

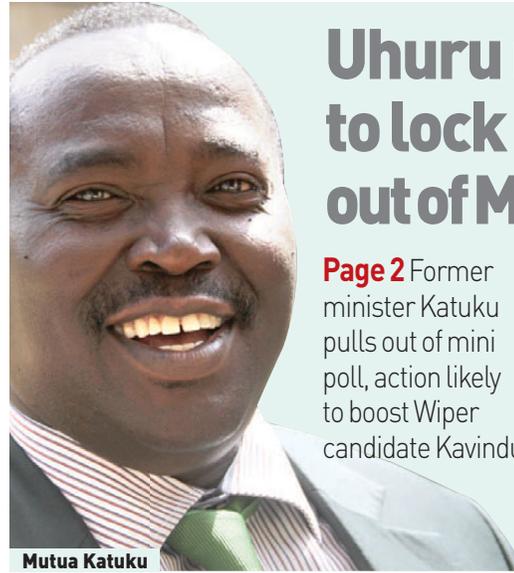


PD

People Daily

News Beat **PG 9**

Tributes pour in for fallen journalist



Mutua Katuku

Uhuru moves to lock Ruto out of Machakos

Page 2 Former minister Katuku pulls out of mini poll, action likely to boost Wiper candidate Kavindu



Agnes Kavindu

How the Odingas battled Covid-19



Raila Odinga: In self-isolation at home after spending five days at Nairobi Hospital.



Ruth Odinga: Spent three days in the ward after falling ill with Covid symptoms.



Oburu Oginga: Was also at Nairobi Hospital for two weeks in October last year.

Interview:

Within a span of five months, five members of the famous family including ODM leader Raila, brother Oburu and his son, and sister Ruth have had a close shave with Corona **PG 4**

MPs' tough new conditions for surrogate mothers PG 6

POINTERS



OPINION PAGE 10

Meaningful steps needed to actualise gender equality



WORLDNEWS PAGE 18

Michelle Obama unsurprised by Meghan race talk

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	27°	Nyeri	24°
Mombasa	32°	Kitui	30°
Kisumu	30°	Wajir	36°

DP's hand in Kuria bid to front aspirant for Juja by-election

by **Oliver Musembi and Mathew Ndung'u**
@PeopleDailyKe

The People's Empowerment Party (PEP) associated with Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria appears to be a proxy to Deputy President William Ruto for the Juja by-election.

The party is fielding George Koimburi, considered as one of the serious contenders in the mini poll, after ditching the ruling party Jubilee for (PEP) last Sunday. Kuria's party has already settled for Koimburi, who came second in the 2017 Juja constituency election.

Koimburi is one of the more than 10 aspirants for the seat that fell vacant following the death of Francis Munyua Waititu 'Wakapee'. The by-election is slated for May 18.

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) associated with the DP abruptly pulled out of the race after initially indicating it would sponsor a candidate, only for Kuria's party PEP to give its ticket to Koimburi. Kuria is one of Ruto's close allies. Reached for comment, the outspoken MP who

represents President Uhuru Kenyatta's rural home constituency said he is not fronting anyone in the Juja by-election and that he is only trying his luck in politics.

"People may say anything, but I will let them be. I am only advancing my party and my agenda. Hii ni soko huru (this is democracy)," Kuria said when asked whether his decision doesn't bring him on a collision course with the President with Juja considered as a gateway to his rural home.

Waititu's widow, Susan, will now face off with at least three other aspirants for the Jubilee party ticket in primaries scheduled for Saturday.

Other contestants eyeing the Jubilee ticket are Naftaly Rugara Muiga, a lecturer at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, former Kiambu Education Minister Joseph Ng'ang'a and businessman Anthony Kirori.

The rest are independent aspirants among their 32-year-old medical doctor Joseph Gichui who is the youngest in the crowded race.

Uhuru moves to lock Ruto out of Machakos

Wiper senatorial candidate withdrew from the race, a day to the by-election slated for tomorrow

by **Mercy Mwai and Mutuku Mwangangi**
@PeopleDailyKe

Machakos senatorial candidate Mutua Katuku yesterday pulled out of the race, barely two hours after President Uhuru Kenyatta held a virtual meeting of the leading political party leaders, during which issues around tomorrow's mini-poll were discussed.

The dramatic withdrawal by Katuku, a day to elections, is likely to be a major boost for Wiper candidate Agnes Kavindu, who will be running against Urbanus Ngegele of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) that is associated with Deputy President (DP) William Ruto.

Yesterday's meeting brought together ODM leader Raila Odinga, Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper), Musalia Mudavadi (ANC), Narc's Charity Ngilu, Ford Kenya's Moses Wetang'ula and Gideon Moi of Kanu.

The Big Seven have closed ranks in support of Kavindu, in a move that is meant to stem Ruto's efforts to make inroads in Ukambani, which is Kalonzo's backyard as well as confront his defiance of the President.

A statement by the State House spokesperson said the leaders discussed the surge in Covid-19 infections in the country and asked all politicians to lead in observing health protocols to prevent further spread of the disease.

Divisive politics

"In light of the above, the meeting, the President urged all their political affiliates and supporters, especially in Machakos, to find a peaceful, amicable and uniting way forward during the upcoming by-elections," said State House spokesperson Kanze Dena.

The meeting was convened as a follow-up to the one held on February 25, to review the surge of Covid-19 infections across our nation.

The meeting considered the evolution of Covid-19 disease within our borders and noted with concern that Covid-19 infections were increasing at an alarming rate.

Addressing the press after Katuku's surprise move, Maendeleo Chap Chap party leader Alfred Mutua, who was flanked by the candidate, former Machakos county Woman Representative Susan Musyoka and Yatta MP Charles Kilonzo, said the decision was in line with President Uhuru's call for friendly political parties work together in the forthcoming by-election.

Mutua said time had come to end the culture of divisive politics which have in the past been governed by the winner-



Maendeleo Chap Chap party leader Alfred Mutua (centre) addressing a press conference in Machakos yesterday after the party's flag bearer in the forthcoming senatorial by-elections Mutua Katuku withdrew from the race. PD/PETER MWANGANGI

take-all culture.

"Regarding Machakos, we believe our candidate has the best chance to clinch the Senate seat. Maendeleo Chap Chap party supported the re-election of President Uhuru and in the spirit of consistency, we support his development agenda and the political stability of the nation," said Mutua.

"In this regard, so as to ensure that the national unity agenda succeeds, and that detractors such as UDA, do not get an opportunity to roll back the achievements so far, Maendeleo Chap Chap party extends goodwill to the President, to Raila Odinga and other BBI partners by withdrawing its candidate from the forthcoming by-election," he said.

And Katuku told *People Daily* that the decision had been reached on Uhuru's request.

The Machakos seat fell vacant after the death of Boniface Kabaka.

Kalonzo, Mudavadi, Moi and Wetang'ula last Friday pitched tent in the county to drum up support for Kavindu.

Yesterday's meeting between Uhuru and the party leaders was a follow up to the February 25 talks, where the President

met the leading politicians to discuss ways to roll out joint countrywide tours to drum up support for the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI).

After the meeting at State House, Nairobi, Moi read a joint statement affirming their commitment to the constitutional changes envisaged in the BBI.

"To this end we shall hold a joint consultative meeting on the March 9, 2021, involving Members of Parliament and counties leadership," Moi stated then.

Apart from Covid 19 infections and the Machakos by-election, sources close to some of the party leaders revealed that yesterday's meeting also discussed the BBI Bill that is before the Senate and National assembly and which is currently undergoing public participation.

Very fruitful

DP Ruto was once again missing in action, just like it happened during the previous meeting. When contacted yesterday, Mudavadi confirmed that they participated in the virtual meeting.

"We heard a virtual meeting, a very fruitful one, the statement from the presidential spokesperson accurately captures what transpired," he said without divulging further details.

During the virtual meeting, the leaders also raised concerns that hospital beds especially Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds, were filling up in public and private hospitals.

"The meeting considered the evolution of Covid-19 disease and urged Kenyans to remain on high alert, to exercise extreme caution and be aware of the Covid-19 reality and to do their utmost to observe all Covid-19 protocols. It urged all political players to take the lead in the observation of Covid-19 protocols," the statement added.

Correction and Apology

In yesterday's edition of *People Daily*, we published a story under the headline, 'Gachanja's mansions set for lot sale', which erroneously reported that former Lands Commissioner Wilson Gachanja (*right*) owns a property in Karen, Nairobi, that is set to be auctioned.

We have since been informed that though the mansions are located in Karen area where the former Lands boss also owns property, they belong to Wilson Karungie Gachanja, a son of former Dagoretti MP Clement Gachanja. Indeed, we have established that the former Commissioner of Lands has no interest in the said property.

The story was accompa-



nied by a picture of former Kenya Airports Authority boss Peter Lagat, who was wrongly identified as former Lands boss Gachanja.

We take this early opportunity to unreservedly apologise to the former Lands Commissioner Gachanja and Mr Lagat for the unintended mixup and regret any embarrassment the errors may have caused the two.

With Kirungustu Jr. @KirungustuJ



Woman mistakes jail for beer joint

One woman on a rendezvous to pick up her boyfriend from a bar was so wasted she drove straight to jail instead. The 39-year-old was spotted by an officer backing into the Michigan jail parking lot at 2am. Besides stinking like a brewery, a breath test showed she was more than twice above the legal limit. She was charged with drink-driving.

These folks should just quit booze

While most drunks think they are handling alcohol better than they actually are, there are those who flunk the duel with booze so terribly they should just quit

Drunk-purchase a python

In his drunken wisdom, and no doubt egged on by his inebriated friends, Dwayne Matthews decided it would be a good idea to buy an African rock python and sell it later. The next morning, he got up to find the snake rearing up to snack on his friend passed out on the sofa. Instead of running out of the house, as some would have done, and leaving his friend to his fate, he subdued the snake with a duvet. Mathews was arrested and charged with handling stolen goods as he tried to sell the 10ft reptile later.



Drunk nearly ships self across sea

After a night of drinking in Qingdao, eastern China, Jiang Wu mistook shipping container for a bed and breakfast, according to Fairfax New Zealand News. Fortunately, he had a mobile phone with him and called police. "But he couldn't tell us which container he was in and there were thousands of them stacked on top of each other," said a police spokesman. The man was eventually found in a sealed, 60-foot container stacked 18 metres in the air, one hour before the ship's departure for a two-week trek across the Pacific Ocean to Los Angeles.

Horny drinker tries intercourse with ATM

Lonnie Hutton was 49, obviously lonely and clearly clueless on how females work. You see, after having one-too-many, the bugger confused a money dispensing machine for a hot woman. Unencumbered by ordinary procedures such as courtship, he "attempted to have sexual intercourse with it (the ATM)", according to the cops. That didn't work out so well so he walked around the bar naked thrusting his hips in the air, witnesses said. Naturally, the bartenders were unimpressed and kicked him out. The cops found Hutton outside the bar "engaged in sexual intercourse with a wooden picnic table,".



Guy tries to steal car, with cop in it

One drunk Florida guy who should have quit booze as soon as he was born attempted to steal a marked police car, outside a police station, with a cop still in the driver's seat. The 20-year-old Aaron Orlando Rodriguez III soon realised his mistake and took off but was arrested shortly after. He was charged with attempted grand theft, loitering and possession of drug equipment. Turns out Rodriguez had marijuana pipe on him. Guess if you are trying to steal a police car with a cop in it, from outside a police station, you probably aren't concerned about being caught with drugs.



Inebriate rides a croc

Michael Newman was tossed out of a local watering hole for being overly intoxicated, according to the BBC. But instead of having the sense to either go home or pass out or some combination of the two, he headed to a nearby crocodile park, crawled into the enclosure and attempted to ride an 820kg crocodile named Fatso. Unsurprisingly, the croc was not happy with this turn of events, and he tore into Newman's leg. Fortunately, the reptile did let go of the 36-year-old tourist, who crawled back over the fence and back into the bar to await an ambulance and a long hospital stretch to rethink his life decisions.



Bloke gets jiggy with ambulance

A randy boozier from Devon, UK, who must have been struggling with issues bigger than any average 25-year-old appeared in court after trying to have sex with an ambulance. He started his seduction by setting fire to a packet of peanuts in a phone box. He then proceeded to spread himself across the front of this particularly big old unit. According to the police, it 'looked as though he was attempting to make love to the front of the ambulance'. The would-be Romeo was eventually arrested for being drunk and disorderly after shouting insults at a Scottish police officer. He was given a £60 (\$9,000) fine with a six-month community order.

Groups back constitution change, urge Parliament to pass BBI bill

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Wiper Party yesterday led Mau Mau war veterans, women, youth and students groups in throwing their weight behind the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) sponsored Constitutional Amendment Bill urging Parliament to approve it.

They backed the proposed constitutional changes saying the bill will fix the perennial challenges the country has grappled with for decades.

"We support this bill as it is and we ask, of course, Kenyans to pass it when it is put before them in the referendum," the party's vice chairman Victor Swanya said.

Swanya told the joint commit-



Mau Mau Veterans Association Secretary General Gitu Wakahangeri when he appeared before joint legal committees of Senate and National Assembly in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI

tee co-chaired by Nyamira Senator Okong'o Omogeni (Nyamira) and Kangema MP Muturi Kigano that the proposal to introduce Ward Development Fund was progressive as it would cascade development down to the ordinary people.

Separately, the Linda Katiba lobby opposed the bill terming it a threat to the transformative promise of the 2010 constitution.

Led by Cindy Mwendwa, the group said the proposed changes to the constitution does not seek to solve the problems that have bedeviled the county and persists including corruption, human rights abuses, marginalisation, and exclusion.

"We take this opportunity of public participation to record for posterity

that the constitution amendment bill 2020 currently before parliament is unconstitutional, illegitimate a travesty of justice and an insult to the intelligence of Kenyans," they said in a memorandum to Parliament.

"In considering this bill, Parliament is aiding and abetting the same. In view of the foregoing, we urge Parliament to heed the advisory come to its sense and suspend any further action on this bill," they added.

However, Mau Mau War Veterans Association urged MPs and Senators to pass the bill saying it will cultivate and develop unity among Kenyans.

"BBI will create love and helpfulness among the people of Kenya without nepotism and make Kenyans live in harmony," Gitu Kahengeri, the

group's secretary said. Young Women for Kenya (YOWK) also backed the bill saying the proposal to increase the number of senators from the current 47 members representing each county to 94 senators will be a game changer for mainstream representation and promoting gender equality and women empowerment agenda. Each county will be represented by two senators, one woman and one man.

Led by its founder and chairperson, Sasha Wamae, they argued that the inclusion of women in the Senate means that they will be part of key decision making on resources allocations and go ahead to oversight as opposed to running a women representative docket that have less impact.

How five Odinga family members battled Covid

EALA lawmaker Oburu Oginga says family's resilience and trust in God has seen them overcome the deadly disease

by Baraka Karama
@PeopleDailyKe

The Odinga family is still reeling from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has struck five family members in the last five months.

The latest to be affected by the disease is the family's most famous son, Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party leader Raila Odinga, who was last week taken ill and admitted to the Nairobi Hospital for five days.

Raila's sudden illness and hospitalisation sent shockwaves across the country, forcing him to come out and issue a public statement assuring his supporters that all was well.

In a candid interview with *People Daily* yesterday, Raila's elder brother and the Odinga family spokesman Dr Oburu Oginga, opened up on how the pandemic had ravaged the family of the late doyen of opposition politics, with at least five members being hospitalised since last October after contracting the disease.

According to Oburu, an East African Legislative Assembly (Eala) MP, himself, his sister Ruth Odinga, his son and Raila have at one time or another over the last five months been hospitalised suffering from the disease.

One other family member, whom Oburu declined to name, is currently in isolation after contracting the virus.

Yesterday, Oburu revealed how the family's resilience and trust in God had seen them overcome the deadly disease.

Big delegation

Oburu narrated how he had tested positive soon after the much-publicised meeting with elders from the Kikuyu community who had visited the Odingas at Kang'o Ka Jaramogi in Bondo, Siaya County, in October last year.

"We had a big delegation that came to our home to cement the relationship between the Kikuyu and the Luos. We had a good meeting and exactly a week after

the elders left I felt sick and when I went to hospital I tested positive for Covid-19," Oburu narrated.

He said even though he was calm, members of his family including Raila were shocked at the news.

"You know it is a strange disease and going by what had been in the news then, my family members were shocked but we had faith that we would overcome it," he said.

By some twist of fate, Oburu was admitted to Nairobi Hospital and coincidentally, in the same ward where his younger brother Raila spent five days last week.

Oburu said: "I was very confident that I would overcome it because to me it is just like any other disease. In fact, many people die of other diseases everyday so it was just normal."

Regular exercises

He said his symptoms were not severe even though most of his family members were worried. In total, Oburu spent two weeks in the hospital.

"Mine was kind of asymptomatic but I had faith that I would overcome it and here I am and by the grace of God I feel strong," he said. A couple of weeks later, one of his sons, whose name he declined to disclose, also tested positive for Covid-19.

"Immediately after my case, my youngest son also felt sick and when he went to hospital he tested positive and had to be isolated for some time. And luckily he also survived and is now back on his feet," said the veteran politician.

Since he was discharged from hospital, Oburu said he ensures he does his regular exercises and minds his diet. Occasionally he plays golf at the Nyanza golf club to burn some calories.

"I play golf not to become a professional golfer but because it's a good exercise opportunity for me; at my age I need to be physically fit," he said.

Oburu's younger sister Ruth, who served as the Kisumu deputy governor between 2013 and 2017, also exhibited Covid-19 symptoms and was admitted for three days at the Nairobi Hospital before being discharged.

Ruth said: "I was losing breath and had a severe headache. I was surprised, however, when my results turned negative and I even wondered how because all the symptoms were similar to those of Covid-19."

"I was ready to go public because I had



ODM leader Raila Odinga (second left) with his elder brother Oburu Odinga (left), their sisters Dr Wenwa Akinyi and Ruth Oburu (right) during a past family event. PD/FILE

faith that I would overcome the disease. Since then, I have been praying because to me it was a miracle that I had the same symptoms but tested negative."

People Daily established that another member of the Odinga family is currently in isolation after testing positive.

"It is true one of the members apart from Raila is also in isolation but because of the sensitivity of the matter, I cannot mention the name," said the source who requested anonymity.

Oburu encouraged Kenyans who have tested positive for Covid-19 to go public about their experience as part of the fight against stigma around the disease.

"For me, I fear nothing, that is why I am confident of saying I had Covid-19. It's just like any other disease but because it is a strange one, people fear talking about it," the MP said.

Doctors guidelines

He added that the family was "shocked to the core" by Raila's revelation last week that he had contracted the disease.

"I was shocked because I was with him a day before and he was in high spirits and I even told him he looked bright. When the results came out it was a shocker to me and the entire family."

Raila was discharged at the weekend after spending five days at the Nairobi Hospital. Prior to his admission, Raila had

THE HIGHLIGHTS

● Kenya yesterday recorded 1,064 new cases of Covid-19, bringing the country's case load to 115,031, Health CS Mutahi Kagwe said.

● The country's fatalities have risen to 1,925 after another seven patients succumbed to the disease.

● A total of 9,144 frontline workers have been vaccinated in 40 counties since the exercise was launched.

709

The number of patients currently admitted in various hospitals across the country. Another, 2,223 patients are on the home-based care programme.

"We panicked a bit, but we thank God Baba is in a good mood and good health," she told a local newspaper.

Oburu said the family had decided that Raila takes a break as advised by his doctors before he engages in any other activities.

"I want to tell Kenyans that Raila will be back in action to continue with his activities and political campaigns for the BBI but for now he is still following the guidelines of the medics," he said.

Police pursue domestic tie in NLC boss' gruesome murder

Report indicates Jeniffer Wambua was aware of threats to her life but she did not report to authorities or confide in kith or kin

by **Zadock Angira**
@PeopleDailyKe

Detectives are investigating the possibility of a family dispute or a deal gone sour in the gruesome murder of senior National Land Commissions (NLC) Deputy Director of Communication Jenniffer Wambua.

NLC Chairman Gershom Otachi has mourned Ms Wambua, saying: "On behalf of the commission, I wish to send our heartfelt condolences to the husband, children, family and friends of the late Jenniffer Wambua."

Ms Wambua's body was discovered in Ngong Forest and taken to the City Mortuary on Saturday, a day after she went missing from her workplace hours after her husband had dropped her.

But it was not until Monday that it was identified by her husband, Joseph Komu.

The Homicide and Crime Scene Investigations detectives from the DCI headquarters yesterday visited the scene in what is commonly referred to as scene re-enactment in a bid to establish the route and weapons used by Ms Wambua's murderers and to recover any exhibits. All these were documented.

According to preliminary reports, the deceased knew some people were after her life but neither reported to the police nor any close confidant.

Broadened scope

Detectives have now broadened the scope of the probe to include possible family angle or a deal gone sour.

"From the preliminary investigations, the deceased knew she was living on borrowed time, but she never reported to the police nor confided in a close relative," a senior detective said.

At the same time, preliminary probe into the March 6 accident in which the deceased was involved in within Machakos have also not established any link to the killing. Records at the Machakos Police Station indicate that both vehicles were headed the same direction but Ms Wambua was to blame for the accident.



"She left her lane and hit the rear left tyre of the vehicle in front. According to our reports, she suffered minor injuries," an officer told *People Daily*.

Investigators yesterday said the deceased could have deliberately left her phone in the family car that had been used by her husband to drop her at work on the Friday she went missing, further complicating the probe.

A call data analysis is expected to be conducted in a bid to find out the people she communicated with before she went missing. Detectives have also obtained a CCTV footage that captured her last movements for analysis, especially from her office in Upper Hill. The detectives said they intend to record statements from Ms Wambua's husband, a guard at the Hill Plaza where the vehicle was parked, the herder who discovered the body and the officers who first visited the scene among others.

Ms Wambua had actually left her personal belongings in the family car that fateful Friday morning. According to the detectives, the missing official's mobile phone, handbag and packed lunch were found in the car.

The probe will involve analysis of the CCTV footage obtained from the NLC offices at the Ministry of Lands Ardi House headquarters, which indicated that Ms Wambua left the office carrying nothing, and alone, around 10am.



Homicide and Crime detectives at the scene of crime where the body of senior NLC Deputy Director of Communications Jenniffer Wambua was discovered on Saturday. PD/BENARD ORWONGO

VITAL DETAILS

● Detectives investigating the murder of senior NLC Deputy Director of Communication Jenniffer Wambua will conduct a call data analysis in a bid to find out the people she communicated with before she went missing.

● They have also obtained a CCTV footage that captured her last movements for analysis.

● Detectives are also to record statements from Ms Wambua's husband and a guard at the Hill Plaza.

The husband said he dropped the wife at around 7am before he proceeded to his place of work at Kilimo House, the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters.

He later went to NLC offices where he learnt that his wife had left the office located on the fourth floor, earlier. Her office door was locked. Komu said he got concerned when he tried reaching his wife during the day in vain. He however did not panic. "We speak a lot and regularly but on that day I called around 10am the calls went unanswered," he told the police.

Deceased husband

The body had been taken there by officers from Ngong Police Station on Saturday March 13 and given admission number 502/21. Wambua's husband had earlier reported the matter at Capitol Hill Police (OB number 14/13/3/2021)

On Monday at around 3pm, detectives from the Kilimani DCI visited the morgue, accompanied by the deceased husband, where the body was positively identified.

"At the mortuary, the body was positively identified as that of Jennifer Itumbi Wambua by her husband who had earlier reported the incident. The body had injuries and bruises," Kilimani DCI boss Fatuma Hadi said.

The autopsy was scheduled to be conducted yesterday but was changed to a later date, possibly today.

Two families fight over burial rites of teacher

by **Robert Ochoro**
@PeopleDailyKe

Two families in Kisii Central sub-county are embroiled in a court battle on who has the right to bury Nancy Kemunto, a secondary school teacher, who died last month.

Kemunto's body has been lying at the Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital morgue.

Her husband, Bob Chweya, has sued his father-in-law, Evans Keera and brother-in-law, Cliff Moses and is seeking orders to allow him bury the wife at his home in Bobaracho in the outskirts of Kisii town. Through lawyer Lazarus Mose, Onkoba says the two have denied him a chance to take part in Kerubo's burial arrangements, arguing he had not paid dowry.

Keera, through defence lawyer Philemon Ochwangi, told Kisii Resident Magistrate Ezekiel Obina that Onkoba has been cohabiting with Kemunto since 2009 and sired two children. She was a teacher at Masongo Secondary School. He told the court that since the son-in-law never paid dowry, there was no marriage and therefore, he should be allowed to bury his daughter at his home in Nyaura.

"The contestation by the father-in-law that there is no marriage is a fallacy and misleading the court. Non-payment of dowry does not nullify a marriage," protested Onkoba.

According to his lawyer, Onkoba a pharmacist, and Kemunto have lived as wife and husband for 11 years and have portrayed themselves so, adding they should be treated the same even in death. "In cases where dowry has not been paid traditionally, it can be done and burial carried on without hitches. Onkoba should be allowed to bury his wife," said the lawyer.

But Keera's lawyer had told the court that, according to her family, Kemunto was not married and wondered why someone could claim to be her husband. He argued the family does not know Onkoba and has never visited the family.

Lawyers from both sides will make their final submissions today.

Gachagua files defence in Sh1.5b contested land case

by **Bernice Mbugua**
@BerniceMuhindi

Mithira MP Rigathi Gachagua now claims a Sh1.5 billion property near Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), being contested by a former director of Physical Planning, belongs to him.

Gachagua, through lawyer Philip Nyachoti, claims he bought the property in 2012 at Sh24 million.

He says the National Lands Commission investigated the dispute and found the land belonged to him.

"The decision by the commission is still in full force and therefore binding, in the circumstances the matter cannot be ventilated afresh before this court while the said decision by commission subsists," he said in court documents. The MP says the land was allotted to Karandi Farm Ltd, owned by Peter Nduati and Pauline Muringe and who paid Sh54,000.

The couple later approached the MP's firm, Wamunoro Investment Ltd, where they sold it to him at Sh24 million in June 2012.

Case will be heard on June 7.

Officer in custody over man's death

by **Sophie Njoka**
@PeopleDailyKe

A Mombasa-based General Service Unit officer drawn from the special force, Recce Company, has been arrested for allegedly murdering a gym instructor.

Directorate of Criminal Investigations officers from Kisauni sub-county trailed the suspect, Kirimi Gikangu, to his hideout at Kaeleo area in Meru County.

Police reports say the suspect is believed to have murdered Allan Gicharu at Mondana area in Kisauni sub-county on February



2, following a love affair between the instructor and the officer's wife.

Gikangu, who is currently attached in Boni Forest, had gone into hiding following the murder, alongside his wife, who is yet to be arrested.

Police investigations revealed

that the suspect had invited the deceased into his house where they began partying.

"The suspect invited the deceased to his house where they drank beer and after a few hours, the deceased was too drunk to leave the house. The suspect asked him to sleep on the couch, and as he slept, he hit him with a metal rod and later stabbed him several times leaving him to bleed to death," the report.

Reports further indicate that the suspect is being ferried to Mombasa from Meru to face murder charges today.

State assures on security, coronavirus measures as exams start

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The Government yesterday assured that it's now all systems go for administration of national examinations, with Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam rehearsals set for Friday.

Government Spokesperson, Colonel (Rtd) Cyrus Oguna said all arrangements had been made and measures put in place for effective and successful administration of the exams, assuring that no one will miss out because of school fees balances or other circumstances such as insecurity.

He also said integrity of the exam process has been upheld and that exams will be taken under strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols, including sufficient spacing, frequent use of sanitizers and handwashing, for the wellbeing of learners and teachers.

"Examination centres have been established across the country, including areas like Kapedo and Merti that have been experiencing security challenges. Even students whose schools were affected by the rising lake waters in areas like Baringo County will sit for exams in centres where they had been transferred to," Oguna said yesterday, in



Students sin class. KCPE exam rehearsals are set for Friday. PD/FILE

a press conference in Nairobi. All other classes, from Pre-Primary 1 to Class 7 and Form 1 to 3 are expected to have closed by tomorrow to pave way for a conducive examination environment.

Well-prepared

Oguna said management of examination is a multi-agency activity that brings together different agencies and stakeholders, with the sole purpose of ensuring success and efficiency during exam period.

He said that among the infrastructure set up include the establishment of command and control centre to facilitate ease of communication and response during the

examination period. Oguna also assured that necessary logistics have also been put in place to ensure that exams activity goes on uninterrupted, adding that the examinations shall be conducted under strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

Oguna also acknowledged teachers who have worked, sometimes under very difficult circumstances to prepare candidates for the exams. The Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) registered 1,191,725 candidates in 28,467 KCPE examination centres while 752,981 KCSE candidates have been registered in 10,437 examination centres.



Uhuru appoints Kembi to chair CA board

by Anthony Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kemsas) board chairman Kembi Gitura has left the agency to head the Communications Authority of Kenya board.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has appointed the former Murang'a Senator to chair CAK board for a period of three years with effect from April 18, 2021.

Gitura has been at the helm of the authority for barely two years during which the board was dogged with numerous scandals, the latest one being the loss of billions of shillings in the supply of Covid-19 related materials.

Gitura, however, maintained that no money was lost but went ahead and suspended three top officials including Chief Executive Jonah Manjari, Director of Procurement Charles Juma and Commercial Director Edward Mureithi.

During one of the appearances before a parliamentary committee, Manjari claimed that some board members influenced the award of the Sh7.6 billion Covid-19 related tenders.

Manjari said contrary to claims that the board members were not aware of what was going on at the institution, they were briefed on a day to day basis though no physical meetings were being held due to upsurge of coronavirus cases.

Yesterday, acting Chief Executive Edward Njoroge said he was not aware of a new board being formed. "I have heard of the Gazette Notice but no more details have been availed to me. I will respond after I receive the brief," he said.

Lawmakers propose tough rules for surrogate mothers

Debate on Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2019 expected to start once MPs, who are on recess, resume sittings on Tuesday

by Mercy Mwai
@PeopleDailyKe

Women who agree to carry a pregnancy for another woman, popularly known as surrogate mothers, must be at least 25-years-old and must have given birth to at least one child before entering the agreement.

Also, a surrogate mother who consents to carrying a child on behalf of interested parties to a marriage or couple shall not terminate the pregnancy or have any rights over the child once born.

She shall also be barred from contacting the couple after the birth of the baby as she would have relinquished all parental rights over the child at birth. These are some of the far-reaching amendments to the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2019 currently in the National Assembly.

The amendments stipulate that couples intending to get a child through the method compensate the surrogate mother for the process of In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF), insurance cover in case of any acts that may lead to death or disability, antenatal care, birth, post-natal care and post delivery care in case of complications.

Performing the procedure

The amendments have been sponsored by the National Assembly's Health committee chaired by Murang'a County Woman Rep Sabina Chege. The Bill, which is sponsored by Suba MP Millie Odhiambo-Mabona, was introduced in the National Assembly in March 2019.

"A woman of 25 years or more, who has given birth to at least one child and who understands the rights and obligations accruing under surrogate agreement, may at the request of the couple consent to a process of assisted reproduction for purposes of surrogate motherhood," reads a proposed amendment to the Bill.

Debate on the Bill is expected to start once MPs who are on recess resume sittings on Tuesday next week. A similar Bill, known as the Reproductive Healthcare Bill, 2019, sponsored by Nakuru Senator Susan



A surrogate mother shall not terminate the pregnancy or have any rights over the child once born. PD/COURTESY

Kihika, is also currently being debated in the Senate.

The Senate Bill, which advocates for "legal and accessible safe abortion", adolescent-friendly "family planning" services, surrogacy, test-tube babies and even comprehensive sexuality education for children, has been opposed by the Ministry of Health, the Church and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Sabina's committee has proposed that an assisted reproductive technology expert licensed by the Assisted Reproductive Technology Directorate, not an ordinary medical doctor, should be the one to perform the procedure. The proposed directorate will have powers to develop standards, regulations and guidelines on assisted reproductive technology.

It will also have powers to advise the Health Cabinet Secretary on matters relating to the treatment and care of persons undergoing assisted reproductive technology.

Legislators proposed that fines not exceeding Sh5 million, imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both, be imposed not only on those who commercialise the procedures but those who perform the surgery without seeking consent of the parties involved.

The MPs, however, raised concern that the Bill lacks sufficient provisions to deal with pertinent issues arising from the procedure such as provision of commercial surrogacy and compensation mechanisms to ensure the service is not exploitative.

In case of the death or incapacity of any of the parties, the amendments state that

the assisted reproductive technology clinics and assisted technology banks should not preserve any human embryos without specific instructions and consent in writing from all the parties seeking the said services.

"An assisted reproductive technology expert shall obtain prior informed and written consent from the parties before providing any assisted reproductive technology service under this Act or any other law," states the amendment. The amendments propose that the commissioning couple will be the legal parents of the child born under the surrogacy agreement and will not discriminate against him or her.

In case of multiple pregnancies arising out of a surrogacy agreement, the MPs were categorical that all the children born out of the pregnancy shall belong to the commissioning parents and the rights and obligations for all parties shall vest as if the pregnancy had borne only one child.

But the commissioning parents shall not in any way terminate the consent agreement after the transfer of embryos into the womb of the surrogate mother, the amendments propose.

Legal rights

The committee, however, says there is need to amend Section 11 of the Births and Death Registration Act to be aligned to the Bill to allow registration of children born of assisted reproduction by the commissioning parents, as, currently, registration can only be undertaken with the surrogate mother, a move that has posed great challenges as the biological parents have to undertake a legal adoption process to be registered as parents.

"A child born out of assisted reproductive rights shall have the same legal rights under the Constitution or any other written law as that of a child born through sexual intercourse. The health and wellbeing of the children born through the application of assisted human reproductive technologies shall be given priority in all decisions," reads the amendment.

For a surrogacy agreement to be valid, the MPs proposed that it must be in writing and should include provision for the contact, care and general welfare of the child. It should also be signed by two witnesses from each of the parents as well as state what happens in case of death or divorce of the parents.

AT A GLANCE

● Surrogate mother who commercialise the procedures liable for fine.

● The proposed directorate will have powers to develop standards, regulations and guidelines on assisted reproductive technology.

● In case of multiple pregnancies, all the children born out of the pregnancy shall belong to the commissioning parents.

Kemri boss defends move to roll out Corona vaccination

Samuel Kariuki says jab had proven efficacy and safety for use after its trials in phases one and two

by People Daily Team
@PeopleDailyKe

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccination drive is concurrently going on with its phase three clinical trials, Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) acting Director General Prof Samuel Kariuki said yesterday.

Speaking after receiving the jab at Mbagathi Hospital, Kariuki defended the government's move to roll out vaccination before completion of clinical trials.

"The vaccine has successfully passed through two clinical phases. Now we are at phase three, which has shown high efficacy against Covid-19. It, however, has minor side effects that include slight headache and loss of appetite that do not require medical attention," said Prof Kariuki.

Kemri boss also revealed that in collaboration with Oxford University among other research institutions, Kenya has played a critical role in this vaccine development.

Trial phase of the vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford in partnership with the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, started last year and conducted by the Kemri-Wellcome Trust Research programme in Kilifi.

Clinical development is a three-phase process. During Phase I, small groups of people receive the trial vaccine.

Clinical study

In Phase II, the clinical study is expanded and vaccines are given to people who have characteristics (such as age and physical health) similar to those for whom the new vaccine is intended.

In Phase III, the vaccine is given to thousands of people and tested for efficacy and safety. "The reason we have rolled out the vaccine before the final clinical trials is because other trials have been successful. Also, the directive by the World Health Organisation as an emergency roll out due to the pandemic," said the Prof.

On the safety of the vaccine to those being vaccinated, Kariuki exuded confidence, saying there is no cause for alarm.

Countries including France, Denmark,



Kemri acting Director General Prof Sam Kariuki being vaccinated for Covid-19 at Mbagathi Hospital, yesterday. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

SIDE EFFECTS

Acting Kemri Director General Prof Samuel Kariuki has said Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 jab has successfully passed through two clinical phases, making it safe and effective.

At the same time, he has highlighted some of its side effects that include headache and loss of appetite.

Ireland and Thailand have temporarily suspended use of AstraZeneca's vaccine after reports that some people developed blood clots, although there is no proof that it was as a result of the shot.

So far, over 10,000 healthcare workers and other frontline staff have been vaccinated.

At the same time, Embu Governor Martin Wambora has urged residents to continue observing the laid down health protocols to cushion themselves against the upsurge in cases of Covid-19 in the third wave being experienced in the country.

While receiving the vaccine at Embu Level Five Hospital, Wambora expressed confidence in it.

The county boss, who is also the Chairman of Council of Governors, said the county bosses resolved to be on the forefront in receiving the vaccine to set example to their constituents.

In Kwale, Health Executive Francis Gwama said medics from private and public health facilities will be given first priority.

"We have so far trained 200 health care workers who will administer the jab. We have equipped them with skills and Personal Protective Equipment to make their working environment safe and conducive" he said. The second and third groups to benefit are teachers and police officers. Speaking at Msambweni Referral Hospital, Gwama noted that the vaccine will be

issued on a voluntarily basis but it is important for each of them in three groups to get the vaccine.

Closed temporarily

"We will not force anyone to go for the vaccine but it is important that health workers, teachers and police officers get it as the nature of their work exposes them to a lot of people," he continued.

Meanwhile, the Kwale County Assembly has temporarily been closed for fumigation after five Ward Reps tested Corona positive. In a statement, the Speaker Sammy Ruwa said they have suspended all sittings and gatherings for 14 days.

And in Kiambu, Governor Dr James Nyoro and his deputy Dr Joyce Ngugi have finally been vaccinated against Covid-19 at the Kiambu Level Five Hospital.

Speaking after he received the jab, Nyoro encouraged other residents, and particularly health workers to take the jab.

The governor dismissed raging negative talks about the vaccine. "There has been a lot of discussions from the public with some doubting the efficacy of the vaccine, but the bottom line is that it is safe," he said. He urged the priority groups to consider taking the vaccine, saying it was safer to be vaccinated than to contract Covid-19, which is extremely costly to treat.

Reporting by Bernard Gitau, Munira Mundano and KNA

Seven deaths as 1,016 test positive for deadly virus

by Noah Cheploen
@cheploennoah

The number of new Coronavirus cases recorded in a day has crossed the 1,000 mark as the third wave continues to wreak havoc across the country.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe (pictured), in a statement released yesterday, said 1,016 cases had been detected from some 6,151 samples conducted in the last 24. Total confirmed cases are now 115,031.

Out of the confirmed cases 964 are Kenyans while 100 are foreigners. 55 were males and 596 females. The youngest is a two-year old baby while the oldest is 91.

Notably, seven more patients succumbed pushing the number of deaths to 1,925.

"Our sincere condolences to families and friends who have lost their loved ones," he said.

The statement said Nairobi leads with 681 new cases followed by Kiambu (93), Nakuru (69), Uasin Gishu (40), Kisumu (25), Kajiado (23), Busia (20) and Machakos 17 among others. A total of 709 patients are currently admitted in various health facilities countrywide while 2,223 are under the home based isolation and care programme.

The number of patients in the Intensive Care Units stands at 104, Kagwe stated.

On a positive note, 185 patients have been discharged after recovering while 149 are under home-based care.



Sh2,000 fine or one-month jail term for failure to wear mask

by Noven Owiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Kisumu County Covid-19 multi-agency Committee has instituted new stringent measures against Covid-19.

Among the new rules announced yesterday include a Sh2,000 fine or one-month imprisonment for those who fail to wear masks in public.

The committee also announced that other stiff measures will be instituted against Covid-19 patients in isolation centres who violate laid down guidelines. Further, it directed all morgues

not to preserve dead bodies for a period exceeding 72 hours and not to release any body after 10am.

New regulations also banned catering services in funerals and restricted such ceremonies to 100 people.

The team reiterated that bars and restaurants that do not adhere to the Covid-19 prescribed regulations shall have their operation licenses revoked.

Governor Anyang' Nyong'o said the new measures are expected to take effect immediately in a bid to control a rising third wave of Covid in the county.

Senior county advisor dies of Covid-19

by Noah Cheploen
@cheploennoah

A deputy director in charge of political affairs at the Nakuru County Government has succumbed to coronavirus after battling the disease for more than three weeks in hospital.

Breaking the news yesterday, Governor Lee Kinyanjui said Wilfred Chebochok (pictured) died while receiving treatment.

"This is a big blow to the County Executive Office where he discharged his duties with diligence and commitment,"



he said. Kinyanjui added: "His passion for excellence and team work was exemplary. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family at this difficult moment." Nakuru seems to have become the hotspot - again - for the third wave of Coronavirus going

by the day-to-day data provided by the Health Executive Kariuki Gichuki in the last few days. For instance, on March 13, the county reported 119 new cases from some 398 samples tested, which translates to 30 per cent positivity rate, accounting to 13 per cent of the national caseload on that particular day alone. Cumulatively, Nakuru has confirmed a total of 5,103 cases accounting to 4.6 per cent of the cases reported nationally since the start of the pandemic. Overall, the positivity rate in the county is 9.4 per cent, said Gichuki.



Firm fires two revenue workers over theft of Sh6 million

Kitui Water and Sanitation Company (Kitwasco) has dismissed two revenue officers accused of siphoning Sh6.3 million in fictitious water bills.

David Musyoka and Esther Syombua allegedly altered customer bills in the company billing system they were managing, thus denying the company revenue.

According to a report tabled before Kitui County Assembly's Labour and

Social Welfare Committee on Monday, Kitwasco boss Geoffrey Kiita (*pictured*) said an audit report carried out between July 2016 to December 2017 revealed the fraud orchestrated by the two revenue officers.

Kiita said the alterations were made during the transition period from analogue to digital platform. "The officers, who were the sole administrators of the billing system, would credit

customer bills but revenue collected was not reflected in the bank," he said.

Death threats

Kiita disclosed that the Company's board decided to conduct a forensic audit of the revenue collections to ascertain any financial impropriety.

"Following a successful audit, the two revenue officers were found

culpable for the loss of Sh 6,294,094. These monies were unaccounted for. The duo was unable to conceal the money trail that indicted them of malpractice," revealed the MD.

However, the MD told the committee that his life is in danger after receiving death threats from Syombua's husband John Mwalwa Mutua after her acrimonious exit from the company. **-KNA**

Drama as Khaminwa walks out of court in Sonko case

Veteran lawyer accuses Chief Magistrate Ogoti of bias and not being furnished with proper documents on the case

by Nancy Gitonga
@PeopleDailyKe

Veteran lawyer John Khaminwa yesterday withdrew from former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko's Sh10 million corruption case accusing the trial magistrate of being biased.

Khaminwa told the media outside Milimani Law Courts that he took the decision after Chief Magistrate Douglas Ogoti declined his application to adjourn the matter to allow him get proper instructions from Sonko before the matter could proceed.

The lawyer, who walked out of the court proceedings cited bias on the part of the magistrate and not being furnished with proper documents as the reason for his move to leave the court session, while also questioning the decision by the court to exclude media from covering proceedings of the case.

"I have left the court room. I do not think it will be fair for me to be party to proceedings where I don't even have proper instructions from the former governor, and as such, I will not be of help to the former governor," said Khaminwa.

He stated the trial against Sonko is unconstitutional as the magistrate has declined to allow the defence more time to prepare.

Khaminwa accused the magistrate of denying Sonko a fair trial by extending the proceedings up to night and also allowing protected witnesses to testify.

He wondered why the magistrate had barred the media from covering the matter yesterday, given that it is a public hearing.



Lawyer John Khaminwa outside Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi, yesterday PD/

CHARLES MATHAI

10m

The amount of money Governor Sonko is alleged to have received from Web Tribe to facilitate payments by the county government.

"Under Article 50 of the Constitution, the media represents the public and there is no way you can shut it out," said the lawyer.

However, the High Court early last year allowed the prosecution witnesses to testify behind closed doors. So far, 10 protected witnesses have testified in the case.

Further, he claimed that one of the lawyers representing Sonko in the graft case had tested positive for the coronavirus and Sonko had lost his driver in an accident thereby the court would have allowed an adjournment.

Khaminwa was hired by Sonko to replace his previous legal team that was led by lawyer Cecil Miller and George Kithi who abandoned the case following disagreements with the court in December 2020.

Now only Assa Nyakundi and Wilfred Nyamu will continue representing Sonko

in the corruption case. On March 15, 2021, Ogoti ordered Sonko appear in court in person for the hearing of his case after he skipped court on Monday.

This is after the court on March 4, 2021 directed that Sonko's case has to proceed for further hearing without further delay with or without his lawyers.

"The accused must take charge of his case. He should ensure he has all the disclosed court documents in his possession. Any advocate accepting this case that is an ongoing matter in court should first appraise himself regarding trial before accepting the brief," Ogoti ruled.

He said no advocate or accused would be heard on adjournment for lack of sufficient instructions.

On Monday, Ogoti issued orders to have Sonko appear in court in person for the hearing of his case after he skipped court.

THE KEY HIGHLIGHTS

● Khaminwa revealed that the former governor has petitioned the Judicial Service Commission over the handling of the trial by Ogoti.

● In his letter, Sonko accused the trial magistrate of bias, working at very odd hours, and alleged failure to give his team an opportunity to cross-examine state witnesses.

● However, on March 4, 2021, the magistrate declined to disqualify himself saying the claims by Sonko were unsubstantiated.

BRIEFLY

Bar owners urged to join brews fight

The National Authority for Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Nacada) has asked bar owners in Siaya county to help them in the fight against illicit brews.

Nyanza regional manager Esther Okenye said bar owners should take the lead in the fight because illicit brew dealers jeopardise their businesses.

"We emphasise that only the legalised alcohol should be sold in bars. I urge bar owners to give us information on illicit liquor dens to enable us fight the brews," she said.

Okenye spoke in Bondo during a sensitisation workshop that was attended by more than 200 liquor operators said sale of illicit liquor business in the county is a threat to social and economic development of the region.

County Liquor Licensing Board director Silas Odhiambo said legal liquor business is a major source of revenue to the county and must be protected.

- KNA

OKENYE



I urge bar owners to give us information on illicit liquor dens to enable us fight the brews.

Trio charged with keeping pangolin

Three people were on Monday charged in a Narok court with being in possession of an endangered wildlife species without a valid Kenya Wildlife Service permit.

Daniel Kisaika, Tonyua Kisaika and Sanchan Kisaika were arrested on Saturday at Empaash area in Narok South sub-county where they had allegedly locked the animal in the house.

They denied the charge before Narok Chief Magistrate George Wakahiu and through their lawyer Martin Kamwaro, they pleaded with the court to release them on a lenient bond. The court ordered the three to be released on Sh1 million bond each with surety of similar amount. The case will be heard on May 10. **- KNA**



State trains HR officials on mental health

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The Government has embarked on a programme to train human resource officers drawn from its ministries, departments, corporations and the counties on mental wellbeing.

The second cohort of at least 150 senior human resource officers is currently being trained at the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Embu campus on essential counselling skills, with the first

group of 41 officers trained in February last year.

Public Service Director of Human Resource Policy Benrodgers Milaih (*pictured*), who opened the month-long training exercise yesterday said the officers will be taken through a counselling curriculum developed by the Ministry in conjunction with KSG.

"The current mental health trends in the country are of great concern to the Government with depression and substance abuse disorders being the two main

contributors to the worrying and frequent cases of suicides, homicides and femicide.

"This situation is reflected in the public service as indicated by the clinical records in the counselling unit," said Milaih who represented Public Service Principal Secretary in opening the training session.

He regretted that Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health situation at the work place and negatively impacted on work productivity.

Tributes pour in for veteran journalist Njogu

President Uhuru Kenyatta leads country in mourning former broadcaster who succumbed to coronavirus-related complications

by Roy Lumbe
@PeopleDailyKe

President Uhuru Kenyatta yesterday led Kenyans and the media fraternity in mourning the death of Royal Media Services (RMS) veteran journalist Robin Njogu who succumbed to Covid-19 complications.

In his message, the President described Njogu as a progressive journalist whose contribution to radio and online journalism went a long way in transforming the country's media and communication sector.

"Robin was an excellent journalist who mentored many young people in the Fourth Estate. We will forever cherish his skills and expertise in mass media, especially in radio where he has left a huge mark of excellence," the President said.

Uhuru remembered Njogu as an innovative, resourceful and open-minded journalist whose contribution as a past member of the State House press corps will be cherished forever.

"Robin always had a midas touch in transforming media stations into great communication and entertainment outlets.. My interactions with Robin during his time in the press corps were always enriching. He was a trusted and very effective member of the team,"

Devastating

Deputy President William Ruto in his tribute described the death as 'extremely devastating' as it comes just days after he lost his mother.

He remembered the journalist as a friendly, humble and good man, whose traits many of the journalists who passed

through his hands would attest to and affirm as true.

"He was a skilled, dedicated and professional radio journalist who edited and reported on issues openly, independently, and honestly," Ruto said.

Among leaders who mourned his death included Lands Cabinet Secretary Faridah Karoney and Machakos Governor Alfred Mutua.

Information and Communications Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru said Njogu was a consummate journalist who contributed heavily to the development of radio news in the country.

"I'm saddened to learn of the passing on of Robin Njogu and his mum. Sad loss for his young family, RMS and the media fraternity in the country. May God comfort his family," said Mucheru.

Karoney while condoling with the family, in a statement said she was saddened by the demise of Njogu.

Legacy and contribution

"I worked with Robin for many years managing radio news and this is a huge loss to the Royal Media Services family and the media fraternity. May God be gracious with his soul," said Karoney.

On his part, Mutua said that he was heartbroken to lose a friend and fellow journalist.

"The other day when I visited him at the hospital, he was cheerful and getting better. He sent me this photo recently of the days when he used to attend my Govt. Spokesperson briefings as reporter," said Mutua.

Royal Media Services (RMS) Managing Director Wachira Waruru said Njogu's death is a big loss not only to the organisation but also to the entire media fraternity in Kenya.

Waruru said his legacy and contribution to the media industry, and radio journalism, in particular, will continue to impact many generations after him.

"I received the news of Robin's passing with shock and disbelief. Robin was a



Royal Media Services (RMS) veteran journalist Robin Njogu who died on Monday. PHOTO/COURTESY

MOURNING ROBIN NJOGU

● Royal Media Services (RMS) veteran journalist Robin Njogu who succumbed to Covid-19 complications

● Leaders and the media fraternity players joined in mourning the death of the editor

● This comes as media players call for the need to have journalists listed as frontline workers

talented journalist and editor whose firm leadership ensured high-quality editorial products across all the RMS radio stations. Known for his gentle demeanor and keeping great talent within the stations and was always a step ahead of the competition," he said.

Waruru said Njogu exhibited a great understanding of the local news environment and the events that shape it.

This development comes even as media players called for the need to have journalists listed as frontline workers and considered for the coronavirus vaccination after the demise of Njogu, who lost the battle to the virus on Monday night.

Kenya Union of Journalists Secretary General Erick Oduor while acknowledging that Njogu had contracted the virus, he appealed to the government to consider incorporating journalists in the inoculation drive.

Journalist's death raises questions on exposure

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The death of veteran journalist Robin Njogu now raises concerns over how exposed journalists are to Covid-19 disease in their line of duty.

Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) said yesterday that at least 20 journalists are currently battling Covid-19 in various medical facilities.

KUJ Secretary General, Erick Oduor yesterday renewed an earlier petition to Government that journalists be considered among the frontline workers to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine.

"In view of the loss of life and reports of over 20 journalists battling the virus in medical facilities across the country, we believe that considering journalists to be among the first beneficiaries of the vaccine that is expected to land in the country anytime," said Oduor in a statement.

Immediate action

He said that journalists have suffered in silence, even as he urged those affected to speak up for immediate action or support before it is too late.

"It should be noted that in the efforts to control the spread of the virus journalists have been at the forefront in assisting government with identification of potential hotspots as well as carrying out campaigns to turn the tide against the virus. As journalists continue with this important endeavor, it is only fair that the government makes available all the possible facilities and protection to them," he added.

He stated that it beats logic to classify journalists as frontline workers only when their services are needed to contribute to the national campaign in informing and educating the public and then abandon them.

"This gives credence to the fact that journalists are only important when their selfless services are needed at the time of crises but are on their own when it comes to the protection of their rights and welfare," regretted Oduor.

He described it as imprudent and discriminative to expect journalists to play a delicate role in the Covid-19 battle, by exposing themselves to the virus while reporting new developments on the pandemic, including messaging on the fast-changing containment measures to the public, without targeted efforts to secure their own safety.



Court annuls Tana River BBI adoption after petition

The High Court in Malindi has nullified the decision by Tana River County Assembly, to adopt the constitutional amendment bill 2021, citing lack of public participation.

Malindi resident judge Reuben Nyakundi (pictured) in his ruling said that the draft bill failed to give sufficient notice to the public and indiscriminate enforcement of it by the County Assembly mistakenly was a misrepresentation and a violation of the Constitution.

"A declaration is hereby issued, declaring Tana River County Assembly resolution to adopt the constitutional amendment draft bill 2021, to be tainted with procedural illegality and due process and for being fatally defective and

unconstitutional," he said.

"The declaration, listing of Tana River County by the Speaker of the National Assembly as a bona fide legislative assembly resolution validly debated, adopted and obtained thereto in compliance with the cannons of the constitution is hereby rescinded and recalled for being void ab initio (of no legal effect)," ruled the judge.

Orders to Speaker

Justice Nyakundi further issued orders to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Speaker of the Senate to move and delete the name of Tana River County Assembly adoption of the draft bill.

"For failure to fulfill the basic tenets embodied in the set of prin-



ciples contained under Article 10 of the Constitution on public participation and inclusivity I immediately direct the above to remove the name of Tana River County as among counties which passed the bill," he said.

Adding that statutes with a constitutional foundation must be drawn, debated, understood and passed by the Kenya people to operate as a balance between the state and the governed.

"There can be no rational governance for a man to be governed by a constitution that was kept secret from him in complete violation of the rules of natural justice. That arbitrary and haste action by the speaker of the County Assembly to close the debate on the draft bill in microwave time before receipt of any written memorandum or engaging the public to gather views was an act in violation of Article 1, 2, 10, 27, 33, 73, 174 (c), 184, 196, 201, 259 and fourth schedule of the Constitution," he said.

EDITORIAL
 A PUBLICATION OF MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED
KEN NGARUIYA:
 Group Chief Executive Officer
ERIC OBINO:
 Group Editor-in-Chief, Print
 People Daily is published by MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED at DSM Place, Kijabe Street, P.O. Box 24943, 00100 - Nairobi,
 Tel: 07301441100; 0709824000; 0204944100
 E-mail: editor.people@mediamax.co.ke
 Copyright 2021

QUOTED TODAY



I have left the courtroom. I do not think it will be fair for me to be party to proceedings where I don't even have proper instructions from Mike Sonko, and as such, I will not be of help to the former governor.
 SENIOR COUNSEL JOHN KHAMINWA



The commission has for the last two years attempted to manipulate a section of Knut leaders and members to behave and act in the way that TSC desires.
 KNUT SECRETARY GENERAL WILSON SOSSION



Exam centres have been established across the country. Even students whose schools were affected by the rising lake waters in areas like Baringo County, will sit for exams in centres they had been transferred to.
 GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON CYRUS OGUNA

Protect journalists from coronavirus

The work journalists do cannot be gainsaid. They risk life and limb to keep society informed. They keep governments and institutions in check and are the voice of the voiceless in their day-to-day activities. Journalists have changed lives, rubbed many shoulders the wrong way and stood as the last pillar of good governance when all other institutions have crumbled.

Simply put, journalism is sacrosanct. Yesterday, a senior editor with Royal Media Services succumbed to suspected Covid-19.

Robin Njogu plied his trade as a radio editor and his contribution to broadcasting has been immense. As news of Njogu's death trickled in, a newspaper correspondent in Nairobi developed breathing difficulties associated with coronavirus. With no insurance to his name and no savings (he relies on his story contributions to earn), he was staring at death. His only saving grace was that he is a member of the Kenya Union of Journalists and the officials came to his aid, rushing him to a city hospital for Covid-19 medication. After treatment, his only hope of getting discharged would be a fundraiser.

Tributes for Njogu rolled in from the high and mighty: From President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto to Cabinet Secretaries, politicians and professional colleagues. This level of interaction was only made possible through the work he did. Journalists report on politicians and as witnessed lately expose themselves to all manner of risk, including Covid-19 through gatherings and interactions. They cannot abscond duty because the profession is a calling. For this reason, we are asking the government through the Ministry of Health to prioritise vaccinating journalists as frontline workers. India has acknowledged this class and so has Zimbabwe, do not leave this important cadre to their elements.

Media owners and employers should also up their game in protecting journalists. Provision of protective equipment should be given priority and those not equipped should not be deployed on the frontline. Insurance for journalists should not be an afterthought. The correspondent's condition may have deteriorated by the urge to work even when his health was at risk, so as to feed his family. Proper remuneration, restoration of full pay and salary cushion for journalists is a right. Indeed, of what use is a scoop or award winning story when the writer, broadcaster or photographer leaves behind a family that has no means of survival because they risked life to tell a story?



Meaningful steps needed to actualise gender equality

The essential role women play in all spheres of society is globally being recognised this month of March. This year's commemoration comes at a critical moment when Covid-19 pandemic has further exposed the vulnerabilities women and girls face.

Women struggle now more than ever before to sustain an equal footing in the economy. Their pandemic experience is shaped by increasing domestic and workplace violence, enhanced care responsibilities and disproportionate lack of access to working capital. More broadly, power is unequally distributed while the gender pay gap persists in most countries. Yet, providing women and girls with equal access to education, participation in political and economic decision-making processes has widespread benefits to society. Governments can play their part, but without the partnership of the private sector, this goal will not be easily attained.

Inaction on gender disparity, as with all the other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is much more costly than action. Achieving 30 per cent female representation on corporate boards could add six percentage points to net margin, and research shows that companies in the top quartile for gender diversity on their executive teams are 21 per cent more likely to experience above-average profitability than companies in the fourth quartile.

To make gender equality everyone's business, we need more men to step up and join efforts to drive this change. As holders of power, men can be allies in driving meaning-

JUDY NJINO

We need more men to step up and join efforts to drive this change.

ful progress by setting the right tone and developing holistic strategies with time-bound, measurable goals and targets.

Evidence also shows that realising gender equality and women's rights, holds the greatest potential to eliminate poverty and hunger, achieve quality education for everyone and achieve all the SDGs by 2030. To make headway in "building back better" in a post-pandemic setting, policymakers at all levels must respond to the unique challenges women face to ensure they are not left further behind.

According to the United Nations Global Compact Target Gender Equality Covid-19 Quiz, 89 per cent of surveyed companies indicated that women are actively informing company Covid-19 response and are included at the decision-making table. Boards that value diversity and inclusion will be better placed at responding effectively to emerging challenges that affect different groups. Boards with at least 30 per cent female representation provide a favourable environment for innovative ideas emerging from gender diversity.

The first two principles of the UN Global

Compact Principles are integral to respect for human rights. These principles call for safeguarding of women's rights. All businesses, have a responsibility to ensure, women are not subjected to discrimination, sexual harassment, or backlash at workplace. It is not too late for businesses to take meaningful steps to promote equality and diversity. Companies can demonstrate their commitment to getting more women in leadership by signing the Women Empowerment Principles, signalling their commitment to advance gender equality.

Unpaid care work has been a major impediment to women's equal participation in the labour force. Women already do three times the amount of unpaid care work as men. To ensure that every employee feels supported and valued especially during the pandemic, businesses should invest in family-friendly policies such as parental leave, supporting childcare and flexible work schedules.

The future looks brighter when women are at the helm of every table where decisions are being made. As we unite in solidarity to support the recovery of societies that are resilient, inclusive and gender-inclusive, we must ensure that women and girls are at the centre of decision making. In the decade of action, we need businesses to be intentional and ambitious for the realisation of the economic value gender equality brings.

— The writer is the Executive Director of Global Compact Network Kenya—info@globalcompactkenya.org

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

MOKOKOMA MOKHONOANA

Freedom of speech is unnecessary if the people to whom it is granted do not think for themselves.

STREET TALK

Bravo SGR for positive change in transport sector

The history of transport is largely one of technological innovation. Advances in technology have allowed people to travel farther, explore more territory, and expand their influence over larger areas.

Even in ancient times, new tools such as foot coverings and snowshoes, lengthened the distances that could be traveled. As new inventions and discoveries were applied to transport problems, travel time decreased while the ability to move larger loads increased.

International trade was the driving motivator behind advancements in global transportation in the pre-modern world. There was a single global world economy with a worldwide division of labour and multilateral trade from 1,500 onward. To increase efficiency, transport services were integrated as evidenced by the establishment of the East African Railways and Harbours Corporation, a defunct company that operated railways and harbours in East Africa from 1948 to 1977.

It was formed in 1948 for the new East African High Commission by merging the Kenya and Uganda railways and harbours with the Tanganyika Railway. As well as running railways and harbours in the three territories, it ran inland shipping ser-



PHILIP MAINGA

Its operations have continued to play positive effects on delivery of passengers and cargo.

vices on Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga, Lake Albert, the Victoria Nile and the Albert Nile. But now, the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), remains significant in terms of saving valued natural resources and protecting the environment, especially from the challenge of global warming. Its operations have continued to play positive effects on delivery of both passengers and cargo.

From passenger trains inauguration by President Uhuru Kenyatta on June 1, 2017 that initially had one train per each direction, the service has improved to current state of three trains both directions. During the period of June 2017 up to end February 2021, 4,356 passenger trains have moved both directions delivering 5,200,000 passengers, a service that has proved popular with on time schedule train arrivals. On the Freight cargo service that commenced on January 1, 2018, SGR has maintained a steady off-take of cargo from the port that has seen 7,280

trains moved delivering 726,485 TEUs.

The SGR has also had a multiplier effect on the economy by spurring the growth of the tourism sector at the coast. At least 65 per cent of all the tourists arriving in Nairobi from abroad and the national parks ride the Madaraka Express to Mombasa. The cost of production and manufacturing has been lowered, and agriculture and service industry has experienced exponential growth. Import tonnage moved 12,414,615 tons. Export and empty containers delivered via SGR stand at 439,565 TEUs, contributing to 1,509,778 tons. This has positively enhanced cargo throughput from the port by rail, reducing dwell time and quick turnaround on vessels at the port. The improved service has seen a daily wagon supply for containerised cargo oscillating between 400 to 450 per 24 hours. With the recently introduced new service on double deck wagons on containers, two such trains are currently active, delivering

152 TEUs per move.

To further enhance service improvement, conventional bulk loading using both high open wagons and special containers has been ongoing, enabling daily delivery of 7000 metric tons per day of wheat to Nairobi for both local and transit clients. With the recent operational coordination merger of KR, KPA and KRA with joint approach on port operations, both organisations are currently working together to provide seamless cargo evacuations needs.

As the government continues to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the SGR operator ensures strict adherence to the laid down protocols.

Given the resilience of and key milestones achieved by the SGR within the last three years, it remains the preferred mode of transport. The milestones include the launch of the Nairobi-Mombasa passenger train in June 2017, the launch of the inter-county passenger service in November 2017, the inauguration of Phase 2A passenger service by President Kenyatta in October 2019 and the celebration of safely operating the Madaraka Express service for 1000 days.

—The writer is the Managing Director, Kenya Railways Corporation

Woman's fury at water firm over fake promise

A woman from a political family feels aggrieved after she paid money to a governor after the last elections to get a senior appointment in one of the water companies in the country, but failed to get the job. The woman, whose sister served as an MP in the last Parliament is still annoyed by the decision to lock her out of the Nairobi Water Company after allegedly forking out Sh4 million.

Aspirant by-election bid gets off on wrong start

In Kiambu county, the Juja by-election got off to a bad start for one of the contestants after a rumour went round regarding financing of the campaign. An influential politician from Kiambu has been by the candidate's side for the last few days, fuelling speculation about the whole process and the way the nominations were done. On the other end, a strong rumour about infidelity in a past marriage has cropped up in the upcoming by-election, spreading the rumour fire at an uncontrollable speed.

Confusion on out of time campaign messaging

A misguided campaign pitch by a candidate for the Machakos Senatorial seat, caused consternation in the county on Monday night after the PR team released a statement to the radio station. The message intended for publication was way past the campaign deadline, forcing local electoral body officials to react, adding more confusion to the matter at hand. Perhaps, what looked like an innocent mistake might have worked for the PR guru handling the communication for the candidate.

Flamboyant trader in hot soup over sour deal

A leading businessman in the country is in hot soup after his companies were mentioned in several government tender scams. The trader of Somali origin is at the centre of a scam in which his firm is being accused of repackaging relief food after delivery at the government go-downs at the Industrial Area, Nairobi. Street Talk has learnt that the monied gentleman has had several meetings with the multi-agency team and an even longer session with the taxman. Speculation is rife that he is protected.

Reality check on future of learning post Covid

Education is one of the key pillars of development in any country. The main motive of education is to impart knowledge to all learners in a well-defined curriculum.

However, with the emergence of Covid-19, education and learning seems to have been highly differentiated and it is important to understand the meaning of the two and look at the future of both.

Jeff Cobb, a renowned author of the book *Philosophically Speaking* defines learning as "the lifelong process of transforming information and experience into knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes".

According to him, education is just a small component of learning. In this sense, education and learning are related.

However, learning is much broader and does not necessarily dwell on acquisition of knowledge and skills, but emphasises on lifelong transformation. This clearly denotes that learning starts way before we enter education institutions.

In the pre-Covid period, learning and education seemed to have

JOSHUA BASILIO

Teachers should be more innovative in delivering content to supplement physical learning.

been equal because learning was synonymous with being physically in school. Online learning was a rare item, especially for secondary and primary school children. In fact, it was almost inconceivable to imagine that learning would happen at home. Following the spread of the pandemic, schools adopted online learning through Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom. Many online learning systems started to emerge with some stand-alone learning platforms while others came in as complete Learning Management Systems (LMS), incorporating distance-learning modules. Of all the systems sampled in the market, LMS offer a very comprehensive approach; similar to web-based platforms for the same category of users.

Covid-19 has formalised home-schooling for basic education. A

keen look at the curriculum that was proposed for Community Based Learning, shows that the crisis has ushered in a complete transformation in the education sector. Some of the areas of emphasis are entrepreneurship, financial management, innovations, design thinking, coding and programming, whose intention was to create self-reliant individuals from our learning undertakings. Through the LMS, pupils have also expanded their learning skills.

The big question remains, "what is the future of learning in Kenya post Covid-19?"

Teachers should be more innovative in delivering content to supplement physical learning. Additionally, the government ought to play a bigger role in policy-making and quality control and leave the management of schools to private entrepreneurs

to enhance growth and quality. Examination bodies will also need to find new ways of assessment. Exams will change in terms of both the nature, content and management. This will eventually digitise the learner's portfolio and keep a long-term stage-by-stage performance record of the learners. There should also be a consideration of digital libraries.

As part of making learning truly transformative, some old learning areas will start to fade. Key areas to watch will be financial management for youth, entrepreneurship, innovation and design thinking, coding, photography and videography.

Enhanced parent-teacher school engagements should replace a diary that only communicates after the pupils reach their homes.

In conclusion, learning will change drastically. This is not just in learning institutions but the same dynamics that apply across various sectors, business lines and even the social or nonprofit-based institutions.

—The writer is CPF Group Head of Special Projects and Innovation

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR

Government Spokesperson Cyrus Oguna says the amount of taxes people pay in Europe is nothing compared to what Kenyans are paying.

@JohnWamugwa: It seems that we're not in the same Kenya with our learned friend Dr Cyrus Oguna. The government of the day is laughing at its people when

they are suffering but only God will intervene and come to our plight whatever that is.

@BravinYuri: Cyrus Oguna doesn't understand that kenyan's have no problem paying taxes but how the taxes are spent is what makes Kenyan's complain when any increment is brought forward.

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

@ZacharySure: It's unfortunate when a Cyrus Oguna compares taxes between Kenya and countries like UK. Let us first compare the wages paid for the same services offered in the two countries.

@_abacha16: We can't just support the government while struggling to put food on our table.



TRUTH IS: God takes care of those who know they can't take care of themselves.

Sossion accuses TSC of attempts to muzzle Knut

Unionist claims teachers' employer has manipulated their register to paint picture of moribund union

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut) yesterday expressed frustrations over what it termed as persistent, unfair, prejudicial and discriminatory treatment by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC)..

In a press statement, Knut Secretary-General Wilson Sossion said the union has conducted its branch elections despite the spirited and systematic propaganda by TSC aimed at building a false image of the union.

He regretted that the commission has manipulated the union's register to shape perception that Knut membership has diminished from 187,471 to 17,000.

True position

"The true position of Knut membership status is that union membership register is intact contrary to TSC distorting reality thus generating fear, panic and anxiety among members that their only union – the union of choice is on the verge of collapse," said Sossion.

To influence teachers' action by manipulating Knut register to read wrong figures of teachers affiliated to the union, Sossion said TSC has issued inflammatory statements aimed at throwing tutors and their leadership off guard.

He also accused TSC of peddling lies, misinformation and inflammatory language to achieve an objective of the commission, which is to instill fear, anger and doubt in Knut so that members can lose trust, confidence and faith in the union and its leadership. "The commission has

for the last two years attempted to manipulate a section of Knut leaders and members to behave, act or respond in the way is desired. In a well choreographed scheme to drive Knut members out of the union, TSC has been dangling promotions and salaries with 'strings attached' – that you ship out of Knut and get promoted with a salary rise or stick with the union and miss it all," Sossion uttered.

He stated that TSC has in some cases, literally denied deserving teachers promotions until and unless they quit Knut, adding that attempts by the commission to strip heads of schools and other administrative staff of union rights will be resisted by Knut.

Sossion added that the union is persuaded to believe that all the deliberate and systematic attempts by TSC to shape perceptions and manipulate cognitions of Knut members to achieve a response that furthers its desired intents.

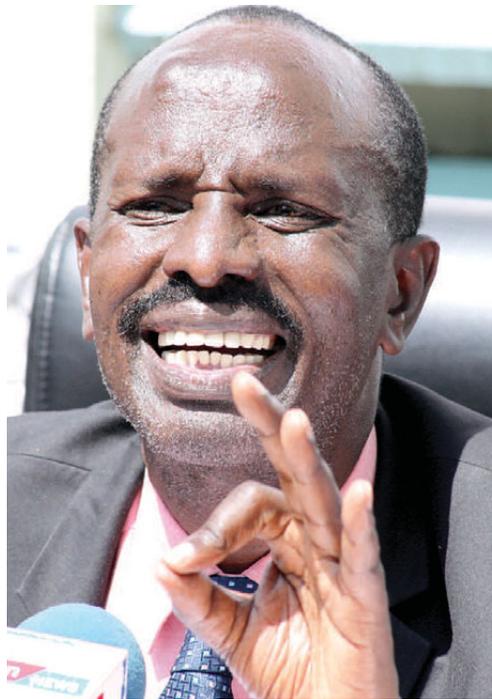
He explained that one of the reasons Knut is at crossroads with TSC is because of attempts by the Employment and Labour Relations Court and Ministry of Labour to create sanity has failed due to commission's attitude of ignorance, ineptness, impunity and gross violations of the Constitution.

Career Progression Guidelines (CPG) has also been a bone of contention between TSC and Knut, with the latter saying it is opposed to them because they abuse labour and professional rights of teachers.

According to Sossion, under CPG, teachers who attain higher qualifications have been denied automatic promotion unless they have been assigned administrative positions.

He reiterated that the schemes of service that were replaced by CPG gave a leeway to teachers who attained higher qualifications to automatically ascend to higher grades.

"From Job Group M and above, it was competitive promotion that inspired



WILSON SOSSION

TSC has for the last two years attempted to manipulate a section of Knut leaders and members

teachers to perfect their performance as professionals, CPG have since rubbished this mode of promoting teachers of which Knut is opposed to," Sossion insisted.

Sossion further maintained that despite funding shortage owing to TSC's actions, only two branches out of 110 didn't, which would be held after Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed to pave way for national elections.

Delegates conference

Knut national elections will be held during an Annual Delegates Conference at a date to be communicated later.

"It has only been possible to organise and hold elections through financial support from Education International and logistics from International Labour Organisation, National Education Union in Britain, US National Education Association and Ghana National Association of Teachers among others," Sossion stated.

The Secretary General observed that it would be a bad legacy for Government if it fails to address the stalemate between Knut and TSC, saying move will undermine delivery of quality education.

Cleric urges peace ahead of referendum

by Roy Lumbe
@PeopleDailyKe

National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) yesterday urged Kenyans to promote peace in an effort to forestall violence amid rising political intolerance in the country.

South Rift chairman Rev Ernest Ng'eno noted that it was unfortunate that the nation was slowly sliding into barbarity after pockets of violence erupted during mini polls.

He said it was high time for concerted efforts to be applied to avert any action that may threaten peace, saying referendum push must not be the cause for division.

"Allow other people to hold and express their opinions whether you support or oppose the referendum push. We are a democratic nation, and we need peace," said Rev Ng'eno.

Speaking in Nakuru after meeting the regional committee members of the NCCCK, Ng'eno said security forces also needed to promote peace before, during and after the referendum.

According to him, no life should be lost and property destroyed due to conflicting views concerning the constitutional amendment calling on leaders to lead by example.

"Any person who incites violence regardless of their status in society should have action taken against them," added Ng'eno.

The cleric noted that residents in Rift Valley are tired of violence and economic instability at every election, saying the region has been volatile and prone to violence after every five years.

"We need to put an end to divisive politics and the cycle of election-related violence. Reject any political actor who spews hate," said Ng'eno.

Ng'eno further added that the country must be adequately prepared to conduct next year's General Elections through the appointing a fully functioning electoral body.

Residents up in arms over water shortage

by David Musundi
@PeopleDailyKe

Residents of Kitale town in Trans Nzoia County are up in arms over what they term laxity of Nzoia Water and Sanitation Company (Nzowasco) to respond to water scarcity crisis.

Led by former Kitale Municipal Council deputy mayor Wafula Sikuta, the residents lamented that the water firm had ignored their plight despite making reports concerning scarcity of the commodity.

They accused the regional Nzowasco manager of giving them empty promises and demanded investigation into the crisis.

"For more than two months now we have been buying



water for both commercial and domestic use despite the heavy billing by Nzowasco. The management must come up with a long-lasting solution," he said.

The residents now allege foul play between some Nzowasco staff and private water that has occasioned the crisis. Peter Simiyu, an hotelier,

said a majority of residents were paying standing water charges despite the scarcity and asked the water service provider to investigate those concerned.

Water and Environment Executive Andrew Musungu, however, said he was liaising with Nzowasco to address the issue.

He warned that anyone found diverting water face the law. "The county government is committed to providing a long lasting solution to concerns raised by consumers of water.

The matter of some Nzowasco staff colluding with cartels will be investigated and those found culpable will be prosecuted," he said.

Curtails supply

Nzowasco director Lusweti Furaha denied allegations that some employees were colluding with cartels to curtail water supply.

Some of the areas affected include Milimani, St Joseph's, Tuwani, Kipsongok, Shimo la Tewa, Tuwani, Matisi, Mitume and Gatua.

BRIEFLY

Kabarnet woman arraigned after assaulting ailing granny

A middle-aged woman was arraigned at a Kabarnet court on Monday for assaulting her hospitalised grandmother.

Emily Jeposkwony was charged with assault and causing bodily harm contrary to section 251 of the Penal Code.

The charge-sheet filed in court stated that on March 5 at about 4:30pm at Tenges Health Centre in Baringo Central sub-county within Baringo County, Jeposkwony unlawfully assaulted Shokwei Cheruiyot, who is nursing bruises, occasioning her actual bodily harm.

Appearing before Senior

Principal Magistrate Paul Biwott, the accused denied the charges. "It is not true, I was trying to help her by cutting the nails and accidentally pricked the wounds," said Jeposkwony.

Prosecution Counsel Joseph Abwajo prayed for more time, because the treatment note had not yet been brought to the court.

Magistrate did not oppose the submission but ordered the accused to be released on Sh50,000 bond with one surety of similar amount or a cash bail of Sh10,000.

Case will be heard on April 12.

- KNA



Nema warns on sale of plastic bags

National Environmental Management Authority (Nema) yesterday warned Busia residents against sale and use of plastic bags.

County Nema director Kipkoech Rop blamed increased use of the banned products on the porous Kenya-Uganda border.

"Seemingly, Busia residents have forgotten the ban on sugar bags is still in force, it is illegal to use the bags so let those still using them stop," Rop added.

The official said they are working with relevant authorities to ensure culprits are apprehended.

"The law is very clear for anyone found using the banned plastic bags, if you are found with plastic bags, you will be fined up to Sh1million or four years in jail," said Rop.

Climate change

Area County Government Director of Environment and Natural Resources Dennis Chirande noted environmental degradation is on the increase, saying there is need to involve all stakeholders to address the problem.

"It is time the county adopts a strategy that is essential in terms of addressing environmental degradation, awareness, funding levels and other emerging issues such as climate change," he said.

The ban on all plastic carrier bags and flat bags used for commercial and household packaging in Kenya took effect on August 28, 2017.

- KNA

BRIEFLY

Residents protest Tarda eviction bid

Hundreds of Mbeere residents living near Kiambere and Masinga dam risk being evicted from their land to pave way for the expansion of the dams. This follows attempts by the Tana Athi River Development Authority (Tarda) to reclaim the riparian land which is currently inhabited by locals. Residents of Ndunguni, Mwanyani and Makima said Tarda was out to grab their land and vowed not to move out. "We have been living in this land since time immemorial, we urge President Uhuru to intervene," said Elizabeth Syombua, a resident. Mbeere South MP Geoffrey King'ang'i said the eviction was illegal because Tarda has not explained to residents why it wants to evict them.

- Brian Malili

Sabatia lawmaker caught up in Sh640 million tender row

Bidder has moved to court seeking to nullify technology tender for servicing of IFMIS citing fraud in the process

by Geoffrey Mosoku
@PeopleDailyKe

A new row has emerged at the National Treasury following the award of a Sh647 million tender to a firm associated with Sabatia MP Alfred Agoi.

The revelation comes after a bidder moved to the High Court seeking to nullify the technology tender for servicing the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS).

The High Court has since temporarily suspended the award to a consortium led by Kingsway Business Systems following a case filed by a rival firm, ADK Technologies citing fraud in the tendering process.

ADK argues that its rival did not meet the technical specification for the IT deal claiming the firm was specialised in insurance services and not ICT products.

According to records at Treasury, Kingsway Business Systems Limited listed directors include Simeon Ogendo, Seth Asuzu Changilwa, Alfred Agoi Masadia and Beatrice Kosgei. ADK through lawyer Duncan Kiprono wants the High Court to compel the Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (PPARB) to review the case afresh after the tribunal dismissed it last month.

He has listed PPARB as respondent while



Sabatia MP Alfred Agoi at a past event. PD/FILE

the PS National Treasury and Kingsways Business solutions are listed as interested parties. Treasury had invited eligible bidders to bid for Tender No. TNT/049/2019-2020 for Provision of Onsite Support for IFMIS Applications, Enhancement of IFMIS E-Procurement and Independent Integrated Financial Management Information System for Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) through an advertisement published on June 16, 2020.

Five bidders applied for the tender by close of deadline; M/s Sybyl Kenya Limited, M/s Kingsway Business Systems Limited in Consortium with M/s Kobby, Technologies Ltd and M/s Inplenion Eastern Africa Limited, M/s Next Technologies, M/s Uhora Systems and Solutions in consortium with M/s Tech Mahindra and M/s Transnational Computer Technology in consortium with ADK - Technologies

Kingsway led consortium was the least evaluated at Sh647, 064,000.00, Next Technologies Sh651, 102,609.48 and ADK led consortium Sh898, 948,256.00

On January 25, 2021, Treasury PS Julius Muia notified bidders that a consortium headed by Kingsway Business Systems Limited were successful for the deal.

However M/SADK Technologies Limited lodged a request for review on February 8, 2021 at the Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (PPARB) citing fraud.

The Faith Waigwa-led board dismissed the request for review on grounds that the application was not properly filed before the Board as there was no evidence provided of authorisation for one Samuel Haile

NIGUSSIE

I verily believe that procuring entity might have engaged in a flawed procurement process.

Nigussie to appeal the decision.

Dissatisfied, ADK Technologies moved to the High Court seeking a judicial review of the PPARB decision and also stop Treasury from signing the contract until the case is heard and determined. On March 6, 2021, Justice Jairus Ngaah issued an order temporarily stopping the Treasury from awarding the contract.

According to suit papers, ADK claims that Kingsway Business Systems Limited has been providing to the National Treasury for the last 10 years Group Personal Accident services but not IT services.

ADK claims that in March 2020, Kingsway purchased an entry level partnership from Oracle in what appears to be credential acquisitions in preparation for the tender.

ADK's Project Manager Nigussie says: "I verily believe that procuring entity might have engaged in a flawed procurement process and acted against the laid down laws and procedures, to tilt the scales to enable them carry out a sham procurement process and act in breach of the provisions of law in order to favor Kingsway business solutions."

Police hunt for three suspected loggers over killing of warden

by Dennis Lumiti
@PeopleDailyKe

A Kenya Wildlife Service game warden in Kakamega Forest in Shinyalu constituency was allegedly killed by an illegal logger on Monday evening.

Raymond Suter, who is stationed at Iloro Kenya Forest Service Camp, died on the spot after he was hacked by a logger he was pursuing.

Shinyalu police commander Robert Makau said the deceased was in the company of two fellow wardens on patrol at Mang'ang'a area in the rainforest when they bumped into two loggers who were illegally felling pine trees.

The other wardens were Alexander Muyukumba and Japheth Mutai.

"The trio came across two men cutting a pine tree near a herd of cattle that were grazing in the forest. On spotting them, the men started running in different directions," the police boss said.

He said Suter ran after one of the loggers while Mutai pursued the other one. Muyukumba was left guarding the herd of cattle.

"After a few minutes, Mutai gave up the chase as the sus-



Illegal felling of trees is rampant in Western Kenya region. PD/FILE

pect was too fast for him and went back to where Muyukumba was," he said.

The police boss said the duo waited for their colleague for more than 30 minutes but he did not show up.

"They started looking for him on the route he had pursued the fleeing suspect. They found him lying on the ground dead bleeding from a deep cut on the back of his head and another one above the right ear while clutching on to the AK 47 rifle

together with a magazine containing 29 rounds of ammunition," he narrated.

He said all the suspects vanished into the thick forest adding that no arrests had been made by yesterday.

The deceased's body was taken to Kakamega County Referral Hospital mortuary.

Meanwhile, the animals were rounded up but their owners had not yet showed up to claim them by the time of going to the press.

Shift in cash crops as macadamia farming takes root in Nakuru County

For countless years, maize and potatoes farming has been a major source of income for thousands of farmers in Nakuru County.

However, macadamia is the cash crop of the moment for many farmers in Solai village within Rongai Sub-County.

The revival of the crop is coming at a time when fortunes of Kenya's traditional cash crops namely coffee and tea are dwindling.

Riding on renewed interest in the macadamia nuts venture the County Government has set aside Sh5 million for purchase of planting material with Governor Lee Kinyanjui announcing that the devolved unit's department of agriculture had already distributed 14,000 macadamia seedlings to help farmers diver-

sify their incomes.

Speaking after touring 13 macadamia farms in the sub-county, Kinyanjui noted that macadamia farming was a lucrative business and directed agricultural officers to enhance extension services.

"A farmer can harvest up to three tonnes of macadamia nuts per acre with a production cost lower than that of cash crops like tea and coffee.

Technical assistance

We will provide farmers with technical assistance and inputs to see that they get good income by integrating macadamia and other crops," said the governor.

He was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth Kinyanjui, Deputy



Governor Dr Eric Korir and County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Immaculate Maina.

The governor noted that a macadamia tree can yield an average of 70 kilos of nuts per season, with a kilo selling for Sh200.

Free seedlings

The county government estimates Nakuru's nut production potential at over 20,000 metric tonnes, which it aims to achieve by distributing the free seedlings. A macadamia tree takes around four years to mature.

Kinyanjui observed that Macadamia was highly tolerant against harsh weather, pests and diseases making it a better option for farm-

ers in Kenya amid the uncontrolled effects of climate change. He stated that a macadamia tree had a long lifespan unless affected by a disease like powdery mildew at flowering stage which causes deflowering and poor quality of little nuts produced. Macadamia nuts can be eaten raw or processed into cooking fat.

Kenya is the third top producer of macadamia in the world after South Africa and Australia.

According to Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Kenya's macadamia production has more than doubled in the past years as interest in the crop surges, from 11,000 tonnes in 2009 to over 50,000 currently. At least 30 firms process the nuts, which is before export.

Auditor faults NMS over Sh32 million withdrawal

Calls for EACC to investigate quasi-county body over likely loss of cash meant for war against Covid-19 pandemic

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu has recommended that the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC) investigate and takes action on officials of the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) over irregular withdrawal and possible loss of Sh32.38 million meant to fight Covid-19 pandemic.

The Auditor also questioned the whereabouts of Sh180.07 million raised to aid in the fight against the virus as she flagged irregular direct procurement by the agency.

NMS, the entity that took over key function of city hall, including Health, irregularly withdrew Sh32.38 million from KCB-impresits account reportedly for facilitation of health workers on Covid-19 rapid response activities.

"The management could not explain the basis of the facilitation, authority to pay facilitation and expenditure could not be supported," the auditor's report reads in part.

The money was withdrawn at the height of the pandemic on June 30, 2020 allegedly for payment of facilitation of health workers on Covid-19 rapid response activities.

"Further investigations [should] be

conducted to establish any criminality," the auditor recommended in her report on the special audit on the utilization of Covid-19 funds.

The auditor could also not establish the whereabouts of some Sh182.07 million donated by Danish International Development Agency (Danida) and county's own generated revenue to boost the war against the infection.

"However, we could not establish where these funds were received and whether they were transferred to the respective health centres. This is because the county management did not provide relevant documents," reads the report.

Citing Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakango's special report on Covid 19 funds released last year, Gathungu said that City Hall and NMS received Sh17.60 million as Danida funds and Sh164.47 million as own source contribution funds.

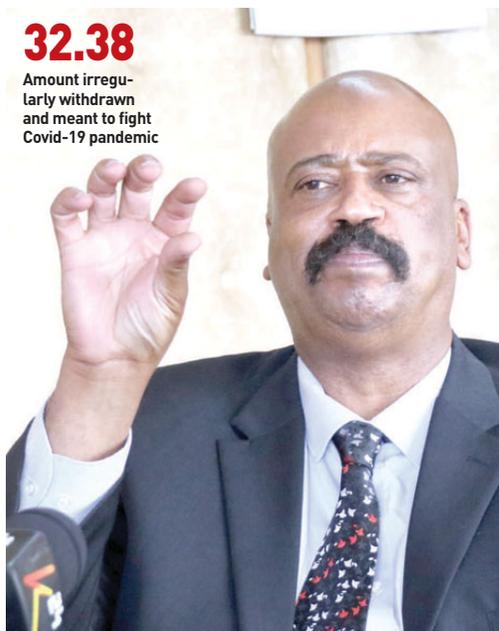
NMS funds

"The special audit could not establish whether DANIDA funds were received and utilized at the NMS or at the county government since neither of the two entities availed relevant documents," it says.

The report shows that NMS received a total of Sh294.38 million from the National government to fight the pandemic.

As at July 31, 2020, the NMS had incurred expenses of sh97.32 million which included procurement and payment of facilitation of health workers

The money excludes the county's own source revenue and Danida funds pumped



32.38
Amount irregularly withdrawn and meant to fight Covid-19 pandemic

into the fight against the virus.

Major-General Mohamed Badi-led agency was also put to task for dishing out a Sh64.93 million tender for design and maintenance of the makeshift isolation center to University of Nairobi Enterprise Services (UNES) through single sourcing.

NMS Director General Major-General Mohamed Badi at a media briefing. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



Former Fafi MP Sugow quits politics

Former Fafi MP Major (Rtd) Aden Sugow has quit politics.

Sugow however said he would embark on a full time job of playing his role as an elder to create harmony and peaceful co-existence amongst communities in Garissa county and North Eastern region at large.

Speaking at a Garissa hotel yesterday when he met members from his key support base in Fafi constituency who included elders, professionals, political and religious leaders, Sugow said 'anything that has a beginning undoubtedly has an end'.

"I shall play my role as an elder to create harmony and peaceful co-existence amongst every one of us. As I go into retirement, I urge you all to be your brother's keeper and to work hand in hand towards the betterment of our society," Sugow said.

The former legislator first joined elective politics at the age of 35 in 1997 after seeking early retirement from the military where he had attained the rank of Major.

Sugow contested for the Dujis parliamentary seat and lost to former Cabinet Minister Hussein Maalim Mohammed.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner of the Plot No. 209/1418/49 located along Kipande Road in Ngara Estate in Nairobi County, intends to change the user from Residential to Commercial, subject to approval of Nairobi Metropolitan Services. Any individual(s), institution(s) or organization(s), etc., with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice to:

Director General,
Nairobi Metropolitan Services,
P.O. Box 40530 - 00100,
NAIROBI.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner(s) of Plot No. Dagoretii/Waihaka/380, Nairobi County, proposes to change its use from single dwelling to multi-dwelling apartments, subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services/Nairobi City County. Any individuals, institutions, organisations, etc., with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of this notice to:

Director General,
Nairobi Metropolitan Service,
P.O. Box 40530 - 00100,
Nairobi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The owner of plot No. KISUMU/BLOCK 4/354 located in Tom Mboya Estate, wishes to change its use from Single Dwelling residential units to Multi-dwelling Residential Units, subject to approval of the County Government of Kisumu. Individuals, Institutions, e.t.c with objections should forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days to:

The Executive Member,
Min. of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development,
County Government of Kisumu,
P.O. Box 2738 - 40100
KISUMU.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner(s) of Plot No. Dagoretii/Riruta/4333, Nairobi County, proposes to change its use from single dwelling to multi-dwelling apartments, subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services/Nairobi City County. Any individuals, institutions, organisations, etc., with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of this notice to:

Director General,
Nairobi Metropolitan Service,
P.O. Box 40530 - 00100,
Nairobi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The registered owner(s) of Plot No. Dagoretii/Riruta/6722, Nairobi County, proposes to change its use from single dwelling to multi-dwelling apartments, subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services/Nairobi City County. Any individuals, institutions, organisations, etc., with comments or objections to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of this notice to:

Director General,
Nairobi Metropolitan Service,
P.O. Box 40530 - 00100,
Nairobi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT
(NO. 13 OF 2019)
CHANGE OF USER

The owner(s) of Plot Lr. No. 1870/1/311 located off Eldama Ravine road in Westlands area, Nairobi City County, proposes to change its use from Residential to Professional Offices (IT), subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services/Nairobi City County. Individuals, Institutions, Organisations, etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice to:

Director General,
Nairobi Metropolitan Services,
P.O. Box 40530-00100,
Nairobi.

Businesshub

There has been appointed a new contractor, China CAMCE Company Ltd to complete the transmission lines

Carrefour Kenya defies pandemic to rake in Sh25.3b

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

Carrefour Supermarket made Sh25.3 billion (AED 848 million) in revenue last year compared to Sh19.4 billion (AED 651 million) in 2019. The performance was realised despite the local retail market and the economy as a whole being hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Revenue also grew despite a Sh1.4 billion drop in the retailer's total assets having decreased to Sh5.9 billion from Sh7.4 billion in 2019. "The ripple effect of the rapidly spreading pandemic has seen governments,

authorities and advisory councils around the world mandate appropriate drastic measures intended to control transmission," reads the Carrefour annual report in part.

"While this has seen some industries (particularly those in the tech and digital space) flourish overall, there has been a strongly adverse effect on discretionary spending and consumer confidence," it adds.

In Uganda, Carrefour yesterday opened its second store located in Naalya, Kampala signalling its desire to expand its footprint within the East African region.

Commenting on the launch,

Franck Moreau, Country Manager of Carrefour Uganda and at Majid Al Futtaim – Retail Kenya explained that Carrefour's underlying aim is to offer Ugandan shoppers the best products and widest range at the most affordable price.

Shopping experiences

With this expansion, he said the retail chain is delivering more convenient and modernised shopping experiences to more of our Ugandan customers. "This new Carrefour not only offers a wide range of products sold at the best prices, but also uplifts

the surrounding community by creating direct and indirect employment opportunities for over 90 Ugandans," he said. In the recent past, some key players in the local retail scene, such as Tusky's and Nakumatt supermarkets have sunk, an occurrence that has seen foreign-owned retailers such as Carrefour and Game increase their market share significantly. With Tusky's Supermarkets seemingly on its deathbed, the foreign brands are now having an easier time competing with Naivas, other home-grown brands and corner shops.

However, they are now facing stiffer competition from online retailers.



A customer shops at the new Carrefour store opened in Naalya area along Kampala Northern bypass. COURTESY

Delayed Ketraco projects to cost taxpayers dearly

Auditor General points at a contract signed in April 2013 to be completed by June 2019 but had to be stopped for non-performance

by Noel Wandera
@PeopleDailyKE

Auditor General has warned that re-scheduled multi-billion projects under the watch of Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (Ketraco) will cost taxpayers dearly after the contracted company went burst.

Mumbai-based Jyoti Structures Ltd has been put on the spot for a deal to design, deliver and commission lines and substations between 2013 and 2017 at an approved budget of Sh6.5 billion, with a government counter-funding of Sh3 billion.

The report by Auditor General Nancy Gathungu tabled in the National Assembly on February 18 notes that, the contract which was signed on April 16, 2013 was supposed to have been completed by June 30, 2019, but had to be terminated for non-performance. The project suffered a setback, when Jyoti's contract was terminated for non-performance, and insolvency, and the work has since been handed over to China CAMC Engineering Co. Limited.

Jyoti was to construct transmission lines between Bomet, Soti; Nanyuki to Nyahuru; Olkaria-Narok, and Lessos to Kabarnet at a cost of \$15.1 million (Sh547 million, exchange rate at the time) as well as Ishiara, to Kieni; Mwingi, Kitui, Wote and Sultan Hamud at a cost of \$10 million (Sh403 million).

Financed by the African Development (AfDB) and the Kenya Government through the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum and the National Treasury, the project involved construction of 431 km of 132KV lines, extension of six substations and construction of 8 new substations.

In the second instance, Gathungu said the same company was to deliver 132/33KV substations and 132KV line bay extensions at a combined cost of \$29.7 million (Sh3.7

Audit trail

Grid	Budget	Installation
Ketraco was set up to develop high voltage electricity transmission infrastructure that will form the backbone of the National Transmission Grid	Gathungu said the statement of comparative budget and actual amounts of the year ended June 30, 2020, reflects actual receipts of Sh548.6 million against budgeted receipts of Sh462 million	The line is expected to supply reliable electricity to among other installations, Isiolo International Airport, the proposed Isiolo Resort City and its environs, and the LAPSET
		

billion) but failed due to insolvency, leading to AfDB terminating its funding for the project. "There has been appointed a new contractor, China CAMCE Company Limited to complete the transmission lines from where Jyoti Steel Structures Limited had reached," said Gathungu, naming the locations as Olkaria-Narok, Lessos-Kabarnet, Sultan Hamud-Wote-Kitui-Mwingi, and Nanyuki-Rumuruti.

Within schedule

"Consequently, the project may not be completed within schedule, resulting in delayed provision of expected services to the stakeholders," she added.

The report indicates that the project was beset with pending bills issues totalling

GATHUNGU

The same company was to deliver 132/33KV substations and 132KV line bay extensions.

Sh727.73 million as at June 2020.

During the year under review, she said, the project management made payments totalling Sh74.8 million but accumulated bills worth Sh206 million. Gathungu warned the project was at risk of incurring significant interest costs and penalties with continued delay in payments.

In terms of budget control and performance, Gathungu said the statement of comparative budget and actual amounts of the year ended June 30, 2020, reflects actual receipts of Sh548.6 million against budgeted receipts of Sh462 million, resulting in an excess of Sh86,643,715.

Compensation to landowners for wayleaves acquired since inception of the project in April 16, 2013 amounted to Sh2.3 billion while amounts certified as payable amounted to Sh1.98 billion out of which Sh1.7 billion was paid, leaving an unpaid balance of Sh298 million.

"The management has attributed failure to pay the amount due to lack of budgetary allocation from the National Treasury and lengthy land valuation negotiations due to absentee land owners and various court injunctions on disputed cases," said Gathungu

BRIEFLY

KCB receives Sh16.5b for climate, SMEs financing

KCB Bank Kenya Ltd has received \$150 million (Sh16.5 billion) funding to help it increase lending for climate-friendly projects and to smaller businesses, especially those owned by women. Of the \$150 million, International Finance Corporation (IFC) contributed \$101.75 million (Sh11.1 billion) and mobilised \$22 million (Sh2.4 billion) from BIO, \$15 million (Sh1.6 billion) from SANAD Fund, and \$11.25 million (Sh1.2 billion) from Symbiotics respectively.

"We are excited to receive the loans which will go a long way in boosting the country's economy which was heavily affected

by the pandemic," said KCB Group Chief Executive Joshua Oigara said in a statement.

Oigara added that the youth and women will be the main beneficiaries as they are the ones running the country's economy from the small and medium enterprises they run.

SANAD which provides short and long-term loans for SMEs in partner countries through its board chair Daniela Beckmann, said their loanee is going to help them meet their mission to support entrepreneurship and job creation in MENA and selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. – Bernard Sigei

New building code a game changer, says NCA official

The new building code, which is currently awaiting stakeholder validation, has been touted as a game changer for the building sector in Kenya.

Anchored in the National Construction Act via the Business Amendments (2020), the code (National Building Regulations) seeks to replace the current code which dates back to 1968. "The operationalisation of the draft Building Code 2020 in the built environment will achieve a healthier, safer, more convenient industry with optimal use of resources," said the Vice Chairman of the National Construction Authority (NCA), Zipporah Rotich. Rotich spoke yesterday during a building sector



stakeholders' forum held at a Nairobi hotel. She said the new code would enhance professionalism, streamline building approvals, reduce construction claims and increase the number of investors in the construction industry among other benefits. Rotich said the current Building Code, which dates back to 1968, is archaic. – Lewis Njoka

Farmers' agony as NCPB drains cash to buy maize

Board's chair says Sh1.2b that was allocated to buy maize from farmers has been exhausted

by Nicholas Waitathu
@PeopleDailyKe

National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) has stopped buying maize from farmers as it has run out of cash it had allocated for the activity.

Chairman Mutea Iringo had earlier said the government gave the agency Sh1.6 billion two months ago, as part of the huge debts it is owed, to buy maize.

He said the cereals body allocated Sh1.2 billion from the money received to purchase maize from the farmers for commercial trading. The board buys maize under its commercial wing for trading alongside other grains like rice and beans.

"As at the end of last week, we had purchased 675,000 bags of 50kgs (375,000 bags of 90 kg bags) from farmers at Sh2,700 per bag, thus exhausting the set cash," Iringo said after touring NCPB depots in Nakuru town.

"We have to wait for further cash from budgetary allocation and payments owed mostly by government-related agencies," he added. The remaining of the cash of the Sh1.6 billion is being used for administration and other activities. The announcement by Iringo comes at a time when farmers had started queuing to various depots to sell their maize.

Various depots

He added: "The Sh1.2 billion was divided according to various depots across the country and many of them have now exhausted their allocation and are no longer buying maize." The poor financial base compounds farmers' challenges, especially those who do not have extra revenue source apart from maize.

The board's action prompts farmers now to source for market elsewhere until the government boost its coffers.

Chege Kiiru, a farmer in Nakuru County and who sells his maize to NCPB said there is a need for the organisation to rescind its decision and instead start buying the commodity on credit.

Iringo, however, said: "Under the new reforms the board is not expected to buy maize on credit. Unless otherwise the government stand is to buy and pay farmers



The board buys maize under its commercial wing for trading alongside other grains like rice and beans. PD/FILE

promptly. We will resume buying once our coffers are boosted." He said the cereal board is still grappling with high debts to the tune of Sh6.1 billion, money owed by various government agencies for services rendered, largely on grain handling.

"We are still pursuing the debts from the various government agencies and hoping that soon the debts will be cleared to enhance the financial base," he added.

Iringo said the board is waiting for Sh4 billion to help it to continue purchasing more maize, beans, green grams, rice and fertiliser for the farmers.

NCPB, Iringo said, is expected to start buying more maize from the farmers to boost the National Food Reserve (NFR) once the national food balance sheet committee announces new prices.

The committee comprising various players including NCPB, Ministry of Agriculture and actors drawn from the private sector is expected to meet soon to discuss the status of the food situation in the country and advice on the various measures and interventions to be employed.

It provides information on the available food stock in the country and to inform the next step with regards to the national food reserve stock levels.

The NFR whose mandate is to manage and maintain the strategic food reserves

which offer a buffer stock for emergency purposes. Speaking to the Senate committee on Agriculture last week, Joseph Kimote, the managing director said NCPB will stop the purchase of maize from farmers once it exhausts Sh1.128 billion that was allocated by the government.

Financial limitations

He told the committee that as at March 4, the board had purchased 573,914 bags each weighing 50 kilogrammes at Sh860,511,780. "Upon exhaustion of these funds, NCPB will not be in position to continue purchasing more maize due to the financial limitations enumerated above," he said in his submissions.

The board opened its stores for purchases in January when market prices were as low as Sh1,800 per 90 kilogramme bag at farm gate. Kimote said NCPB entry price was set at Sh2,500 in compliance with the directive issued on October 14, 2020 by the government.

"Later the price was reviewed upwards to Sh2,700 per 90kg bag to align to the market forces and has remained the same to-date," he told the committee chaired by Embu Senator Njeru Ndwiwa.

The NCPB increased the prices mid-January, setting the stage for competition for maize in the market.



Tourism sector received a major boost when a chartered flight from Romania arrived in the country last week. PD/COURTESY

Hospitality sector pins hope on vaccine, gears up for stronger growth

TOURISM: Kenya's hospitality industry is projected to grow by between 15 per cent and 20 per cent mainly due to the arrival of coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccine in the country.

Going forward, industry players believe the sector will witness improved bookings and accommodation in most establishments, particularly at the coastal region. The sector was hit hard by the pandemic.

Hasnain Noorani, PrideInn Group managing director said the vaccine is expected to be a significant boon for the tourism and hospitality industry, which has been badly affected by border closures, travel restrictions, curfew and social distancing measures related to Covid-19.

"We predict an increase of between 15 per cent to 20 per cent bookings and accommodation," he said.

Despite the expected rebound, stakeholders still predict that 2021 will still be a rough year for travel and hospitality industries and full recovery could be a year away.

Clear sign

"There have been an increased number in bookings and reservations in the last few weeks since the vaccination landed in the country, it is a clear sign that things are gradually bouncing back," said Immaculate Wanyonyi, Tourism manager with Hidden Gem adventures.

The vaccine's arrival has raised hopes of a quick re-

covery from both the health-related challenges and the economic impacts of the pandemic.

While a vaccine will be key to any resumption in mass tourism, industry players say that other measures will also be crucial to the expected recovery, amid rising cases of new variants of the infection.

"I believe that the main priority of the tourism industry is to get people travelling and doing business and events again safely by giving government confidence that systematic Covid-19 prevention measures are possible and reliable prior to having a vaccine," Victor Shitakha, Chairman, Kenya Coast Tourism Association

Movement restrictions

Although the situation eased with withdrawal of movement restrictions, many parts of the world are now experiencing a spike in coronavirus cases, leading to further lockdowns.

"As we all know, the vaccine programme will take a while to roll out to all parts of the country, so pre- and post-vaccine programmes should be concurrently available," added Shitakha

In addition to the fiscal constraints on households, some tourism-related companies may find it difficult to return to business after spending much of 2020 and 2021 either closed or operating severely below capacity.

-Steve Umidha

BRIEFLY

Amica Sacco pays out Sh170m in dividends

Amica Sacco has approved Sh170 million dividend to its members, CEO James Mbui has said. Members with non-withdrawable deposits will get between six to 10 per cent, five to nine per cent for those with deposits made in its affiliate Amica ventures and five per cent for the capital shares. Mbui (pictured) said the sacco realised 54 per cent growth in the past one year despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the growth was realised after reinventing its products and cutting down on expenditure.

Mbui said the rural economy helped in boosting their revenue which grew by 26 per cent in one year. -Wangari Njuguna



Jambojet, KTB team up to boost domestic tourism

STRATEGY: Regional low-cost carrier Jambojet has entered into a partnership with the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) to promote domestic tourism. The partnership involves branding one of Jambojet's De Havilland Dash 8-400 aircraft for a period of one year.

"Last year we launched the 'Now Travel Ready' campaign to encourage domestic tourism as part of Covid-19 recovery. This partnership with KTB will further drive this conversation in a bid to revive the sector," said Karanja Ndegwa, Acting Managing Director, Jambojet.

The move is also part of Jambojet's recovery strategy where it is looking to diversify its revenue generation through advertising placements. Domestic tourism accounts for over 70 per cent of the travel and tourism sector in major economies globally. In Kenya, domestic tourists' bed-night occupancy accounted for

more than 50 per cent of the total bed occupancy from 2015-2018.

Betty Radier, KTB CEO lauded the local carrier for having contributed to the growth of tourism by enabling accessibility to tourism destinations in the country.

She said the partnership was among the many ventures the board has explored with a view to growing the destination tourism offerings. Oxford Economics and global Travel report (2020-2021) data shows domestic and regional travel will dominate the tourism industry in 2021 compared to international tourism. Many destinations are expected to maintain their international travel restrictions for a large part of the year and affordability and safety concerns are also expected to encourage closer-to-home travel.

-Peter Leshan



Kenya skips G-20 debt payment deal

Treasury has opted to pursue market financing in lieu of trying to restructure its borrowing under G-20 framework

by John Otini
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya failed to take advantage of a more comprehensive debt payment pause offered by the Paris Club and G20 despite its biting debt problems, global rating agency S&P has warned.

Common Framework for Debt Treatment (CFDT) is a comprehensive arrangement over and above the first Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which Kenya had earlier ignored, but later gave in to International Monetary Fund (IMF) pressure.

The new comprehensive arrangement had been designed to be country specific and would also involve the private sector which includes Euro-bond holders.

"So far Kenya has not requested further relief under the more recent and more comprehensive Common Framework for Debt Assessment, also being led by the Paris Club and G20, which aims at more comprehensive debt relief than what is available under the DSSI," S&P observed.

Eurobonds are perhaps the biggest risk in Kenya's foreign debt portfolio given that they come with strict conditions and tend to hold countries at ransom when repayments are required.

Bilateral relief

Analysts had warned that the six month grace period was too short and the government will not be in a position to service the debt.

In January 2020, Kenya secured a debt payment pause from bilateral lenders amounting to savings of about \$550 million (Sh60 billion) under the G20 and Paris Club's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

"While receiving bilateral debt relief, it left private-sector commercial obligations such as Eurobonds unchanged," the S&P report said in part.

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said Kenya did not want to get debt relief because of fear that the country's credit rating could suffer while private bondholders could become jittery.

US financial news publisher Dow Jones noted that Kenya and other countries in the region could resort to broad based tax hikes to cover rising deficits.

"Further significant deteriorations in public finances

triggered by stricter COVID-19 containment measures could push markets closer to debt distress. This would curtail government spending and likely result in faster-than-planned tax increases targeting consumers and local businesses," said Dow Jones in its 2021 Global Leadership Briefing.

Kenya's external debt is now at Sh3.7 trillion with a total public debt at Sh7.3 trillion by end of last year. S&P warns that Kenya's stock of general government debt net of liquid assets will rise to an average of 66.5 per cent of GDP in 2021-2024, from 52.5 per cent in 2019 and 37.7 per cent in 2015.

Guaranteed debts

Debt servicing costs will increase and average a high 27 per cent of general government revenue in 2021-2024 says the ratings agency.

"Debt eligible to the treatment will include all public and publicly guaranteed debts which have an original maturity of more than one year," the Paris and G20 countries noted in the Common Framework for Debt Treatment.

"The treatment necessary to achieve sustainability will take into account the cut-off date in the 2020 DSSI term sheet that protects new financing provided after 24 March 2020."



DEBT MANAGEMENT

● Kenya may be in the market for funds through international capital markets later this year if it does not secure enough low-priced funds from lenders like the World Bank.

● The government may also use new sovereign bond issuance to refinance maturing debt and manage its liquidity and liability.

● Under those deals, which fall under the G20's poor nations debt relief deals, Kenya is deferring payments worth \$600 million.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VPAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	8.20	Eaagads Ltd Ord 1.25	1100	13.00	2,000
460.00	290.00	Kakuzi Pld Ord 5.00		365.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00		7825	
605.00	360.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pld Ord 20.00	17.15	380.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasim Pld Ord 1.00		17.05	8,700
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	134.75	133.00	8,800
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		22.15	
BANKING					
13.85	8.50	ABSA Bank Kenya Pld Ord 0.50	9.32	9.36	163,200
31.00	12.15	BA Group Pld Ord 0.80	22.00	21.00	2,000
166.00	60.00	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	73.30	75.00	5,500
55.50	28.00	Equity Group Holdings Pld Ord 0.50	40.05	40.00	2,015,800
7.90	2.86	HF Group Pld Ord 0.50	3.44	3.48	14,400
126.00	42.00	ISM Holdings Pld Ord 1.00	43.00	43.00	569,500
55.50	30.00	KCB Group Pld Ord 1.00	39.95	39.65	2,047,900
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	4.12		
41.00	20.00	NCSA Group Pld Ord 5.00	24.20	24.25	14,000
117.75	72.25	Stonbic Holdings Pld Ord 5.00	86.50	83.00	2,000
225.00	134.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	134.25	134.50	6,900
17.00	10.95	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.85	12.85	366,500
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pld Ord 2.50	0.45		
1.30	0.75	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	1.01	1.05	40,500
8.50	2.50	Express Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	4.28		
0.00	0.00	Homeboys Entertainment Pld Ord 0.50	0.66		
9.50	0.80	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	3.83		
8.80	4.20	Longhorn Publishers Pld Ord 1.00	4.26	4.65	5,100
5.80	0.49	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00	4.40	4.14	75,300
71.00	9.00	Nation Media Group Pld Ord 2.50	21.00	21.40	152,400
4.70	1.72	Sameer Africa Pld Ord 5.00	3.20	1.50	200
33.00	18.00	Standard Group Pld Ord 5.00	20.35		
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	17.50	17.55	1,600
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pld Ord 5.00	0.26	0.28	72,400
25.00	5.04	WPP Scangroup Pld Ord 1.00	5.50	5.50	52,400
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pld Ord 1.00	4.63	5.55	
145.75	19.25	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	39.40	39.80	3,900
92.00	36.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	39.50	39.70	5,400
3.98	1.26	E.A. Cobles Ltd Ord 0.50	1.31	1.29	44,700
20.50	7.80	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00	8.42	8.58	8,100
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Co. Pld Ord 150	4.63	4.68	225,600
5.50	1.18	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pld Ord 2.50	1.39	1.38	249,300
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 4% Pref 20.00	5.00		
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Pld 7% Pref 20.00	6.00		
33.00	21.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	22.05	23.80	63,400
8.70	5.00	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	6.60	6.60	1,900
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	British Holdings Pld Ord 0.10	7.22	7.20	2,509,300
4.85	1.95	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.17	2.22	96,800
442.00	210.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	276.00	270.00	39,000
16.30	2.00	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.54	2.59	52,400
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	9.32	8.74	800
26.00	9.50	Santam Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	12.00	12.40	4,900
INVESTMENT					
37.40	15.15	Centum Investment Co Pld Ord 0.50	16.65	16.40	9,200
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.38	0.38	29,200
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00	1,500.00		
3.39	1.81	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.29	2.25	600
4.50	1.08	Trans-Century Pld Ord 0.50	1.13	1.20	93,200
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	6.50	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pld Ord 4.00	7.74	8.06	53,100
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
97.00	52.25	B.O. Kenya Pld Ord 5.00	60.00		
700.00	305.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pld Ord 10.00	484.00	480.00	1,400
13.00	7.10	Carbacid Investments Pld Ord 1.00	11.00	11.60	32,500
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	175.00	175.00	726,700
3.15	0.77	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	1.28	1.27	14,700
14.00	10.40	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00	10.40		
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar: Co. Ltd Ord 2.00	0.27		
42.00	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	29.00	29.00	5,000
TELECOMMUNICATION					
39.25	20.10	Safaricom Pld Ord am	37.40	37.35	8,374,200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	4.98	ILAM FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00	6.84	6.98	11,400
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
2100.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	1818	1855.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 0.30 points to close at 162.82
NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 3.68 points to close at 1922.70
NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 8.28 points to close at 3627.26

MARKET WATCH

TREASURY BONDS CLOSURE OF REGISTERS

ISSUE NO.	PAYMENT DATE	PERIOD OF CLOSURE	PAYMENT TYPE	APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE (%)	REFERENCE INTEREST RATE (%)
PXD1/2014/010	18-01-2021	14-01-2021 to 18-01-2021	Interest	12.180	Fixed
PXD2/2016/005	18-01-2021	14-01-2021 to 18-01-2021	Interest	14.069	Fixed
PXD1/2017/010	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.966	Fixed
IFB1/2018/015	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.500	Fixed
PXD2/2018/020	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	13.200	Fixed
PXD1/2019/001	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest & Redemption	10.701	Fixed
PXD1/2019/015	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.857	Fixed
PXD3/2019/015	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.340	Fixed
IFB1/2020/012	08-02-2021	04-02-2021 to 08-02-2021	Interest & Redemption	12.500	Fixed
SDR1/2011/030	15-02-2021	11-02-2021 to 15-02-2021	Interest	12.000	Fixed
PXD1/2013/015	15-02-2021	11-02-2021 to 15-02-2021	Interest	11.250	Fixed
PXD3/2019/010	15-02-2021	11-02-2021 to 15-02-2021	Interest	11.517	Fixed
PXD1/2016/010	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	15.030	Fixed
IFB1/2017/012	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.500	Fixed
PXD1/2017/005	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.465	Fixed
PXD1/2018/010	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.686	Fixed
PXD1/2019/005	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	11.304	Fixed
PXD1/2019/010	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.438	Fixed
PXD1/2020/015	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.756	Fixed
IFB1/2020/011	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	15.000	Fixed

PREPARED BY: VINCENT LANGAT

CHECKED BY: JOHN K. NAIU

AUTHORISED BY: HEREMIAH K. TOMBO

CBK KEY RATES		
Central Bank Rate	7.00%	27/01/2021
Inter-Bank Rate	5.18%	15/03/2021
CBK Discount Window	13.00%	27/01/2021
91-Day T-Bill	7.024%	15/03/2021
REPO	0.00%	12/03/2021
Inflation Rate	5.78%	February, 2021
Lending Rate	12%	January, 2021
Savings Rate	2.73%	January, 2021
Deposit Rate	6.31%	January, 2021
KBRR	8.9%	27/07/2016

KEY CBK INDICATIVE EXCHANGE RATES 16/3/2021			
CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	109.6547	109.5547	109.7547
SW KRONER	12.8392	12.8245	12.8539
STG POUND	152.7074	152.5647	152.8600
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	81.4943	81.4109	81.5778
SAUDI RIYAL	29.2366	29.2091	29.2640
SA RAND	7.3721	7.3629	7.3812
S FRANC	118.0035	117.9895	118.1174
NOR KRONER	12.9591	12.9442	12.9740
KES / USHS	33.4232	33.3471	33.4992
KES / TSHS	21.1483	21.0834	21.2131
KES / RWFF	9.0616	9.0410	9.0822
KES / BIF	17.7458	17.6922	17.7993
JPY (100)	100.4670	100.3708	100.5632
IND RUPEE	1.5119	1.5104	1.5134
HONGKONG DOLLAR	14.1224	14.1095	14.1353
EURO	130.8409	130.7071	130.9747
DAN KRONER	17.5929	17.5754	17.6103
CHINESE YUAN	16.8613	16.8450	16.8775
CAN \$	87.9454	87.8476	88.0432
AUSTRALIAN \$	84.8124	84.7296	84.8953
AE DIRHAM	29.8530	29.8230	29.8831

KFC mulls policy to expand creative sector

■ NAIROBI, (Xinhua)

Kenya plans to set up a national film policy that will provide a roadmap to expand the film sector, Joshua Akwara, acting CEO, Kenya Film Commission (KFC) has said.

Akwara told Xinhua in Nairobi that the government has set a target to increase the output of the film sector from the current Sh20 billion (about \$182 million) annually to \$912 million by the end of 2025.

"The film policy will provide the necessary incentives for industry players so that they can help to expand the contribution of the sector to the overall economy," Akwara said on the sidelines of the Kalasha International Film and TV market 2021.

Fourth edition of the Kalasha confer-

ence will take place from May 5 to 7 and will showcase films from the East African region.

National identity

Akwara said that the policy should be in place by the end of June and establishes the Kenya film fund that will finance the promotion, development and growth of the local film industry.

The KFC boss noted that once Kenya

establishes a vibrant film sector, it will be able to improve the portrayal of the country's cultural and national identity.

"Our goal is to make Kenya a regional hub for film production by promoting consumption of local films in foreign markets," he added.

Akwara observed that the policy will also provide a framework for government intervention in upgrading



World News

MICHELLE OBAMA



Public service is a bright, sharp, hot spotlight

Michelle unsurprised by Meghan race talk

Former US First Lady Michelle Obama said she hoped there would be “forgiveness”

Former US First Lady Michelle Obama has said it “wasn’t a complete surprise” to hear the Duchess of Sussex talk about race in a recent TV interview.

Obama spoke to NBC’s Today show about Meghan and Harry’s interview with Oprah Winfrey.

Meghan and Harry had opened up about a range of personal topics, including racism and mental health.

Meghan said Harry had been asked by an unnamed royal family member “how dark” their son Archie’s skin might be.

Buckingham Palace said the race issues raised by Meghan, 39, and Harry, 36, were “concerning”, and would be “taken very seriously” and dealt with privately.

In her interview with NBC, Obama was

asked what had gone through her mind while watching Meghan’s candid conversation with Oprah.

“Public service is a bright, sharp, hot spotlight,” said Obama, who spent eight years in the White House while her husband, Barack Obama, was US president.

“And most people don’t understand it, and nor should they. The thing that I always keep in mind is that none of this is about us in public service, it’s about the people we serve.”

Experienced racism

Obama, 57, was asked about the moment Meghan told Oprah she had “experienced racism”.

“As I said before, race isn’t a new construct in this world for people of colour, and so it wasn’t a complete surprise to hear her feelings and to have them articulated,” Mrs Obama replied.

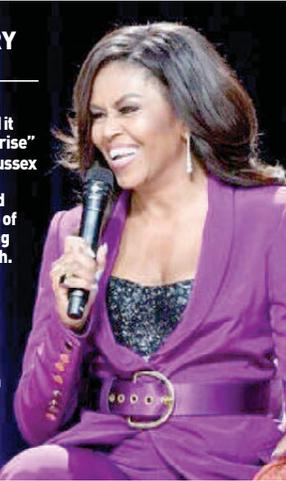
In a separate interview with Access Hollywood, Mrs Obama said she hoped

MEGHAN, HARRY RACE STORM

● Former US First Lady Michelle Obama has said it “wasn’t a complete surprise” to hear the Duchess of Sussex

● Meghan and Harry had opened up about a range of personal topics, including racism and mental health.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama attends ‘Becoming: An Intimate Conversation with Michelle Obama’ at State Farm Arena in Atlanta, Georgia.



Meghan and Harry would find a way to reconcile with the royal family.

“My hope is that, when I think about what they’re going through, I think about the importance of family, and I just pray that there is forgiveness, and there is clarity and love and resolve at some point in time,” Obama said.

The former first lady is a long-time supporter of Meghan, calling her a “friend” and “inspiration” in a 2019 Instagram post.

Harry has been friends with the Obamas for years, forming a bond over charity initiatives. The Obamas were early supporters of Harry’s Invictus Games Foundation.

Meghan interviewed Obama for an edition of British Vogue she guest-edited in 2019.

For this project, the Duchess said she had enlisted the help of Mrs Obama, describing her as an “endearingly frank, down-to-earth” person.

- BBC

Stopping students protests

Protesters throw stones at riot police during clashes in Thessaloniki. Thousands of students take part in a demonstration against the operation of the evacuation of the Aristotle University by police.

AFP



BRIEFLY

Seven killed in south-western Pakistani coal mining disaster

At least five coal miners and two rescuers have died of suffocation after a methane gas fire in the southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan, officials say. The fire took place at a mine in the Tor Ghar area of Harnai district, about 170km (105 miles) west of the provincial capital Quetta, late on Monday, said government official Sohail Anwer Hashmi. “The coal miners entered inside the mine to fill the cracks

caused by [the] fire, but they died of asphyxia caused by the deadly methane gas,” Hashmi told Al Jazeera by telephone. “The coal miners were working 1,400ft [427m] deep inside the mine when the incident [was] reported,” he said. The seven miners’ bodies were recovered after rescue operations through the night, Hashmi said. The accident was the second coal mine disaster in Balochistan within days. - AFP

Protesters storm presidential palace in Yemeni city of Aden

Angry Yemeni protesters have stormed the presidential palace in the southern city of Aden – seat of the internationally recognised government – according to local sources. Demonstrators broke into the Maasheeq Presidential Palace on Tuesday amid public anger over the lack of services, poor living conditions and depreciation of the local currency, the sources told Reuters. Local sources also told Al Jazeera the

protesters found no resistance from forces loyal to the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council. Al Jazeera’s Jamal Elshayyal said the protesters are members of the national security forces who have not been paid for nine months. “We understand the protests have been peaceful so far and that some sort of mediation is taking place,” Elshayyal said, speaking from the Qatari capital, Doha. - AFP

Tanzanians demand accurate information on missing President

Tanzanians are now demanding to see their leader, President John Magufuli, right, in person. After days have turned into weeks locals say his presence will end the rumour mongering and reassure the country that he is doing fine.

Zitto Kabwe, the leader of opposition party ACT-Wazalendo, said the government was merely giving room for panic.

“We know for sure that the president is ill but we are surprised by the deepening silence about the matter,” he said in a statement Tuesday.

“We need to know who is currently heading the government through which constitutional powers.”

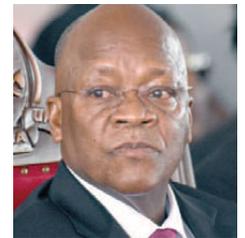
“I believe something is happening but the authorities are hiding,” said Muhsin, a resident of the financial capital Dar es Salaam.

“I will be comfortable if I see the president himself.” Clothes vendor Deborah said there was “unnecessary secrecy”.

“If our beloved president is really ill, they should tell us the truth so that we put him in our prayers,” she said.

On Friday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said Magufuli was “strong and working as usual”.

On Monday, vice-presi-



dent Samia Suluhu Hassan dropped a possible hint the president is ill, without naming him.

“Our country is now full of rumours from outside but that should be ignored... It’s quite normal for a person to contract flu, fever or any other disease,” she said.

“If there’s need for us to remain united, the time is now.”

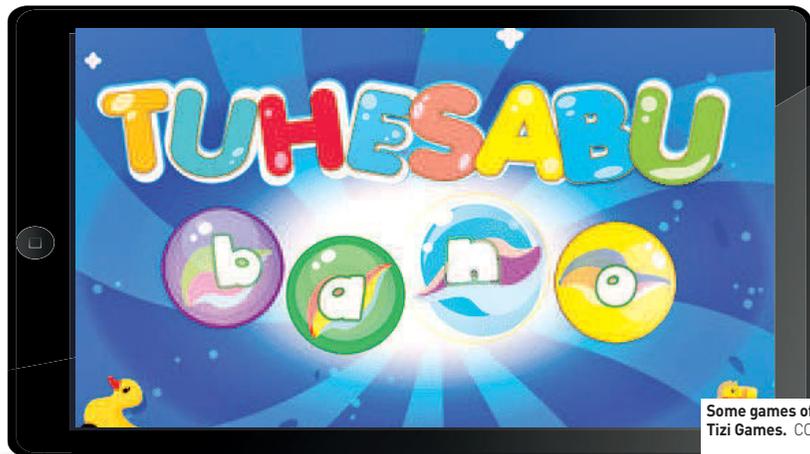
Magufuli came to power in 2015 as a no-nonsense, corruption-busting president nicknamed the “Bulldozer”, and was re-elected in a disputed poll last year.

However he has been accused by rights groups and of stifling democracy, and cracking down on the media.

As a result, the country’s journalists are too afraid to dig into the story.

“It’s all about survival and telling the truth... you need to play it safe,” an editor said.

Eureka ▶ Design, innovate, engineer



Some games offered on Tizi Games. COURTESY

Taking video games to the classroom

Known for their problem solving, memory and concentration benefits, these games are said to be a key tool in school, especially with the competency based curriculum

by William Murigi
@millymur1

“Put down that controller!” “Stop fiddling with your phone!” “You can’t play that video game right now, you’ve got homework to do”. These are some of the refrains that you have probably heard many times in your lives.

It’s no surprise that for a lot of people, video games are for entertainment and nothing more. But do you know that gaming has charted new and exciting territories in recent years?

Militaries are using video games for training exercises; surgeons and doctors are using them to better access training, and improve how they do their jobs; and schools have also not been left behind. Teachers are using video games as a tool for teaching.

However, the sad reality is that there are very few game developers creating edutainment games to help students improve their learning skills. This is why Usiku Games, a Kenyan mobile games company, is working hard to bridge this gap.

The company has unveiled edutainment games to help primary school-aged children improve their learning skills, especially in math, science, and the English language. As per the company, their aim is to turn the smartphone into a fun classroom for the children.

“Our collection of interactive and educational games gives them another fun way of understanding the most important concepts taught in school,” says Shapiro, CEO, Usiku Games.

The mobile web-based platform dubbed “Tizi Games”



Jay Shapiro, CEO Usiku Games. COURTESY

is designed to be fun and entertaining as they help educate pupils. Each game is designed around a particular subject based on the new Competency-Based Curriculum [CBC] developed by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

“Tizi Games help improve children’s skills in memory, concentration, and development of knowledge: enhance what your children learn in school and act as a review”

sion for the week’s schoolwork. Our games are adapted to be handled easily and specifically designed as an educational tool for interface of preschoolers and up,” says Shapiro.

He adds that they create, design, and produce edutainment content to help today’s children learn in ways that is fun and resonates with them. They have also specialised in developing games that will improve skills, focus, and cognitive reasoning.

How it works

He reveals that each week children are presented with a collection of fun games, tailored to match their grade level and what they learned in school that week. The words, math, and lessons taught through each game directly support and reinforce what the students have been taught in class that week.

“Each game dynamically pulls in content to match the grade level and classroom curriculum based on what week of the year it is. In this way, studying and improving class scores need no longer be a chore, but something fun that children enjoy playing without even realising they are actually doing school work,” he adds.

Targeting the eight million primary school pupils in Kenya, Tizi Games mirror the CBC, which encourages imagination, creativity, and critical thinking among children. Tizi’s interactive games create opportunities for problem solving, reinforcing the cognitive abilities of the student.

“The games also help with sensory integration, which is critical in implementation of the curriculum. This new approach puts a strong emphasis on the importance of science, technology, and innovation. The games build hand-eye coordination, special awareness, and fast reflexes,” he says.

According to the Basic Education Curriculum Framework 2017, critical thinking and problem solving are useful for learners of all ages and in all the subjects and disciplines offered in the basic education curriculum.

For example, in the sciences learners need to think critically about observations and patterns to develop ideas on how to solve problems. Edutainment-based games help in attaining that subtly, while the children focus on having fun.

UNESCO indicates that the use of games for teaching mathematics, sciences, and the humanities is becoming a core part of the educational landscape. There has been a surge in game development for teaching social and emotional learning skills. Further, games are being used in assessments and evaluations of student learning.

“With the advent of fast internet connectivity and availability of affordable devices, there are infinite possibilities for leveraging educational technology, —including games—for deeper, engaging, active, and immersive learning experiences for learning,” he says.

BRIEFLY

Google.org reinforces commitment to women, girls in Africa

Google’s philanthropic arm, Google.org, has announced Sh2.7 billion in cash grants for the Google.org Impact Challenge (GIC) focused on women and girls’ economic empowerment in Africa.

The cash grants will be given to non-profits and social enterprises to enable them create pathways for women to achieve full economic potential and thrive. These enterprises have until April 2 at 11:59pm GMT to submit their applications at g.co/women and girls challenge where an all-female panel of expert Google executives, world leaders, researchers, educators, business leaders, entrepreneurs, activists and

more will preside over the application review and selection process.

Agnes Gathaiya, Google Kenya Country Director, says they are looking for applications from organisations that advance all-round economic empowerment on programmes that address systemic barriers to economic equality, to cultivating entrepreneurship, developing financial independence and more.

“Building on our previous work in gender equity with grantees like the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Laboratoria and GiveDirectly, in the past five years, Google.org has given over Sh6 billion in cash grants to non-

profit organisations that support gender equity and access to opportunity for women and girls around the world,” she said.

Each beneficiary will receive funding ranging from Sh32.8 million to Sh219.3 million, with each organisation receive-

ing capacity building support and mentoring from Googlers.

“We have a collective responsibility to ensure generations of women and girls from all walks of life, no matter their race, sexual orientation, religion or socioeconomic status live in a world

where they are treated equally and can realise their full potential,” Gathaiya said. This gives women and girls the tools, resources and opportunities to turn their potential into power changes their economic trajectory while benefiting their communities.

The GIC for Women and Girls, follows initiatives like the 2019 Africa launch of Women Will, Google’s initiative to create opportunities for women and Google’s #IamRemarkable workshop series, work to counteract conditioning that women should not celebrate their achievements.

– Barry Silah



Spice ▶ Flavour your day

STYLE @Onyango_Jack

THRIFT STYLE

GET THE LOOK
WITH FAITH KYUMUKAMA

Meet **Natasha Shitakha**, 24, Kenya's latest artistic director and brains behind vogue Kenyan fashion thrift store Sabba. She chats style, art, sustainability, her celebrity boyfriend and everything in between to **Jackson Onyango**

Kindly break down how your blog 'valishanatasha' came to be?

Valishanatasha is a platform where I share my visual perspectives. I was working on projects, but was frustrated about not knowing how to share it with the world. That's how valishanatasha came to be. Instagram is good, but I felt people wouldn't take me seriously lol.

And what exactly is Sabba in general and to you, personally?

Sabba is my e-thrift store. I'm a strong believer of sustainability, so I figured why not sell the clothes used or seen on valishanatasha to those that like them? And since I thrift all my clothes, why not make the same service accessible to those who don't have time to go hunting for clothes at Gikomba.

Do you have any philosophies that guide your art when working on your stuff?

Stay true to yourself, you will eventually find the tribe that vibes with your art.

What are some highs and lows since you charted on this path?

Lows: No one wants to work with you unless you're relevant or well known.

Highs: Reception I received when I launched valishanatasha.com. Didn't know there were people rooting for me. It felt real good.

What influences your day-to-day wear?

My personality should speak through my outfit.

Do you have anything you stock up on a lot?

Blazers and jackets! They have an infinite ability to dress up or dress down an outfit. They're usually dismissed as functional pieces, but really have a personality of their own.

What Kenyan celebrity has the most fashion faux pas to you?

Lol...to each his own...

Whose wardrobe remains undefeated to you? And why?

Oumayma Elboumshouli, Rihanna, Luka Sabbat, Yoon Ambush, Tiffany Hsu just to name a few (I can't choose one). Their style is highly editorial and they are not afraid to experiment.

Do you have any muses?

Nature, architecture, basically things that happen around me.

How have you been winging your fashion endeavours with Covid-19 being a disruptive force? Has it changed your outlook on fashion in any way?

Covid-19 hasn't changed my outlook on fashion, but rather proven my point of view that fashion is a manifestation of human art and communication. Everyone now walks around in masks and that communicates that there is a global

pandemic. This new norm has inspired a different kind of creativity within the industry.

What would you describe your art as?

True to myself.

What are your biggest influences when working on your brand?

Quality. I will not release any work (redesigned thrifted clothes) until I am satisfied with it. I'd rather repeat or completely forget about it if it doesn't turn out how or better than how I envisioned it.

Your photography has an artistic edge to it, how do you

come up with such cool concepts?

I get an idea then try to figure out how to express it in a non-conventional way.

Does it help that you date a popular photographer (Kevin Buo)?

I'd say 'a good photographer' instead (chuckles). You might be popular, but cannot see what I see, therefore, creating together becomes impossible. But to be politically correct it does help that I'm dating a good photographer who happens to be popular.

How do you two interact with art and what do you appreciate about his craft?

We both agree that there's no right or wrong way of doing art. We really just appreciate the process. I love the fact that he can capture the essence of 'a picture is worth a thousand words'

What's the reception to your brand and work so far?

Better than I expected.

Anything to look out for from you in future?

I'm looking forward to my future just as much as anyone would theirs. For now, I'm focused on establishing a solid brand.

What next for Natasha?

Good things, but now it's consistency and growth.



The print captain

Prints are usually a dicy ensemble, especially when it comes to men.

However, TV personality Mike Makori has a great way of pairing floral print and still maintain that clean, sharp look.

Here are some of his looks that we love.



In case you want to play safe, you can pick one colour on the floral shirt for your pants to pair.



This look has a coastal vibe to it and perfect fit for when you are at the coast on holiday.



See what he did there for the colour combo. It is unique, and effortlessly fit.

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Delegates keenly follow proceedings.



Ramla Nasib and Khadija Abdalla.



Human Rights Agenda (HURIA) Executive Director Yusuf Lule with Executive Director for Africa, Middle East and Asia Moustafa Ayad.



Zed Mkalla with Farida Ally and Francis Saha.



Mombasa County Director of Resilience Youth Affairs and Economic Empowerment Munira Hamisi with Mombasa County Chief Officer Gender and Youth Innocent Mugambe.

VOICE FOR THE YOUTH

by **Ndegwa Gathungu**

Young Cities, an organisation that works in partnership with young people and local governments to enhance youth-led, shared solutions to community challenges, such as hate, polarisation, extremism and violence recently launched a show-

case in Mombasa county. The aim of the event was to showcase the impactful work of young activists from Mombasa to county government, civil society and international organisations. Over 60 attendees graced the showcase, including county government stakeholders and community based organisations in Kwale.

Their work has been supported and developed as part of the Young Cities programme, in partnership with the Mombasa County Government, Human Rights Agenda (HURIA) and funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU



Riziki Iddy with Miraj Abdillah and Rukiya Hassan.

For the love of poetry

by **John Ochieng**

Kwani Open Mic is now back after taking a hiatus when the first case of Covid-19 was reported in the country in March last year. Held in conjunction with Bliss Healthcare, the event, which took place at the Kenya National Theater brought together poets from different walks of life to compete for a mini contest defining "What is Bliss?" Aphropatra, real name Nadia Gachanja, emerged the winner and was awarded a health insurance cover by the clinic chain.

PD/ JOHN OCHIENG



Queen Akinyi, the event's emcee.



Actors Loved Mbatha, Faiz Francis Ouma, and musician Carolyn Amanda.



Poet Nadia Gachanja, the competition winner does what she knows best.



Artists Lisa Hope and Ivy Andambi smile for the camera.



Jonathan Githire and Nkanai Cynthia.

Ten...

Ways to enhance your vehicle's fuel efficiency

On Monday this week, motorists woke up to depressing news from the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) over the increase of fuel prices with a litre of super petrol going up by Sh7.63 while the price of a litre of diesel and kerosene shot up by Sh5.75 and Sh5.41 respectively. The motorists are feeling helpless, especially now that Covid-19 has also eroded the economy. With the price reduction not expected any time soon, it's worth thinking about how to use less fuel. **Allan Adalla** shares tips to ensure fuel efficiency when driving



1. The AC and open windows dilemma

We are in the hot season where the car interiors get really heated up, leading to uncomfortable temperatures. So, do you roll your windows down or switch the air conditioning on while trying to keep your car cool? Well, these methods of attaining an ambient temperature are not advised as they contribute to high fuel consumption. Air conditioning uses fuel, and having the windows down causes drag or air resistance, so it needs to use more energy to push air out of the way as it cruises.

2. Inflate tyres to correct pressure

Each tyre size has a specific pressure quantity. Most passenger cars will recommend 32 PSI to 35 PSI when the tyres are cold. For the most accurate reading, make sure the car has been sitting overnight or has been parked for a few hours. The more surface area in contact with the road, (in the case of under inflation) the more drag on the wheel and this will increase the consumption of your car.



3. Drive only when needed

The best way to reduce fuel consumption is to simply drive your car less. Drive your car only when you really need to. If you only need to travel a few blocks, consider walking or even riding a bicycle. Not only will you save money at the pump, the exercise will certainly do you some good instead of staying seated in the car.



4. Plan ahead for your trip

Before commencing on a journey, it is advisable to know the distance you are about to cover and the petrol stations you will meet along the way. This will help you plan when to refuel and where you will go to do so. For instance, super petrol is now retailing at Sh115.18 per litre in Nairobi while in Mombasa and its neighbouring counties it is retailing at Sh112.78. It would be cheaper to fill the fuel tank in Mombasa than in Nairobi. It will also help you avoid panic-buying at the nearest, most expensive station.



5. Be soft to the accelerator

Drivers always have different preferences on revving the car; some prefer going hard on the accelerator for high speed while others opt for gentle acceleration and calm driving. According to experts, it is advisable to maintain gentle acceleration and use the highest safe gear in order to use less fuel. This is known as 'eco-safe driving'. However, this becomes more applicable to the manual transmission cars where the driver has the liberty to engage the gears. What's more, when you approach traffic lights, ease off the accelerator early if the lights are red.

6. Avoid prolonged idling

Running your engine at a stop consumes roughly 1.8 litres to about 3.7 litres of fuel every hour. It also degrades the surroundings through carbon dioxide pumped into the atmosphere. This means you're burning about 30.2 grammes to 63 grammes of fuel every minute you're idle. With modern cars being more efficient nowadays, you're likely to burn less fuel by simply turning off your engine, then restarting it when you have to move again. This will help you save energy in the common Nairobi traffic.

7. Don't coast

On the bygone car technology, it was a norm to save fuel by coasting – travelling either with the clutch pedal held down or with the car in neutral. Well, in modern cars, indeed, it won't cost you extra, but it won't save you fuel either. That's because when you take your foot off the accelerator in a modern car the fuel supply to the injectors is cut, so there's nothing to be gained. Therefore, you're much better off altering your driving style, than trying to improve fuel efficiency by coasting.

8. Maintain your engine

Whenever you realise that your car engine consumes fuel more than it does normally, don't hesitate to examine it. Looking after your engine will not only help improve fuel economy, but is important for safety and the longevity of your vehicle. According to experts, having your car properly tuned can improve fuel kilometre by up to four per cent and using the correct oil is good for up to two per cent.



9. Monitor your car

For the time I have spent with my car, I know that it consumes one litre of fuel per 10 kilometre. If the car shows the fuel warning light before covering this distance, then this clearly shows me that the car has a problem. You should also take a keen note on knowing your car fuel efficiency. Measuring fuel economy helps you see if making changes to your driving has a considerable effect on your fuel gas mileage.

10. Reduce weight in the vehicle

Get rid of any unnecessary items in your car's trunk or other areas of the vehicle to make the car lighter. For every 50 kilogramme of weight in the vehicle, your car's fuel economy decreases by about one or two per cent. By making sure your vehicle remains as light as possible, you can improve the fuel consumption of your vehicle and save money on your fuel bill. Having unnecessary weight in your vehicle wastes fuel, particularly during acceleration. If there is heavy stuff in your boot that you don't need, leave it behind or ditch it.



Family Fusion ▶ All about kin and kith

Shielding children from the snare of advertising

by Kwach Wakhisi
@ PeopleDailyKe

Every other day, thousands of children across the country, and the world, are exposed to different kind of adverts, which appear on different platforms — from TV, radio, YouTube, billboards, magazines, newspapers, movies/series, online games, the internet, social media and many others.

According to the American Psychological Association, an average child is exposed to more than 40,000 TV commercials a year. Advertisers, especially target younger children because they are naive and the easiest to persuade. Studies have shown that from the age of three, children can differentiate between brands and logos, which later on cement them as loyal customers for their preferred brand or logo.

Children represent an important demographic to marketers because they influence their parents' buying decisions and are the adult consumers of the future. Psychologists argue that when you target adverts at children, and create that desire in them to have your product, they use 'pester power' to get their parents to buy the desired product.

"Pester power" refers to children's ability to nag their parents into purchasing items they may not otherwise buy.

Providing alternative

Psychologist John Mark Otieno says advertising may have negative effects on children such as provoking alcohol consumption and smoking of cigarettes, cause eating disorders, make them develop materialistic feelings (consumerism), beguiles children to try dangerous stunts, provoke violence and aggressive thoughts, among others.

Just recently, the International Children's Day of Broadcasting was celebrated across the world with calls for broadcasters around the world to pay more attention to children's programmes, air quality programmes for children and most importantly, allow children to be part of the programming process.

During a virtual event that was held to mark the day, it became apparent that children under three years of age are sometimes exposed to content that is not appropriate and child friendly, but just for profit.

"There is serious shortage of age-appropriate media," said Lynette Okengo, from the Africa Early Childhood Network who spoke during the virtual event.

Karago Kabura, a parent of two teenagers aged 19 and 16 years says in as much as some advertisements are educative and informative, others are not, hence parents need to limit their children's exposure to advertising. "The best way to tame children from watching too much advertisement that doesn't enrich their knowledge is simply to have them engaged in other activities that are equally interesting and capture their attention," says Kabura.

"Children get attracted to these adverts because most of them are usually short with catchy phrases and eye-catching. This is what gets them glued to TV screens. You will even hear some children repeat word for word the phrases or lyrics to a song in an advert. If one is to take away the attention of the children from the TV, they must in return provide another means, which should and must be



equally captivating than what is on the TV," she explains. According to Kabura, in this era of advancement of internet and other social media platforms, it is important for parents to involve their children in activities that are mind involving, interesting and creative. These activities must also not be too repetitive as children lose interest fast.

Susan Catherine Keter, a transformational life coach says the brains of children below school age are not developed enough to tell the difference between fantasy and reality. Yet advertising is more of fantasy, with high gear persuasion. "At that age, children's brains have not developed critical thinking or the ability to analyse issues and question things. Their brains absorb like a sponge. The information they absorb goes to form their deep-rooted value systems, something they will not be consciously aware of even later in life," says Keter.

Dangers abound

She offers: "They will be vulnerable to bad choices such as opting for junk foods, which are high in calories yet low on nutrients because at the sub-conscious level they believe that such foods are for people of class. Girls who watch advertising from a young age where certain looks are glorified [thin girls,

light skinned, with long silky hair] are likely to develop negative body image and self-esteem issues and could unconsciously opt for procedures such as bleaching of the skin and body enhancement procedures in an effort to match the image of beauty that is buried deep at the subconscious level."

She advises parents not to trust content at face value just because the label indicates that it is appropriate for a particular age. "Watch it and decide if it is appropriate for your young child or not. For older children, you can talk to them and critically, analyse some adverts and their intended purpose," she says.

As a parent, it is also important to talk to your child about protecting his or her online privacy. Children give advertisers a lot of information just by downloading an app. Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are conjuring up ways to make money off the behavioural data they can collect on children.

Marketers use different techniques to appeal to children. "Advertising is subtle nowadays, hidden even in cartoons and computer games, hence be slow to trust any content based on what the label indicates," Keter adds.

Brands appealing to teens take advantage of their particular vulnerabilities: the desire to fit in, to be perceived as attractive, and to not be a huge dork. Teens are extremely at-



SUSAN CATHERINE KETER

Girls who watch advertising from a young age where certain looks are glorified (thin girls, light skinned, with long silky hair) are likely to develop negative body image

LIMITING COMMERCIALS

● While you can't protect your child from preying advertisers entirely, you can help them limit their privacy vulnerabilities- and cultivate a healthy sense of skepticism towards advertising.

● If your child has a favourite programme on commercial TV, consider subscribing to a streaming service, so your child can watch it without advertisements. You could also consider paying a bit more to avoid advertisements on YouTube or to get ad-free versions of apps.

● To limit the effects of advertising on school-age children, the most important thing you can do is talk about advertisements and encourage children to think about what they're trying to do.

● It's a good idea to focus on the advertisements that your child sees most often. For example, you can get your child to develop a questioning attitude towards advertisers' claims by asking him to think about what's being advertised. That is, what's the product in this advertisement? What is it for? Who is it for?

● You can also ask your child about the strategies that are being used to sell a particular product. This can help your child work out how an advertisement makes a product look good.

● Talk to children about the value of things and encourage them to practice minimalism.

Damaris Kabura Weru, her husband Peter Weru and their children Naomi Muthiri and Elisha Kanake.

PD/COURTESY

tuned to their place in the peer hierarchy, and advertising acts as a kind of "super peer" in guiding them toward what's cool and what's acceptable.

Others appear in form of bribe. For example, you get a free toy when you buy a product. There are also games where you play and win a prize if you buy a product. Others use catchy tunes, repeat the ad over and over again so that it makes it difficult to forget it or tell an interesting story or joke.

Careful guidance

Sex is used in commercials to sell everything from beer to food and cars. New research is showing that teenagers' exposure to sexual content in the media may be responsible for earlier onset of sexual intercourse or other sexual activities.

Gospel artiste Princess Farida says there is need for guidance and supervision from the parents on the kind of content their children watch and are exposed to.

"We carefully review and select what our children watch on TV. For example, we do not allow our children to watch adverts of certain products such as cigarettes, alcohol or condoms. But if it's an advert that bears a good message, then why not let them be informed," says Farida.

Farida and her husband have learnt to help their children strike a balance between school work and other co-curricular activities.

"If they get opportunities to appear in adverts, we don't stop them. We are always present, working with producers and supporting our children by helping them memorise their lines and act it out like professionals. We have signed them with reputable firms and organisations," Farida says.

Relatively Speaking

► Inner circle truth

After losing his wife in 2017, actor **Dan Kinyanjui** has found love again. His fiancé **Winnie Bwire**, opens up on their relationship, career and family



Blended love: Actor Dan Kinyanjui, his fiancée Winnie Bwire and their sons Djibril and Darrel.
PD/COURTESY

already crossed that bridge," she says.

Just like all other couples, they have had their fair share of challenges. "Discussing finances was a no go zone not just for us, but many couples out there. We learnt the hard way that transparency where money is concerned is a great way to make a relationship work since 70 per cent of the fights amongst couples revolve around this topic. Another challenge we encountered and conquered is communication. We couldn't understand each other's languages and now we do. We are on the same page. More cohesive than ever. We found ways to have hard conversations that couples run away from. We are at that place when we can talk about anything and I mean anything," she intimates.

Impacting lives

The 38-year-old makes for a perfect husband and partner. He is open minded and helps with the chores around the house, he is a good listener, positive minded and more importantly, cares about how she feels.

Away from family life, Dan's journey in the acting industry began in the late 80s when his dad introduced him to LTC. He could not get enough of the performances and wanted to be part of it. He would find himself at the backstage, visiting the control/light box and basically being all over the theatre from a young age. With both their fathers being a huge part of the LTC, Dan and his fiancée, Winnie, go way back in time. LTC has for a long time been marred by infighting and conflicts between management and artists. So, when Dan openly took to social media to fight against the injustices he felt were taking place within the institution, Winnie shares that this was a move she was restless about as she knew the toll it would take on him and probably on their young family as well.

"To be honest at first, I was enthusiastic and cheered him on. But then, dirty strings were pulled and I didn't think it was healthy. I nudged him to focus his energies on something more productive and positive where the arts are concerned hence the birth or Creatives Nest foundation. This fight Dan has been on with LTC, my dad has been on it too way long before Dan and I came to be. I saw what it did to my father and there was no way I was going to let that happen to Dan as well," she shares.

If Dan hadn't been an actor, he would probably be a social worker. He likes impacting people's lives somehow. He also enjoys riding his bike.

Cupid struck again

by **Jasmine Atieno**
@sparkleMine

Actor, Daniel Kinyanjua popularly known as Dan Sonko, is not only celebrated as one of the best actors in Kenya following features in films such as *Saida*, *Pete*, *Kilimani Dynasty*, *Ta Kimbia* and several features on music videos, but also being a hands-on dad — raising his two sons after his wife's passing in March 2017.

Dan's late wife, Druscillah Mngoda passed on during childbirth after developing complications, leaving behind a newborn and a four-year-old. This was such a low moment for him as a mountainous challenge of caring and raising a newborn by himself lay bare before him. However, help came in the form of love as the family support system stepped in to shore him during this season of loss and pain. When Darrell was born, both Dan's mum and Dru's mum stepped in to care for the little one moving in to stay with them for the first one month after which Dru's mum went back to Nairobi and Dan's mum carried on with caring of the baby for close to three months. During this time Dan was at least able to carry on with work and tend to Djibril.

Later on they had an agreement in which Darrel would stay with his grandmother from Monday to Friday and Dan would pick him up for the weekend and would also occasionally take days off. This went on until he started eating solid foods then he moved in permanently. The boys, Djibril now aged eight and Darrel aged four have been their father's pride and kept him sane while mourning the loss of their mother.

WINNIE

When I reconnected with Dan post his wife's death, he was dating someone else, but it wasn't working. It was after this period that we connected emotionally for the first time ever.

But cupid would struck again in the most unimaginable ways at a time he was so focused on raising his boys and working his career. Love came his way. Again. In the form of Winnie Bwire, an actor, producer, musician and interior designer. Dan and Winnie are currently engaged with a passion and drive to stand for what families are; love. Winnie is also the daughter of former Little Theatre Club (LTC) Chairman, Edmund Kwena.

"We've been together for one year and eight months. But we've known each other since we were teenagers acting in church plays, but never dated until 2019 for obvious reasons. He got married while I was outside the country for studies. When I got back, we worked together on several projects," she says.

It was never really the love at first sight kind of story. "When I reconnected with Dan post his wife's death, he was dating someone else, but it wasn't working. It was after this period that we connected emotionally for the first time ever. And have been together ever since. About one year into seeing each other he asked me to marry him and I said yes," shares Winnie.

Memorable moments

Winnie describes Dan as a present dad, always open to trying new things and connect with the boys at deeper levels. He is the best father to their boys. The children and Winnie get along well and they have made a lot of memorable moments as a family.

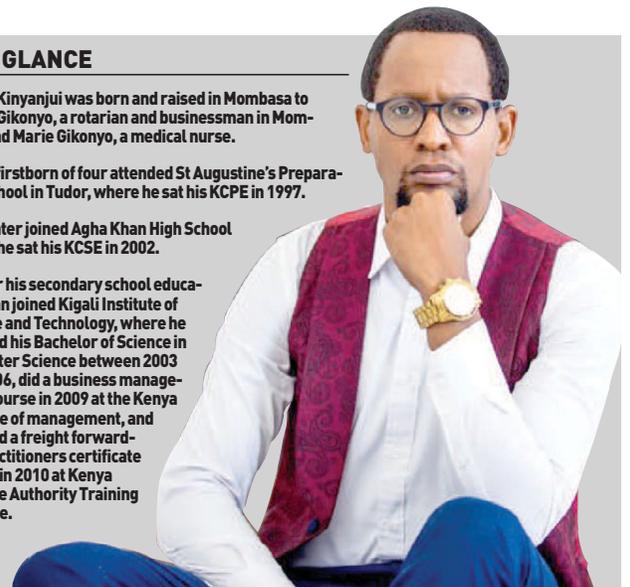
"We have so many memorable moments; When he asked me to marry him, when our boys first called me mum, when we started

a food initiative that fed over 1,700 families during Covid-19 pandemic, when we hit our lowest low and still found the strength to stick together, when our parents first met and when we started our own business," intimates Winnie.

Being a step-mum, Winnie says she does think about being a *mama wa kamba*, but the society does not fail to remind her everyday that the children are not born of her womb. "I chose to not let it get into me. I

AT A GLANCE

- Dan Kinyanjui was born and raised in Mombasa to Daniel Gikonyo, a rotarian and businessman in Mombasa and Marie Gikonyo, a medical nurse.
- The firstborn of four attended St Augustine's Preparatory School in Tudor, where he sat his KCPE in 1997.
- He later joined Agha Khan High School where he sat his KCSE in 2002.
- After his secondary school education, Dan joined Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, where he pursued his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science between 2003 and 2006, did a business management course in 2009 at the Kenya Institute of management, and later did a freight forwarders practitioners certificate course in 2010 at Kenya revenue Authority Training Institute.



BRIEFLY

Harvard prof ignites anger over 'comfort women' claim

A Harvard University professor has ignited an international uproar and faces mounting scrutiny for alleging that Korean women who were kept as sex slaves in wartime Japan had actually chosen to work as prostitutes.

In a recent academic paper, J. Mark Ramseyer rejected a wide body of research finding that Japan's so-called "comfort women" were forced to work at military brothels during World War II. Ramseyer instead argued that the women willingly entered into contracts as sex workers.

His paper has intensified a political dispute between Japan, whose leaders deny that the women were coerced, and South Korea, which has long pressed Japan to provide apologies and compensation to women who have shared accounts of rape and abuse.

Decades of research has explored the abuses inflicted on comfort women from Korea and other nations previously occupied by Japan. In the 1990s, women began sharing accounts detailing how they were taken to comfort stations and forced to provide sexual services for the Japanese military.

Hundreds of scholars have signed letters condemning Ramseyer's article, which united North and South Korea in sparking outrage. Last Tuesday, North Korea's state-run DPRK Today published an article calling Ramseyer a "repulsive money grubber" and a "pseudo scholar."

Ramseyer, a professor of Japanese legal studies at Harvard Law School, declined to comment.

Ramseyer's article, titled *Contracting For Sex In The Pacific War*, was published online in December and was scheduled to appear in the March issue of the *International Review of Law and Economics*. The issue has been suspended, however, and the journal issued an "expression of concern" saying the piece is under investigation.

Most alarming to historians is what they say is a lack of evidence in the paper: Scholars at Harvard and other institutions have combed through Ramseyer's sources and say there is no historical evidence of the contracts he describes. In a statement calling for the article to be retracted, Harvard historians Andrew Gordon and Carter Eckert said Ramseyer "has not consulted a single actual contract" dealing with comfort women.

"We do not see how Ramseyer can make credible claims, in extremely emphatic wording, about contracts he has not read," they wrote.

-AP

Taboo ▶ Let's talk about it



Black tax: To pay or not to pay?

Should helping out your family members come at the expense of your personal growth and advancement?

by **Nailantei Norari**
@Artnorari

Times are hard. By June 2020, over one million people had lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic and its constriction of the economy. While some people had emergency funds to tide them over as they looked for new jobs, most people did not. What followed is a quick downsizing of cars, houses and sale of anything disposable. One would think this would just be felt by the now unemployed populace, but the ripple effect of the job losses was felt all the way to the villages.

A tax for blessings

John (not his real name), lives in a two bedroomed apartment in Jamhuri. He lives with his cousin, whom he took through a tertiary institution and currently works as a mechanic understudy, and his younger brother who is still in university. Despite having lost his job as a banker due to Covid-19, his cousin, brother and their relatives in the countryside still expect him to support them. He is still sending monthly upkeep money for his parents while dreading any emergency call asking for any money to pay a hospital bill.

John, currently working as an Uber driver with a car he had bought while employed, says he is scared of the future as he cannot fathom continuing to live a life where he cannot even afford to invest due to the weight of responsibilities. He, however, believes he is all the family has as he is the first one to go to university. His parents sold a huge chunk of land to take him through school and he, therefore, feels he owes them.

John reveals he is envious of friends who are able to put themselves first and stop paying the black tax, despite seeing them as selfish and knowing he could never do it.

By definition, black tax is income black professionals give to their families to support them.

"It has always been the duty of the young to take care of their elders in the African community. People would take pride in cooking for, cleaning and providing for their elders. Among the Agikuyu, for instance, the last born son was supposed to inherit the hearth and was the one who would take care of their parents in old age. He would stay in the parents' compound in his own hut, marry, with his wife cooking for his parents as they aged and his children being sent on errands by grandparents.

In some cases, the eldest son would take up the onus of caring for the parents. Other sons and daughters were free to visit and chip in whenever they had time. This cycle would continue from one generation to the next," Dr Francis Kerre, a sociologist and don at Kenyatta University explains.

He says even slightest thought of not helping out elders in favour of personal progress was unheard of. One was expected to help not just their own aging parents, but their aging relatives as well. It was one way of earning blessings of a long life, good health and wealth.

However, while severing ties with the aging population is unheard of, more and more millennials are choosing themselves over their families. They are choosing to invest in their futures rather than pour all their earnings back to their families as society expects.

"It is okay to help out your less fortunate relatives. But you also have to think about your future and if you will be the one forcing

SUSAN

It is okay to help out your less fortunate relatives. But you also have to think about your future and if you will be the one forcing others to pay black tax



Dr Francis Kerre, a sociologist.
COURTESY



Susan Wanjiku, financial advisor.
COURTESY

others to pay black tax. Save up and have an emergency fund and a sinking fund. An emergency fund is saved funds for an unplanned expense while a sinking fund is money saved for a foreseen expense such as a water tank for parents back in the rural home or their health insurance payment," Susan Wanjiku, a financial advisor and founder of The Legacy Hub Kenya explains.

Balancing act

She adds, "No one talks about retirement and how to prepare for it. It is erroneous to think that you will be young forever and that you will always be able to work and earn a living. Start saving and investing for retirement. Work on having a passive income big enough to envision the lifestyle you would like once you have retired. This is the only sure way to break the black tax cycle and ensure that we do not become a burden to our children or our relatives in old age."

She insists on need to balance supporting relatives with investing in oneself. She emphasises that no one specific rule fits all when it comes to this. It is all discretionary. It is up to the person with the money to decide whether to give back to the family or not to. She, however, insists on the importance of boundaries to stave off overzealous relatives who might take one for all they have got.

"For boundaries to work, one needs to communicate clearly and concisely in order not to sever the relationship while ensuring they do not take up more than they can handle. Communicate whether the help is a one-off to manage expectations. Opt to start something that would give your relatives income rather than them having to depend on you for handouts. Decide who, when and where to show up not just for your relatives but for yourself. At the end of the day, you are the one in charge. Do not just complain about black tax, apply wisdom and take back the control," she says.





- 6.00 Inuka
- 6.30 Music & The Spoken Word
- 7.00 Jus Kidz
- 8.00 K24 This Morning
- 11.00 Daily Brief
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Jungu La Spoti
- 14.00 Bongo Movie
- 15.00 Jungle Book
- 15.30 Akili & Me
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Floopaloo, Where Are You?
- 17.00 Beatbox
- 18.00 Crazy For You
- 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 19.30 Damian's House
- 20.00 Collar De Esmeraldas
- 21.00 K24 Evening Edition
- 22.00 Lotto- Live
- 22.15 Premier League World
- 22.50 Movie
- 00:30 Playlist
- 01:30 Al Jazeera



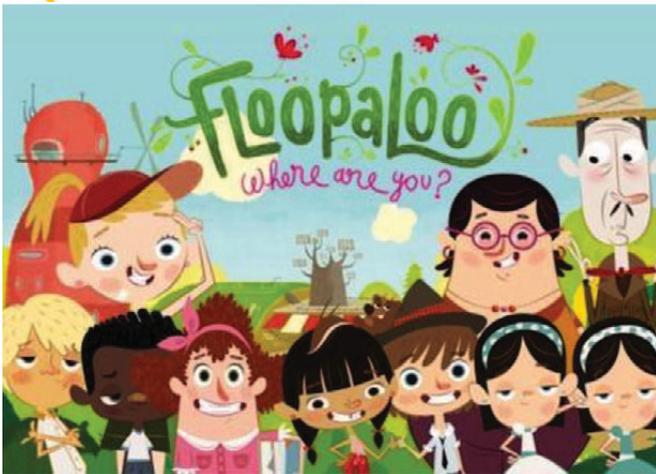
- 7.00 Ime Fia Ruciini
- 8.00 Rikiratha
- 10.00 Ngano Cia Cucu
- 10.30 Satai
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Kayu Ka Ruriri- Rpt
- 2.00 Thiririka
- 3.00 Kiengeji Live- Rpt
- 4.00 Ririmmbuka
- 6.00 Thenema
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini-Live
- 7.30 Njungwa Ya Muthee Kihenjo
- 8.30 Tuikaranie
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro- Live
- 10.00 Lotto- Live
- 10.15 Thenema
- 11.30 Ririmmbuka
- 12.30 DW



- 05.00 Command Your Morning
- 06.00 Tech24
- 06.30 Wild Planet
- 07.00 Life And Style
- 09.00 Music Interlude Rnb
- 09.30 Afriscreen
- 11.00 The Promise
- 12.00 Labour Of Love
- 01.00 Newsdesk
- 01.30 Afriscreen
- 03.00 Music Interlude Rnb
- 03.30 Wild Planet
- 04.00 Sanaa Ya Watoto
- 05.00 Baseline
- 06.00 Family Jewels
- 07.00 Kin Leo
- 07.30 My Two Wives
- 08.00 Foods Of Kenya
- 09.00 Kin Prime News
- 09.45 Voa Red Carpet
- 10.00 Kenya Lotto
- 10.15 E-Curve
- 11.15 Andrew Womack
- 11.45 CNN

TIME OUT!

4.30pm FLOOPALOO, WHERE ARE YOU?



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA MEGA KISUMU: **16:20: BLOODSHOT (2020)**
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: **19:00: BLOODSHOT (2020)**
 PRESTIGE CINEMA PRESTIGE PLAZA: **18:30, 20:40: BLOODSHOT (2020)**
 ANGA MEGA KISUMU: **20:45: BAAGHI 3 (2020)**
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: **20:45: BAAGHI 3 (2020)**



	4					2	
5		1	8				
3	6		5		4		7
	3	9	7		1		2
6		7		5		3	9
1			3		8	6	7
8			2		9		6
					3	7	8
	7						4

Sudoku

2	4	6	8	7	1	5	9	3
7	9	3	6	4	5	8	1	2
8	1	5	3	2	9	6	4	7
3	5	8	1	9	7	4	2	6
9	7	4	2	5	6	1	3	8
1	6	2	4	8	3	7	5	9
4	3	9	7	1	8	2	6	5
6	2	7	5	3	4	9	8	1
5	8	1	9	6	2	3	7	4

The aim is to fill the grid so that each row, column and every 3x3 shaded box contains only one of the digits 1-9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. It is a game of logic not mathematical ability.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



- ACROSS**
1. US state (6)
 7. Handouts (anag) (8)
 8. Types of vase (3)
 9. Jumping into water (6)
 10. Goes wrong (4)
 11. Informs (5)
 13. Jumpers (7)
 15. Shore birds (7)
 17. Equipped (5)

21. Chicken (4)
22. Slander (6)
23. Public house (3)
24. Low-spirited (8)
25. Periods of history (6)

- DOWN**
1. Type of sweet (6)
 2. One who wantonly destroys property (6)
 3. Loft (5)

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21-APRIL 20)
 Hard work will bring rewards. You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house.

TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)
 Children may be difficult to handle. Don't use emotional blackmail on someone you love. Stay calm and focus on things that will help you understand the situation better.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)
 You may want to make changes in your home environment. Raise your self-esteem and your confidence if you want to get back into the mainstream again.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)
 You'll only hurt your lover if you don't. Travel should be on your mind. Don't believe everything you hear.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)
 Be sure not to burn any bridges. Try not to get upset or angry without having all the facts.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)
 You can make career moves that will bring you a much higher income. You may find it necessary to confront a situation that has gotten out of hand.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)
 Praise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. You will encounter those who can help you further your goals if you attend functions that attract prominent people.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
 Get friends to help you with the preparations. You can stabilize your situation if you compromise.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
 Tempers will mount if you're too pushy at work or at home. Be careful while traveling. Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN. 20)
 Your ability to ferret out secret information will lead you to an inside scoop on an amazing financial deal. Join humanitarian groups and let your leadership ability take over.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)
 Find out more, if you want to start your own business. They may cost you dearly. You may want to get a little extra rest.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
 Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together. Take a look at your legal position. Mishaps due to preoccupation will be upsetting.



- 5:00 BBC
- 5:30 Gear Up
- 6:00 Good Morning Kenya
- 9:00 Layd Back
- 9:30 Parliament Live
- 11:00 Hypochondriach RR
- 12:00 Top Mashariki Rpt
- 13:00 Lunch Time News
- 13:30 Business Defined
- 14:00 Business Africa
- 14:30 Parliament Live
- 17:30 Club 1
- 18:30 The Great Debaters
- 19:00 Taarifa
- 19:30 Bold
- Conversations
- 20:00 First Lady
- 21:00 Channel 1 News
- 23:00 CCTV
- 23:30 Lay'd Back



- 5:00am Password
- Plus
- 6:00am AM Live
- 8:00am Living
- With Ess
- 9:00am NTV
- Today
- 11:00am NTV Sasa
- 1:00pm NTV at 1
- 1:30pm Auntie
- Boss!
- 2:00pm The Good Son
- 3:00pm The Girl Named
- Feriha - RPT
- 4:00pm NTV
- Alasiri
- 4:30pm Barbie
- Living The Dream House
- 5:00pm The Heat
- 6:00pm Asintado
- 7:00pm NTV Jioni
- 7:30pm The Real House

1	2		3	4	5	6	
			7				
8					10		
	9						
			12		13		
11				14			
15	16				17	18	19
					20		
21				22			
						23	
24							
					25		

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Hook | 1. Highbrow |
| 3. Apostate | 2. Abet |
| 9. Gunship | 4. Cando |
| 10. Broom | 5. Britain |
| 11. Boogiewoogie | 6. Christmaseve |
| 14. Orb | 7. Pup |
| 16. Tools | 8. Whoop |
| 17. Gee | 12. Foe |
| 18. Disappointed | 13. Subconscious |
| 21. Blaze | 15. Avowing |
| 22. Fluvial | 19. Trial |
| 23. Tendered | 20. Elms |
| 24. Glum | 22. Pendulum |

Atletico look to Suarez for inspiration in Chelsea rescue mission



Thuo wins Kenya Seed golf event at Kitale Golf Club

GOLF: Home player John Thuo resisted stiff challenge to emerged the overall winner of the Kenya Seed Classic Golf tournament played at the par 73 Kitale Golf club played over the weekend. Thuo defeated former captain Patrice Tomno on count back to claim the title, taking home a jersey Heifer. The two day event that attracted golfers as far as Uganda and nearby golf clubs ended on Sunday with Thuo carding 136 nett. "I enjoyed playing the tournament and I knew my training will pay off,

I must say that the dry green posed a challenge in putting but I managed to handle the pressure to win the title," said Thuo. His birdies on Sunday, saved the day for him, as he ended up beating Tomno in one of the most competitive tournaments in the North Rift region. Tomno finished second as Kevin Nyaga completed the podium on third place. Kakamega's John Akhonya ended the prize list in the 4th position after losing to Nyaga on countback.

-Emmanuel Masinde

Absa Bank supports Kenya Open to a tune of Sh30m



Absa Bank Kenya Managing Director Jeremy Awori (left) signs the cheque to the Kenya Open Golf Sponsorship. PD/EDWIN OTIENO

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Absa Kenya has come in big in a bid to aid the forthcoming Magical Kenya Open and Kenya Savannah Classic Golf tournaments that tees off tomorrow at Karen Golf Club.

The banker has unveiled a Sh30 million sponsorship package for the two week events to elaborate its quest for visible success and players motivated in the premium events set for viewing by millions globally.

Speaking during the sponsorship event at Muthaiga Golf Club yesterday, ABSA Kenya Managing Director and CEO Jeremy Awori praised the growth traction of the premium tournament.

"This is our 13th year in supporting this

event and we are obviously happy to be back again. We have found a way to work with the European Tour and a lot of our sponsorship money will go to our local professionals. These two events will also stimulate sports tourism in the country especially in the future. It might be different since we do not have fans allowed but it is important for precaution measures" Awori said.

He added: "As a brand, we are often moved by stories of resilience in Kenya and I am sure we will get a great two weeks of high level golf. We want to help players achieve targets and also in a larger sense it makes us improve on private partnership with sports."

Tournament Director Patrick Obath on his part lauded the sponsorship as timely.



Kakamega County, Ingwe enter into talent search partnership

FOOTBALL: Kakamega County Government has hinted at plans to work with local league giants AFC Leopards in talent acquisition and nurturing that will benefit the entire Western region, previously the bedrock of football talent in the country. The revelation was made after the County Executive for Social Services, Youths, Women Empowerment, Sports, and Culture Kassim Were hosted the club's officials led by the

chairman Dan Shikanda at his office in Bukhundu Stadium on Monday.

Were who is also the patron of AFC Leopards western branch, said the team remained one of the local clubs that had made history in the country for having remained dominant in the region and locally, in the 1980s and the early 1990's, becoming a brand that can be used to motivate upcoming players.

-Fred Likuyani

World Cup-winning star turns down Olympic torch relay

OLYMPICS: World Cup-winning Japanese footballer Nahomi Kawasumi confirmed she will not take part in the coronavirus-delayed Tokyo Olympics torch relay, after originally pulling out last year because of concerns over the pandemic. Kawasumi, who plays in the US for National Women's Soccer League side Sky Blue FC, tweeted Monday that she has not changed her mind over being part of the event, due to start on March 25, citing worries over infections and travel arrangements. Members of Japan's 2011 World Cup-winning squad are due to use



the Olympic flame to light the torch at the start of the nationwide relay in Fukushima. "Once again, I have declined to be a torch runner on March 25, 2021," tweeted Kawasumi, who was part of the team that stunned the US to win the 2011 final.

-AFP



Celestine Masinde of Mwamba (centre) comes under a combined tackle of Impala's Knight Otuoma (left), Michelle Auma and Zipporah Wanjiru during their KRU women's 10-a-side league at the Impala club on Sunday. PD/ ALEX NJUE

SELECTED LEG TWO RESULTS:

Impala	22-0 Suburbs
Mwamba	26-7 Suburbs
Mwamba	15-5 Impala
Mwamba	28-10 Suburbs
Mwamba	21-0 Suburbs
Impala	17-7 Mwamba

Tough luck

Impala women remain top of league table despite weekend setbacks

by Alex Njue
@PeopleDailyKe

Impala women's rugby team remained on top of the Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) 10-a-side league standings despite failing to rise to the occasion at home on Sunday after they shared spoils with Mwamba at Impala grounds.

The second leg of the women 10s series was won by Mwamba courtesy of a superior three points advantage. Mwamba registered the first win in their meeting off a 15-5 score while Impala retaliated with a 17-7

win in the final match of the day.

With a win securing four points to a team and a draw securing two points as a loss means a single point, Kulabu ladies kicked off the competition on a high registering a 26-7 win over Northern Suburbs in their first match before shocking Impala 15-5 in their first meeting, then returned to confirm earlier win over Suburbs with a 21-0 win.

Mwamba gained from the win to climb up by a place to occupy second spot, now on 39 points, while Nakuru dropped to third place on 19 points and Suburbs are fourth on 17 points in the first tier standings which are being commanded by Impala on 41 points.

The women's 10s series is expect-

ed to feed the national sevens and f15s teams with top players ahead of a scheduled a busy year. Lionesses will be contesting for the Olympic honors while the 15s team will be fighting to earn a place in the Women's Rugby 15s World Cup.

Tournament director Leonard Njuguna said the work the local coaches were doing will have a positive impact in the scheduled Kenya Lionesses camps.

"We are amazed with such a competitive top tier competition. It's very impressive with good quality of rugby that ultimately had to be decided by points difference. It shows all the coaches are working hard and the new rivalry will certainly improve the competition in both tiers. In the long run the Kenya Lionesses will of course get fit and quality players for the 2021 season in both the 7s and 15s campaigns." Leonard Njuguna who also doubles up as the new Rugby Development Officer-Nairobi Metropolitan region told People Sport.

Few athletes meet World Games qualifying times, headache for AK

by David Macharia
@PeopleDailyKe

With the clock ticking away towards the Tokyo Olympics, panic mode has hit Athletics Kenya (AK) as none or very few runners have hit the qualifying standards for the summer Games. The Federation is in a hurry to seek ways of ensuring it gets enough qualifiers, particularly for the long distance races, where the country currently lacks favourites who can bag medals at the Tokyo games. Sources said the AK has assembled a team of coaches to brainstorm and

help it come up with a possible solution. Also in the team is Athletics Representative, Milka Chemos and AK's senior vice president Paul Mutwii. The team is currently in North Rift to visit places where a team of selected athletes can be put in camp to have them train with the aim of hitting the Olympic qualifying marks during the remaining one weekend meeting. The team will visit Eldoret in Uasin Gishu County, then go to Kapsabet (Nandi County) and Iten and Kaptagat in Elgeyo Marakwet County to survey facilities and file a report to AK tomorrow (Wednesday) for the federation to

pick one place where the selected athletes will assemble as soon as possible. The Mutwii, Chemos and the coaches committee, sources said first met on Friday at Nyayo stadium during the first day of the weekend meeting where the senior vice president expressed the Federation's concern that at the moment, Kenya has no medal prospects in men 5,000m and 10,000m in Tokyo. The last men 5000m gold was won by John Ngugi in the 1988 Seoul, Korea Olympics while the only 10,000m gold ever for Kenya was won in 1968 by Naf-tali Temu in the Games held in Mexico.



Athletes representative Nilcah Chemos (right) chats with former marathon runner Wilson Kipsang at a past function. PD/WEBSTER NYANDIKA



Rodgers Kwemoi (right) after beating Kibiwot Kandie to the tape to win the 10km senior men race at the National Cross Country Championships last month. PD/ DAVID NDOLO

Free-scoring Mathare North dominate Nairobi county league log

by Rodgers Ndegwa
@PeopleDailyKe

Mathare North All Stars FC netted the highest number of goals in the second round of the Nairobi County Football Association Premier League played across various grounds at the weekend. The Mathare-based side, stunned Egesa FC 7-0 in a one sided clash staged at Drive-Inn Primary School grounds to sit 3rd in the 12- team log with 3 points with a game at hand. Meanwhile, Amazon Tigers FC continued with their impressive run by registering their second win by beating Utalii Reloaded 1-0 in an entertaining clash held at Makongeni grounds. Tiger beat Gava FC by the same margin last week and this victory sees them assume the top of the chart with 6 points. Elsewhere at CID grounds, Home team South City lived up to the expectations of the huge crowd gathered by hammering visitors Kassmatt FC 3-0 to register their first win of the grassroots competition which seeks not only to nurture and mentor young talented footballers but also keep the youth from engaging in bad vices in Nairobi County. The emphatic win saw them climb a step up to settle for 4th place with three points which they share with Mathare but with inferior goal difference. At Bahati Primary grounds, hosts FC Bahati despite putting up a spirited fight lost 2-3 to travellers' Kawangware All Stars. In another heated match, visiting side Zion Winners held hosts Komarock Y.FC to a 3-3 all draw at Humama grounds. At Ziwani grounds Blue Stars FC struggled to beat a stubborn Gava 1-0 in a match that could have gone either way.



Part of the Nairobi Football Association league action at Kihumbuini grounds at the weekend. PD/ RODGERS NDEGWA

Tokyo Olympics challenges

Officials say current proposed bubble to prevent athletes from contacting Covid 19, is a lame duck without any effect, call for fresh thinking

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) yesterday revealed the concept of a bubble training camp in Kenya is far from being perfect. In a candid assessment, Tokyo Olympics Games Chef de Mission Waithaka Kioni and Barnaba Korir, Team Kenya's general team manager to the Games laid bare the challenges

they are facing even as Kenya team enters week three of bubble camp at the Stadion Hotel, Kasarani. Kioni said the move that was meant to keep the sportspersons safe and healthy in preparations for the Games is facing several obstacles, in the Kenyan instance. "Managing athletes in a bubble camp in our situation in Kenya has not been easy. Because that concept means you put your athletes and their

support in a bubble with limited or no interactions with other parties. But the situation here is very different because the athletes are in camp at Kasarani, a government facility, that is also accommodating other people, the athletes are being served by employees of Sports Kenya who are not residents of that facility," Kioni explained yesterday. The Nock executive member said the body is trying to do their best but warned it might not be enough. A reckless Kenyan culture that is also being exhibited by the athletes is another challenging factor as cited by Kioni. "Everyone even the President Kenyatta is insisting on the strict following of Covid-19 protocols adherence. Social distancing, washing hands and wearing face masks. But in reality you know what is happening. There is kind of careless attitude unfortunately extends to our own athletes," Kioni said while aiming a dig at the athletes for their unwarranted movements in and out of camp. The bubble camp was opened for Team Kenya squads preparing for the Tokyo Olympic Games. According to Korir, track and field athletes were the first in camp after going through pre-camp screening and were joined by the volleyball and rugby teams. That, Kioni said, is a fact that the situation is not easy to manage.

Will Luis 'bite' the Blues?

Atletico look to Suarez for inspiration in Chelsea rescue mission

■ Madrid, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Atletico Madrid's hopes of coming back against Chelsea in the Champions League on Wednesday may depend on Luis Suarez (pictured) returning to form on his return to the country where he became one of the best in the world.

Atletico trail 1-0 after Olivier Giroud's bicycle kick lit up an uneventful first game at the Wanda Metropolitano last month and handed Chelsea a crucial advantage heading into this week's second leg.

And if they are to reach the quarter-finals with another upset like the one that knocked out Liverpool last year, Atletico are likely to need Suarez back to his best at Stamford Bridge.

The Uruguayan's form has matched his

team's, with a slight downturn in recent weeks perhaps inevitable after such an impressive first half of the season.

Suarez scored 16 goals in his first 21 games while Atletico lost only one of their first 20 in the league, when a first La Liga title since 2014 seemed firmly within their grasp.

Yet they have won only three of their last eight and Suarez has scored only twice in that time, even if those two goals have come in the last three, against Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao.

Certainly, there can be no room for complacency for Chelsea, who know only too well the damage Suarez can do after his hugely successful four seasons for Liverpool, when he scored 82 goals in 133 appearances.

"He is a natural-born striker," said Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel before the first leg. "He has that certain mentality that only strikers have. This mentality to show his will, intensity and anger to score and score and score and is never satisfied. What a mentality, what a player."

Tuchel is such a fan he even tried to sign the 34-year-old for Paris Saint-Germain when it became clear he was on his way out of Barcelona last summer.

"There was a possibility," Tuchel said. "We heard the rumours he was about to leave Barcelona and who cannot be interested to sign one of the best strikers in world football, in history and the present?"

"We tried our luck. We did not make it, he chose to stay in Spain with Atletico and again he proves his quality."

Suarez has history with Chelsea too, after one of his three biting incidents happened while playing against them for Liverpool in 2013, with Branislav Ivanovic that time the victim.

But without fans in the stadium and with a fresh crop of players, Chelsea will be focused completely on thwarting Suarez's threat to their goal while the striker will be hoping to end his own six-year wait for a Champions League goal away from home.

"For all the competitions, not just the Champions League, his presence gives us experience and leadership," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone last month.

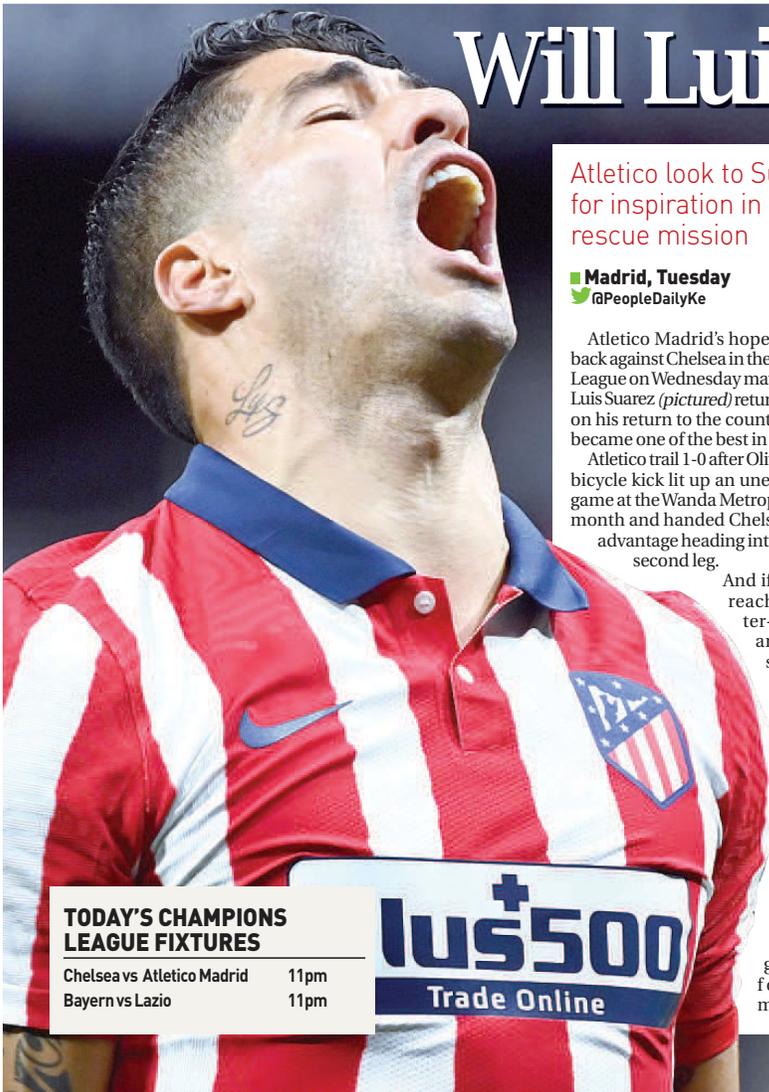
"He brings confidence to our team and a lot of tension for our opponents because history shows this is a player who has a gift around the goal."

Suarez's 18 goals in 29 games this season means his switch to Atletico from Barcelona last summer has already been a triumph but there will be disappointment now if he does not end the season with a trophy.

Despite their dip, Atletico remain four points ahead of Barca in La Liga and it might be that a defeat to Chelsea could help their La Liga ambitions, with the Catalans being knocked out of the Champions League last week by Paris Saint-Germain.

Suarez will not relent. "My way has always been to be competitive, always wanting to prove myself," he said earlier this month.

"To come to a team like Atletico that hasn't won titles for a long time, to be able to win something is definitely one of the wishes I have."
-AFP



TODAY'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES

Chelsea vs Atletico Madrid 11pm
Bayern vs Lazio 11pm



BRIEFLY

Klopp happy to win 'dirty' as Jota returns to haunt Wolves

LONDON: Jurgen Klopp said he had no problem with winning "three dirty points" as Diogo Jota returned to haunt Wolves with the only goal in a 1-0 win at Molineux on Monday. A wretched run of six successive home league defeats has left Liverpool with an uphill task to qualify for the Champions League next season. But Klopp's men have now won six of their last seven games away from Anfield. Victory moved the English champions back up to sixth and within five points of fourth-placed Chelsea.
-AFP



Japan's World Cup star turns down Olympic torch relay

TOKYO: World Cup-winning Japanese footballer Nahomi Kawasumi confirmed she will not take part in the coronavirus-delayed Tokyo Olympics torch relay, after originally pulling out last year because of concerns over the pandemic. Kawasumi, who plays in the US for National Women's Soccer League side Sky Blue FC, tweeted Monday that she has not changed her mind over being part of the event, due to start on March 25, 2021, citing worries over infections and travel arrangements. Members of Japan's 2011 World Cup-winning squad are due to use the Olympic flame to light the torch at the start of the nationwide relay in Fukushima. "Once again, I have declined to be a torch runner on March 25, 2021," tweeted Kawasumi, who was part of the team that stunned the US to win the 2011 final.
-AFP

Messi celebrates levelling Xavi record

MADRID: Lionel Messi scored a spectacular double the same night he equalled Xavi Hernandez's appearance record for Barcelona, the Argentinian inspiring his team to a 4-1 win over Huesca on Monday. Messi tied Xavi's 767 games in all competitions for Barca and marked yet another milestone with a brilliant brace, a curling effort in the first half flying in off the crossbar at Camp Nou before a late shot nestled in the corner.
-Xinhua



LeBron leads Lakers rout, triple trio for Giannis in Bucks win

■ Los Angeles, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

LeBron James bagged his fourth triple-double of the season as the Los Angeles Lakers thrashed the Golden State Warriors 128-97 on Monday.

James finished with 22 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists as the Lakers dominated almost from start to finish for an impressive win on the road at the Chase Center.

Stephen Curry led the Golden State scoring with 27 points but the much hoped-for duel with All-Star game team-mate James never materialised as the Dubs struggled to contain the Lakers' offense.

Montrezl Harrell had 27 points off the bench to lead the Lakers scoring while Kyle Kuzma finished with 17 points.

The Lakers improved to 26-13 to remain in third place in the Western Conference while the Warriors fell to ninth place with 20-20.

Elsewhere Monday, Giannis Antetokounmpo reeled off his third straight triple-double as the Milwaukee Bucks extended their winning streak to four games with a 133-122 victory over the Washington Wizards.

Antetokounmpo finished with 31 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in another MVP-caliber performance that came two days after his 33-point triple double against the

Wizards on Saturday.

"We feel like we've said it a lot after games for a good stretch of time now -- he's been in a good place mentally for a while," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said of Antetokounmpo's performance at Washington's Capital One Arena.

"The way he's playing, creating for others, creating for himself. He's just playing great basketball," Budenholzer added.
-AFP



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers gets fouled while going for a reverse lay-up against the Golden State Warriors during their NBA basketball game at Chase Center on March 15, 2021 in San Francisco, California. AFP

Another muscle injury sidelines Eden Hazard

MADRID: Eden Hazard's injury nightmare at Real Madrid continues after the club confirmed yet another muscle injury that will keep him out of the side to play Atlanta in the Champions League on Tuesday night. The alarm bells started to ring when the Belgian, who only returned to action after five weeks out as a second-half substitute against Elche on Saturday, wasn't among the players involved in Madrid's Monday training session. Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane confirmed Hazard's absence in his pre-game press conference, saying, "he is not going to be able to be with us in this game, but I am optimistic, and I hope it is not going to be much."

-Xinhua

First call for Barca teen Pedri as Enrique names Spain's squad

MADRID: Spain coach Luis Enrique made several changes when he named his first squad of the year for the forthcoming World Cup qualifiers against Greece, Georgia and Kosovo. The big surprise is the inclusion of FC Barcelona's 18-year-old midfielder Pedri. Luis Enrique has also handed first call-ups to right-back Pedro Porro, who plays for Sporting de Portugal; Sevilla winger, Bryan Gil, who is on loan at Eibar; Brighton and Hove Albion keeper, Robert Sanchez, who replaces Kepa Arrizabalaga in the squad. There is also a recall for Barca's left-back, Jordi Alba, who had not been called up since Luis Enrique's return to the international job.

-Xinhua

Kapaïto, Rupia rivalry healthy for national team

FOOTBALL: The urge to bang the back of the net in every match by the local league's most fierce strikers Eric Kapaïto and Elvis Rupia [right] has been termed as very healthy for the national team Harambee Stars after they both received call-ups. Kapaïto currently leads the top scorers chart in the league by 14 goals and Rupia is hot on his heels with 11 goals. They were both on target for Harambee Stars in their debut matches, Rupia scoring the lone goal in the team's 1-0 friendly win over South Sudan on Saturday, before Kapaïto emulated the same feat with a goal against Tanzania in the second friendly match where Stars won 2-1 on Monday.

-Fred Likuyani

Nkana defenders under fire in CAF Confederation Cup

FOOTBALL: Nkana of Zambia coach Kelvin Kaïndu has slammed his defence as they prepare to face clinical finisher Soufiane Rahimi from Raja Casablanca of Morocco Wednesday in the CAF Confederation Cup. "Had it not been for [goalkeeper] Moses Mapulanga it would have been even worse as they were defending as atrocious," he said, referring to a 3-0 matchday 1 hiding from Pyramids in Egypt last week. Rahimi starred for winners Morocco at the recent African Nations Championship in Cameroon, winning the player of the tournament and leading scorer awards. The first and second seeds in the four groups are seeking to build on good starts with seven winning in the African equivalent of the Europa League.

-AFP

GOR'S LAST FIVES MATCHES:

Napsa Stas	2-2 Gor Mahia
Nzoia Sugar	2-1 Gor Mahia
Homeboyz	1-2 Gor Mahia
Gor Mahia	0-2 KCB
Gor Mahia	0-1 Posta Rangers

Gor Mahia coach Vaz Pinto watches a recent Gor Mahia league match at the Kasarani Annex. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA

Pinto to crack whip at K'Ogalo

Portuguese tactician plans a raft of changes in team, including changing the captain as he seeks to save Gor's season

track. It's believed that Pinto who at some moment last week contemplated leaving the job, was given powers to ring key changes on the technical bench and the playing unit to help them recover from their current slump and attempt to defend the title they won last season.

defeats to Nzoia Sugar, Posta Rangers and KCB.

K'Ogalo has also been rocked by allegations of match fixing that are yet to be confirmed, as it is believed that a notorious technical bench member was behind the business and was the link person between selected league players, referees and the foreign book makers.

The said official is believed to be living a lavish life that does not correspond to his monthly salary at the club and has his children attending some high end schools in Nairobi.

A senior club official said the Portuguese tactician is set to strip Kenneth Muguna off the arm band and rest a number of key players as he seeks to get the team's league campaign back on

K'Ogalo who face league debutants Bidco United in their next fixture on Sunday are currently placed in an unfamiliar eighth position on 19 points from 11 matches.

"Expect shocking changes in the team, including the change of the captain and some technical bench members as well as the resting of some key players," said the source who sought anonymity.

He added: "There have been suspected sabotage from some players as a section have been entangled in the cold wars between the club chairman and the secretary."

Club chairman Ambrose Rachier could not be reached for comment and Pinto did not confirm or deny.

by Webster Nyandika

@PeopleSports11

Gor Mahia's head coach Carlos Manuel Vaz Pinto is set to ring changes in the team as he plans to crack the whip on the record league champions in an attempt to save their season.

The reigning champions have suffered a torrid run in the last six weeks that has seen them win a single match in five fixtures, suffering shock



Download QR Code app on Google Play and scan this QR code with your smart phone for pictures, videos and more stories