education Act, and Vision 2030. It must prepare learners not only to pass exams but to lead, create, and transform their communities. This requires infrastructure that supports holistic development, professional excellence, and democratic participation.

The time for incremental fixes is over. Namibia must commit to a bold, coordinated, and context-sensitive strategy to construct and upgrade rural schools with the amenities they need to thrive. Anything less is a betrayal of the promise of education.

Certainly, Silas. Here's your policy recommendations section rewritten in full essay form, with headings and subheadings preserved for clarity and emphasis. This version is suitable for publication in a newspaper or policy journal and aligns with your advocacy for inclusive, future-ready education in Namibia.

Policy Recommendations: Building Schools for Equity and Excellence

1. Standardize Comprehensive School Infrastructure

To ensure that every learner in Namibia receives a quality education, it is essential to standardize the physical infrastructure of schools across the country. This is particularly urgent for combined schools, which serve learners from pre-primary through Grade 11 or 12 and often operate under severe resource constraints. All newly constructed schools must be mandated to include ablution facilities that are both water-efficient and environmentally safe. These facilities are critical not only for hygiene and health but also for maintaining dignity and functionality, especially in regions prone to water shortages.

In addition to sanitation, schools must be equipped with administrative blocks that house offices for principals, heads of departments, teacher counselors, staff rooms, secure storage rooms, and strong rooms for examinations and sensitive materials. These spaces are vital for effective governance, teacher collaboration, and the protection of educational integrity. Furthermore, every school should include libraries, laboratories, and computer labs - spaces that foster inquiry, innovation, and digital literacy. Retrofitting existing schools to meet these standards must be prioritized within a clearly defined timeline, ensuring that no institution is left behind in the national effort to modernize education.

Embed Universal Design Principles

Inclusive education begins with inclusive architecture. Schools must be designed to accommodate all learners, including those with physical disabilities. This means embedding universal design principles into every construction project. Wheelchair-accessible ramps and toilets should be standard features, alongside wide corridors that allow for easy navigation and tactile signage that supports learners with visual impairments. Adaptive furniture and inclusive classroom layouts further ensure that every child can participate fully in the learning experience.

Infrastructure planning must align with Namibia's disability inclusion policies and international conventions such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. By doing so, the country affirms its commitment to equity and human rights. Inclusive design not only benefits differently abled learners but also supports teachers, parents, and community members who may face mobility challenges. It transforms schools into spaces of belonging and empowerment.

Expand Digital Infrastructure

In the digital age, access to technology is no longer a privilege - it is a necessity. Rural schools in Namibia must be equipped with digital infrastructure that prepares learners for the demands of the 21st-century economy. This includes solar-powered computer labs that can operate independently of unreliable power grids, offline digital content servers that provide educational resources without requiring constant internet access, and internet connectivity where feasible to support research, communication, and global engagement.

Equally important is the training of teachers in ICT integration. Educators must be supported with ongoing professional development and technical assistance to effectively use digital tools in the classroom. This investment not only enhances teaching and learning but also bridges the digital divide between urban and rural communities, ensuring that all learners have the opportunity to thrive in a connected world.

Invest in Practical Learning Spaces

Science education is a cornerstone of innovation and national development. Yet, many schools offering science subjects lack the basic infrastructure to support practical learning. To address this gap, all schools must be equipped with safe and functional laboratories that allow learners to conduct experiments, explore scientific concepts, and develop critical thinking skills. These labs should include basic equipment for biology, chemistry, and physics, tailored to the curriculum and local context.

Partnerships with universities, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders can play a vital role in supporting lab development. Such collaborations can provide technical expertise, funding, and mentorship opportunities that enrich the learning environment. Practical science education not only improves academic outcomes but also inspires learners to pursue careers in health, engineering, agriculture, and environmental management - fields essential to Namibia's future.

Address Teacher Workload and Support

The quality of education depends heavily on the well-being and capacity of teachers. In many rural combined schools, educators face overwhelming workloads, teaching multiple subjects across multiple grades with limited support. This congestion leads to burnout, reduced instructional quality, and high turnover rates. To alleviate this burden, the government must recruit additional teachers to ensure manageable class sizes and subject specialization.

Administrative support staff should also be provided to assist with non-teaching duties such as record keeping, inventory management, and learner counseling. Furthermore, digital tools for lesson planning, assessment, and learner tracking can streamline administrative tasks and free up time for meaningful instruction. Supporting teachers is not an ancillary concern - it is central to building resilient and effective schools.

Phase Out Pit Latrines Responsibly

Pit latrines, while historically common in rural schools, pose significant environmental and health risks. They must be phased out and replaced with sustainable sanitation systems that protect groundwater, reduce disease transmission, and uphold learner dignity. Where pit latrines remain temporarily, they must be made safe, well-maintained, and environmentally managed to minimize harm.

Community education on sanitation and environmental health should accompany infrastructure upgrades. By involving parents, learners, and local leaders in this process, schools can foster a culture of hygiene and stewardship. Sanitation is not merely a technical issue - it is a matter of public health, environmental justice, and educational equity.

Monitor and Evaluate Infrastructure Equity

To ensure accountability and strategic investment, Namibia must establish a national dashboard that tracks school infrastructure by region, type, and amenities. This data-driven approach will enable policymakers to identify gaps, allocate resources effectively, and monitor progress over time. Transparency in infrastructure planning is essential to building public trust and ensuring that the most underserved schools receive priority attention.

Local communities should be actively involved in infrastructure planning and oversight. Their insights, needs, and cultural knowledge are invaluable in designing schools that are both functional and contextually appropriate. Participatory governance strengthens democratic culture and ensures that educational reform is rooted in lived realities.

Final Reflection: A Call to Action

The future of Namibia is being shaped not in boardrooms or parliamentary chambers, but in the classrooms scattered across its diverse regions - from the bustling town of Eenhana to the riverbanks of Katima Mulilo, and deep into the remote corners of Kunene. These classrooms hold the dreams, potential, and promise of a generation that will inherit the responsibility of leading the nation forward. Yet, for many of these learners, the physical conditions of their schools do not reflect the value of their aspirations. Crumbling infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, and inaccessible facilities send a silent but powerful message: that some learners matter less than others. This is not only unjust - it is unsustainable.

Education cannot thrive in environments that neglect the basic dignity of learners and educators. Infrastructure is not a peripheral concern - it is the very foundation upon which meaningful learning is built. A school without proper sanitation, without safe classrooms, without access to libraries or laboratories, cannot fulfill its mandate to educate holistically. When learners are forced to navigate unsafe pit latrines, or when differently abled students cannot access their classrooms, the system fails to uphold the principles of equity and inclusion. These are not isolated inconveniences; they are structural barriers that perpetuate inequality and limit opportunity.

To truly transform education in Namibia, we must reimagine what a school represents. It must be more than a place of instruction - it must be an institution of dignity, inclusion, and excellence. Every learner, regardless of geographic location or physical ability, deserves to learn in an environment that affirms their worth and nurtures their potential. This means building schools with universal design, digital infrastructure, and spaces for inquiry and collaboration. It means investing in teachers, supporting leadership, and ensuring that no child is left behind because of where they live or how they move.

Let us make the 21st century a century of educational justice. Let us commit to constructing schools that reflect the values of a democratic and forward-looking Namibia. The learners in our classrooms today are not just students - they are future scientists, artists, farmers, engineers, and leaders. By investing in the spaces where they learn, we invest in the future of the nation itself. The time to act is now, and the responsibility belongs to all of us.

Sports >> * If there is a song that could describe Lilian Odira's situation right now, it would be 'God did it.'

How Hand Of God Propelled Odira's Feet To Historic World Title In Tokyo

If there is a song that could describe Lilian Odira's situation right now, it would be 'God did it.'

This was the keyword in her post-race interview on Sunday after clinching the women's 800m world title in Tokyo.

That joyous moment was an opportunity for the Kenya Prisons officer to roll back the months leading up to the global competition as far as her preparations are concerned.

First things first, the 26-year-old gave thanks to the Almighty for what has been a glorious ending to an arduous journey in her career.

"I want to thank God first…my coach, family and teammates. It's a great honour to be a world champion. We went into the race with the mindset of all of us making it to the podium. We thank God the title is back home because Mary (Moraa) is the world champion and we wanted for it to come back home. It has happened," Odira said.

Before a capacity crowd at Tokyo's National Stadium, Odira had everyone on their feet — more so the Team Kenya contingent — as she surged past Great Britain's Georgia Hunter Bell and Kelly Hodgkinson in the final 50 metres to secure the country's seventh gold at the competition.

In the end, Odira clocked a championships record of 1:54.62 for the win as Bell — personal best (PB) of 1:54.90 — and Keely Hodgkinson (1:54.91) finished second and third respectively.

'Hand of God on my feet'

In what was Kenya's penultimate race at the week-long competition, Odira's win was the icing on the cake of what has been a bountiful harvest for the country.

Reflecting on how the race panned out, Odira admitted the hand of God was on her feet as she outsprinted all competitors to emerge tops.

It had to be God because, as Odira confessed, she was more than satisfied with simply reaching the finals of the one-lap race.

"Coming here, I was not expecting to win a medal…my main target was to reach the finals and I can see that God has done it," she said.

She also credited her fellow countrywomen, immediate former defending champion Mary Moraa as well as Sarah Moraa, for the victory.

Odira revealed the win was part of a larger strategy to ensure the world title would remain with Kenya.

"We worked as a team…We said let the best athlete win. I am happy for my friend Mary and Sarah (Moraa) because we have made it. We knew Mary was fast in the 400 metres so we planned for this. She was to go over there (to the front) and then make (the race) fast and then let the best survive. We were not so concerned about who among us would win but we simply wanted the title to come back home," the national champion said.

Months of preparations

Odira shot to the limelight when she won last years Athletics Kenya (AK) National Championships at the Ulinzi Sports Complex, clocking 2:02.21 for the victory.

It came less than a month after she had failed to finish at the Kip Keino Classic World Continental Tour Gold at the Nyayo Stadium.

She then won the women's 800m at the national trials for the Paris Olympics, earning a direct ticket to the quadrennial competition.

The Migori-born then won her first career medal in July, clocking 2:00.36 to bag silver at the African Championships in Douala, Cameroon.

In Paris, she finished fourth in the semis, clocking 1:58.53 to all but kiss goodbye to her hopes of making the final.

However, Odira revealed that that painful moment opened the door to another chapter in her career.

"My season has been amazing. From the Olympics, we went back to the drawing board with my coach and we saw it was very possible because I got a PB in Paris. We sat down and planned the season well…I started with the cross country races…ran in a lot of cross country meetings as part of the build-up," she said.

Unfortunately, she ran into a pothole in her journey to the World Championships, specifically at the World Indoor Championships in March where she failed to go past the semis.

The blessings of pain

Newly crowned world champion Lilian Odira. PHOTO/WORLD ATHLETICS

However, she took the heartbreak in her stride.

"I went to the World Indoor Championships but I fell down during the semis and I felt really bad. I took that as a learning curve and I had to be patient enough and continue planning for the World Championships," Odira recalled.

The good student that she is, the results were soon clear for all to see as she went on to win the Kip Keino Classic at the Ulinzi Sports Complex — clocking 2:02.08.

She then booked her place on the plane to Tokyo, timing 2:13.85 to win the women's 800m at the national trials — held at the same venue.

Odira's Diamond League debut — in Silesia, Poland in August — was also one to remember as she clocked 1:56.52 to finish second.

It was a result that was a sign of things to come in Tokyo where her crowning moment finally came.

The celebrations notwithstanding, Odira is not about to be carried away in the sea of emotions.

She is all too conscious of the expectations on her shoulder from now henceforth.

"We will sit down together with the coach and plan for the season to come. Getting such a title is huge and maintaining it is not easy. So, I'll have to work hard to perform even better," Odira said.

Sure enough, getting to the pinnacle is not as easy as falling off it.

Odira has her work cut out to ensure she does not suffer the same fate as others who have walked the same road.

Thankfully, she already has a template for success: God, hard work and persistence.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> ***Botswana has declared a public holiday to celebrate the country's victory in the men's 4×400 metres at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, the first African nation to win the event.**

Botswana Declares Public Holiday After 'Historic' Athletics Gold Medal

Botswana's Collen Kebinatshipi wins the men's 4x400m relay. PHOTO/WORLD ATHLETICS

Botswana has declared a public holiday to celebrate the country's victory in the men's 4×400 metres at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, the first African nation to win the event.

President Duma Boko hailed the gold medal as a "historic African win", in an online address praising the team for their performance.

He announced Monday, 29 September, as a holiday to celebrate the achievement – a day ahead of the country's independence day.

On Sunday, Botswana's team of Lee Bhekempilo Eppie, Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori and Busang Collen Kebinatshipi edged out the US, the winners of the last 10 world titles, in a rain-drenched race. South Africa took third position.

"I'll be sure to tell everyone, Botswana's natural diamonds are not just in the ground, they are our World Champion athletes," the president said, speaking from New York where he is attending the UN General Assembly.

He described the moment as "electric", adding that Botswana's performance spoke to its rising stature on the global stage.

The southern African nation finished fifth overall in the championship's medal standings – behind the US, Kenya, the Netherlands and Canada – their best ever return after taking two golds, one silver and a bronze.

Last year, Botswana celebrated another historic milestone as Tebogo won the nation's first Olympic gold medal with his victory in the men's 200m in Paris.

His triumph, which also marked the first time an African athlete had won the event, became a national sensation, with tens of thousands of people celebrating him at the National Stadium in the capital, Gaborone, after he returned to the country.

The government declared a half-day holiday allowing citizens to "pause and celebrate him" – in what then-President Mokgweetsi Masisi described as a "most unique… manner that will be etched in the annals of the history of the Republic".

BBC

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The Melodious Voice of Tootsie The Rapper

By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- **Tootsie's signature style, which blends bold punchlines with vibrant flows, has earned her attention and acclaim in the music industry. Her releases, such as "Changes" and "Virgoing - EP," demonstrate her ability to craft music that resonates with audiences. With sync placements on popular TV shows like The CW's All American and Impact Atlanta, Tootsie's music has reached a wide audience, inspiring and empowering listeners.**
- **Tootsie's most recent project, "Throne Talk," is a joint effort with Atlanta producer Smitti Boi. The project is a declaration of presence and power, with Tootsie asserting her voice and artistry.**

Tootsie The Rapper...

Tootsie The Rapper is a rising star in the hip-hop landscape, known for her dynamic presence, bold bars, and uplifting energy. Hailing from Northern California, Tootsie has built a reputation for her raw honesty and commitment to empowerment, offering a sound that is deeply rooted in self-expression, purpose, and personal growth.

Tootsie's music career has been marked by a series of innovative projects and collaborations, showcasing her versatility and creativity as an artist. Her latest endeavor, the Twin Flames EP with acclaimed lyricist Jon Connor, is a testament to her ability to create music that is both personal and powerful. With smooth singles like "Are You Down" and impactful tracks like "Everybody Woke," the EP highlights the duo's undeniable synergy.

Tootsie's signature style, which blends bold punchlines with vibrant flows, has earned her attention and acclaim in the music industry. Her releases, such as "Changes" and "Virgoing - EP," demonstrate her ability to craft music that resonates with audiences. With sync placements on popular TV shows like The CW's All American and Impact Atlanta, Tootsie's music has reached a wide audience, inspiring and empowering listeners.

Tootsie's most recent project, "Throne Talk," is a joint effort with Atlanta producer Smitti Boi. The project is a declaration of presence and power, with Tootsie asserting her voice and artistry. As she puts it, "This isn't about showing who's sitting. It's about the presence that makes the throne matter." With her sharp pen and fearless voice, Tootsie is carving her own lane in the music industry.

Outside the booth, Tootsie is a dedicated mother to two children, balancing artistry and motherhood with dedication and authenticity. Her commitment to her family and her craft is inspiring, and her music serves as a testament to the power of women's collective strength.

Tootsie's music is driven by a deep-seated commitment to empowerment and authenticity, reflecting her values and passions. With a mission-driven approach, she is using her platform to uplift and inspire others, creating a ripple effect that will be felt for generations to come. As Tootsie continues to rise in the music industry, her impact will undoubtedly be felt, inspiring a new generation of artists and fans alike.

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