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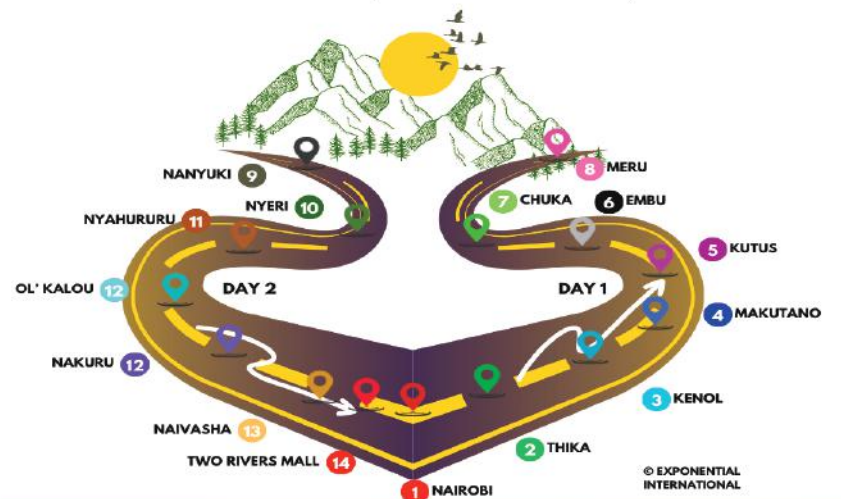
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Deputy President Kithure Kindiki Meets Kenyans In Algeria

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures

Deputy President Prof Kithure Kindiki who has for two days been in Algeria met kenyans living and studying in the North Africa country.

Kenya has 112 students studying in Algerian universities.

The DP disclosed that this year, the Algerian government will extend scholarships for another 150 students to study medicine, pharmacy, engineering, computer science and in petroleum exploration sciences.

The scholarship programme will go a long way to cement the Kenya-Algeria ties and boost Kenyans to acquire comparative education experiences.

The DP met representatives of Kenyan students studying in Algerian universities and staff of the Kenyan Embassy in Algiers and updated them on reforms in the education system, job creation initiatives and general stabilization of the economy.

He was accompanied by Moses Wetangula (Speaker of the National Assembly), Lee Kinyanjui (Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry), Elijah Mwangi (PS for sports), Danson Mungatana (Senator, Tana River County), MPs Japhet Nyakundi (Kitutu Chache North), Anne Wamuratha (Woman Representative, Kiambu County), Innocent Mugabe (Likuyani), Daniel Nanok (Turkana West), Kenya's Ambassador to Algeria Kaluma Mcharo and other Government officials.

In Algeria, the DP and his team represented Kenya on behalf of President Ruto at the 4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025) where he outlined the steps that Kenya is taking to enhance Intra-African trade.



Editor's Desk

The Mt Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



The Government of Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding access to affordable, quality healthcare, emphasising that in the face of limited fiscal space, evidence-based and targeted investments are key. Data analytics will therefore play a central role in shaping decisions for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In this context, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, held a meeting with Genesis Analytics to explore collaboration in strengthening health financing, enhancing disease surveillance and preparedness, integrating climate change into health planning, and leveraging analytics to guide strategic investments in the health sector. The Genesis Analytics delegation was led by Betty Maina, Director for East Africa.



Parents of the 21 boys who died in a dormitory fire on the night of September 5, 2024 at the Hillside Endarasha Academy in Kieni constituency, Nyeri County on Friday held a memorial service and candle lighting ceremony at the Nyeri Catholic Secretariat Hall in Nyeri town to commemorate the first anniversary of the fire tragedy. The service was organized by the Inter-religious Council of Kenya. By Wangari Mwangi



The rehabilitation of the transformative Mombasa Island-Miritini Metre Gauge Railway (MGR) line and construction of Mombasa MGR station has been completed ahead of its commissioning by the Head of State in mid-September. The project which commenced in 2022 was slowed down by land acquisition challenges, however, the Ministry of Transport allocated Sh1.1 billion to the National Land Commission (NLC) for compensation paving the way for its completion. Speaking during an inspection tour the Cabinet Secretary for Roads and Transport Davis Chirchir said the commuter train is expected to transport 4000 people in a day thus reducing traffic gridlocks on the roads and facilitating seamless traffic flow.



The Cabinet Secretary Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Eric Mugaa on Friday paid a courtesy call to Kisumu County Governor, Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, at his office to launch the construction of additional network and storage works for the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project (LVWATSAN) Package 2, Lot 1, and to inspect the progress of the Kisumu Water Supply and Sanitation Project Package 1. This initiative aims to expand the water supply to Kisumu City and Maseno, connecting an additional 25,000 households—approximately 150,000 beneficiaries—and increasing water coverage to Kisumu City from 78% to 91%. The project includes constructing 156 km of water pipeline, building 1,450 m³ of additional water storage, and rehabilitating and constructing one new borehole in Maseno Township. By improving access to clean and reliable water, reducing waterborne diseases, and ensuring sustainable water access for communities, this project will enhance the quality of life and support economic development in Kisumu City, Maseno and surrounding areas. The launch was attended by the French Ambassador to Kenya, Arnaud Suquet, Ms. Sandra Kassab, Director for the Africa Department at Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Kisumu East MP, Ahmed Shakeel Ahmed Shabbir, representatives from the AFD, and other key stakeholders involved in the project.

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Rosemary Okuta Emerges As Front-Runner To Lead Nairobi County ODM Women’s League Into A New Era

By: Cynthia Masibo
 @themkenyentimes

Worth Noting:

- The league, which has been a key platform for women’s political engagement and empowerment in the county, is believed to now need a leadership style that genuinely prioritizes the needs of its members and the wider community over individual ambitions.
- This growing consensus has created an opening for new leadership that champions inclusivity, good governance, and a servant-leader approach.

Nairobi County’s Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Women’s League is poised for significant transformation as Rosemary Okuta emerges as the leading candidate vying for the chairlady position. After nearly twenty years under the current leadership, party members are rallying behind a call for fresh perspectives, innovative strategies, and a revitalized vision that resonates with the rapidly changing political landscape.

The league, which has been a key platform for women’s political engagement and empowerment in the county, is believed to now need a leadership style that genuinely prioritizes the needs of its members and the wider community over individual ambitions. This growing consensus has created an opening for new leadership that champions inclusivity, good governance, and a servant-leader approach.

Rosemary Okuta has stepped into this gap with a clear message: she is committed to driving transformation based on transparency, accountability, and active participation. Unlike traditional political brokers, Okuta positions herself as a servant leader dedicated to representing the interests of Nairobi’s women with both dignity and purpose. Her candidacy, her supporters say, reflects a break from the status quo and a move toward people-centered leadership.

At the heart of Okuta’s campaign is a vision to elevate the ODM Women’s League into a more vibrant, united, and effective movement. She aims to strengthen the voice of women within Nairobi’s political discourse through leadership that embraces integrity, courage, and commitment. Okuta is committed to fostering a league that not only advocates for women’s rights

but also plays a critical role in shaping county policies that affect their lives.

Supporters of Rosemary Okuta describe her entry into the race as a timely and much-needed intervention. They argue that her leadership could mark the beginning of a new chapter for the league, one where innovation and inclusivity are not just buzzwords but guiding principles. They believe that her approach will build broad-based support that transcends traditional factional lines and encourages active engagement from women across Nairobi.

If elected as chairlady, Okuta intends to embark on a transformative journey within the league. Among her goals are implementing modern strategies that reflect the evolving social realities faced by women in the county, enhancing the league’s governance structures, and fostering partnerships that amplify its impact. Central to her agenda is the commitment to put people first, ensuring that all decisions and initiatives directly benefit the grassroots membership.

The Nairobi ODM Women’s League has for years been a crucial platform for nurturing women leaders and influencing political outcomes in the county. The prospect of leadership change has energized members who feel it is time for a reset that aligns the league with contemporary challenges and opportunities.

As the election draws nearer, the momentum behind Rosemary Okuta’s candidature continues to build. Her message of servant leadership and renewal resonates widely, reflecting the aspirations of many women eager to see their concerns elevated and addressed in meaningful ways.

In conclusion, the Nairobi County



Rosemary Okutah emerges as the front runner if the ODM party Women’s league

ODM Women’s League stands at a crossroads. With Rosemary Okuta emerging as the favored candidate for chairlady, a new era beckons one marked by a commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive leadership. Supporters affirm that the time for change has truly arrived, and Okuta is ready to lead the league into a promising future filled with hope and progress.

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Kenya To Partner With USA In Dairy Farming

By: Dennis Dibondo
@themkenyatimes

Kenya and United states of America are set to work together in an effort to boost dairy farming between the two countries

Meru county will partner with the state of Nebraska in an effort to boost its dairy farming.

Secretary of State of Nebraska Robert Evnen said they will partner with Meru Dairy Cooperative Union to develop animal feeds.

Evnen who visited the dairy on Thursday described the facility as a world class factory.

“Farmers of that Cooperative have a reason to be very proud of Mount Kenya Milk processing plant. It’s an honour to tour such a facility,” Evnen said.

“We have ways in which we can help because we at Nebraska have animal feed factories and we have feed supplements that cows love and are very

high in digestive proteins and we are confident it can help increase the production of milk,” he said.

He added that the University of Nebraska will also reach an agreement to work with Meru University in agriculture technology, health science, animal science.

Meru Deputy governor Linda Kiome who accompanied Evnen said they aim to create a partnership with Nebraska that heavily relies on agriculture to propel its economy similar to Meru.

“Nebraska is key to agriculture; it has a lot of similarities with Meru county. Nebraska is good in beef, maize farming as well as dairy,” she said.

Kiome said they will partner on how they can reduce livestock diseases to improve breeds yields as well as improve skills that can make an impact.

Kiome said they will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding and form a select committee to formalise the partnership.

“We want to reap benefits, tap in re-



Meru Dairy Cooperative Union CEO Kennedy Gitonga (in spectacles), Secretary of State of Nebraska in the United States of America Robert Evnen and Meru County Deputy governor Linda Kiome at the dairy processing plant on Thursday. Photo/Dennis Dibondo.

sources and exchange that can come from the partnership,” Kiome said.

Kennedy Gitonga, the CEO of Meru Dairy Cooperative Union said they were delighted as they got new ideas on how to make quality animal feeds.

“They have some samples of animal feed they would like us to test to help formulate the best feed for cows here in Meru as we are doing a feed milling factory,” he said.

He said the dairy was producing

600,000 litres per day and was optimistic they will increase their production if they partner.

Pioneer Nyandarua University College Students Challenged To Embrace Holistic Education

By: Antony Mwangi
@themkenyatimes

The University of Nairobi’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Margaret Jesang Hutchinson, has stated that the challenge of funding is causing the government to be hesitant in allowing the establishment of new higher learning institutions.

Speaking when she addressed the First cohort of Nyandarua University College, which is under the mentorship of the UoN, the Vice Chancellor said it has become increasingly impossible for the government to support new institutions, due to financial implications and responsibilities.

The VC said the University has shifted its strategic focus from providing academic courses to aligning with global aspirations and desires, assuring that UoN will offer them equal opportunities to those in UON and that the Institution will be fully supported to meet the student’s needs.

“We will have the library fully stocked. There will be no difference between privileges enjoyed by students in all other UoN across the country. We are committed to giving you the best we offer at UoN. We shall mainstream entrepreneurship in your studies, to ensure that you come out holistically baked,” said the Vice Chancellor.

She advised the students against unhealthy access to the internet, saying it is killing the dreams of many students.

Governor Kiarie Badilisha, recalled the journey starting in 2015, when the first Technical Committee was formed.

“The real race to actualize the University picked in 2022, it has been a long journey, and I thank UoN’s former Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Kiama, who embraced the idea. “It was a miraculous journey since all the doors we knocked on, were opened. Our next move is to relocate to Salient Secondary School in Ol-Kalou next year. We have secured 100 acres of land for the purpose,”



The University of Nairobi’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Margaret Jesang Hutchinson..

said Badilisha.

Meanwhile, Nyandarua University Pioneer Principal, Professor John Kimenju, said the University will be involved in community service as an appreciation to the host community for its contribution and support in

making the University a success.

“We shall establish a robust mentorship program to nurture national heroes and heroines to become global champions. We shall research to generate knowledge, technology and innovation that solves community

problems,” said Professor Kimenju.

The University College starts with three faculties, but will be expanded as the infrastructure improves.

Private Hospitals Issue 14-Day Strike Notice To Gov't Over KSh 43B SHA Debt

By: Joseph Muia
@themkenyatimes



RUPHA Chairperson Brian Lishega (L)

Worth Noting:

- “Kenyan hospitals remain in severe financial distress due to delayed and inadequate reimbursements by the Social Health Authority. This is the lived reality of hospitals, not the narrative of ‘timely payments’ presented to the public,” he said.
- According to Lishega, 50 per cent of claims from Level 2 to Level 4 hospitals remain unpaid, pushing many institutions into financial distress.
- As of the end of August 2025, healthcare providers had submitted claims worth Ksh.96.2 billion, but only Ksh.53 billion has been paid, leaving an outstanding obligation of Ksh.43 billion.
- The association noted that 50 percent of claims from lower-level facilities also remain unpaid, with general inpatient and surgical claims recording payout ratios as low as 10 to 20 percent.

The Rural Private Hospitals Association of Kenya (RUPHA) has issued a 14-day strike notice to the Social Health Authority (SHA), citing continued failure to settle outstanding claims.

Speaking in Nairobi on Friday, RUPHA Chairperson Brian Lishega said hospitals across the country are in a crisis, with the government owing them Ksh.76 billion.

He warned that the debt is crippling the healthcare system, leaving facilities without medicines, staff, and operating cash flow.

Lishega added that hospitals across the country are on the brink of collapse unless urgent measures are taken to address mounting debts, rejected claims, and arbitrary facility suspensions.

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As of the end of August 2025, healthcare providers had submitted claims worth Ksh.96.2 billion, but only Ksh.53 billion has been paid, leaving an outstanding obligation of Ksh.43 billion.

The association noted that 50 percent of claims from lower-level facilities also remain unpaid, with general inpatient and surgical claims recording payout ratios as low as 10 to 20 percent.

The RUPHA boss also raised concerns about the sustainability of SHA’s financing model, saying the authority collects about Ksh.5.4 billion monthly but faces claims worth Ksh.8.7 billion, creating a deficit of up to Ksh.3.5 billion every month.

He faulted the design of schemes such as Proxy Means Testing and Lipa SHA Pole Pole, which it said had failed to increase informal sector contributions, while lump-sum premium payments remained unrealistic for households.

On liabilities, Lishega accused the

government of ignoring a Presidential Directive issued on March 5, 2025, to settle National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) debts below Ksh.10 million.

NHIF liabilities stand at Ksh.33 billion, while SHA owes Ksh.43 billion, pushing the total debt owed to hospitals to Ksh.76 billion.

The biggest unpaid balances are owed to public and mission hospitals, including Kenyatta National Hospital (Ksh.1.58 billion), Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (Ksh.1.23 billion), Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (Ksh.540 million), and Nakuru County Hospital (Ksh.297 million).

RUPHA further protested the mass rejection of valid claims, noting that facilities are being denied payments months after submission without due process.

“Today, claims are being rejected months after submission, without due process, denying hospitals rightful payments,” Lishega added.

He also accused SHA of arbitrarily deleting bed capacities, down-

grading, and suspending facilities, actions it said contravene the Fair Administrative Action Act and the Constitution.

To avert a crisis, RUPHA is demanding five key actions within two weeks: immediate settlement of NHIF liabilities in line with the presidential directive; payment of at least 50 per cent of the Ksh.43 billion SHA backlog; activation of a claims clarification mechanism on the SHA portal; formation of a Dispute Resolution Tribunal to oversee suspensions and downgrades; and transparent publication of claims data.

“Without action, access to healthcare will collapse under the weight of debt. A Marshall Plan is urgently required to clear debts and redesign SHA sustainably,” Lishega warned.

Boost To Village Elders As Legislators Pledge To Support Welfare Bill

By: Muoki Charles
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu Members of Parliament have pledged support for a bill that proposes monthly stipends and other recognitions for village elders.

Speaking during town hall meetings in Thika and Gatundu, Thika Town, MPs Alice Ng'ang'a and her Ruiru counterpart, Simon King'ara, said they are committed to ensuring the National Government Coordination (Amendment) Bill is passed into law.

Fortunately, the Bill has already reached the Third Reading stage and now awaits deliberation at the Committee of the Whole House. Thus, they will rally their colleagues to ensure the Bill is passed into law.

Ng'ang'a described the proposal as necessary, noting that village elders as the backbone of grassroots governance for decades, need formal recognition.

"This proposal is long overdue and

needs to be passed into law as soon as possible. These people have sacrificed a lot for effective grassroots governance, being the first line of contact between the State and the people," she said.

The Bill seeks to provide monthly stipends, uniforms, training, and logistical support to village elders, currently serving on a voluntary basis across the country.

King'ara said the law would not only enhance grassroots governance, but also boost community policing and social cohesion. "Village elders are the unsung heroes of national administration, and it is time their work is valued," he added.

For decades, village elders have acted as the vital link between citizens and the State, assisting chiefs in mobilizing communities for government programmes, resolving minor disputes, and promoting security.

However, their service has remained purely voluntary, with many struggling to sustain themselves despite their central role in administration.

Thika Village Elders' Chairperson



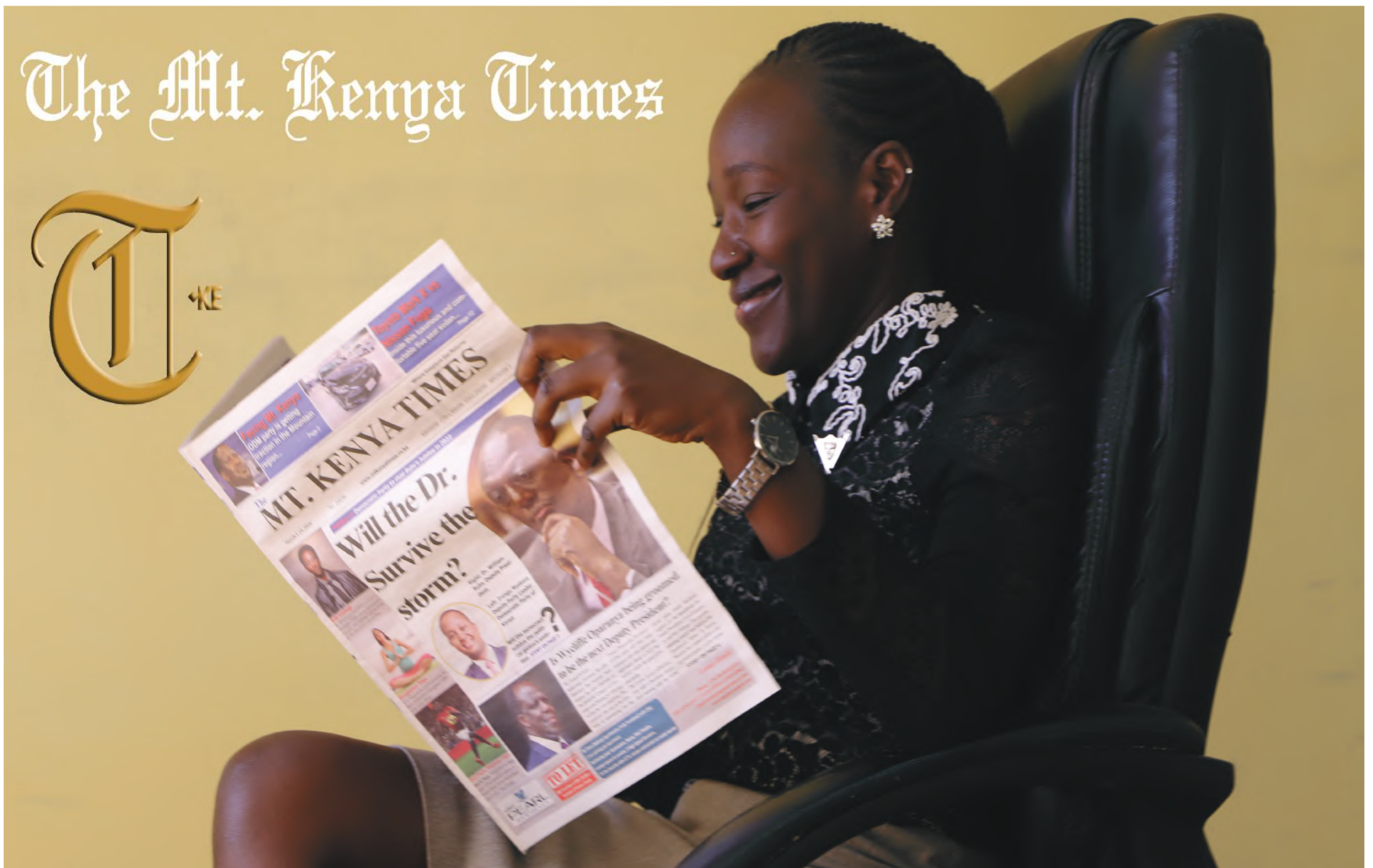
Alice Ng'ang'a addressing the forum.

Daniel Mwangi supported the bill but advised against making educational qualifications a requirement in amendments, asserting that such a condition might disqualify experienced elders whose value lies in

community trust and knowledge over formal schooling.

Lastly, if passed, the legislation would mark the first time Kenya's village elders are formally absorbed into the government structure, bringing

long-awaited recognition and compensation to a group that has quietly served the nation for generations.



Installation Of MRI And CT Scan Machines At Mwai Kibaki Hospital Begins

By: MTK Correspondent

@themtkenyatimes

Mwai Kibaki Level VI hospital is set to become fully operational once the installation of crucial equipment and machines are completed.

These include MRI and CT scan machines which were delivered to the Othaya town based facility a few days ago.

On Friday, Othaya Member of Parliament Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima visited the facility where he was taken through the process of installation.

The crucial equipment and machines for medical examination were delivered a few months after President William Ruto promised to have the facility fully functional after he declared its autonomy by gazetting and appointing a board to run it, under the chairmanship of retired Kenya Defence Forces, Chief of Defence Forces, General Charles Kibochi.

Since he was elected area MP, Kiri-



Some of the equipment and machines outside Mwai Kibaki Level VI hospital's main building.

ma has been siezing every opportunity to remind the President of the facility's needs; the machines that have now been delivered.

On Friday, the MP termed the initiative as a great milestone saying, "Let's celebrate this incredible milestone together. Better health care is coming home!"

He added, "Right now, preparations are underway at Mwai Kibaki Hospital to create space and fully equip this life-saving technology. This is a huge step forward for healthcare services in Othaya and the entire community!"

The hospital, named after the third President, the late Mwai Kibaki who



Othaya MP Wambugu Wainaina alias Kirima (centre) with some of the specialists who are expected to take part in installation of the equipment and machines at Mwai Kibaki Level VI hospital.

also served as Othaya MP for nearly four decades is a center of excellence with a 350 bed capacity offering specialized inpatient and outpatient healthcare services to patients from all corners of the country.

More so, the facility, the only one of its kind in the mountain region is expected to serve residents from coun-

ties within the region which includes; Nyeri, Muranga, Embu, Karatina, Isi-olo, Marsabit, Meru, Tharaka-nithi, Samburu, Nanyuki and Kirinyaga.

214 Suspects Arrested In Nairobi CBD Crime Crackdown As Police Warn Tiktokers

By: Ode Francis

@themtkenyatimes

Police have arrested 214 suspects over crime in Nairobi's Central Business District (CBD). The suspects are being processed for arraignment.

Nairobi County Police Commander George Seda now says crime is not just on the streets, but online.

He issued a stern warning to TikTok content creators who are exploiting security incidents to chase clout and mislead the public.

According to Seda, many of these alleged attacks remain unreported, casting doubt on their authenticity and raising concerns about digital sensationalism.

He's urging victims of real incidents to come forward and file official reports, emphasizing that justice begins with accountability.

Despite the recent surge in arrests, Commander Seda has reaffirmed to Nairobi residents that the city re-

mains safe and under control.

"We, as the policing agency, have all the resources which we have employed now with the view of getting these perpetrators. CBD is safe, that's my assurance, businesses are going on as usual, police visibility is enhanced as usual," said the Nairobi police boss.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba Murkomen had on Thursday ordered a major crackdown on muggings in Nairobi, directing security agencies to intensify operations against criminal gangs targeting unsuspecting residents.

The CS said the government is concerned about the surge in violent robberies, many linked to groups posing as street children.

Kenyans have been taking to social media to share harrowing experiences at the hands of juvenile delinquents, saying they have been followed, robbed in broad daylight, and in some cases threatened with knives or harassed in shocking ways.



Reimagining Capitation: Sustainable And Innovative Funding Solutions For Kenya's Public Education System



By: Paul Kinyanjui
@themkenyatimes

In Kenya, capitation is a major recurrent issue affecting schools across the country.

Capitation refers to the government funding provided to schools based on the number of students enrolled.

However, in many cases, the amount of funding allocated is insufficient to meet the schools' needs, resulting in a variety of challenges for both students and educators. Worse still is when this funding is delayed.

Education plays an integral role in promoting socioeconomic growth and development, as well as equality, equity, and democracy in the global world. High levels of unemployment, illiteracy, and truancy can be linked to the capitation crisis in Kenyan schools.

The capitation system in Kenyan schools has been a subject of intense debate due to its implications for education equity and quality.

While this funding mechanism aims to provide financial resources directly to public schools, various challenges hinder its effectiveness.

The Treasury Cabinet Secretary, John Mbadi, on 24th July 2025, admitted to the National Assembly Education Committee that the government is unable to fully fund the Free Primary Education (FPE) and the Free Day Secondary Education (FDSE) programs.

Today, each learner is entitled to KSh1,420 under FPE, learners in Junior school KSh15,042, and secondary school learners KSh22,244.

On the other hand, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aim to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education in order to attain lifelong learning opportunities for all.

With a lack of capitation, how does this materialize? I ask.

In 2003, President Mwai Kibaki, the third president of Kenya, unveiled the Free Primary Education (FPE) Programme in order to ensure access and equity in education.

However, in contrast, the Treasury CS recently disclosed that secondary school learners' capitation had

dropped to KSh16,428 annually from the recommended KSh22,244.

Watching the proclamation, designation and declaration of 27th August as Katiba Day, I was reminded that in cognizance of Article 43 (1) Sub-article (f) of The 2010 Constitution, 'Every person has the right to education'. Which means that education is a right and not a privilege, nor is it optional. And I was left asking, has the State guaranteed right to free and compulsory education for all or for a chosen few?

Some of the ripple effects of delayed school funding are anxiety, panic, stress, and restlessness, especially due to disruptions of essential operations.

Other effects are absenteeism, school dropout, child Labour, and susceptibility to juvenile crimes.

To address the difficulties associated with capitation grants, it's essential to consider several solutions, some of which focus on embracing management practices, increasing funding, and improving transparency.

As policymakers and school managers struggle with delayed disbursements of capitation, all stakeholders involved must look forward and come up with new and modern innovative funding solutions or alternatives for school education.

Besides the government reviewing its budget, improving the monitoring and evaluation system for capitation funds, enhancing capacity for school administrators to effectively manage capitation funds, and engaging with stakeholders to address the capitation problem.

There exist numerous unexploited or untapped opportunities, like establishing strong public-private partnerships through community involvement, civic education, and public participation.

Another solution could be engaging the alumni from the public schools as well as partnering with school religious-based sponsoring organizations to supplement funding.

Some public schools could also establish well-managed income-generating projects like forestry and serious crop or animal farms, all geared towards supplementing government funding.

This is especially to those public schools that have plenty of tangible, unexploited resources like vast land and water resources.

Considering that each school has its own unique comparative advantage over others, this understanding encourages schools to focus on their strengths.

Some measures to address and sup-

plement the capitation problem at the school level include establishing school-based value addition or income-generating projects, such as a bakery for bread, layers for egg production, broilers for meat, or even pig farming.

Other modern ways of raising funds by schools could be through the establishment of fish farming (aquaculture) projects and hydroponics systems.

Embracing green energy could also be another solution, for instance, installing biogas production systems, harnessing solar and wind power, such as in dry arid areas.

Schools with forest plantation cover could even receive carbon credit facilities, along with other benefits like timber, honey production (beekeeping), and herb harvesting.

Schools with land mainly made of rock could utilize this resource by opening quarries.

Schools near quarries could form public-private partnerships through community involvement and public participation to peacefully benefit from these resources.

Such negotiations and efforts could significantly resolve conflicts of interest among schools, miners, and the local community.

Other natural resources like clay deposits could serve as suitable raw materials for pottery, brick making, or porcelain production. Besides increasing employment, most of these projects could also promote a positive attitude and values toward natural resources and labor.

They could become a potential hub for both job opportunities and internship programs.

Additionally, some public schools located in fast-growing populated urban centers or near upcoming higher education institutions like universities could also invest in modern, affordable housing or hostels to provide accommodation and hence supplement capitation to meet their financial needs.

On another hand, some well-endowed public schools could also hire out or commercialize their institutional amenities or facilities like vehicles, machinery, halls, health centers, and sports facilities like fields, especially during school holidays, public holidays or weekends in order to supplement government funding.

In order to curb truancy, public schools could invest in well-connected internet network as well as collaborate with the community in order to provide free Wi-Fi services to vulnerable learners. Through such open online platforms, homeschool-



ing programs can be offered to the extremely disadvantaged learners, especially in day schools.

The capitation crisis will be even more exacerbated by the difficult transition from the 844-education system to the Competency-Based Education (CBE).

Some stakeholders in education have proposed cost-sharing with parents, which, according to me, is not sustainable enough, especially due to inflation, operating costs, economic hardships, and the high cost of living. For these fundraising and other such ideas to work, there has to be goodwill to practice leadership, integrity, transparency, and accountability by stakeholders.

Capitation was established about eight years ago and was working well. Despite the rising population of learners, continued delayed capitation to schools may kill the FPE and FDSE dream, which is tantamount to a blanket marginalization of an entire generation.

In cognizance of Chapter 6 of The 2010 Constitution on 'Leadership and Integrity'. Effective management and spending of funds raised through such projects to fill the education funding gap would require some training, experience, competence, leadership, honesty, integrity, transparency, and organization.

Reasonably honest, efficient, and effective public administration would be a key requirement.

In addition, sufficient proper civic education, public awareness, and public participation would be necessary, especially for inclusivity as required in the Constitution, in cognizance of Articles 27,29 (a) and (b), 32, 33, 37, 40, and 118.

Looking at most of the schools, I am led to conclude that the lack of alternative solutions to address the capitation funding gap is mainly due to differences in school policies,

attitudes of people, and resulting variations in political, social, and economic policies, including those related to sponsoring religious institutions.

Moreover, stakeholders must give more attention to training public officials on how to manage and run such income-generating projects.

With Kenya transitioning from 8-4-4 to CBE, the Ministry of Education should urgently reconsider policy reforms, even though the sessional paper on education reform remains shelved in the archives. Kenya's education system urgently requires a reevaluation of policies.

And as the population continues to grow quickly, all policymakers and stakeholders must 'think outside of the box,' including using available resources sustainably to provide quality education to learners when they need it most. Tough choices must be made, including unpalatable ones like scrutinizing or reevaluating existing education policies, making policy adjustments, amendments, or even a complete overhaul of current education policies.

Addressing the capitation issue in Kenya's public schools calls for local, practical, and policy-driven solutions.

The writer is a Freelance Researcher, Analyst, Critic, High School Teacher, and Writer on Emerging Issues and Trends to Create Awareness, Educate, Enlighten, Empower, and Inspire. E-Mail: Kinyanjuiipaul2030@gmail.com

DPP Orders Arrest Of Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo Over Kidnapping, Assault

By: Ian Omondi
 @themtkenyatimes

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has directed the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to arrest Isiolo Governor Ibrahim Abdi Hassan, alias Guyo, alongside seven others, over alleged involvement in kidnapping and robbery with violence.

In a statement released on Friday, the DPP said the move follows a comprehensive review of an inquiry file submitted by the DCI Kiyumbi office to the ODPP Machakos County and later referred to the headquarters in Nairobi due to its significant public interest.

The statement detailed that on the day of the incident, former Isiolo County Chief Officer of Health, Abdirahaman Mohamed, and 15 Members of County Assembly allied to the Governor's impeachment camp were at Outbark Hotel in Maanzoni, Machakos County.

Governor Guyo and his supporters

allegedly stormed the venue, where, acting on his instructions, they forcibly disarmed and attacked Abdirahaman before bundling him into a vehicle and kidnapping him.

According to the ODPP, the Governor threatened the former officer before directing his team to move him to the Ruai Sewage area, where he was blindfolded, beaten, and abandoned.

During the ordeal, Abdirahaman lost a licensed Glock pistol with 15 rounds, an iPhone 16, Ksh.70,000 in cash, and other personal belongings.

CCTV footage from the hotel reportedly placed Governor Guyo at the scene alongside Abdullahi Jaldesa Banticah, Dade Boru, Abdirashid Ali Diba alias Ngila, Abdirashid Ali Diba, Ahmed Duale, Josephat Mwangi Komu, and Yusuf Maina.

The DPP has ordered that the suspects be arraigned to face charges of kidnapping with intent to cause grievous harm and robbery with violence.

The DPP has ordered that the suspects be arraigned to face charges of kidnapping with intent to cause grievous harm and robbery with violence.



Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo appears before the Senate Committee on County Public Investments and Special Funds on May 15, 2025. PHOTO | COURTESY

Machakos To Distribute 10,000 Fruit Seedlings To Farmers

By: Anne Kangero
 @themtkenyatimes

Machakos County government will through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources distribute 10,000 assorted fruit tree seedlings to farmers and various groups to promote environmental conservation.

The initiative is part of an ongoing intervention to boost food security and nutrition and promote environmental conservation.

According to CECM for Water Irrigation, Environment and Climate change Rita Ndunge, the fruit seedlings are meant to provide nutrition, increase agricultural production, conserve the environment and also boost community development opportunities through economic empowerment.

She noted that the fruit seedlings were a gift donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

as part of their broader effort to support Kenya's tree planting initiative.

Ms Ndunge was speaking at their Water and Environment offices in Machakos where they received the seedlings and expressed gratitude to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, noting that the seedlings would greatly uplift community livelihoods through sales and a vital source of vitamins.

She further highlighted how the initiative aligns with Governor Wavinya Ndeti's clarion call – "Chakula Mezani, Pesa Mfukoni" ensuring families have food on the table while improving household incomes through sustainable agriculture.

"Machakos County remains committed to sustainable environmental stewardship and empowering communities through green initiatives," added the Water and Environment CECM.

The assorted fruit tree seedlings are grafted avocado, mango, orange and grafted pixies.



14 POEMS

Don't Try To Be Better Than Anyone



Tomorrow is not as permanent as today,
We have to face new challenges everyday,
Everything will be possible someday,
You must develop yourself better than
yesterday.

Don't Try To Be Better Than Anyone
try to be better than how you were yesterday

Comparing yourself with others is not a good
thing.

You must try to spread your precious wing,
The vast sky is waiting to wear you a ring,
One day you will become the powerful King!

Our character and behaviour build our
personality.

Try to strengthen it by your morality,
Keep your self analysis as punctuality,
That will shape your capability!

Desire of learning new technique
Paves the way to your unique, simply fades
away the chronic,
By omitting the comparison of yourself with
others!

N. DEEPALAKSHMI
B.T. ASST IN ENGLISH
GOVERNMENT HIGHER SECONDARY
SCHOOL,
SATHUVACHARI,
VELLORE DISTRICT,
TAMIL NADU
INDIA.

The Joy Of Your Parents



You've grown into a big child.
You set an example for your brother,
Helping with everything you can.
Sometimes when your mom shouts,

You get scared and run away.
Dusting up the streets outside,
You play with joy and laughter.
Always together with your brother,
Living in harmony every day.

The Joy Of Your Parents
Your grandparents' dearest,
Your aunts and uncles' sweetheart,
Happy 5th birthday to you!

You've finished kindergarten,
And now you're on your way to school.
No more little tantrums,

Landshankabiyeva Gulnoza Faculty of Social
University of the National University of
Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek Faculty of
Social University, the 3rd year student of
practical psychology

If I Were In Another World



For a sorrowful soul parted from loved ones,
No one would ever grasp such deep anguish as
mine.

If only I could spread my wings and embrace
the sky,

Never again to meet the deceivers of this
earth.

If my tears never turned into a river for them,
Never again returning to this world.

Alas, you never valued me,
When I'm carried in the coffin, don't pretend to
value me.

If in life you never knew my worth, but only
realized it after my death,

You cannot bring me back from that other
world.

By Sabina Rafasova

lay on the green grass and never returned,
If I closed my eyes and never opened them
again,

If I breathed once and never breathed again,
If I opened my eyes but found myself in
another world.

I cannot share my pains with anyone,
Would anyone wish to understand such grief
like mine?

Never Give Up



If we listen to others, we'll never move ahead,
Most scientists and leaders, have faced many
failures
They kissed many challenges, and rose above the
pain,
To reach their dreams, and make their mark

Don't worry if none talks to you, or seems none
to care

Think it's all good, for your growth and repair,
Never lose your heart, for history teaches us.
That struggles and perseverance, are the keys
to success

Never give up your aim, goal, no matter the
challenges
For many successful people, have failed many
times and got up
Without failures, one can't achieve success
Failures are the stepping stones, that lead to
success

Keep your mind strong, and be courageous
Don't mind the criticisms, that others may say
Hundreds will doubt, but keep your ears closed
tight,
And your eyes focused, on the goal

You have more strength, than you think or know,
Don't underestimate yourself, let your spirit glow
Never give up, keep moving forward with might,
Your dreams will come alive, and shine with new
light.

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

Friendship Beyond Age :



One offers wisdom,
The other offers curiosity unbound by limits.
They share laughter that ignores generations,
And silence that feels like knowing without
words.

Age becomes invisible in trust,
Learning flows both ways without measure.
In this bond, respect is mutual,
And friendship blooms where age has no
meaning.

By, SuFyan
Thiruvalluvar matric hr sec school, panruti,
Cuddalore district.

Friendship does not count years,
It recognizes hearts instead of numbers.
A teacher and a student meet in
understanding,
Not in hierarchy, but in connection.

Fight With Yourself!



Never blame others for your melancholy,
Don't cause mayhem, acting willy-nilly.
Face yourself.
Be yourself.

Whatever you do, you're the rationale
You're not a third person in somebody else's tale.
Whatever happens to us,
We must face it, whether it's ease or fuss.

Fight yourself in any predicament,
And make of yourself an amendment.
Whether or not you're the cause of your
difficulty,
You are the one who must fight it—with
certainty!

Fight with yourself!
Because you are the cause of everything that
happens to you.

We are the cause,
For everything that happens to us!
Yes! We are the cause, no more, no less.
Fight with yourself, no matter what,
Don't blame others, solve what you've sought.

Face it: your every challenge, your weakness,
And your hidden splendiddness!
Fight with yourself if strife takes over you—
You're the cause of it, even if you had no clue.

K.A.Santhoshi,
8 - D,
Government Model Girls Higher Secondary
School,
Komarapalayam, Pallipalayam union, Namakkal,
Tamilnadu, India.

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Government Advances Marine Spatial Planning To Drive Blue Economy Growth

By: Jacqueline Adyang
@themkenyatimes

The government has stepped up efforts to safeguard Kenya's vast ocean wealth through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), a key tool for balancing conservation with economic growth in marine and coastal resources.

The Deputy Head of the Public Service, Amos Gathecha said MSP will be central to unlocking opportunities in fisheries, maritime transport, tourism, and biodiversity conservation sectors that hold huge potential for job creation and national development.

Speaking at Harambee House, Nairobi during a meeting with senior officials and representatives from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Gathecha reaffirmed the government's commitment to advancing the blue economy in line with Vision 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

"Without effective monitoring and

enforcement, Kenya's fisheries economy will struggle to exploit its full potential, thus threatening food security, the national economy and community livelihoods," he warned.

Kenya is now positioning itself to achieve 100 percent transparency and compliance in all industrial fishing vessels by 2030 through the adoption of Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems.

These systems, equipped with on-board cameras, GPS and sensors, will supplement human observer programs to strengthen surveillance, enhance transparency and secure access to international markets.

With Kenya's industrial fleet expanding, EM technology is expected to boost fisheries monitoring, provide faster communication and ensure global compliance standards.

Gathecha further noted that MSP will not only balance economic growth with environmental protection, but also strengthen food security, national resilience and tourism attractiveness by safeguarding marine biodiversity.



The Deputy Head of the Public Service, Amos Gathecha

Kenya aims to complete the MSP planning phase and begin implementation by December 2026, in line with global targets to protect 30 percent of ocean space.

Currently, less than one per cent of Kenya's ocean waters fall under

marine protection, underscoring the urgency of accelerating conservation and management efforts.

"Protecting marine animals not only preserves the ecosystem, but also enhances Kenya's competitiveness as a global tourism destination," Gathe-

cha added.

The initiative is expected to drive sustainable ocean management, creating wealth and opportunities for communities, while ensuring the long-term health of Kenya's marine resources.

Kikuyu NG-CDF Sponsors Free Technical Training

By: Michelle Njeri
@themkenyatimes

Nachu Technical and Vocational College has opened applications for fully sponsored short technical courses under the Kikuyu National Government Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF), targeting youth empowerment through practical skills development across the constituency.

The comprehensive training programme aims to impart and equip trainees with necessary practical technical skills to access new employment opportunities and foster entrepreneurship among young people in Kikuyu constituency.

The diverse course offerings include catering, plumbing, electrical installation, painting, tiling, welding, masonry, caregiver services, barista training, cosmetology, leather works, and several other technical disciplines designed to meet current market demands.

Applications for the programme

have been opened across five wards including Nachu Ward, Karai Ward, Sigona Ward, Kikuyu Ward, and Kinoo Ward, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the constituency's youth population.

The training will commence on Monday with all courses running simultaneously during a three-month period, providing intensive skills development designed for both local and international job markets.

Magdalene Mwachofi, Principal of Nachu Technical and Vocational College, said the partnership with Kikuyu NG-CDF demonstrates commitment to addressing youth unemployment through practical skills training.

"These courses are designed using the standard TVET curriculum framework, ensuring our graduates receive internationally recognized skills. The government has equipped us with modern equipment including welding machines from basic to advanced models, electrical training apparatus, and all necessary tools for quality training delivery," she said.

The NG-CDF will fully cover all



training costs, making the program completely accessible to participating youth and removing financial barriers that often prevent access to quality technical education.

Alice Njoki, a 22-year-old youth from Kikuyu Ward who plans to enroll in the cosmetology course, expressed excitement about the free training opportunity.

"This programme gives us hope because many of us cannot afford technical training fees. Learning cosmetology skills will help me start my own beauty salon and become self-employed," she said.

The programme will culminate with a graduation ceremony scheduled for December 2025, which will be presided over by Kikuyu Member

of Parliament Kimani Ichungwa, demonstrating high-level support for youth skills development initiatives.

The hands-on approach ensures trainees are job-ready upon completion, with skills that could be immediately applied in starting their own businesses or securing employment in various technical sectors.

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Rwandan President Urges Open Skies As Africa Aviation Summit Kicks Off

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

The ninth edition of the Aviation Africa Summit and Exhibition opened Thursday in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, with a call for countries to open up Africa's skies and invest in a strong and more dynamic aviation sector.

The summit has drawn representatives from airlines, airports, aviation authorities, and industry professionals from across the continent and beyond. Opening the summit, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said that the high cost of air travel remains a barrier to tourism and connectivity across Africa. Noting that Africa's skies must be opened up to better serve citizens, businesses, and the wider economy, Kagame urged governments and industry leaders to collaborate to make aviation more affordable and sustainable. "Intra-African tourism is only 15 percent. Why? Because air transport is expensive," he said.

Despite steady growth in demand,

Africa accounts for less than 5 percent of global air traffic, Kagame noted. "For Africa's skies to truly be inclusive, and for our airports and air transport industry to participate fully in economic growth, we must organize ourselves, invest in infrastructure, and embrace technology," he said. "By 2044, when traffic is expected to double, we should be ready with skies that are safe and efficient, and a unique African airspace that is truly homogeneous," he said.

Alan Peaford, chairman of the Africa Aviation Summit, noted that poor intra-African connectivity, operational inefficiencies, and slow adoption of international standards are holding Africa back, but emphasized that these challenges can be resolved with collaboration. Kagame also toured the exhibition, which features up to 100 exhibitors showcasing their contributions to the continent's aviation growth. The two-day summit, which concludes on Friday, is being held under the theme, "Collaborating to unlock Africa's growth -- How can Africa deliver a sustainable aviation industry?"



Rwandan President Paul Kagame (4th L) watches an aircraft demonstration at EHang booth during the 9th Aviation Africa Summit and Exhibition in Kigali, Rwanda, on Sept. 4, 2025..

Washington, D.C. Sues Trump Administration Over National Guard Deployment

By: Xinhua
@themkenyatimes

Washington, D.C. has filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration over the deployment of National Guard troops in the nation's capital, the district's Attorney General Brian Schwalb announced Thursday.

"We are suing to block the unlawful deployment of National Guard troops to DC," Schwalb posted on social media platform X. "The forced military occupation of the District of Columbia violates our local autonomy and basic freedoms. It must end." The attorney general's office argues that the deployment violates the Home Rule Act which grants a local government (like a municipality or a district) the authority to govern itself, exercising powers of governance within its own administrative area. The lawsuit was

filed less than one month after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Aug. 11 on deploying the National Guard to D.C. to help restore law and order and ensure public safety. Aside from the original 800 National Guard troops, six Republican-led states have supported the president's effort by sending additional personnel, bringing the total deployment in D.C. to over 2,000.

The D.C. lawsuit follows a court victory by the Democratic-run U.S. state of California earlier this week. On Tuesday, District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco ruled that the Trump administration violated a 19th-century law barring the use of soldiers for civilian law enforcement when it deployed National Guard troops to Los Angeles in June. Schwalb, a Democrat, noted that the National Guard deployment not only undermines public safety, but also hurts the district's economy by de-

pressing key sectors such as restaurants, hotels and tourism. The Trump administration countered that the deployment has helped drive down violent crime in the district.

Members of the National Guard patrol in Washington, D.C., the United States, Sept. 4, 2025.



Court Upholds SRC Decision To Scrap Mcas Allowances

By: Contributor
 @themkenyatimes

The Employment and Labour Relations Court has upheld the decision of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) to scrap the Retreat Allowance, Sitting Allowances for Internal Institutional Committees, and Taskforce Allowance for Internal Institution Taskforces for Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), observing that the payment of the allowances, in addition to gross pay, amounted to double compensation.

SRC asserted that after comprehensive evaluation of the roles, responsibilities, remuneration and benefits for all State officers, the nature and scope of responsibilities of Members of Parliament and MCAs involved sitting in the plenary sessions.

As such, additional sitting allowances, in addition to the gross monthly remuneration package, would amount to double compensa-

tion for the concerned officers.

Justice Onesmus Makau also dismissed claims by the petitioner, County Assembly of Embu, that demotion of MCAs from Job Grade D5 (equivalent to Job Group P in the civil service), to Job Grade D4 (equivalent to job Group N in the Civil service) violated the Constitution, reduced pay and compensation by removing some benefits, and amounted to an unfair labour practice.

In concurring with SRC, the court observed that MCAs failed to provide evidence of any elevation to Job Grade D5.

The court held that the County Assemblies Forum welcomed SRC's grading in all its correspondences, and that MCAs did not suffer any loss or violation due to SRC's advice. SRC had averred that a comprehensive job evaluation of State officers had placed the role of MCAs at Job Grade D4 during the first, second and third remuneration and benefits review cycles.

On non-practicing allowance, the



court agreed with SRC that no evidence was adduced by the County Assembly of Embu to substantiate the allegations of failure by SRC to approve payment of the allowance for professionals in the county assembly public service.

Justice Makau found that the County Assembly of Embu failed to prove its claims that SRC violated the Constitution, observing that the allegations raised in the suit were without any basis or justification.

This judgement reinforces SRC's

mandate of streamlining and harmonising remuneration, allowances and benefits within the public service, ensuring fairness, while addressing the growing public wage bill.

Court Issues Orders In Rape Allegations Case Against Musician Samidoh

By: Dzuya Walter
 @themkenyatimes

The High Court has issued interim orders restraining Kikuyu musician Samuel Muchoki, popularly known as Samidoh from contacting or interfering with a woman who has sued him over rape allegations.

"...pending the hearing and determination of the instant application, an interim non-contact and non-interference order is hereby issued restraining the Interested Party, whether by himself, his servants, agents or assigns, from contacting, intimidating, harassing or otherwise interfering..." reads the order.

Justice Lawrence Mugambi has further directed that the woman, identified in court papers only by the initials M.R.W. to protect her dignity and security, be shielded from any form of harassment or intimidation as the case proceeds.

The judge ordered that all pleadings

and documents in the case be sealed to conceal her full identity, and where necessary, court proceedings will be conducted in camera.

In her petition, M.R.W. accuses the musician of sexual assault and has asked the court to compel investigations and preservation of evidence relating to her complaint.

Justice Mugambi also directed the police to forensically secure and preserve all documentary, digital, and electronic materials, including the woman's audio and messaging evidence.

Further written preservation notices are to be issued to the relevant custodians immediately.

The court also ordered that the petition and accompanying application be served personally or through a newspaper with nationwide circulation within seven days.

Responses are to be filed within seven days of service, with rejoinders allowed within a similar time-frame.

In the case, the woman has petitioned the High Court for orders di-

recting investigative and prosecutorial agencies to act on her complaint against the popular Kikuyu musician Samuel Muchoki Ndirangu.

The woman claims she preserved digital evidence of the assault and subsequent interactions with the artist, including audio recordings and electronic messages in which he allegedly insulted and threatened her.

In one exchange, she says he dismissed her attempt to confront him about the assault by calling her a "professional prostitute."

She further alleges that between 2021 and 2023, Samidoh maintained manipulative and coercive communication with her, alternating between feigned friendliness and intimidation.

Through her lawyers, Kaaya Momba & Company Advocates, the petitioner is seeking urgent orders directing police to register and investigate her case, preserve her evidence, and instruct the Attorney General to initiate mutual legal assistance with U.S. authorities to obtain certified police and prosecutorial records.



File image of Kikuyu musician Samuel Muchoki, popularly known as Samidoh.

She is also asking the court to direct the Witness Protection Agency to assess her risk and offer protection, citing fear of harassment and intimidation.

M.R.W. contends that the state's inaction has violated her rights under

the Constitution, including the rights to dignity, equality, freedom and security of the person, fair administrative action, and access to justice.

The Hidden Price Tag: Why Africa Must Confront The True Cost Of Hunger



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Hunger Is Not Just a Humanitarian Crisis - It's a Development Emergency

Across Africa, hunger is often framed as a humanitarian issue - a matter of compassion, charity, and emergency relief. But this framing is dangerously incomplete. Hunger is not just about empty stomachs. It is about lost productivity, stunted education, weakened economies, and broken futures. It is a silent crisis that costs African nations billions of dollars annually, undermines national development plans, and sabotages the continent's potential.

This article argues that hunger is one of the most expensive and destructive forces facing Africa today. Drawing on data from the African Union's Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study, the World Bank, UNICEF, and other global sources, I will demonstrate that the economic, health, educational, social, and psychological costs of hunger are staggering - and largely preventable. If Africa is serious about development, it must treat hunger not as a symptom, but as a root cause of underdevelopment.

1. Economic Costs: Hunger Is Draining Africa's Wealth

GDP Losses That Go Unnoticed
The COHA study reveals that undernutrition costs African countries between 2% and 17% of their annual GDP. These losses are not theoretical - they are real, measurable, and devastating.

- Ethiopia loses 16.5% of its GDP annually due to child undernutrition.
- Uganda loses 5.6%, while Egypt loses 1.9%.
- In Malawi, the figure is 10.3%, equivalent to hundreds of millions of dollars.

These losses stem from reduced labor productivity, increased health-care costs, and diminished educational outcomes. Yet, hunger rarely appears in national budget debates or economic forecasts. It is the invisible tax that every African country pays.

A Less Productive Workforce
Adults who were stunted as children earn 20% less on average than their well-nourished peers. In countries where stunting affects over half the population, this translates into a less competitive labor force, lower



tax revenues, and slower industrial growth.

This is not just a health issue - it is an economic crisis. Hunger robs nations of their most valuable asset: human capital.

2. Health Costs: Hunger Is Killing Our Children and Overburdening Our Hospitals

Child Mortality and Morbidity
Undernutrition contributes to up to 44% of child deaths in some African countries. Malnourished children are more susceptible to infections, less likely to recover from illness, and more vulnerable to complications.

- Diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria are more lethal in malnourished children.
- Anemia and low birth weight are common among undernourished mothers.

These deaths are preventable. Yet, hunger continues to claim lives silently, without the urgency it deserves.

Maternal Health and Intergenerational Hunger

Pregnant women who are undernourished face higher risks of complications, low birth weight, and maternal mortality. Poor maternal nutrition perpetuates a cycle of intergenerational hunger.

This is not just a tragedy - it is a policy failure. Governments must prioritize maternal nutrition as a cornerstone of public health.

3. Educational Costs: Hunger Is Sabotaging Africa's Classrooms

Poor Attendance and Performance
Malnourished children miss more school days due to illness, fatigue, and lack of concentration. Hunger impairs memory, reduces attention span, and lowers test scores.

In Malawi, COHA found that 18% of grade repetitions were linked to stunting. This delays educational progress and increases dropout rates.

Long-Term Educational Impact
Stunted children complete 0.2 to 3.6 fewer years of schooling than their peers. This educational gap translates into:

- Lower lifetime earnings
- Reduced national human capital

- Weakened innovation and leadership capacity

School feeding programs are not luxuries - they are investments in national development.

4. Social Costs: Hunger Is Fueling Inequality, Conflict, and Migration

Hunger Reinforces Inequality
Hunger disproportionately affects rural communities, women, and children. It reinforces cycles of poverty and exclusion, limiting opportunities for upward mobility.

This is a justice issue. Hunger is not distributed equally - it reflects and deepens existing inequalities.

Hunger Fuels Instability
Food insecurity can fuel social unrest, migration, and conflict over resources. In fragile states, hunger exacerbates political instability and undermines peacebuilding efforts.

In the Sahel, hunger has contributed to displacement, radicalization, and violence. Addressing hunger is not

Worth Noting:

- Food insecurity can fuel social unrest, migration, and conflict over resources. In fragile states, hunger exacerbates political instability and undermines peacebuilding efforts.
- In the Sahel, hunger has contributed to displacement, radicalization, and violence. Addressing hunger is not just about food - it is about peace and security.
- Rural hunger drives migration to urban centers, often resulting in overcrowded informal settlements. These areas lack adequate services, perpetuating poor health and nutrition outcomes.
- Urban planning must include food access and nutrition services. Otherwise, hunger will follow people wherever they go.
- Africa has 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land, yet food production remains low due to poor infrastructure, limited access to inputs, and climate vulnerability.

The Hidden Price Tag: Why Africa Must Confront The True Cost Of Hunger

Contd from page 20

just about food - it is about peace and security.

Urbanization and Slum Growth
Rural hunger drives migration to urban centers, often resulting in overcrowded informal settlements. These areas lack adequate services, perpetuating poor health and nutrition outcomes.

Urban planning must include food access and nutrition services. Otherwise, hunger will follow people wherever they go.

5. Agricultural and Environmental Costs: Hunger Is Undermining Africa's Food Systems

Underutilized Agricultural Potential

Africa has 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land, yet food production remains low due to poor infrastructure, limited access to inputs, and climate vulnerability.

Smallholder farmers, who produce most of Africa's food, often struggle with hunger themselves. This is a paradox that must be resolved.

Climate Change and Food Insecurity

Climate shocks - droughts, floods, erratic rainfall - disrupt food production and access. Hunger increases during climate stress, especially among subsistence farmers.

Climate-smart agriculture is not optional - it is essential. Governments must invest in resilient food systems that can withstand environmental shocks.

Youth Disengagement from Agriculture

Hunger discourages youth from pursuing farming careers, weakening future food systems. Without incentives and support, the agricultural sector risks stagnation.

Agriculture must be rebranded as a viable, dignified, and profitable career path for Africa's youth.

6. Governance Costs: Hunger Is a Failure of Policy and Planning

Missed Development Targets
Hunger undermines progress toward:

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education

Many African countries are off-track to meet the Malabo Declara-



Worth Noting:

- **Smallholder farmers, who produce most of Africa's food, often struggle with hunger themselves. This is a paradox that must be resolved.**
- **Climate shocks - droughts, floods, erratic rainfall - disrupt food production and access. Hunger increases during climate stress, especially among subsistence farmers.**
- **Climate-smart agriculture is not optional - it is essential. Governments must invest in resilient food systems that can withstand environmental shocks.**
- **Farming careers, weakening future food systems. Without incentives and support, the agricultural sector risks stagnation.**
- **Agriculture must be rebranded as a viable, dignified, and profitable career path for Africa's youth.**

tion goals by 2025. Hunger is not just a humanitarian issue - it is a governance issue.

Weak Data and Monitoring

Inadequate nutrition surveillance systems hinder effective policy responses. Lack of disaggregated data makes it difficult to target interventions where they are most needed. Governments must invest in data systems that track nutrition outcomes, especially among vulnerable populations.

Donor Dependency

Chronic hunger leads to reliance on food aid and external support. This can weaken local food systems and delay long-term solutions. Africa must move from dependency to sovereignty in food production and nutrition policy.

7. Psychological and Cultural Costs: Hunger Is Eroding Dignity and Identity

Emotional Toll

Hunger causes anxiety, depression, and hopelessness, especially among parents unable to feed their children. It erodes dignity and self-worth, affecting community cohesion. Mental health services must be integrated into nutrition programs. Hunger is not just physical - it is emotional.

Cultural Erosion
Traditional food practices and in-

igenous crops are often lost in the face of food insecurity. Hunger can disrupt cultural rituals, festivals, and communal meals that bind societies together. Preserving cultural food systems is essential for identity, resilience, and sustainability.

8. Strategic Recommendations: What Africa Must Do Now

For Policymakers

- Increase budget allocations for nutrition and agriculture
- Integrate nutrition into national development plans
- Support school feeding and maternal health programs
- Invest in climate-resilient food systems
- Strengthen data systems and accountability mechanisms

For Educators

- Embed nutrition education in the curriculum
- Promote school gardens and feeding programs
- Train teachers on early childhood nutrition
- Collaborate with health workers for screenings and referrals

For Community Leaders

- Mobilize local action for food security
- Advocate for inclusive policies
- Support youth and women in agriculture

- Preserve cultural food practices and indigenous crops

Conclusion: Africa Cannot Afford to Ignore Hunger Any Longer

Hunger is not inevitable. It is a solvable crisis that demands leadership, vision, and collective action. The costs of inaction are too high - economically, socially, and morally. But the returns on investment in nutrition are transformative: healthier children, stronger economies, more resilient communities.

Africa's future depends on the nourishment of its people. Ending hunger is not just a moral duty - it is the foundation of prosperity, peace, and progress. If we fail to act, we will continue to pay the price - in GDP losses, child deaths, educational setbacks, and broken dreams. But if we rise to the challenge, we can unlock the full potential of our continent and build a future where every African child is nourished, educated, and empowered. Let us not wait for another report, another summit, or another tragedy. The time to act is now.

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Sports >> *Kenya's slim hopes of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup were dealt a stinging blow after a 3-1 thrashing by the Scorpions of Gambia at the Kasarani Stadium on Friday evening.

Kisirani At Kasarani As Gambian Scorpions Sting Harambee Stars In 2026 World Cup Qualifier



Harambee Stars midfielder Richard Odada in action against Gambia. PHOTO/FKF

Kenya's slim hopes of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup were dealt a stinging blow after a 3-1 thrashing by the Scorpions of Gambia at the Kasarani Stadium on Friday evening.

The visitors shushed the capacity crowd at the 48,000-seater venue with a five-star performance in the first half that blew Harambee Stars out of the water.

After Sylvester Owino's header had been comfortably saved by Gambian keeper Ebrima Jarju in the ninth minute, the tide turned in favour of the visitors.

Sheriff Sinyan headed in from a corner, a minute later, to give the visitors the lead — only a few seconds after Musa Barrow had forced a save out of Harambee

Stars keeper Byrne Omondi.

Brighton winger Yakubah Minteh could have made it 2-0 but shot directly at Omondi in the 12th minute after dispossessing Collins Sichenje at the edge of the box.

However, he made no mistake in the 20th minute after latching onto Barrow's through ball, before coolly slotting past an on-rushing Omondi.

Minteh then attempted to return the favour to Barrow, getting the better of Sichenje on the right wing before squaring for the Saudi Arabia-based striker who shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

Yanga's Duke Abuya then stung palms of Jarju with a rasping

shot from distance but Emmanuel Osoro's follow-up shot was easily collected by the keeper.

It was a chance that proved costly as the Scorpions scored immediately after, Barrow atoning for his earlier miss with thunderous volley from the right after connecting with a cross from the right.

Marginal improvement

Harambee Stars improved in the second half courtesy of a couple of changes in the midfield.

Gor Mahia's Alpha Onyango and Nairobi United's Manzur Okwaro were brought in for Richard Odada and Timothy Ouma, who were virtually

non-existent in the first half.

However, Benni McCarthy's charges still struggled to carve out chances, the visitors content to sit back and absorb pressure and hit Kenya on the counter.

Further changes seemed to bear fruit, especially the introduction of Ryan Ogam livened up the attack.

The newly signed Wolfsberger AC forward proved impactful with a consolation goal in the 81st minute.

Kenya's next match is against Seychelles at the same venue on Tuesday evening.

Capital Sport

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *National women's rugby 7s team coach Dennis 'Ironman' Mwanja has been suspended for two weeks pending a probe over a safeguarding incident in the team.

Lionesses Coach Mwanja Suspended Over Safeguarding Incident



Dennis 'Ironman' Mwanja

National women's rugby 7s team coach Dennis 'Ironman' Mwanja has been suspended for two weeks pending a probe over a safeguarding incident in the team.

In a statement, the Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) said the decision was reached after recommendation from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports.

"The investigating officers from the State Department of Sports have recommended the suspension to enable investigations to be conducted fairly and transparently, which respects the rights of both Mr. Mwanja and the alleged

victim," the statement reads.

The union further reiterated its commitment to the highest standards of integrity, accountability and safety.

"The Board of the Kenya Rugby Union wants to make it clear that it will not shield any individual whose actions violate the trust and well-being of our players, and remains committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, accountability, and safety within the Union," they said.

Mwanja was appointed Lionesses head coach in 2022, leading them to second place at the Africa Rugby 7s in Tunisia, after narrowly

losing to South Africa in the final.

The team then narrowly missed out on last year's Paris Olympics after losing 24-7 to China in the final of the repechage in Monaco.

Mwanja then led the Lionesses to the World Rugby Challenger Series trophy this year after finishing top of the standings with 56 points after three rounds.

Stepping down from KCB

At the same time, Mwanja — who is also the head coach of KCB Rugby — has stepped aside from his role at the bankers.

In a statement, the club said for-

mer national men's 7s team captain Andrew Amonde will take over in an interim role.

"We believe in the rule of law and therefore important to allow the due process to take its course," the club said.

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The Role Of Renewable Energy In Reducing Environmental Risks



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Abstract

This article examines the scientific significance of renewable energy sources in environmental protection. Increasing global ecological problems, such as climate change, atmospheric pollution, and limited natural resources, make the use of renewable energy sources a critical issue. The paper provides a comprehensive analysis of renewable energy types, their economic and environmental benefits, and the prospects for developing this sector in Uzbekistan.

Keywords

Renewable energy, ecology, sustainable development, climate change, environment, green economy.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most pressing issues facing humanity today is severe environmental pollution and climate change. Emissions of greenhouse gases, toxic waste, industrial activities, the proliferation of transportation, and the excessive use of natural resources disrupt ecological balance. This adversely affects not only nature but also human health and the global economy.

Climate change has resulted in an increase in extreme weather events worldwide, including droughts, floods, forest fires, and melting glaciers. These phenomena directly impact agriculture, water resources, and food security. From this perspective, reducing environmental risks and using energy resources wisely has become an urgent task.

Consequently, countries worldwide are implementing various strategies to mitigate ecological hazards. Among the most effective and promising approaches is the utilization of renewable energy sources. Solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydro energy not only provide unlimited and clean energy but also contribute to economic independence and sustainable development.

Main Body

To understand the importance of



renewable energy, it is essential to first consider the environmental consequences of the existing energy system. Currently, the majority of global energy consumption relies on traditional sources such as oil, gas, and coal. The combustion of these fuels releases significant amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂), intensifying the greenhouse effect. In 2022 alone, global CO₂ emissions reached approximately 36.3 billion tons, making this one of the primary drivers of climate change. In contrast, renewable energy sources offer numerous advantages:

Environmental cleanliness – they produce minimal harmful emissions; Unlimited availability – solar radiation, wind, and water flows are constantly present in nature;

Economic efficiency – in the long term, they are more cost-effective and efficient compared to traditional energy;

Energy independence – they reduce countries' reliance on imported fuels.

Worldwide examples illustrate the success of renewable energy. In Germany, nearly 40% of electricity generation comes from renewable sources. China and the United States have also widely developed solar and wind power plants. European

Union countries aim to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

In Uzbekistan, renewable energy has enormous potential. The country enjoys an average of 300 sunny days per year, creating favorable conditions for solar energy development. Additionally, mountainous regions provide opportunities for wind energy utilization. The government has planned to generate a significant portion of electricity from renewable sources by 2030, which will not only reduce environmental risks but also strengthen national energy independence.

Renewable energy is also socially important. It creates new jobs, improves energy access for local populations, and promotes ecological awareness. For example, constructing and operating solar and wind power plants requires engineers, technicians, and skilled workers, generating regional employment. Furthermore, by following green economy principles, renewable energy ensures a healthy and clean environment for future generations.

Moreover, renewable energy supports climate policy. Without a transition to these sources, global warming may exceed 1.5–2°C, resulting in more frequent extreme weather events. From this perspective, tran-

sitioning to renewable energy is not merely a technological innovation but also an ecological and social obligation.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, renewable energy sources are crucial not only for sustainable energy supply but also for reducing environmental risks, mitigating climate change, and safeguarding human health. Current national policies and international cooperation projects in this field are essential steps toward preserving humanity's future.

Uzbekistan's strategies for developing solar and wind energy position the country to become a regional leader in the future. Moreover, green economy initiatives reduce environmental risks, improve local living standards, and strengthen economic independence.

Therefore, the transition to renewable energy sources is not only a technological or economic necessity but also an ecological and social duty. Measures taken in this sector serve to create a sustainable and clean environment for future generations.

Worth Noting:

- One of the most pressing issues facing humanity today is severe environmental pollution and climate change. Emissions of greenhouse gases, toxic waste, industrial activities, the proliferation of transportation, and the excessive use of natural resources disrupt ecological balance. This adversely affects not only nature but also human health and the global economy.
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