

Raila recalls moments of Nyachae 'betrayal' PG 6



FROM RIGHT: Charles Nyachae, ODM party leader Raila Odinga, Interior CS Fred Matiang'i and Health CS Mutahi Kagwe yesterday at Nairobi SDA Maxwell Church during a memorial service for former Cabinet Minister Simeon Nyachae. PD/JOHN OCHIENG

News Beat PG 2

Intrigues of picking next Chief Justice



Boda boda widows

Gone too soon: Young mothers have been left to fend for families after spouses died in motorcycle accidents while children have no one to call father PAGES 8-9

CRASHES AS AT 27/01/2021

112

motorcycle riders lost their lives between January 1 and January 27, 2021, compared to 89 who had succumbed by the same date last year.

30%

increase in road fatalities as a result of boda boda crashes compared to last year.

1,421

number of riders and pillion passengers who died in 2019

Sh2,000 – Sh3,000

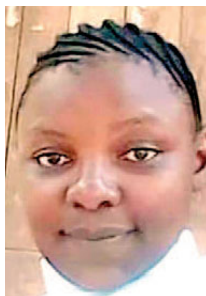
amount of money a boda boda rider makes a day in Nairobi while those leasing out motorbikes demand a minimum Sh300 per unit, according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics



FLORENCE WANJA
Murang'a.



JACKLINE ACHIENG'
Kitengela.



DORIS MBINYA
Mpeketoni, Lamu.



ANDRINE WAMBUI
Murang'a.



CAROLINE SEIYAN
Mpeketoni, Lamu.



BLESSING EGHWA
Voi.



SUSAN WAMBUI
Ruiru.



CHRISTINE KAGWIRIA
Kitui.



CHRISTINE WAMAITHA
Ruiru.



RAHAB NYAMBURA
Molo.



REBECCA KINYARE
Nakuru.



EUNICE AKOTH
Kisumu.

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POINTERS



BUSINESS HUB PAGE 17

Airstrips to get facelifts as low-cost carriers expand


YOU PAGE 26

Socks and sex: Getting the right gift on lovers' day

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	24°	Nyeri	24°
Mombasa	32°	Kitui	28°
Kisumu	29°	Wajir	39°



LSK Staff go without pay as wrangles heighten

by Mathew Ndung'u
@PeopleDailyKe

Employees at the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) are bearing the brunt of the wrangles in the umbrella lawyers' body as they go without salaries.

Employees, through the society council, have since petitioned LSK acting president Ms Carolyn Kamende (pictured), to expedite payment of their three-month salary arrears.

Continued delay to release the staff payments, the council said, has caused the employees immense anguish, since they are unable to meet their financial obligations like paying school fees, rent and make loan repayments.

In a letter dated February 9 and seen by People Daily, the council expressed concern that despite their continued calls to have Kamende approve the payment of staff on the society's online banking platform, she has continued to cite excuses, among them being blocked to access the bank online portal.

Fails to approve

They said Kamende has failed to approve staff salaries for the month of January, which the council cited as having been uploaded for approval by Bernhard Kipkoeh and CEO Mercy Wambui.

"Allegations that you have been blocked from accessing the bank online portal is untrue," part of the letter written by Bernhard Kipkoeh, George Omwansa, Aluso Ingati, Faith Odhiambo, Carolyn Mutheu, Beth Michoma, Ndinda Kinyili and Riziki Emukule.

Why picking successor to Maraga is an intricate case

Failure by Apex Court judges to apply for the job ignites debate over intrigues involved

by PD Reporter
@PeopleDailyKe

The decision by all the five Supreme Court judges and leading names in the legal fraternity not to apply for the vacant position of Chief Justice has ignited debate over the intrigues involved in the appointment of the country's highest ranking Judiciary official.

Supreme Court judges Philomena Mwili (acting CJ and President of the Court), Smokin Wanjala, Njoki Ndung'u, Isaac Lenaola and Mohamed Ibrahim gave the post a wide berth as the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) released the list of 13 people who sent in applications to succeed retired Chief Justice David Maraga.

Mwili has been acting as CJ since Maraga's retirement early last month.

Also missing out on the list are leading law scholars such as former Attorney General Prof Githu Muigai and US-based Kenyan law lecturer Prof Makau Mutua, as well as a host of qualifying Court of Appeal judges, save for two.

Appellate judges who sent in their applications are Court of Appeal President justice William Ouko and appellate judge, Lady Justice Martha Koome.

The release of the 13 names and nine others for the vacant position in the Supreme Court has opened doors for high-level lobbying for the coveted seats.

Yesterday, Mutua claimed the office of Chief Justice had been captured by some external forces that he did not name.

"I have been asked why I did not apply for the position of Chief Justice. After much reflection, I concluded that as the experience of the last two recent CJs strongly demonstrates, it is not possible to be both an independent and effective CJ in Kenya," Prof Makau said in a tweet.

On Wednesday, moments after JSC had released the list of the applicants, suspended Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Presi-



Retired Chief Justice David Maraga waves as he leaves Supreme Court last month. PD/FILE

dent Nelson Havi tweeted, indicating that Nairobi lawyer Fred Ngatia could be the front runner for CJ while Ouko was slated to clinch the Supreme Court position.

Vacant offices

"Mr Justice Fred Ngatia, SC, Chief Justice, and Mr Justice William Ouko, Judge of the Supreme Court will not be an unexpected recommendation by JSC in view of those who have offered to serve in the two vacant offices," Havi tweeted.

Other than Ngatia, Ouko and Koome, the rest of the applicants include former Director of Public Prosecutions Philip Murgor, University of Nairobi School of Law dean, Prof Patricia Mbote, High Court judges D.K. Njagi Marete, Said Juma Chitembwe and Mathew N. Nduma.

Others are former commissioner with the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission Alice Yano, Prof Otinga Mare, sports medical doctor Dr Moni Wekesa, lawyers Ottoni Ontweka and Ombongi Brian Matigaro.

Nine other persons, among them Ouko, Yano, Koome, Nduma, Marete and Chitembwe, applied to fill the position left vacant by retired Justice Prof. J.B. Ojwang' in the Supreme Court. Also applying to join the Supreme Court are Appellate judge and

former Kenya Law Reform Commission chairman Kathurima M'Inoti, Justice Joseph Serگون and lawyer Justy P. Lumumba Nyaberi.

Highest position

JSC uses various considerations in the appointment of a CJ, among them, professional qualifications, gender and regional balance, integrity and probity, understanding of jurisprudence and appropriate distribution of the three arms of government.

Sources within the Judiciary say Mwili's decision not to apply for the highest position in the Judiciary may complicate matters for female candidates based on gender balance. The Constitution makes it mandatory that the positions of CJ and DCJ must be held by persons of opposite gender.

Speculation is rife in the Judiciary that Mwili may have opted out of the race to ostensibly convince influential people in government to let her complete her term as deputy CJ.

Mwili faces a litany of cases before the JSC, filed by among others, the Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji and his Directorate of Criminal Investigations counterpart George Kinoti, and some civilians over her suitability to hold public office. Since regional balance would play a major role in the appointment of Maraga's successor, Mwili's decision to remain in her position also complicates matters for candidates from the Eastern Kenya region, particularly those from Ukambani counties. Likewise, the presence of Njoki Ndung'u in the Supreme Court limits chances for Ngatia, Mbote and Marete.

Though considered one of the favourites, sources intimate that the fact that President Uhuru Kenyatta and National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi, who head the other two arms of government, hail from Mount Kenya region, may play against Ngatia's candidacy.

"Scenario of the heads of all the three arms of government coming from Mt Kenya region may not sit well for President Kenyatta who has already shown interest to involve more tribes in the country's leadership," said a senior counsel who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

MAKAU MUTUA

It is not possible to be an independent and effective CJ in Kenya

Firm donates Sh1.5m hospital equipment

by PD Reporter

Gaming company Mozzart donated medical equipment worth Sh1.5 million to the Waithaka Health Centre in Nairobi on Wednesday.

The donated equipment included hospital beds, bed side lockers, maternity delivery beds, patient stretchers, patient monitors, oxygen concentrators, oxygen flow meter,

nebulizers, blood pressure monitors and maternity MVA kits.

Cecilia Mbachu — Facility in charge of the Waithaka Health Centre thanked Mozzart for the kind gesture.

"We are the only Government facility in Waithaka sub county and we serve approximately more than 60,000 people in this region. We are very grateful to Mozzart for their do-

nation and they are welcome again to support us more." She said.

Winnie Kamau, the Maternity in charge of the facility revealed the facility was really in dire need of the crucial equipment and also thanked Mozzart for the donation.

Mozzart's CSR representative June Jemutai reiterated the company's commitment to supporting Kenyan communities.





When doctors were tasked with bizarre extraction missions!

Of fellows who had curious foreign objects stuck inside their bodies, either by ingesting or following a misadventure...

Man stayed 53 years with coin stuck in nose

A 59-year-old man in Zelenograd, Russia, lived with serious nose breathing difficulties for over half a century, because of a coin he had shoved up his nose as a child and forgot about over the years. Doctors at the Konchalovsky City Clinical Hospital in Zelenograd were shocked by the patient who had been completely unable to breathe through his right nostril for several months. A CT scan showed that the right nasal passage was completely blocked by a foreign body, causing him breathing difficulties. It's upon a minor surgery that medics realized that the 59-year-old had a coin that he shoved up his nose when he was about six years old. Doctors said that the man was lucky to regain full nasal breathing capacity. In such cases, patients get serious complications.

Fellow who ate over 40 knives

An Indian man swallowed 40 knives over a period of several months. Perhaps slightly embarrassed by his unusual cravings, the 42-year-old failed to tell doctors that he had a habit of ingesting sharp instruments. Instead, he simply told the team that he was experiencing abdominal pain, letting the medical mystery go on for longer than it needed to. After conducting a series of diagnostic tests, doctors were alarmed to discover an arsenal of knives in his gut. It took surgeons five painstaking hours to remove the assortment of 40 blades. Doctors said the man suffered from pica, an eating disorder that compels individuals to consume non-food materials. The condition is linked to a variety of factors, including iron deficiency anemia, pregnancy, stress, trauma, and certain mental health conditions.

Fisherman had fish stuck in his throat

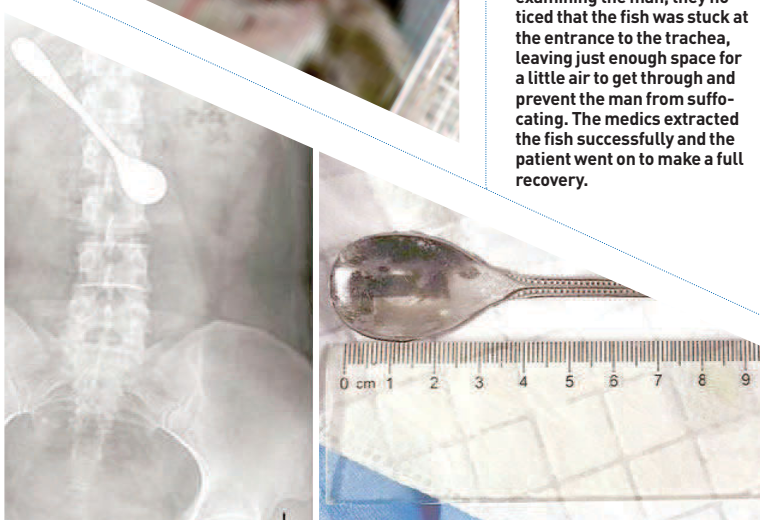
An Egyptian fisherman nearly lost his life last year after one of his catches got stuck in his windpipe, following a freak fishing accident. Doctors at a hospital in Beni Suef, Egypt, were shocked to discover that a patient who had been brought in with shortness of breath and speaking difficulties, had a fish stuck in his throat. Upon examining the man, they noticed that the fish was stuck at the entrance to the trachea, leaving just enough space for a little air to get through and prevent the man from suffocating. The medics extracted the fish successfully and the patient went on to make a full recovery.

Woman who swallowed a spoon

Doctors in Shenzhen, China performed an emergency surgery in 2019 to remove a 13-centimeter metal spoon from a woman, after she accidentally swallowed it while trying to dislodge a fish bone from her throat. The patient, known only as Lily, swallowed the stainless-steel spoon while trying to remove a fish bone that had become lodged in her throat. She was rushed to Shenzhen Nanshan Hospital where doctors removed it. She was later discharged and went on to make full recovery.

Pensioner lived 26 years with knife stuck in head

A 77-year-old man from rural China is lucky to be alive after he had a four-inch-long rusty knife surgically removed from his brain, 26 years after being stabbed in the head. The case of Duorijie, an old farmer from the rural county of Haiyan in China's north-western Qinghai Province, is nothing short of a miracle. Stabbed in the head in 1994, during a violent mugging, Duorijie lived with the long knife blade stuck in his brain for more than two decades. Lucky to have survived the attack, the farmer lost his vision and experienced chronic headaches. Duorijie sought medical assistance in 2012, when doctors discovered the four-inch-long blade stuck inside his brain. The knife was eventually removed and Duorijie regained a pain-free life.





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NYS on the spot over questionable dealings

Auditor raises queries over suspicious income relating to hire of equipment and buses totalling Sh358.4m

by Mercy Mwai
@wangumarci

National Youth Service (NYS) is once again on the spot over questionable financial dealings amounting to millions of shillings, a new report shows.

A report by the Auditor General Nancy Gathungu on NYS Mechanical and Transport Fund for the 2019 Financial Year tabled in the National Assembly yesterday raises queries over questionable income relating to domestic hire, hire of buses and water rigs, plant and equipment amounting to Sh358.4 million.

Also of concern is unauthorised NYS Governing Council expenses amounting to Sh17.5 million, unsupported commercial debt worth Sh222.3 million, and unauthorised lending worth Sh635.89 million, inventories worth Sh255 million and questionable procurements of machinery.

Sh358.4 million unsupported income include Sh270.6 million income from domestic hire that saw the fund leasing motor vehicles and transport equipment at NYS.

Gathungu said there was no proof of lease agreement, schedule of distribution of the leased motor vehicles and machinery leased to each field station and rates charged for each vehicle or equipment that was availed to support the reported figure of revenue for domestics hire.

Daily receipts

"The invoices availed for audit review had no control numbers or any accountability references, and therefore the completeness and accuracy could not be established. In addition, there is no policy document or contract agreement between NYS and the Mechanical and Transport Fund showing the applicable rates and mode of leasing for assets," the report.

With regards to income on commuter buses amounting to Sh12.5 million, Gathungu revealed they could not trace daily receipts and summaries of money received and thus banking of collections could not be verified.

According to the report, the daily receipts summaries used to record revenues had no verification checks on the accuracy



The Auditor General has raised questionable income relating to NYS buses. PD/FILE

and reliability of the data by a responsible officer such as route commanders and the accountant in-charge to reconcile the collections to the receipt.

The NYS, which had a fleet of 29 buses, started passenger service operations in Nairobi amid protests from matatu operators that saw the buses covering nine routes at a cost of Sh20 irrespective of destination.

Initial areas covered include Pipeline in Embakasi, Githurai, Mwiki, Dandora, Kariobangi, Kibera, Kawangware, Kangemi and Kayole.

"Bank deposit slips provided in support of the receipts did not show date the funds were received from commuter buses reconciled to the specific daily receipts, making it difficult to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the recorded and banked revenue," report adds.

DAMNING REVELATIONS

● On procurement and payment for servicing of motor vehicle machinery, Auditor General Nancy Gathungu raises concerns over Sh16.1 million spent for servicing twelve service providers.

● Report states that the details relating to requisitions, procurement process approvals, professional opinions and certificate of inspection and acceptance for services were not provided to the fund.

On water rigs, plant and equipment hired at a cost of Sh74.1 million, the report raises concerns that quotations and invoices issued did not have control checks such as pre numbering, hence susceptible to manipulation or change without proper authority.

Raises concerns

As for council expenses amounting to Sh17.6 million, report states that information availed in support of the payment showing the dates, venues and nature of meetings, number of days, rates payable and invitation letters was not available.

Regarding unauthorised lending amounting to Sh710 million, Gathungu revealed the money borrowed by NYS was yet to be returned, adding the service went ahead and borrowed more money without authority from the Cabinet Secretary March 5, 2020.

"Under the circumstances, the fund is in breach of the government financial regulations," adds the report.

On the issue of unsupported commercial debt, Gathungu revealed a review of individual files provided showed that terms of quotation for equipment hire charges are paid upfront before commencement of works, but the fund management authorised commencement of works before payment was received and no explanation was provided for this.

BRIEFLY

One shot dead, two injured as gunmen open fire in Mombasa

Tension engulfed Mombasa yesterday, after a man was shot dead and two others seriously wounded by unidentified gunmen. Witnesses said the shooters arrived on a motorbike at a cyber café in Kaloleni area of Mvita within the CBD at around 2.30pm and started firing. They said the shooters left immediately, leaving the victims sprawling in pools

of blood. Mombasa County Police Commander Stephen Matu said police have launched manhunt of the suspects. "We are tracking the suspects from every corner of the town," Matu said on phone. But some sources believe the suspects were hit men hired specifically to eliminate the targets for political reasons.

- Reuben Mwangingu

Shun divisive politics ahead of polls, Poghisio urges leaders

Senate Leader of Majority Samuel Poghisio (pictured) yesterday urged Kenyans and leaders from across the political divide to shun divisive and retrogressive politics. The West Pokot Senator said it would be prudent for everyone to be steadfast and say no to politics that allows corruption, impunity and war mongering. He was speaking at St Paul's University main campus in Limuru during the installation of Rev Prof James Owino as the institution's third Vice-Chancellor where he was the Guest Speaker. He urged Kenyans to embrace peace, love, unity and respect and desist from allowing dirty politics to take root in the society. "Whenever we disagree politically, let us do it



in a civil manner without the need for name-calling, grudges and bitterness," he said. He said education systems in the country needs to shift from promotion of good grades to empowering learners to approach the world differently as well as participate in it differently.

- Clement Kamau

Suspect in lawyer Koki's murder pleads 'not guilty'

Christian Kadima, the main suspect in the death of lawyer Elizabeth Koki, took to the dock yesterday where he pleaded not guilty to charges of murder. Kadima who is linked to the murder of Koki early last month denied the charges when he was brought before Justice David Kemei in Machakos. According to the charges, Kadima, whose nationality remains unknown is alleged

to have murdered the lawyer on January 7 this year at her house in Syokimau area. The two are believed to have been in a relationship before they fell out. The case will be mentioned on March 2 and a ruling on whether the court will consider his bail application. The suspect will remain at the Machakos GK Prison where he is being held since his arrest last month.

- KNA

Wamatangi's tough balancing act to push Jubilee agenda as new chief

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

Kiambu Senator Kimani Wamatangi has eyed a senior post in the Senate twice in vain.

He contested the Majority Leader and Deputy Speaker's positions in 2013 and 2017 respectively, but in both instances, he was prevailed upon to step down for Tharaka Nithi Senator Kithure Kindiki over regional balance considerations.

But fortune finally smiled on him on Wednesday, when the Senate Speaker Ken Lusaka announced that Jubilee Party had picked him to replace his Murang'a counterpart Irungu Kang'ata as the Majority Whip.

"I am satisfied that the change was made in accordance with Standing Order 19(5) and (7) and meets the threshold required under Standing Order 19... Accordingly, I wish to communicate to the House that the Majority Party Coalition has affected changes in the Office of the Senate Majority Whip, which shall now take effect. The Office holder therefore, is Senator Kimani Wamatangi," Lusaka communicated to the House.

Kang'ata was fired over accusations that he had revealed secrets of a closed-door party leadership meeting to his friends and writing a letter to the President in a manner that was



seen as a breach of decorum.

Confronted with a divided Jubilee house in the Senate, it will be a delicate balancing act for Wamatangi who will be among the key pillars in pushing President Uhuru Kenyatta's agenda in the House.

Rallies support

Speaking to *People Daily* yesterday, Wamatangi (pictured) said he will seek to build consensus among members while rallying support for key legislation and motions.

"I want to assure members from both sides that I will seek to build consensus all the time, consult with colleagues and I am fully aware the

House requires not only to project its best image, but also ensure we say what we do," said Wamatangi.

He added: "The role of the whip is not to divide people or to rejoice in other members' suffering. The role of a whip is to ensure this House passes laws that are good for the country. To ensure the House amends laws, which required amendments to become better and to reject laws that are not good for the country. Doing things together is the best way."

But the second-term senator acknowledged it will not be a walk in the park.

BBI draft bill sails through in Homa Bay

Various county assemblies across the country are racing against time to debate the document

by PD Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Homa Bay County Assembly yesterday became the third gubernatorial legislature to endorse the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) Amendment Bill after Siaya and Kisumu.

Members of the County Assembly unanimously passed the bill, which was tabled before the House by Justice and Legal Affairs Committee chairman Ajimba Ayieta.

The report was presented to the House after the committee concluded public participation on Wednesday. Ayieta confirmed that members of the public, drawn from eight sub-counties in the county sufficiently gave their views on the bill.

"Upon capturing the views of members of the public, it is the prayer of the committee that the House adopts the report on the bill," said Ayieta.

Seconding the report, Nominated MCA Kevin Onyango said the proposed constitutional changes would spur economic growth in the counties.

"The proposal to increase shared revenue will accelerate implementation of the development agenda in the counties," Onyango said.

Assembly Majority Leader John Kiasa lauded the members for showing solidarity in approving the bill.

This came as MCAs in the neighbouring Migori, prepared to debate the bill next week, after concluding public participation. The bill was tabled in the county assembly on Wednesday, before being committed to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee to undertake the public participation exercise.

The law dictates that the referendum Bill must be passed by at least 24 counties before it proceeds to Parliament for further debate.

And as various county assemblies raced against time to debate the bill, Busia residents urged the county assembly to move with speed and pass the document.

Residents drawn from all the wards unanimously resolved that they will fully support the BBI document because it had a lot of benefits. Led by two former MCAs Gordy Mareba and Gomba Sewe, the residents said the increase of equitable share to counties from 15 per cent to 35 per cent will boost the local economy.

Similar plea

The resolution was made during a meeting chaired by nominated MCA Florence Ologi and her Nangina ward counterpart, John Obwogo.

A similar plea was made in Meru county, with the Speaker Joseph Kaberia urging MCAs to shelve personal political interests, as they embark on spearheading public participation on the document.

Speaking during the official presentation of the document at the assembly, Kaberia said the MCAs had an obligation to accord the people they represent, the opportunity to read and interpret in the simplest way



IN BOMET

● **Collecting views:** In Bomet, the bill was tabled on Tuesday and committed to the Legal Affairs Committee, which will now be tasked with collecting views from the public.

● **Legal officers:** Committee chairman Samuel Keter said they will engage legal officers from the House, to educate the public on the contents of the document during their meetings.

Homa Bay county MCAs during a past session. They passed the BBI bill yesterday. PD/FILE

possible, the contents of the BBI document before giving their opinion on the same.

"The people of Meru county have the right to an opportunity to understand what BBI is all about, and what it has for them before advising leaders on whether to pass it or not by them county assembly," he said.

Kaberia said nobody should be in hurry to either pass or reject the document on behalf of the people they represent, saying the public had until March 23, to give their views.

The bill went through its first reading before the Marsabit county assembly after it was tabled by the Justice and Legal Af-

fairs Committee chairperson Femina Hussein. During the session, the MCAs stated that the bill, will be subjected to public participation.

The process to either pass or reject the BBI would be determined by the outcome of the public participation to be spearheaded by the committee.

The situation was similar in Kisii, as the assembly approved the bill, paving way for public participation exercise.

Copies of the report

The was committed it to the Committee of Delegated Legislation chaired by Paul Angwenyi. Angwenyi said the committee, will gather views from residents across the county's nine sub counties' and table them at the Assembly for debate.

In Trans Nzoia county, assembly Speaker Joshua Mutoto Werunga announced that public participation will be held next week.

Assembly Majority Leader Patrick Kisiero tabled the bill, and it was subsequently committed to the Justice and Legal Affairs House Committee.

"The Justice and legal affairs committee will from next week meet locals across the five constituencies with the purpose of educating them," he said.

Kisiero said that copies of the BBI report were available and will be distributed to locals before public forums kick off.

In Nyandarua county, residents will have a chance to present their views during a three-day public participation next week.

Acting assembly clerk, Mukiri Muchiri said the public participation sessions will be held from Wednesday to Friday in the five constituencies of the County.

Secretariat confident over 35 assemblies will support draft law

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) Secretariat yesterday exuded confidence, that at least 35 county assemblies will pass the BBI bill by end of this month.

"We are on course to hold the referendum by June 2021. We have already started engaging with the leadership of both Houses of Parliament, in anticipation of the next stage," said the Secretariat co-chairman Dennis Waweru (pictured). He added: "We are confident of obtaining approval from at least 35 counties, way above the constitutional threshold of 24."

Waweru noted that though the High Court blocked the electoral body, from subjecting the bill to a referendum, it allowed the county assemblies to debate the bill and either approve or reject it.

He explained that the Secretariat, had embarked on a robust civic education, as more Kenyans begin to appreciate its benefits: "We are



encouraged by the growing support for the BBI process." Siaya, Kisumu and Homa Bay already passed the bill.

Meanwhile, the Jubilee party has rallied its MCAs across the country to rally their support for the bill.

In a letter addressed to all MCAs, the party Secretary General Raphael Tuju said if the constitution is amended as proposed by BBI more 35 per cent of the national resources will be channeled to counties.

But in a quick rejoinder, Kericho Senator Aaron Cheruiyot, a close ally of Deputy President William Ruto, asked all Jubilee MCAs to ignore "these Pangani based charlatans."

BRIEFLY

Joho trashes wheelbarrow campaign as con

Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho yesterday tore into Deputy President William Ruto's wheelbarrow campaign, dismissing it as sheer political conmanship. Joho said the narrative is aimed at hoodwinking Kenyans to continue clinging to empty rhetoric and end up ensnared in decades of bad governance. The governor said it was laughable for anyone to expect Kenyans to entirely fall for Ruto's 'wheelbarrow economics' eight years into Jubilee's Presidency. "Ruto has been the DP of this country for the last eight years. Even if it is those wheelbarrows, why didn't he bring them in 2013? Where was he in 2014, 2015, 2016 up to now? Is he a new politician in Kenya? I am asking you young people, open your eyes and measure each and every word that they are trying to tell you," Joho spoke at Likoni while issuing bursary cheques worth Sh 4.2 million. Once again, the governor insisted he is more than prepared for the State House race in 2022, calling on Kenyans to brace for a presidency from the Coast region.

— Reuben Mwamungu

Sasini

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3	Old desktop computers and accessories, Tools and equipments, Tractor, Motorcycles and Old Household items.	"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" "AS SCRAP"	Kamundu Estate -Kiambu
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Baringo first to reject BBI bill in chaotic session

by Wycliff Kipsang
@wksang08

Baringo county assembly has become the first county to reject the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) bill.

This came after majority MCAs voted to reject the document in a heated session that saw them nearly go physical.

Violence rocked the assembly yesterday during debate on the bill, as the rivalry between Deputy President (DP) William Ruto and Kanu chairman Gideon Moi played out.

Trouble started after Mogotio MCA Charles Kosgei slapped his Kabarnet

ward counterpart Ernest Kibet, who had tried to grab the microphone from him.

Police officers had to intervene to bring the House to order, as the situation threatened to get out of hand with tempers flaring between the two groups.

Stern action

The incident came barely a day after the Jubilee MCAs at the assembly, were summoned to the party headquarters in Nairobi, by Secretary General Raphael Tuju who threatened stern action on those who will shoot down the bill.

Tenges ward MCA Silas Tochim who took Tuju to task over the threats, vowed

they will not be coerced into endorsing the document.

"We have a right to take any decision on the document. As far as we are concerned, the party has no right to force us into a specific position," warned Tochim.

Senator Moi and the DP have been embroiled in a protracted battle of supremacy for the control of the Rift Valley vote ahead of 2022.

Though the DP has openly shown his interest to succeed President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2022, the Kanu chairman has remained tight lipped over his plans, plans but it's believed Kanu will enter into alliances with like minded parties.

Nyachae's compassion hailed during memorial

ODM leader Raila recalls how he fell out with the Ford People leader after the 'Kibaki Tosha' declaration

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

ODM leader Raila Odinga yesterday recounted his dramatic fallout with the late Simeon Nyachae in the run-up to the 2002 General Election.

Speaking during the requiem mass for the late powerful Cabinet minister, Raila traced the fallout to his last-minute decision to endorse Mwai Kibaki, as the united opposition's presidential candidate during a historic political rally at Uhuru Park in September, 2002.

"We started the Rainbow Coalition together, he came with Ford People while we had broken up with Kanu to join hands with NAK then headed by Mwai Kibaki. We formed a coalition together because they had negotiated with the late Job Ominyo, however when we teamed up with NAK, we had an issue with him. When I said Kibaki Tosha, this did not go well with Simeon," Raila told the mourners, adding that the late Nyachae would go on to repeatedly remind him that he (Raila) had betrayed him.

Stern action

Raila retraced the relationship between the Jaramogi and Nyachae families from the days of their fathers, the late Jaramogi Oginga Odinga and Musa Nyandusi respectively. He told the gathering at the SDA Maxwell Church that it was his father Jaramogi who appointed Nyachae as a District Commissioner when he served as the Minister for Home affairs under Mzee Jomo Kenyatta regime.

"A lot of things have been said about Simeon but there was that human part of him, he was compassionate with a lot of efficiency. He helped many Kenyans to acquire education," said Raila.

"We are saying goodbye to a great patriot," he added.

In a recent interview, Nyachae's long serving confidante, James Kenani revealed how the former Cabinet minister found it difficult to forgive Raila after their 2002 dramatic fallout.

Leaders who attended the mass paid glowing tribute to the Nyachae with speaker after another, including his widows Martha, Grace, his sons, daughters



Former CJ David Maraga and his wife Yucabeth Nyaboke condole with Grace Wamuyu Nyachae yesterday at SDA Maxwell Church, Nairobi, during the memorial service of former Cabinet minister Simeon Nyachae. PD/ JOHN OCHIENG

and grandchildren, eulogising him as a great patriarch whose generosity knew no boundaries. In particular, his children lit up the service with tales of their father's legendary disciplinary measures.

"If we underperformed, you didn't hold back," Maraga Nyachae said.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, described Nyachae as a great Kenyan whose contribution to the nation spanned many decades and inspired many Kenyans.

Uhuru said Kenya prides itself in the late Nyachae's leadership, compassion and determination.

"Even in death, Mzee Nyachae stands tall, among dedicated patriots of the country," the President said in a speech read on his behalf by Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe.

"His service to Kenya, was characterised by utmost integrity, rare zeal and commitment to duty that earned him accolades in three successive administrations," the President added.

On a personal level, Uhuru recalled how he (Nyachae) always had wise words for him whenever he sought advice.

"His impact in my life shall never be

lost, just like his vision for this country, shall never be forgotten," he said.

ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi, who served in the same Cabinet with Nyachae eulogised him as a man who stood for merit and never believed in short cuts.

"When he was Chief Secretary and Head of Civil Service, Cabinet Ministers used to address him as Sir, since he carried a lot of dignity with him," he said.

"As a politician, I had many encounters with him. He was a man who loved his culture, he was a good man who stood with his family and friends," he added.

Musalia explained that Nyachae was like an elder brother since he was young in that Cabinet when he served as Finance Minister with the latter in the Agriculture docket.

Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka described Nyachae as a towering figure physically and intellectually: "He was a go getter with a very strong personality and had no time for anything that he did not consider professional."

On his part, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i was grateful that he had the privilege to work closely with Nyachae to the extent of being called 'son'.

"Everything except biology, I am mzee Nyachae's son. He raised me and I spent time and travelled with him, probably, two-thirds of the impact he made in my life cannot be verbalised," he said.

Council of Governors Chairman Governor Martin Wambora eulogised Nyachae as a person whose rich legacy will remain embedded in the history of Kenya.

Somalia rejects Kenya request to postpone maritime case hearing

by Mercy Mwai and Agencies

The Somali government has rejected Kenya's "fourth request" to postpone the hearing of a maritime case between the two countries at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Somali International Minister Osman Dubbe in a tweet dared Kenya to a legal contest at the ICJ, saying such a postponement would amount to delay in delivery of justice.

"We have rejected Kenya's fourth request to the ICJ to postpone the maritime case. Justice delayed is justice denied. We should be set to head to the Hague court on the March 15 come what may," he said.

The dispute between the two countries is over the ownership of a 100,000 square kilometre triangle in

the Indian Ocean thought to be rich in oil and gas reserves.

Kenya has argued the sea border should be drawn parallel to the line of latitude, while Somalia says it should be extended in the same direction as its land border. The two were unable to settle the matter out of court, ultimately referring the matter to the ICJ.

Kenya had favoured a negotiated settlement, arguing the court system would not address the political issues around the case.

Somalia took the case to the ICJ in 2014, asking the global court to determine its maritime boundary with Kenya.

The case was last postponed in May 2020 because of coronavirus pandemic and the court is set to hear argument from both sides between March 15 and 19.

BRIEFLY

Court orders Sonko to appear in person in Sh10m fraud case

The Anti-corruption Chief Magistrate Douglas Ogoti has ordered former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko, to attend court in person next Wednesday over a corruption case. The magistrate yesterday postponed a ruling, he was to deliver yesterday, seeking to have Sonko produced in court over the hearing of his Sh10 million bribery case. He instead issued orders that Sonko, his co-accused Antony Otieno Ombok alias Jamal and ROG Security Limited attend court in person on Wednesday at 3pm, saying that the issues raised in the case require their presence. The ruling was to be delivered yesterday but the magistrate said it was not ready. "I have realised that the ruling will focus on each accused person. The ruling



is not ready and will only be delivered in the presence of all accused persons. We will have to mention this matter on Wednesday," ruled Ogoti. This comes after Sonko's lawyer John Khaminwa on Wednesday informed Ogoti that the former governor was unable to attend court as he is currently admitted at Nairobi Hospital.

-Nancy Gitonga

UK in bid to address Baringo inter-communal conflict

The UK is working with stakeholders in Garissa county, to enhance Kenya's capacity to address criminal violence and inter-communal conflict. Through the Reinvent programme, the UK and stakeholders are focusing on peace building, and preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). It is also supporting the Garissa Cultural and Arts Centre, where women and girls engage in VAWG. The project is working with 825 schoolgirls in 21-catch-

up centres across three areas in the county. Yesterday, the British High Commissioner to Kenya, Jane Marriott, visited the county to cement the UK's commitment to the long-term stability in counties bordering Somalia. The visit was part of North East Taskforce in support of stability in the region. "Through our North East Taskforce, we are supporting long-term stability and development, tackling the drivers of instability," Marriott said.

-Bernard Gitau

BURIAL ARRANGEMENT

● Nyachae died aged 89 on February 1 at the Nairobi Hospital where he had been undergoing treatment.

● He will be laid to rest at a private ceremony on February 15 at his home in Nyosia, Nyaribari Chache.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TWELFTH PARLIAMENT (FIFTH SESSION)

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDA

SUBJECT: THE BUSINESS LAWS (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020 (National Assembly Bill No. 50 of 2020)

(Article 118 (1)(b) of the Constitution and Standing Order 127(3) of the National Assembly Standing Orders)

In the matter of consideration by the National Assembly: The Business Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020

The Business Laws (Amendment) No.2 Bill, 2020 (National Assembly Bill No. 50 of 2020) was published on 14th December, 2020 and read a First Time on Tuesday, 22nd December, 2020. The Bill proposes amendments to various statutes to facilitate the ease of doing business in Kenya follows —

The Law of Contract Act (Cap. 23)

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to eliminate the requirement of a company seal in execution of documents for companies registered under the Companies Act, No. 17 of 2015.

Industrial Training Act (Cap. 237)

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to provide for the payment of the training levy to be remitted at the end of a business's financial year but not later than the ninth day of the month following end of the financial year.

Stamp Duty Act (Cap. 480)

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to exempt payment of fixed stamp duty of one hundred shillings on contracts for purposes of reducing the cost of doing business.

National Hospital Insurance Fund Act, 1998

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to provide for the contributions under the Act to be collected on the ninth day of the month for purposes of harmonizing payroll deductions through the Unified Payroll Return.

National Construction Authority Act, 2011

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to provide for power of the Board to inquire into defects in a building to establish the cause of the defects in terms of structural defects and latent defects and the liability on the part of a registered person.

Land Registration Act No. 3 of 2012

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to eliminate the use of company seals in execution of documents by companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2015, eliminate the requirement to submit Land Rent and Rate Clearance Certificate and Consents in other land transactions.

National Social Security Fund Act, 2013

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to provide for the contributions under the Act to be collected on the ninth day of the month for purposes of harmonizing payroll deductions through the Unified Payroll Return.

Companies Act No. 17 of 2015

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to eliminate the use of a company seal in operations of companies incorporated under the Companies Act. It also seeks to make amendments to facilitate companies to hold meetings through hybrid or virtual sittings.

Insolvency Act No. 18 of 2015

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to clarify that an administrator can distribute routine payment to unsecured creditors without courts permission. It also seeks to introduce a pre-insolvency moratorium period to prevent creditors from taking an enforcement action while a company considers its option for rescue.

Small Claim Courts Act, 2016

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to make provision to fast track procedure for small claims by providing a six y-day timeline for adjudication of small claims.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 127(1) of the National Assembly Standing Orders which provides that a Bill having been read a First Time shall stand committed to the relevant Departmental Committee, the proposed amendments to various Acts of Parliament stand committed to the following Departmental Committees of the National Assembly —

No.	ACT TO BE AMENDED	COMMITTEE
1.	The Law of Contract Act (Cap 23)	Justice and Legal Affairs
2.	The Companies Act No. 17 of 2015	
3.	The Insolvency Act No. 18 of 2015	
4.	The Small Claims Court Act (No.2 of 2016)	
5.	The Industrial Training Act (Cap. 237)	Labour and Social Welfare
6.	The National Social Security Fund Act (No.45 of 2013)	
7.	The Stamp Duty Act (Cap 480)	Finance and National Planning
8.	National Hospital Insurance Fund Act, 1998	Health
9.	Land Registration Act (No.3 of 2012)	Lands
10.	The National Construction Authority Act No. 41 of 2011	Transport, Public Works and Housing

Now therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Article 118 (1)(b) of the Constitution and Standing Order 127(3) of the National Assembly Standing Orders respectively, the Clerk of the National Assembly invites interested members of the public and organisations to submit any views or make representations regarding the Bill.

The views, representations or written Memoranda may be forwarded to the **Clerk of the National Assembly, P.O Box 41842-00100, Nairobi**; hand-delivered to the **Office of the Clerk, Main Parliament Building, Nairobi**; or emailed to clerk@parliament.go.ke; to be received **on or before , Friday 26th February, 2021 at 5:00 pm**. Thereafter the Clerk of the National Assembly shall forward the views, representations or written Memoranda received to the relevant Committee for consideration. The Bill may be found on the Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.go.ke> or <http://www.kenyalaw.org>.

MICHAEL SIALAI, EBS
CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
12th February, 2021

“For the Welfare of Society and the just Government of the People”
“The National Assembly speaks for you, Our results speak for themselves”

RIDERS' TRAGEDY

Boda boda widows: Young but without

Accidents and robberies have left young women to fend for families because the breadwinners died while trying to eke a living

by PD Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Grim statistics from the National Transport and Safety Authority indicate 112 motorcyclists died in January this year. It was the highest in the different categories overtaking pedestrians who bear the brunt of road accidents the most. The riders have left behind widows, some too young, to fend for their families. A responsibility Eunice Akoth rues with every rising of the sun.

Three years ago, Akoth and her family were happy and optimistic about the future.

They were not exactly rich but they were not complaining either.

Thanks to her husband's boda boda business, they could afford three square meals a day and could clothe and educate their children. Then one morning, everything changed in the blink of an eye.

"As was his routine, he had dropped our children at school before starting his day's work," said Akoth.

He expected her husband, Edwin Onyango, to be home for lunch or to drop the children later in the evening. But that was not to be.

"I received a call from one of his friends who informed me that Onyango's motorbike had been hit by a vehicle and he had been fatally wounded," recounts Akoth who lives in Kisumu town.

Life's companion

That was 2018. Three years later, Akoth is yet to come to terms with the death of her husband who had been a boda boda operator for about 10 years.

Not only did Akoth, 29, lose her life's companion and father of her children to the freak accident, her family lost its sole breadwinner.

Life has been anything but easy for the family and with one of her four children expected to join Form One in May, the situation can only get worse.

"Life has become extremely hard without him because he was the breadwinner," says Akoth.

Although she has since started a hair-dressing business, the income is hardly enough to meet all their needs.

As a result, they sometimes have to rely on friends to keep them going.

"I don't make much from the salon. Sometimes I receive food donations from friends," says Akoth.

Her situation is compounded by the fact she accommodates and pays school fees for a relative who is a secondary school student after a sponsor withdrew support because of the hardships occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Akoth's story is a familiar one in virtually every part of Kenya where affordable motorcycles have in the past 15 years or so revolutionised transport.

But the two-wheelers have also come with their ugly side, prominent of which is the deaths of thousands of mostly young men in accidents, leaving behind widows and young children.

Last month, Inspector General of Police Hilary Mutiyambai put unruly boda boda operators on notice with a warning against the emerging culture of impunity and lawlessness that poses a grave risk to public

safety and security.

Stung by the current upsurge of accidents and criminal activities, the police boss said he had noted recent incidences where victims of accidents which involve the riders have been assaulted and in other instances, their vehicles even set ablaze.

"I caution all boda boda riders and operators against such uncouth and uncivilised manner of addressing issues," Mutiyambai warned in a statement.

There have also been many crimes and killings associated with the motorbikes, including gruesome murders of boda boda operators. It was that kind of murder which ten years ago turned the life of Susan Wambui's family upside down.

Wambui, 45, recounts how John Gichui, her boda boda rider husband, was killed together with a customer at Kangaita coffee plantation off Ruiru-Kwa Maiko road in May 2010.

"The killers bound them using ropes before strangling them and dumping their bodies in the coffee plantation," recalls the mother of two who lives in Wataalam slum in Ruiru, Kiambu County.

Three days after they were killed, another boda boda operator found the abandoned motorbike, that Gichui had bought only three days before his death and the search for the missing men began.

"Their bodies were found near a river at Kangaita coffee plantation," she said.

The disturbing images of her husband's mutilated body are yet to be erased from Wambui's mind a decade later.

Even more traumatising for her is that the killers have neither been arrested nor the motive of the actions explained to her and her children.

"It is hard for me to imagine that his murderers are possibly alive and free," she said.

Gichui's death drove his family into even deeper social misery.

Wambui, who ekes a living washing people's clothes, says she struggles to raise the Sh3,000 rent for their one-roomed house in the slum, particularly following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Many are the times we go without food. We survive by God's grace," she says.

Wambui says her two children, one in Form Three and the other in Class Seven, are only in school because of bursaries and help from well-wishers.

If Wambui has had some closure of sorts in the knowledge that her husband was killed, Christine Wamaitha, who also lives in Ruiru has never known peace.

In February last year, life for the family could only get better. Her husband Lawrence Ndirangu Kimani, had just upgraded from a boda boda rider, to a taxi driver and the family's income was expected to improve. A few days after Ndirangu took up the taxi job, he was hired by some people to take them to Naivasha. Ndirangu has never been seen since.

The vanishing of the man she described as a responsible father has visited misery and poverty to his family.

Wamaitha says that when her husband went missing, a business she was running collapsed, adding to the family's woes.

To make ends meet, she occasionally enlists for the Kazi Mtaani, the government's stimulus programme jobs.

She says the money from the work is too little to cater for all their needs, including paying rent for their two-bedroom home.

"I still hold on to the hope that my husband is alive despite the many theories and stories I have heard. Before he left, he was very happy because our first born was about to join boarding school," she said.

In the same Kiambu County, another



A boda boda rider lost his life after hitting a lorry on the Nakuru-Eldoret Highway.
PD/FILE

family is struggling to make ends meet after the breadwinner died four years ago in a motorbike accident.

Stella Wangari, a resident of Kiandutu slums in Thika says her husband was killed when his motorcycle, which was ferrying cabbages to a nearby market, was involved in an accident.

Wangari was left with the burden of bringing up their three children with earnings from her small green grocery.

"I'm doing my best to see to it that my children have a better future. For now, we have to live in Kiandutu because this is the only place we can afford," she said.

Christine Nyangigie Mbera, whose husband, Joseph Anyega died last year December 23 in a road accident along Kiamabundu-Menyinkwa road had just quit her salon job and was relying on the husband to take care of the family.

Christmas eve

Anyega, 26, was involved in a head on collision accident with another boda boda and died on Christmas eve. He had promised to open another saloon for his wife through the savings he made from his meagre salary.

The father of two, Ian Memba, aged 10 and Joy Wanjiru, 3, joined the boda boda sector in 2010 after he completed standard 8. After ten years of hard work and struggle, Anyega finally bought his bike in January last year.

"He was the bread winner. Since I am jobless, I have been forced to depend on my mother-in-law, Teresa Wanjiru for all the support," Nyangigie, 29, told People Daily at her home in Bomwancha village, Bonchari constituency, Kisii South sub county.

She said life has become intolerable as she struggles to feed her children. She also

appeals to well-wishers to support her with funds to enable her to start a salon business to eke a living and support her family.

"I never expected that my husband could die that abruptly. He was not in a savings and credit cooperative (Sacco) society and neither did she left any money with me to invest in a business," Nyangigie, who dropped out of school in Form Three told the People Daily.

Catherine Muya Ragira, whose husband died at home after a short illness as a result of being exposed to cold that caused him pneumonia at Riamakora village, Bogiakumu sub location in Kisii South Sub County is yet to come to terms with the death of her husband. Muya, 24, says her husband, Chrisantus Ragira Momanyi, 29 celebrated Christmas with the family at home before he fell sick on December 28 and died on the same day at around 3 p.m.

"We had lunch together and read the Bible. He started vomiting and efforts for a nurse whom we called to resuscitate him were futile," Muya said.

She said Ragira had planned to start her business venture in chicken feed and dairy meal. Ragira had asked Muya and his father, Richard Momanyi to search for a wholesale shop from where they could buy the chicken feed and dairy meal.

Muya, flanked by mother-in-law Mary Kemunto and father-in-law, Momanyi during the interview, said she needed funds to start a business to enable her to support her two-year-old child, Stephen Nyakina Ragira.

"Life is hard. He never disclosed whether he had saved any money," Muya said.

In Molo town, Rahab Nyambura has been forced to venture into the business of selling charcoal after her husband Samuel Githuku, died after he lost control of his motorbike and landed in a ditch along the



MAKOKHA

Efforts by about 50 widows to form an association with a membership fee of Sh200 could not materialise due to the Covid-19 pandemic

dreams of a future



Catherine Muya



Mildred Orod Mubweka



Catherine Nyangige



Cela Oundo



Callen Ongaga



Linet Onyancha

Molo-Kuresoi road in 2019. She was left with four children aged between 16 and six years to take care of. Kenya ushered in higher motorcycle imports in 2008 when it zero-rated import duty to create jobs for the rising youthful population which witnessed 51,412 motorcycles registered up from the previous year's 16,293.

While Joseph Odhiambo is lucky to be alive, he lost a means of making a livelihood after a motorbike accident four years ago left him crippled.

Odhiambo, who narrowly escaped with his life, had to undergo a head surgery after he injured his skull in the Kisumu-Nairobi Highway accident. He was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

His hands were also operated on, but have, unfortunately, not regained their full functioning.

"I have no source of income and my condition cannot allow me to work and earn a living," says Odhiambo who lives in Man-yatta slum in Kisumu.

To make matters worse, his wife ran away a year ago.

The 38-year-old father now depends on his son, a Form Four leaver who is a cabbage vendor, and contributions from friends. He has not fully healed from the surgery wounds and has to go for check-up twice a week. Odhiambo warns boda boda operators against ignoring traffic rules.

"I learnt a lesson on the importance of wearing a helmet. The magnitude of the damage on my head could have been lessened if I had had a helmet on," says Odhiambo.

Latest statistics from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) show the low-cost motorcycles now kill more people than vehicles with 1,421 riders and pillion passengers having died in 2019 compared to 1,049 drivers and passengers who lost

their lives from motor vehicle-related deaths over the same period.

By January 26 2020, 89 motorcycle riders had died in accidents, compared to 59 by the same time the previous year.

A survey conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics showed that some boda boda riders in Nairobi could make up to Sh2,000 to Sh3,000 a day while those leasing out the motorbikes demand a minimum Sh300 per unit.

Tidy earnings

The tidy earnings are irresistible to many unemployed youths — most of whom learn on-the-job. This has opened the unrecognised sector to a myriad of challenges from reckless road behaviour that is now blamed for rising medical costs on the treatment of motorcycle accident victims.

Major hospitals have since set up trauma centres to accommodate the rising number of seriously injured riders and pillion passengers further denting Kenya's health budget.

According to statistics released by the National Crime Research the riders are involved in various crimes, the most prevalent ones being causing death by dangerous riding 79.5 per cent; general stealing 76.7 per cent; breach of public order and creating disturbance 66.2 per cent; theft of motorcycle and motorbikes parts 62.9 per cent; assault 57 per cent; robbery and robbery with violence 52.9 per cent and riding under influence of alcohol 52.7 per cent.

Other crimes committed by boda boda include murder 38.7 per cent; kidnapping and abduction 26.2 per cent, bribery 23.1 per cent, defilement 17.8 per cent and rape 17.2 per cent.

— Reports by Noven Owiti, Mathew Ndung'u, Henry Andanje, Felix Yegon, Christine Musa and Robert Ocharo

INDUSTRY BRIEFLY

● 600,000:

There are about 600,000 commercial motorcycles currently operating in Kenya

● Sh1,000:

The average amount a rider makes in a day. Renting one costs a rider Sh300 a day.

● Sh219 billion:

The average annual turnover from the industry based on the Sh1,000 daily earnings per boda boda.

● 4.8 million people:

The number of people who directly rely on boda bodas for a living. This from the rider's family to the numerous support service providers like mechanics, tyre suppliers, spare parts dealers and fabricators,



Rahab Nyambura sells charcoal outside her rented house in Molo. Her husband Samuel Githuku died after his boda boda lost control and landed in a ditch on the Molo-Kuresoi road in 2019. PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

Saccos mitigate the effects of sudden death

Desperation has pushed many to turn to welfare groups and well wishers to survive the misfortune of losing a breadwinner

by Robert Ocharo and Christine Musa

atPeopleDailyKe

After the deaths of many riders, boda bodas coalesced and came up with welfare groups to cater for those left behind and also plan burial arrangements for the dead.

In Kitengela town, Kajiado County, the boda boda association boasts of a membership of 7,000 riders, leadership wrangles have scuttled efforts to form an association to cater for their loved ones in the event of death of a member.

Claims have emerged of how some officials of the boda boda association take advantage of the members who die without writing wills or informing their families about their savings to keep all the money.

Jackline Achieng, a 34-year-old mother of five who lost her husband through a hit and run car accident recently is one of the few beneficiaries of the sacco after officials accepted that her husband was a member.

Black day

The welfare association catered for all her husband's burial expenses, besides giving her Sh20,000 towards her children's school fees.

Her 42-year-old husband Ibrahim Ouma Odhiambo died on the spot after being hit by a speeding vehicle on December 27.

"My husband was hurriedly buried because he was a Muslim. It was a black day for us as a family since he was the sole breadwinner of our five children," says Achieng.

However, Stephen Mutiso, who is the chairman of Kitengela boda boda riders association that was registered in May 2018 and currently has 3,200 members, dismiss claims of misappropriation of members' contributions.

Mutiso says that whenever any of their riders die, each member is required to contribute Sh200 towards the funeral

expenses. And with a membership of 3,200, the association collects an estimated Sh600,000.

Kisii County's boda boda chairman, Gisure Orechi attributed most of the accidents to drunk driving and speeding by the riders.

He appealed to the government to formulate policies to guide the sector, with a particular emphasis on commercial motorbikes being fitted with speed governors to aid in reducing accidents.

Kisumu County Boda boda riders' union chairman Willis Akech said most of the motorcycle accidents reported are caused by ignorance about traffic rules especially among new riders.

Because of that, he says, the union is liaising with other agencies and local leaders to train their members in order to enhance compliance with traffic regulations and minimise deaths.

He, however, said many union members were well trained and licensed.

Akech observed that because of the training, the number of boda boda accidents had reduced in Kisumu.

"We ask our members to comply with the traffic rules so that boda boda accidents can be reduced further," said Akech.

The official urged riders to join sacco to enable them improve their welfare, noting that through the kitty they can access loans to facilitate their development aspirations.

He added that the union also follows up on matters of compensation to members who are involved in accidents.

In Busia, the Boda boda chairman Erick Makokha says there are about 300 widows and more than 5,000 orphans that have resulted from accidents.

He says most of the widows are young girls aged between 19 and 29 years whose late husbands died through road accidents while others were murdered by thugs who also took away their motorbikes. Makokha says some of their members get killed by clients who turn out to be criminals.

"Efforts by about 50 widows to form an association with a membership fee of Sh200 could not materialise due to the Covid-19 pandemic," Makokha disclosed.

The association's chairlady Mary Auma from Matayos Sub-County said most of her colleagues were unable to raise the membership fee of Sh200 because they were jobless.

EDITORIAL

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KEN NGARUIYA:
Group Chief Executive Officer

ERIC OBINO:
Group Editor-in-Chief, Print

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E-mail: editor.people@mediamax.co.ke

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QUOTED TODAY



I intend to ensure that those who will take over power will not steal from Kenyans. I am focused on fulfilling my promises to Kenyans. I want the next government to foster unity among our people.

PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA



For anybody to allege that we are being used to advance certain agenda is unfair. We cannot sit down and watch crimes being done, simply because they are being instigated by people of a certain class.

DCI GEORGE KINOTI



Kenyans should endeavour to practice principles of peace, love and unity. Whenever we disagree politically, let's do it in a civil manner, without the need for name calling, grudges and bitterness.

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER SAMUEL POGHISO

Move to reject Public Order Bill shameful

Members of the National Assembly yesterday shot down the Public Order Act (amendment) Bill that sought to criminalise destruction of property during public demonstrations.

According to its drafters, the principal object of the Bill was to amend the Act to make provision for organisers of public gatherings or processions leading to loss of property, life or earnings, to take responsibility and compensate the affected persons and businesses.

The Bill proposed that individuals found guilty of causing grievous harm or damage to property or loss of earnings should be jailed for six years or pay a Sh100,000 fine.

But the MPs who rejected the Bill said it would be subject to abuse and may be used to abrogate fundamental freedoms, especially the right to public assembly and picketing. The major argument has been, and correctly so, that it is the mandate of the police to protect lives and property.

There are those who argue that police license demonstrations on the basis of two considerations: That they will be available to provide security and the venue is suitable for public safety. However, it has been demonstrated now and again that goons have been taking advantage of protests to cause chaos and vandalise property.

Many businesses have been closed and livelihoods destroyed due to violence during protests. The fact that such criminal activity continues to be experienced means there is not a sufficient deterrence mechanism either in the law or enforcement. While the lawmakers could have had good reason to reject the Bill, their interest in the matter can barely be disguised. They are the major culprits.

A number of surveys have revealed politicians have frequently mobilised gangs of youths for self-protection or for unleashing against opponents. There are also documented cases in which irresponsible politicians have incited supporters to destroy private property in the name of protests.

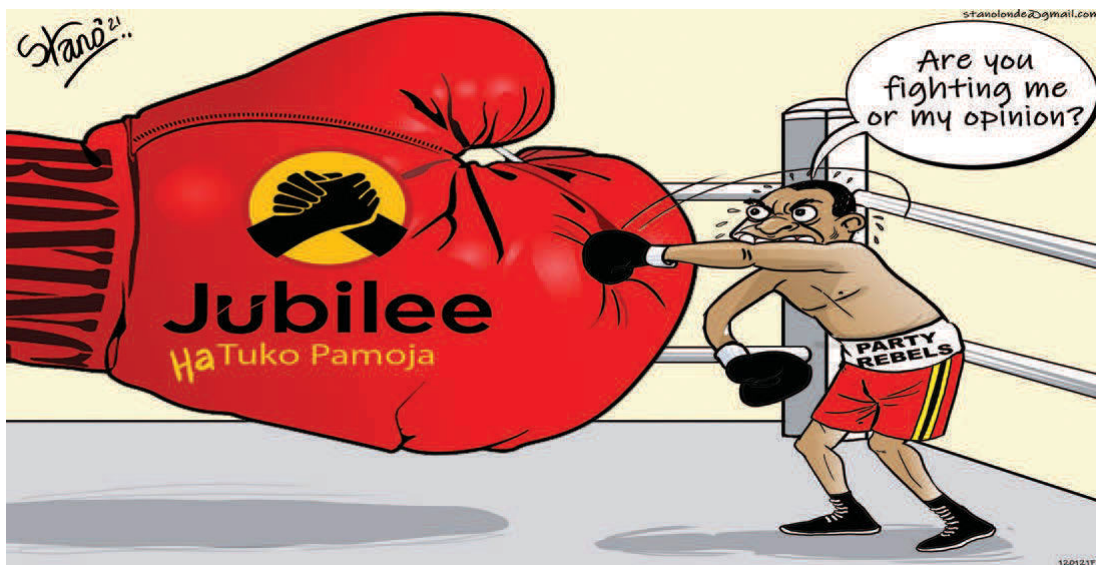
We are still nervous by findings of the Global Initiative released two months ago which warned that politicians have been assembling gangs ahead of the 2022 General Election. It boils down to impunity.

Politicians called out for inciting violence during which property is destroyed always go unpunished. Indeed, they rush to police stations to bail out goons arrested for theft and vandalism. It is ironic that individuals who earn taxpayers money to pass laws that protect private property would reject attempts to safeguard the same property.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

JOYCE MEYER

Teachers can change lives with just the right mix of chalk and challenges



Vital issues in face of new dawn in education system

The changes launched in the education sector are very important. They shift the emphasis on exams, that Kenya has had over the years and upend the standard annual ritual, where the country waits anxiously for the exam results to be released and start scanning news media for which school topped the list.

The other interest has been on the best girl, the best boy, their pictures and the celebrations by their families, their schools and their communities. Then the best schools would select the best performing learners and the worst schools remain with the worst performers to entrench the cycle of privilege and disadvantage.

There is little in the system we are moving away from, that helps the poor performing students to improve. The system emphasises memory in exams and privileges the power to recall. It is little wonder that for years, our examination system has been riddled with alleged malpractice against which the Kenya National Examination Council has wrestled with mightily. But now the emphasis should shift away from what a learner can recall in a span of frozen time.

Ideally, this stretched time of assessment within which 60 per cent of the final accumulated score is earned, should allow the learner to self-correct in the course of time, instances of bad performance could allow for a change of course and direction, and hopefully better performance in subsequent assessments.

This system thrusts the teacher forcefully in the assessment function. The teachers col-



LEVI OBONYO

Kenya has been restless shifting from one system to the other.

lectively observe the learner, notes the areas of excellence for emphasis and where correction is necessary, and works with the learner to change course where such may be needed. Given the prominent role the teacher is playing in the new system, it is imperative that Kenya must reconsider her relationship with the teacher. Kenya treats her teachers with too much disdain.

Other societies task their brightest with the responsibility of shaping their nation's young minds but the emphasis is laid elsewhere in Kenya. Listen to Kenyan students in exit interviews and you will be hard pressed, to find any instance where the brightest ever wanted to go back to the classroom to shape the minds of the future. Yes, they want to be pilots, medics, legal minds, engineers, consultants, politicians and all that; and that is fine, but hardly would any choose to join the teaching profession. The reasons for this are not hard to find: the Kenyan society has little respect for those entrusted with the responsibility of shaping the minds of tomorrow.

We pay our teachers poorly, and even that

poor pay has to be extracted painfully from the system, through protests on the streets which diminish the standing of teachers in the perception of the general public, but more critically, in the perception of the children that are supposed to look up to them. This should change in the regime of the new system. Treat teachers, all the way from the pre school to the university, with respect and dignity. Reward teachers well – it is as simple as that. This has hardly been factored in discussions so far. Instead, we have focused on the curriculum, tests and facilities.

The other concern that has not featured prominently is how the new changes affect our relationship with our partners in the East African Community, with regard to student exchange and student admissibility across borders. Uganda and Tanzania, among others, have stayed true to the system they implemented after independence.

Kenya has been restless shifting from one system to the other. As a member of the Inter-University Council of East Africa, Kenya participates in policy formulation and in the educational programs of the community, but can't participate effectively if the systems do not compare. That will starve our universities of students from the rest of East Africa and will make it difficult for our students to join other academic institutions in the region. Policy makers must speak to this.

— The writer is dean, School of Communication, Daystar University

Public agencies should do more to secure cyber space

With many businesses adopting digital platforms and more workers going online, revelations of a massive jump in cyber attack cases should be cause for worry – amplifying the need for relevant government agencies and digital security experts, to do more to make cyberspace safer for businesses and individuals.

In recent months, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has signaled its intention to tax online businesses, meaning that it – just as other government agencies – has seen the critical role that cyber space plays in creating jobs, generating revenue and powering economic growth.

If the government is looking at this new frontier as a source of revenue and high quality jobs, then it must feel obligated to put in place systems and policies that will enhance protection of digital businesses from malevolent attacks. A first and easily executable move would be for investigative and policing agencies, to zero in on suspects carrying out such attacks within Kenya and – working with prosecutors and courts – make an example of those found to be perpetuating digital fraud, especially malicious damage to digital property.

Given that it is easy to identify IP addresses of computers used to hack websites and commit other digital



MBUGUA NG'ANG'A

The danger with sitting back and doing nothing, is that this will embolden criminals.

crimes, there is really no reason why police should not be seen to be doing more, if only to send a message that its officers are alert, vigilant and alive to threats posed by cyber criminals. The danger with sitting back and doing nothing, is that this will embolden criminals to target even more sensitive digital installations and assets, which comes with the compounded risk of exposing sensitive data.

This is a risk that US President Joe Biden has been more than keen to address, aware that those behind them are a danger, not only to businesses but to national security. Relevant authorities here need to take a cue and raise their game too, as there is no reason why Kenya – which has made major strides as a digital leader in Africa – cannot show its counterparts how to protect digital frontiers.

According to the Communications Authority of Kenya, risks of data breaches have increased as more companies and businesses ask their employees to work from home due to the pandemic. This has in turn increased vulnerability points for

both businesses and their customers, hence the need to act now – and act decisively and relentlessly; to ensure that this important sub-sector is ring-fenced from malware attacks and other criminal breaches.

Then, when agencies like KRA come knocking to demand taxes, those who run such businesses will not have any reason to raise questions about what government is doing to protect them, given that willingness to pay taxes goes hand-in-glove with a corresponding perception that government is playing its part to oil the wheels of the economy.

Kenya has a unique opportunity to be a leader on this front in Africa given the growing number of local and global e-commerce companies either interested in doing business here or which have already set up shop locally but are looking for more than assurances that their businesses will have a level playing ground and a fair shot at being facilitated to thrive. Of course, measures taken to make cyber space safer are

not just good for business. They will, ultimately, be beneficial to all users, including individuals, particularly children.

With digital gadgets playing an increasingly critical role in facilitating learning, it will be imperative to ensure that children are shielded from digital harm, including bullying, which has emerged as a serious social and cyber problem.

Similarly, more citizens are finding it necessary to conduct even simple day to day transactions, digitally in line with government directives to slow down the spread of Covid-19. That means ordinary Kenyans, will need to be educated on data protection and their security in digitalsphere. This is a role that only government can play. If not, it can consider outsourcing this service because, as I have already argued, citizens who feel that government is looking out for them are likely to have higher levels of tax compliance.

Taxation aside, every citizen going online needs an assurance that agencies have done their job in securing that space, so that both private and corporate citizens can engage in their businesses in peace.

— **The writer is a Partner and Head of Content at House of Romford — mbugua@houseofromford.com**

STREET TALK

BBI city leading lights perform below average

Leading lights in the BBI from Central Kenya have turned the referendum campaign into a 2022 election contest. The leaders who have their political bases in the city, have gone quiet, after President Uhuru Kenyatta in Sagana exposed their frailties even as they absorb the déjà vu series. The constituents have been wondering where they could be, after giving very little in support of the BBI in the voter rich region. It is said apart from the looks and probably cash, their support for the initiative is next to nothing.

Politician goofs again in bid to remain relevant

In Kisumu, a politician dug himself into yet an embarrassing situation this week. In a desperate bid to appear to be in touch with the happenings in the county, he has kicked a stink in virtually all-social spheres. Two weeks ago, he fell for an activist's siren to try stopping recovery of a land involved in a purely commercial prospect, before he was quietly asked to leave the scene to avoid public shame. During the Nyanza meeting chaired by ODM leader this week, he found himself searching for a place at the high table. Later, in a belated move to castigate the authorities over the Kibos demolitions, he found himself in a 'one-man' protest as the country laughed at a miscued rant.

MP in dilemma as fake degree reality dawns

Still in Kisumu, a politician is facing ruins after it was established that he faked getting his degree certificate from a top American university. The politician maintains a stoic demeanour in an attempt to pluck out records filed in various offices including his former employer. His opponents for the constituency seat, have promised him no peace as they search for all avenues to tarnish his public image. Street Talk understands getting the fake academic papers from the university was a joke taken too far.

New players give matatu sacco sleepless nights

The matatu sacco movement in Nairobi was staring at collapse, after three different groups emerged to offer differing opinion about the entry of a new player in the market. While two groups oppose the reduction of fares to a lucrative route outside the city centre, the new players, rumoured to be supported by powerful forces, insist on having the new saccos, which will spell doom to touts and players who ply the exploitative route. The fare drastically reduced from Sh150 to Sh80.

Open letter to Transport CS over Busia county roads

I am a resident of Busia county, a Kenyan and strong proponent for regional trading blocs. I know your docket is very heavy and such county related matters easily get forgotten.

The state of the transnational road that links Mombasa to the Great Lakes region through Busia town is an eyesore, an embarrassment to the country and has made us a laughing stock by the rest of our neighbours.

That Busia remains a one street town, even with increased traffic, population growth and impact of trans-border movement, the sight of tracks queues stretching miles as they wait clearance at the border point and the dust in the town as vehicles try making their way using any possible space away from the congested road, is killing the town.

The story of preparation by Kenya National Highways Authority to commission expansion works have been in the pipeline for long, and emergency intervention is required.

I am sure, you have a lot of correspondents on the same including from the Governor Sospeter Ojaamong. The latest was by the President of the Kenya National



VICTOR BWIRE

The rehabilitation of that main road ...will be a major a legacy project for this government.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Richard Ngatia and Paul Otuoma – the chair of the Privatisation Commission during a recent open day in the town. Without rehabilitating and expanding the main transnational road, other great national development projects like the One-Stop Border Post, which was commissioned at the Busia border by the Heads of States from the East African region cannot succeed.

Suffice to note that currently, the general infrastructure linking Kenya with her neighbours in the West, through Busia town are not developed. While Malaba border point is a bit organised, the failure to actualise the Mulwanda border point, earlier gazetted by President Kibaki's government remains a paper project.

There were plans to make Busia a dry port – where some of the clearing business at the port of Mombasa

would have moved to Busia, translating into more investment opportunities and income generation to the county government and we were excited. But our hopes are dwindling.

Sir, many recent feasibility studies done in the county show that, in addition to the port potential as a link to the Great Lakes region and central Africa, which requires that road improved and expanded, the country has a huge potential for cement production, organic fertiliser manufacturing plant, cassava and sugar production on large scale. The proximity to Lake Victoria and rivers Sio, Nzoia and Yala and the possibility of gold deposits in Samia Hills makes the county richly endowed. But with the current transport challenge, very few private investors will risk their money. That message came out from several speakers during the business open day.

There is a lot of goodwill and the county government has enacted very conducive laws and policies to spur in and across border trade, but the road remains a stumbling block.

The tourism potential in the county will greatly improve through reworking the airstrip and building the water landing sites along the various water bodies – the county has tourism sites including Kakapel rock art museum, captivating Kakapel caves, rocky hills of Kisoko and the Lake Victoria viewpoints.

The rehabilitation of that main road in addition to transforming the town from a one street, will be a major a legacy project for this government, by way of opening up transnational trade, enhancing value addition and manufacturing.

The next letter will be to the CS Trade and National Treasury: We need to discuss the issue of preference taxation and increasing the competitiveness of Kenyan products at the border, looking at what our neighbours are doing.

— **The writer is Media Council of Kenya director, Media Training and Development**

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Justices William Ouko, Martha Koome, Senior Counsel Fred Ngatia and Philip Murgor among 13 applicants for CJ position. Kenyans react.

@pauloko2000: If the JSC goes for insider, Justice William Ouko will be our next CJ. But if power play and politics comes to play, lawyer Ngatia will be our next CJ.

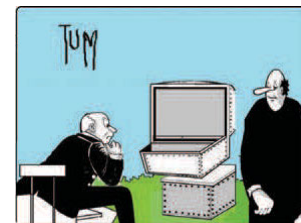
@BHeyi_Sankara: Fred Ngatia is one of the finest lawyers in the country, but I greatly doubt his competence as CJ.

@Maccoscyrus: Fred Ngatia will be squeezed down our throats. Koome is good, but my favourite could have been Mumbi Ngugi.

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// f People Daily

@steveogollaw: Justice Ouko is positioned for CJ. He has experience and intellect; right temperament and judgment; regional and ethnic balance. Justice Kathurima is a celebrated jurist, greatly respected for his intelligence, cool demeanour fit for CJ.

@Kevlan_: Ngatia deserves to be at the helm of the Judiciary. No doubt!



TRUTHIS: You may have to lose everything, to find that God is everything you need.

Race for Matungu by-election intensifies in three-jockey upfront



ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi addressing journalists during the on going Matungu by-election campaigns. He is with his Ford-Kenya counterpart Moses Wetang'ula and ANC candidate Oscar Nabalindo PD/DENNIS LUMITI

by Dennis Lumiti
@PeopleDailyKe

The contest for the Matungu parliamentary seat is to intensify in the coming days with senior officials of the leading political parties in the March 4 by-election expected to troop to sugarcane-growing constituency in Kakamega county even as the battle appears to have narrowed to three candidates on 20 to the poll.

Parties leading the charts in the contest are Amani National Congress (ANC) headed by former Vice-President Musalia Mudavadi, Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga and the United Democratic Alliance associated with Deputy President William Ruto all who are expected to grace campaigns for their re-

spective candidates as from next week. The by-election was occasioned by the death of former MP Justus Murunga.

Sugar politics

Sugar politics continues to dominate the electioneering debates and have turned sour for a number of political bigwigs who are now avoiding campaigns in the vast constituency.

The collapse of Mumias Sugar Company, 2022 succession politics and networking with residents, are among the key issues that will determine the outcome of the election.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) cleared 20 candidates to vie for the seat but more than 15, mainly independents, have vanished into thin air, among them

Christabel Jane, widow of the late Murunga and her stepson, Eugene Ambwere, leaving the competition has practically narrowed down to Peter Oscar Nabalindo of ANC, David Were of ODM and Alex Lanya of UDA.

Mudavadi's handlers told *People Daily* that the ANC leader is expected in Matungu on Monday for a three-day blitz to drum up support for Nabalindo while Raila is understood to be preparing to land there later in the week to boost Were's campaigns currently spearheaded by Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya while Ruto's henchmen on the ground say he would be heading there next weekend.

Last weekend, Oparanya came face-to-face with the reality on the ground when his public rallies were interrupted by rowdy youths

chanting "Msaliti (traitor)!" slogans. The youths accused Oparanya of having contributed to the collapse of MSC while also saying he was being used by "outsiders" to frustrate Mudavadi's presidential bid.

Oparanya bumped into hostile crowds at Kholera, Koyonzo and Mayoni shopping centres as he campaigned for the Orange Democratic Movement's David Aoko Were.

While accompanied by several leaders allied to ODM, including Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna, Oparanya was not given time to address the residents owing to noisy jeers and boos from the crowds. His motorcade was pelted with stones as it made its way through the constituency, forcing him to end campaigns abruptly.

Kinoti denies allegations of political 'harassment'

DCI says his office executes its constitutional mandate of investigating crimes and arraigning suspects in court without fear or favour

by Mathew Ndung'u and Oliver Musembi
@PeopleDailyKe

Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) yesterday dismissed as fallacious, claims that it has been working under the Executive's command to harass politicians who have not been supporting the Head of State's political direction.

DCI boss George Kinoti maintained that the department has only been executing its constitutional mandate of investigating crimes and arraigning suspects in court.

"For anybody to allege that we are being used to advance certain agendas is being unfair. We cannot sit down and watch crimes being done simply because they are being instigated by people of a certain class," he said.

Speaking during the official opening of the newly constructed DCI offices in Juja, Kiambu County and which were put up in partnership between the community and area NG-CDF, Kinoti maintained that the directorate has not been and will never engage in undermining any politician.

He termed the notion as misplaced and said his department works independently devoid of political affiliations.

Seamless relationship

Kinoti reiterated that his relationship with the director of public prosecution Nordin Hajji has been seamless and that they are still on course to deliver justice for all Kenyans.

"The investigation is 50 percent while the prosecution takes the other 50 percent before arbitration is done by the court as spelt out in the criminal justice system," he said.



Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti confers with Juja Sub-county DCI officer Richard Mwaura after opening the newly-constructed Juja DCI offices yesterday. PD/MATHEW NDUNG'U

He took issue with a section of Kenyans for making wrong translations when 'ordinary' challenges occur between the two departments maintaining that their relationship have and will continue to make major strides in the war on crime.

Wrong translations

"When some few challenges ordinarily occur here and there, it is translated as though we are fighting. I can assure you that we have been working together and very soon you will see the fruits of our work," he added.

Kinoti stated that the directorate is making every effort to alleviate growing cases of land fraud in Juja and Kiambu County.

He said the government, through the Ministry of Lands has trained officers to expedite land fraud cases adding that with completion of a forensic laboratory that is about to be completed, more crime-related problems will be solved.

Kinoti declared war against land fraud-

DCI FIGHT BACK

● Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) dismissed as fallacious, claims that it has been working under the executive's command

● Maintained that the department has only been executing its constitutional mandates

sters and drug dealers after local leaders led by Witeithie MCA Julius Macharia and Kiambu County Police Commander Ali Nuno decried their increase.

He praised the community for the good gesture exhibited to police saying that a good working relationship will not only help in rooting out crimes but will also ensure that police have a conducive environment of conducting investigations and serving locals.

Samuel Waigwa, the director for Sampeesa Group Limited who participated in the establishment of the modern offices said that as a community, they are beneficiaries of good service from police.

He said that the initiative should be emulated by all Kenyans to ensure that police service is given a fair environment to deliver quality services to all.

"The partnership is very important. This makes police friendly to all and the partnership only ensures quality delivery of services to the entire community," he said.

BRIEFLY

Board member in court over removal

A member of the Green Belt Movement has challenged the removal of its outgoing directors from the NGOs Coordination Board register and records. Mary Waihera Njoroge claims the board members who replaced them had their election nullified last year by the NGO coordination Board. Through lawyer Naomi Nafula Muliro, the petitioner claims pursuant to the nullification of the elections which had been held on November 14, 2020 fresh election were set to be conducted next month. The effect of the nullified election results was that the current Board of Directors was to organise fresh polls and continue to act in their capacity until a fresh election is conducted," she says in court documents. She however claims that on January 11 she was invited to attend an *ad hoc* meeting scheduled for January 14 organised by Board members whose election to their position had been nullified by the board.

- Bernice Mbugua

Ogiek elders decry Prengei expulsion

Members of the Ogiek community have decried the expulsion of nominated Senator Victor Prengei from Jubilee Party calling on the leadership to consider reinstating the leader back. Through their Council of Elders, the members said the decision to remove Prengei from the party amounts to political exclusion of minority communities. Led by the Council's Chairman John Sirona, he said the dismissal of the senator who hails from the community was a clear indication that they now lack representation in the house. Speaking in Nakuru yesterday, Sirona said the elders are ready to broker a truce between Prengei and the party to ensure they benefit from the government. "Prengei has been in the forefront in protecting the interests of the community especially on matters touching the Mau Forest and if he has wronged the top leadership, we ask for forgiveness," said Sirona.

- Roy Lumbe

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NA BIASHARA

WITH **LINDAH KOSKEY**

**EVERY FRIDAY
AT 8PM**



Legislators unite to shoot down Public Order bill

MPs oppose law that sought to criminalise destruction of property during demonstrations

by Mercy Mwai
@PeopleDailyKe

Members of the National Assembly yesterday shot down the Public Order (Amendment) Bill that sought to criminalise destruction of property during demonstrations.

The legislators claimed that the Bill, which also sought to make provision for organisers of public gatherings to take responsibility for any loss and compensate affected persons, abrogates the provisions of the Constitution on the right to picket.

"A person who while at a public meeting or public procession causes grievous harm, damage to property or loss of earnings, shall be liable upon conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six years or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand shillings, or both," the Bill read.

While opposing the Bill, the legislators said having such a law in place amounts to allowing police to abuse the rights of all Kenyans especially organisers of demonstrations as it would be difficult to separate goons from peaceful demonstrators.

The MPs who included Leader of Minority John Mbadi, Minority Whip Junet Mohammed, Otiende Amolo (Rarieda), Johanna Ng'eno (Emurua Dikirir), George Muragara (Tharaka) and Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town) opposed the Bill, saying some of the provisions in the proposed law such as causation of an offence are already contained in the Penal Code and alternative legal provisions.

MBadi warned the legislators against passing the Bill, saying while they enjoy protection from the current government there is need to remember that this would not be the same when another government comes to power.

"This Bill is an abuse to our human rights which we have fought so hard for. We need to be careful when passing such legislation because of tomorrow. I urge all of you members to reject this Bill and take it back to the sender," he said.

Junet said: "Owing to the tribulations that former Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko is facing, all of us should oppose this Bill because people must be allowed to picket."

Otiende opposed the proposal, saying it is not only unconstitutional as it negates various provisions of the Constitution but it is also a "money Bill", which ought to have been scrutinised by the National Treasury and the Budget and Appropriations committee.

"Any amendment that seeks to limit the right to demonstrate is unconstitutional and very worrying," he said.

Kaluma, on his part, told MPs that as they draft pieces of legislation they should always do it for posterity.

"When you draft a law, imagine you are the one who is going to be affected. I urge members to reject this Bill in total."

PUBLIC ORDER BILL

● Public order (amendment) bill that sought to criminalise the destruction of property

● Legislators said having such a law in place would mean allowing the police to abuse the rights of all Kenyans especially the organisers of demonstrators



Embracing Digital Learning

Teacher Hellen Nzombo of New Shamy School in Mvita, Mombasa County, helps Abdurahaman Said and Abdhurazak Ahmed of PP1 in conducting digital learning under EIDU App-CBC Digital Learning Programme for PP1, PP2 and Grade 1. The Apps contain Mathematics and English CBC content. The programme targets 700 schools in Mombasa with 500 gadgets dispersed to various private primary schools. The Digital Learning Platform helps students to interact by using an Ipad to answer questions from lessons learnt in class to help the teacher assess the level of understanding among students, which improves their critical thinking and problem solving abilities. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

BRIEFLY

MP Kizito rushes to Oparanya's defence

Shinyalu MP Justus Kizito yesterday came to the defence of Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya over accusations that he was using public resources to campaign for the ODM candidate in Matungu. Terming the accusations as malicious and far-fetched, Kizito said any funds being spent in Matungu were from personal contributions from the Orange party's leaders and friends. He said Oparanya was a strict public servant who would not dare dip his fingers in the public coffers. "These claims are false, malicious, far-fetched and unfounded. We have been contributing towards campaigns for our candidate David Were from our own pockets," he noted. He challenged those making the allegations to provide evidence. He said ODM was the only party that was campaigning in Matungu without bribing voters.

- Dennis Lumiti

Hola court fines man Sh80,000 for assault

A court in Tana River has fined a man Sh80,000 or one year imprisonment for assault and causing bodily harm to a woman. Salim Mumbo, who appeared before Hola Principal Magistrate A.P. Ndege, was charged that on February 14, 2018, at Kilindini village of Tana River County, attacked Nuru Hakorhe while she was on her way to fetch water. The court heard that, the accused owed the complainant some money and at the time she had no means of paying back and after a heated argument the accused physically assaulted her thereby causing her injuries that made the complainant stay in hospital for a few days before reporting the matter to the police. Ali Omar, a witness, told the court that at the time of the incident he was in the company of Nuru Omar when they witnessed the accused assaulting the complainant, Nuru Hakorhe.

- KNA

Tech firm designs employee engagement platform

by Mathew Ndung'u
@PeopleDailyKe

Technology giant Microsoft has announced an employee experience platform that enables engagement, learning, wellbeing and knowledge discovery, directly into the flow of people's work.

Dubbed Microsoft Viva, the new platform is designed to help employees learn, grow and thrive with new experiences that integrate with the productivity and collaboration capabilities in Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Teams.

Having seen how much work has evolved in the past year, the new platform helps to combat pain points such as meeting fatigue and a lack of balance between work and life.

Viva helps customers to reimagine the employee experience by focusing on the power of the people. This tool-

set will help employees be their best while working with hybrid and remote teams, ultimately driving the whole organisation forward.

"We have participated in the largest at-scale remote work experiment the world has seen, and it has had a dramatic impact on the employee experience," said Satya Nadella, CEO, Microsoft.

Social trends

The announcement comes as economic and social trends are driving durable changes in workforce engagement. Amid the shift to an increasingly distributed and digital work environment, demand has grown for solutions that support corporate culture, knowledge discovery, on-the-job learning and employee wellbeing.

Analysts size the emerging Employee Experience Platforms (EXP) category at \$300 billion in annual spend.

Caucus backs Munya for Uhuru defence

by James Wakahiu
@PeopleDailyKe

Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya (pictured) has won praise over his defence of President Uhuru Kenyatta's development in the agricultural sector as well as politics at a time the Head of State has been suffering attacks from his deputy William Ruto and his allies over 2022 politics.

Mount Kenya Youth Caucus, through its chairman Linford Mutembei and treasurer John Kiyambi yesterday said Munya was the only minister in Uhuru's government who has managed to intertwine his official work and politics, something they said was helping the President restore confidence among the electorate whose mind had been poisoned by the DP and his allies.

Mutembei, who addressed the media at a Ruiru hotel, Kiambu



County, challenged other CSs in Uhuru's government to emulate Munya by moving out of their offices to showcase work done by their respective dockets.

"Munya has been able to make the people grasp what Uhuru is doing on tea, coffee, dairy, pyrethrum, Miraa and other crops. He has also used his meetings with farmers to defend and market Uhuru's legacy projects. Other CSs should not just stay in offices and watch as people make false claims that the government

had failed," Mutembei said.

According to him, while much has been achieved by the government in key sectors, little has been done to market the gains and this has given Uhuru's critics a chance to manipulate the electorate by maliciously claiming that his government had not delivered on his promises.

Mutembei cited Munya's meetings with farmers, notably his tours of Kiambu and Murang'a counties last month where he was undertaking public participation for coffee regulations, saying the former Meru governor not only successfully pushed Uhuru's agenda to revive the sectors but also made efforts to dismantle lies about BBI by Ruto and his allies. Further, he said the move by Munya to tell off DP allies who tried to bar him from delivering Uhuru's message of condolence during a funeral was laudable.



An employee at Naivasha-based Maridadi Flower Farm works on roses for exports, yesterday. PD/KIRERA MWITI

Covid rules deny flower farmers cash

State accused of unfairly targeting sector that is among the country's top taxpayers

Kirera Mwiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Flower Council (KFC) yesterday decried rising taxes as the Valentine's Day beckons. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Clement Tulezi said the high taxes are a major impediment to the sector.

With only a day to lover's day, flower farmers can only ship out 75 per cent of their produce due to lack of flights and space among airlines involved in cargo transport.

The reduction has been attributed to the stringent regulations by airlines and European countries that have been hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Farmers currently ship out 4,000 metric tonnes of flowers weekly.

Tulezi said this had reduced by 1,000 metric tonnes, due to lack of space, adding that demand for the produce was high despite strict lockdown regulations in Europe.

"The biggest challenge we are currently facing is lack of flights, poor weather in Europe and the ever rising taxes in the country," he said.

In an interview, Tulezi accused the State of unfairly targeting the sector that was among the top taxpayers in the country.

He said the recently intro-

duced crop levy, under the horticulture crop regulations would further affect flower farmers who were already over-taxed.

Biggest worry

"The government is broke and the only way it can raise revenue is targeting organised sectors like flower farmers with more taxes. This is one way of killing the sector," he said.

This was echoed by one of the leading flower farmers in Naivasha, Jack Kneppers, who said taxes, flight charges and the cost of farm inputs had risen sharply.

Kneppers, the MD of Maridadi Flower Farm, added they were currently shipping over 300,000 stems of roses daily ahead of the lover's day.

"Our biggest worry is the weather in Europe where it is snowing heavily. This might affect transport of flowers," he said.

Kneppers further noted that at the height of the pandemic, flower farmers had been forced to discard nearly all their produce, noting that this had changed with 95 per cent of the roses being exported.

CLEMENT TULEZI

The government is broke and the only way it can raise revenue is targeting organised sectors like flower farmers

WHO experts give nod to AstraZeneca vaccine use

■ Geneva, Thursday

Benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University outweigh known and potential risks, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has ruled amid concerns over vaccine's efficacy against the coronavirus variant found in South Africa.

The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE) panel on Wednesday said the two-dose AstraZeneca vaccine efficacy tended to be higher when the interval between doses was within the four to 12 weeks range.

It also added that although preliminary analyses based on a small sample size in South Africa indicate a marked reduction in vaccine effectiveness against mild and moderate



disease, it did not allow a specific assessment of vaccine efficacy against severe Covid-19. As indirect evidence is compatible with protection against severe Covid-19, the situation remains to be demonstrated in ongoing clinical trials and post-implementation evaluations.

In view of this, WHO currently recommends the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine even if the variants are present in a country.

BRIEFLY

Africa's Covid cases pass 3.69m - agency

The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in Africa reached 3,694,023 as of Wednesday evening, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said. The agency's Covid dashboard said the death toll related to the pandemic stood at 96,299 so far. A total of 3,225,021 people infected with the virus have recovered across the continent, the African Union Commission's healthcare agency disclosed. The southern region is the most affected area in Africa in terms of the number of confirmed cases, followed by the northern region. South Africa has reported the highest Covid death toll at 46,869 as of Wednesday, according to the agency. The AU has recently emphasised that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic "is not just a severe health emergency, it is also a grave economic and social crisis."

- Xinua

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County on the spot as 14 drown in abandoned quarries in a year

by Wycliff Kipsang
@wangsang08

Uasin Gishu County Government is on the spot over abandoned quarries and water collection points in the region, which have led to more than 14 people drowning in the past one year.

Worst hit is Soy Ward, where parents who spoke to *People Daily* expressed fear for safety of their children.

Ms Ladona Kiprop, a resident, called on the county government to fence off pits dug by contractors and left unfilled to avert more disasters, especially with the heavy rains pounding the region.

"We are appealing to the county to help us fence the pits. They pose a serious danger, especially to our children. So long as the quarries remain open, more disasters will happen," said Ms Kiprop.

In March last year, two sisters drowned at Rotuga in Uasin Gishu County.

The two aged 17 and 10 are said to have slid into the water pan left by contractors working on a nearby road.

In June, a rescue mission turned tragic after two pupils drowned in a dam at Tugen Estate in Moiben Constituency. A spot check by *People Daily* revealed that contractors have



abandoned many dams after extracting murrum and other building materials. "After digging out murrum from the borrow pits that have turned into dams, the contractors just left it open. We are uncertain of our children's safety," said Sammy Cheboi, whose son drowned in one

of the abandoned quarries.

The matter has now found its way into the county Assembly, with Ward Reps tasking Governor Jackson Mandago's through Water, Environment, Natural Resources, Tourism and Wildlife Management department to assess all water bodies

and ensure fencing of abandoned quarries.

"We are tired of losing innocent people through carelessly abandoned quarries. People should not see money at the expense of the safety of the people," said Soy MCA Nicholas Tallam, who moved the motion in the House on Tuesday.

Kimumu ward MCA Sarah Malel seconded the motion, saying such unfenced water collection points possess great danger to locals.

Deputy Speaker Hosea Korir, while presiding the session, called on the county government urgently act implement resolution of the House so as to avert more deaths.

Jobless graduates resort to odd jobs for survival

Learned youths opt for engagement in casual works like hawking to eke out a living as unemployment rates soar

Gachie Kariuki hawks masks and handkerchiefs at the busy Machakos bus park. Donning a grey Marvin woolen cap, the soft-spoken university graduate may pass off as an ordinary school dropout, who resigned to fate after failing to make it in education.

But decision by 23-year-old alumni of Machakos University to venture into business was prompted by the vagaries of Covid-19 pandemic that wiped his mother's entire business in Nakuru County. His father, a long distance truck driver, also lost his job.

Kariuki holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Resources.

He says his idea to venture into hawking began in 2017, two years before he walked out of the university gates armed with a certificate that has so far failed to pull him and many of his ilk out of an unemployment bottomless pit.

Unemployment levels among youths in the country stood at 7.27 per cent in 2020, according to a report by the International Labour Organisation.

"I decided to hawk masks after realising the prospects of landing a job was just a mere illusion. The subsequent outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic worsened the situation after both my parents lost their jobs, leaving me with no option but to take things head-on," said Kariuki.

He is particularly grateful for having earlier tried his hand in doing odd jobs, while still in college, saying the gamble was a preparation to confront the real world where academic achievement matters little.

Hostile reception

The constant hide and seek games with County Inspectorate Officers, who are always on prowl has never dampened his spirit to plod on. Armed with a zeal that defies all odds, the pusher proudly says he is content with his venture.

On a normal day, he makes at least Sh1,200. This, he says, is not enough for their daily upkeep. And in a good month, he can save up to Sh25,000 after paying off all his bills. He now plans to move out of the streets and secure a permanent place where he can operate freely and without constant harassment from county authorities.

Kariuki has urged youths to find something worthwhile to do instead of idling their life away waiting for non-existent white collar jobs.

He has since challenged the government to do more in creating a conducive environment, where youths can be job creators rather than employment seekers.

Lydia Mueni, a Kiswahili and Communication graduate from Laikipia University also decided to take up a job as a security guard.

She graduated in 2019. She was informed about the opportunity by a colleague, and after giving it a thought, decided to take the offer. She is now manning one of the government offices in Machakos town earning Sh8,000 a month. She says the job comes with its share of challenges.

For instance, the earliest one can hope to receive a salary is weeks after many employees have already cleared their bank accounts.

Entire saving

However, Mueni hopes that one day she will realise her long cherished dream of working in a media house, where she can finally utilise the skills she attained while in college.

But she challenges the government to do more in addressing the current plight of youth unemployment in the country.

"It is disheartening to see parents watch helplessly as the very children they spent their entire savings to educate continue idling at home with impressive certificates that cannot guarantee them any gainful engagement," she says.

But be as it may, I am appealing to my colleagues out there to find something that can undertake to keep life going. As long as one is engaged, chances of better days are always a prayer away," she advises. Her sentiments are also echoed by Jessica Mbulu, who works as a supervisor for youth cohorts under the Kazi Mtaani programme.

Mbulu who graduated with a diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication from Jordan College in 2019 says the era when youths preferred formal jobs over manual labour are becoming rare by the day thanks to the changing times.

- KNA



LYDIA MUENI

It disheartens to see parents watch helplessly as the very children they spent their savings to educate continue idling at home with impressive certificates that can't guarantee them jobs any gainful engagement



Charcoal trade has been banned in Kitui County. PD/FILE

How Kitui charcoal ban is undermining conservation efforts

by Mwangi Mumbo
@PeopleDailyKe

Mwikali Kilonzi, a charcoal vendor in Kitengela town, Kajiado County, decries sharp decline in business.

The 42-year-old trader says in the last two years, the ban on charcoal production in Kitui has greatly affected the venture.

Like every other business, Covid-19 has worsened the situation as restricted movements, jobs losses and other repercussions negatively impact the charcoal business.

"Our charcoal supply has been disrupted with the ban. This has led to increased transport costs as well as cutting on our profit margins," noted Ms Kilonzi, a mother of two.

But now, researchers warn that ban on charcoal business, particularly in Kitui, may not be achieving the desired ecological and socio-economic benefits.

According to a recent research by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), total ban of production and sale of charcoal may be hurting conservation efforts and the local economy. This is because traders move underground with rising demand, especially in Nairobi and other urban areas. Further, the research has established that overall, Kitui charcoal production has decreased by 60 to 65 per cent

from the pre-ban levels.

This has come even as farmers lack alternative livelihoods. "While a majority of rural families have lost a vital source of income, trees are still cut unsustainably and trade continues unsupervised with millions lost in revenue," says Dr Phosiso Sola, a scientist with ICRAF.

According to the research findings, farmers now make less profits as transporters charge higher fees due to the increased restriction on movements – if caught, they risk paying hefty bribes and fines, or even having their vehicles confiscated.

The cost is also partially transferred to consumers, who must now pay more for sacks of charcoal.

"This is a clear example of why restrictive policies that ban wood fuel without securing access to appropriate alternative livelihoods and energy sources result in many unintended outcomes," observed Sola.

With just seven per cent forest cover, Kitui has been working hard to achieve the national target of 10 per cent.

Recently, the Kitui County Ecosystem Conservator Joyce Nthuku observed that without alternative means of livelihood, people tend to ignore the ban and engage in illicit charcoal production and trade rather than comply with formal processes.

KICD calls for quality focus in course material production

Agency says evaluation to be above board, players to have equal chance of competing for business

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) yesterday urged publishers to focus on quality as they fast track production of Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) course materials.

KICD said that publishers are being trained on the requirements for Grade 6 course materials for CBC ahead of submission of the curriculum support materials for evaluation.

The training that attracted over 150 publishers, was meant to enhance quality of course materials submitted for evaluation in addition to keeping them up to speed on the need to uphold integrity during the exercise.

KICD Director, Prof Charles Ong'ondo said the course materials submitted for approval will be evaluated against the curriculum designs to ensure publishers align the content in the books with what teachers are expected to teach.

"We want publishers to correctly interpret the curriculum designs so that they develop course materials that speak to the designs. When an error is detected in a book, it is KICD that takes the blame," Prof. Charles Ong'ondo said during the official opening of the event at Bible Translation and Literacy Centre, in Kiambu.

The content of the training includes lessons on the need for the publishers to conform to the curriculum when developing the course materials, learning activities to be covered in the materials, skills and concepts development, and promoting value based education.

Community service learning

He said that publishers should also be aware of how to incorporate pertinent and contemporary issues and community service learning as provided for in the Basic Education Curriculum Framework, how to handle digital materials, placement of age appropriate illustrations and layout issues and guaranteeing grammar and editorial excellence.

Ong'ondo urged publishers to stick to deadlines set for submitting the course



Prof Charles Ochieng' Ong'ondo, the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development director during an interview in Nairobi.
PD/FILE

materials for approval to ensure they are evaluated in May, so that the books can be ready for use when learners join Grade Six.

"This is Covid-19 period and we shall not have any other time to evaluate due to revised school calendar. The books will not be eligible for purchase by the government if they are not ready on time," Ong'ondo said.

Kenya Publishers Association (KPA) Chairman Lawrence Njagi said his members are ready to put in extra time to deliver the CBC course books on time and appealed to the director to guarantee a free, fair and verifiable evaluation process.

"A level playing field guarantees will see

CHARLES ONG'ONDO

We want publishers to correctly interpret the curriculum designs so they develop course materials that speak to the designs

both losers and winners congratulate each other," Njagi said.

He explained that the Kenyan publishing industry has significantly grown over time and is recognized regionally for its unrivalled performance and publishers have no excuse to compromise on quality.

"We have the interests of the learners at heart and as the market leaders in the region, we are not ready to relinquish that position," Njagi said.

Ong'ondo assured the publishers that the evaluation process will be above board and all players will have an equal chance of competing for the business opportunities.

He said the Institute will undertake due diligence that include checking the publishers' tax compliance status and any form of conflict of interest before allowing one to bid for the development of course materials.

School calendar changes

The CBC is being implemented in phases from PP1, PP2 and Grade 1-4 with the current pioneers expected to join Grade 5 in July 26 owing to changes in the school calendar, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, President Uhuru Kenyatta outlined the CBC journey, even as formed a State Department to steer smooth implementation of the new system.

The President said time has come to design a fit for purpose education system that responds to challenges the country has been facing over time.

"Given that the challenges of our times calls us to respond using our education system, we can only succeed through designing and implementing a fit for purpose education system," said the President.

Schools have up to Grade 4 designs while those of Grade 5 will be available by the time schools open in July.

Similarly, over 200,000 tutors have already been trained on how to teach subjects under CBC in collaboration with KICD, Teachers Service Commission (TSC) and Kenya National Examinations Council.

BRIEFLY

MCAs launch mass fish deaths probe

Kisumu MCAs have launched investigations into the mysterious mass death of fish in Lake Victoria. There has been concern over the death of fish in the lake within Kenyan side over the past few weeks. This is after local fishermen raised alarm over dozens of fish dying in the lake, terming it a threat to their survival. Consequently, the assembly Agriculture, fisheries and livestock committee has been tasked to investigate the cause of death of fish reported in the lake. The move followed concerns raised by South West Kisumu MCA Erick Agola who said the lake was at the brink of losing many fish if there were no urgent interventions into the matter. In a statement tabled in the assembly yesterday, Agola petitioned the House to delve into the issue in order to save the lives of Kenyans who directly depend on fish from the lake. - Noven Owiti



Union official calls for guidance tutors

Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) official has called on the government to post guidance and counseling tutors to all schools in the country to manage the psychological wellbeing of students. Bomet branch executive secretary Malel Langat said as the rampant unrest in schools was attributed to depression and the only way to curb it is by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) ensuring there are functional counseling departments by posting trained and qualified staff. Malel said some students may be undergoing mental instabilities or trauma and with the presence of the staff, such issues are easily handled and addressed. He claimed the cases being reported of students in boarding secondary schools engaging in as going on rampage was due to poor links. - KNA

Self-help group officials ordered to appear in court for forgery plea

by Bernice Mbugua
@PeopleDailyKe

Milimani Chief Magistrate Francis Andayi yesterday ordered four officials of the Sovesava self-help group to appear in court on March 2 to plead afresh to charges of forging land documents for a parcel of land in Donholm, Nairobi, valued at Sh944 million belonging to an investment company.

The quartet: Patroba Awino, Peter Kanika, Peter Muiruri and Alexander Hoops were to plead to the charges afresh yesterday but failed to show up.

They are charged with using fake land ownership documents to lay

claim to and lead land occupation gangs that have been fronting as self-help groups, with the intention of applying political pressure to be allotted the said land.

Fake allocation letters

The prosecution claims that the four have been using fake allocation letters/title documents that cannot be supported by any records at the Lands registry.

They were first charged in 2018 in separate suits, but the courts agreed with the prosecution and defence on the need to consolidate the cases as they were handling similar matters.

Lawyer Nyongesa who represents Awino told Magistrate Francis Andayi that his client was unable to attend court since he had lost his phone.

"The accused person is not before court. I called his brother who told me that Awino had travelled upcountry to attend to his sick wife. His brother said Awino had lost his phone," she said.

Lawyer representing two other accused persons Kanika and Muiruri told the court that the two had challenges logging into the virtual court.

"I seem to have lost my clients on this platform. I can get them on the phone and they have informed me that they are in Donholm," he said.



Patroba Awino (right) alongside co-accused Peter Gitau Muiruri and Peter Njoroge Kanika at Milimani Law Courts in a previous court appearance.
PD/CHARLES MATHIAI

Businesshub

Just as education pulled down GDP in 2020, as it normalises in 2021, the flipside of that is that it really amplifies growth

BRIEFLY



Mercy Wanjau, CA Acting Director General and Safaricom CEO, Peter Ndegwa during the signing of USF contracts. COURTESY

Five telcos sign Sh1.57b second phase of USF tender

MONEY: Five telecommunication firms have signed a lucrative Sh1.57 billion second phase of the Universal Service Fund (USF) tender, that will spread mobile broadband and voice services to 101 marginalised sub-locations in 19 counties.

Out of the five, Safaricom and Airtel will deploy cellular mobile and data services through base transceiver stations (BTS) electronics and antennas, while Seal Towers, Allan Dick and Company East Africa, and ATL Kenya Operations Limited will deploy and build ICT infrastructure.

Two years

The firms have up to two years (24 months) to complete the project, said Ngene Gituku, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) board chair during the signing ceremony yesterday.

"I wish to encourage the selected contractors to move with speed to ensure that they achieve all the project milestones within the stipulated timelines," he said. The USF fund is primarily financed by mandatory contributions of 0.5 per cent of the annual gross revenue from licensed

ICT operators, with provisions for complementary financing from other sources. By last year, the CA Acting Director-General Mercy Wanjau said the fund had Sh10 billion. Safaricom, won the lion's share of the tire 1 (Active Component) with 21 lots valued at Sh295 million, while Airtel will get Sh14.2 million for five slots, in addition to a further Sh12.5 million contract to build sites, erect towers and supply power.

The government uses the USF fund to facilitate deployment of ICT infrastructure in marginalised sub-locations, bringing with it a host of services including mobile voice, data, Internet and mobile money, noted Wanjau. Wanjau said 330,342 residents in 78 sub-locations spread across 15 counties that benefited from the first phase of the project can now access market information and have improved security, opportunities that were considered a pipedream. "We also see the availability of mobile services in areas that have been connected through this project, creating a ripple effect in other facets of life including health and education service," she added. —Noel Wandera

World Bank tips economy to grow by 6.9pc this year

A section of economists, however, disagree with institution's prediction, saying it is too far-fetched

by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

The World Bank expects Kenya's economy to grow by 6.9 per cent this year driven by education sector, exports, diaspora remittances and resilience in key growth areas. Analysts say this makes it among the highest growths in Africa, but term the prediction "too optimistic considering the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on the economy."

According to the World Bank 2021 Economic Outlook, the education sector will be the main driver of economic growth this year, accounting for about 2 per cent of projected growth.

"Education is not a huge part of the economy but when the output of a sector is estimated to halve, that will have a huge impact on the gross domestic product (GDP), and that's what happened here," said Alex Sienaert, a senior economist at the World Bank. "Just as education pulled down GDP in 2020, as it normalises in 2021, the flipside of that is that it really amplifies growth," he added.

Schools closure

The projection by World Bank is higher than that of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at 4.7 per cent and Treasury's 6.4 per cent. Last year, the education sector was badly hit by schools closure due to Covid-19 contracting by 57 per cent in the second quarter compared to 2019.

As a whole, World Bank estimates that Kenya's economy grew by -1 per cent in 2020 with the education sector the most responsible for the recession.

Excluding the sector, Kenya's economy last year would have grown at 1.3 per cent, according to World Bank.

Recovery

Driver

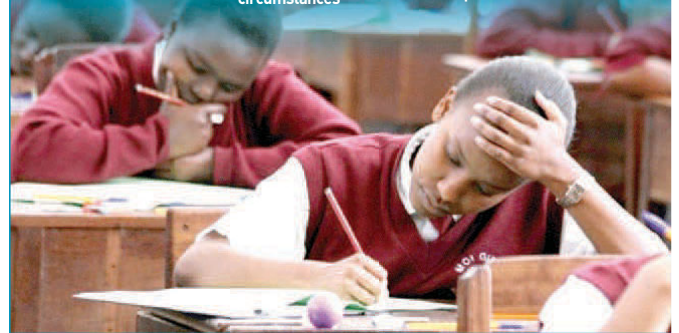
World Bank 2021 Economic Outlook report, the education sector will be the main driver of economic growth this year, accounting for about 2 per cent of projected growth

Consolidation

Osoro, the FSD Africa director opposed recommendations by the World Bank for the country to enact fiscal consolidation, saying it would be difficult to do so in the current economic circumstances

Sectors

Samuel Nyandemo, a senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi says he does not expect the economy to rebuild itself to that level given the fact that a lot of critical sectors have been grossly affected and government is not likely to meet its targets in respect to revenue collection



It estimates that Kenya's economy this year would grow at a reduced rate of five per cent flat excluding the education sector, still a robust growth rate considering that the world is battling a pandemic.

Sienaert said the economic recovery, however, will be uneven with huge differences in growth across various sectors.

"The expectations are that tourism will be in this kind of slow recovery and conditions in that sector, as a result, will feel very different in other less affected, fast-growing ones," he said.

Speaking at the same event, Jared Osoro, the Director FSD Africa, said while he too expected 2021 to be better than last year, 6.9 per cent growth would be difficult to achieve. "If we were to grow at

6.9 per cent all of us would be happy. But the question that one would ask is, how realisable is that growth? That would be fantastic but difficult to achieve in the circumstances that I am going to illustrate," he said.

Three years

He said that ordinarily, Kenya takes about three years to recover from a substantial economic slowdown hence it would be unrealistic to expect the country to recover from a pandemic that fast adding that one would expect a slower and gradual recovery.

"I realistically see a much lower growth than the 6.9 per cent," Osoro said.

KenGen inks Sh709m contract to drill geothermal in Djibouti

by John Otini
@PeopleDailyKe

KenGen has signed another geothermal drilling contract in Djibouti as it seeks to cut its single buyer risk exposure to struggling Kenya Power.

The company posted on its Twitter handle that it had signed a Sh709 million in Djibouti having signed others in Ethiopia. "We are delighted to be in Galla Le Koma, Djibouti for the official contract signing with Djiboutian Office of Geothermal Energy Development for drilling of three geothermal wells to the tune of KSh.709 million," the company said. The ceremony was attended by Energy Cabinet Secretary

Charles Keter, KenGen Chief executive Rebecca Miano and representatives from the company in Galla Le Koma, Djibouti. "This is now the third geothermal drilling contract KenGen will be executing in the Horn of Africa with two others currently ongoing in Ethiopia," KenGen said in a statement. "In October 2019, we secured a Sh5.8 billion contract to drill 12 geothermal wells in Ethiopia. The contract with an independent power producer, entails installing a water supply system and equipment. The power generator won another contract for consultancy and drilling of geothermal wells worth about Sh7.6 billion in February 2019.

Revived wagons fuel KRC cargo delivery

by Noel Wandera
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) cargo delivery is on an upward trajectory, buoyed by revival of disused wagons and conversion of other to load containerised cargo.

Managing Director Philip Mainga said the corporation has also added two daily double deck trains, each moving 152 Twenty-Foot Equivalent (TEUs) per train, as demand kept rising with an all time high in January of 241 trains run from Mombasa, delivering 24,256 TEUs to both the Nairobi and Naivasha Inland Cargo Depots (ICDs). "We have



maintained a steady daily supply of above 400 wagons to the port, moving above 800 TEUs. Two additional double deck trains, each moving 152 TEUs per train, have been introduced to sustain daily loading needs," said Mainga.

Further, Africa Star Railway Operation Company (Afristar), the SGR operator, has introduced new service for bulk cargo

conveyance, utilising special high sided types of wagons covered with tarpaulins. An inaugural train of 46 wagons with bulk cargo has already arrived in Nairobi. "These efforts will be sustained moving forward to ensure seamless evacuations of cargo from the port," said Mainga. He said they have now cleared a container backlog of 6,000 units at beginning of January and were now loading direct from discharging vessels. He said they will collaborate with Kenya Ports Authority, Kenya Revenue Authority and other government agencies to ensure seamless cargo delivery to destinations.



Nakuru's road a pale shadow of its former self as traders scatter

SLUMP: The once busy Kenyatta Avenue in Nakuru County is now a shadow of its former self, following the exit of major supermarkets and a food chain along the street, leaving behind shells in retail spaces.

A number of establishments along the route have been without their primary anchors for months now, with managers reeling from the prospects of folding.

With the recent exit of Tusks Supermarket, Choppies – the Botswana-based supermarket chain and Java House (pictured) at the Central Business District (CBD) is a clear indication that business along the route has slumped. Supermarkets mostly occupy the largest spaces hence attracting the biggest share of an establishment's footfall bringing a steady flow of customers and also attract other tenants like small retail outlets.

However, it has become evident that business has gone down and perhaps the hardest hit by the closure are the taxi drivers, Tuk Tuk and boda boda operators. Other affected are fruit sellers, parking boys and other small-scale traders who usually hover around the avenue looking for clients entering the three

spots. The general economic slump occasioned by the coronavirus pandemic has further presented a double tragedy for landlords of malls who now stare at lower-than-average returns.

Peter Kuria, a businessman in Nakuru said the retail sector is yet to move away from its dependence on anchor tenants.

He said there has been a rise in construction of malls within the county despite facing stiff competition from informal retail spaces who opt to construct stalls attracting small businesses.

Mall owners

"Many mall owners believe that without a supermarket, they won't have any other traffic for the rest of the businesses. It's a tradition that they may not be able to move on from completely, but they need a strategy," said Kuria.

Following the closure of Tusks, one cannot help but notice the desolate state that the brand left behind with building managers opting to repaint the store and bringing down its signage. Once regarded as the pride of Nakuru, the folding up of the supermarket marked the end of an era for the chain that began in 1985.

— Roy Lumbe

Airstrips set to get facelifts as low-cost carriers expand

Transport CS says such expansions necessary if country is to improve air travel experience

by Steve Umidha
@UmidhaSteve

As coronavirus pandemic continues to stifle air travel, major local airports and airstrips plan to spend millions of shillings on new terminals, runways and hotels, though they could remain empty if demand does not return.

Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) this year begun a year-long project to refurbish part of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi, as it seeks to improve travellers' experience.

Plans to expand Malindi international airport's runway from 1.4 kilometre stretch to 2.5 kilometre is also expected to take off anytime soon.

"The pandemic is here to stay and as such we have to do what we have to do, these expansions are necessary now if we are going to improve air travel experience for both foreigners while at the same time improving domestic tourism," Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia said.

Sh963 million JKIA project to upgrade terminals 1B and 1C for instance is meant to renovate departure halls to improve check-ins, retail operations as well as increase passenger flow and increase efficiency due to centralisation of security screening procedures and the reallocation of available floor spaces to international departure gates.

Kenya Airports Authority which is undertaking the projects has subsequently closed the two terminals to pave way for the upgrades. All flight operations previously at T1B and T1C have now been migrated to Terminal 1A and Terminal 2.

Yesterday, the authority said it will in the next two to three weeks open the Voi-Kanga airstrip to serve Tsavo while at the same time open the coastal circuit for airlines flying passengers beyond Mombasa, Kilifi

Travel Industry

Cost

Emergence of low-cost carriers have also influenced passengers to change their travel patterns due to better service, ability to take more vacations, ability to save on time and the ability to save on costs

Alternatives

This is despite the existence of alternative modes of transport like Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), currently connecting Nairobi and Mombasa charging a standard fee of Sh1,000 for regular tickets and Sh3,000 on first class ticket holders, one way

Demand

Airlines reckon that demand for travel during this period is expected to improve after the industry was hit by layoffs, job cuts and business closures. Domestic carriers resumed flights in mid-July while international ones were restarted on August 1



GITARI

These upgrades are meant to not only boost visits by foreigners but also expand domestic tourism.

and Lamu Counties. Other smaller airstrips in Nyeri, Migori, Kisii and Mandera Counties among others are also lined up for development.

According to Alex Gitari, KAA Managing director these upgrades are meant to not only boost visits by foreigners but also expand domestic tourism, which has improved over the last few months despite the pandemic.

Departure time

Some of the measures which have also seen travellers arrive at the airport at least four hours before flight departure time, is gradually winning approval from some local airline companies, which feel such upgrades will translate into growth opportunities for their operations.

Mohammed Abdi, the Chairman of Skyward Express, a local airline said with convenience being created by such infrastructural upgrades the industry players now have the opportunity to fly more routes.

opportunity to fly more routes.

"I believe the time is now coronavirus pandemic notwithstanding," he said when the airline launched a flight from Nairobi, Wilson Airport to Malindi, Malindi Airport on Wednesday.

The Nairobi-Malindi route is a popular destination for low-cost carriers with Jambo jet, Fly540, East African Airline and Safarilink all using the busy route that is synonymous with tourists keen on sampling the coastal beaches. Ordinary rates are below Sh5,000 one way.

Low cost airlines are known to perform much better in terms of profit and passenger numbers than most mainstream airlines.

Between 2006 and 2009 for instance, the airline industry saw the advent of low cost airlines with the model now popular in Kenya in other routes like Eldoret, Turkana and Kisumu fast affecting airline industry as we know it.

BRIEFLY

Huawei to stick with globalisation strategy

Huawei's chief executive Ren Zhengfei has pledged to stick to a globalisation strategy despite external pressure. He called on the new US administration to come up with more open policies that are in the interests of US companies and the US economy as a whole. Trade, Zhengfei (pictured) said benefits both sides, adding that allowing US companies to supply goods to Chinese customers is conducive to their own financial performance. "If Huawei's production capacity expands, US companies could use sell more. It's a win-win situation. I believe the new administration will weigh these interests as they consider their policies," he said in a statement released after the launch of the Intelligent Mining Innovation Lab in Taiyuan.

— Bernard Sigei



Kiambu coffee farmers warn State on Sh3b fund

CARTELS: A section of coffee farmers from factories in Gatundu North, Kiambu County now say the government's Sh3 billion cherry advance levy fund will not stop the sector from crumbling if mismanagement of factories and co-operatives is not addressed as a priority.

The farmers from Magumu, Kairi and Gatukuyu coffee factories insisted that dissolution of all factory and co-operative managements to pave way for new leadership is the only way to end their longstanding woes.

Speaking during a cherry fund sensitisation meeting organised by New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union (KPCU), the farmers regretted that cartels in the factories and co-operatives have milked them dry, leaving their businesses for the dead.

Led by Martin Ndung'u Wainaina, the apprehensive farmers said that over the years, they have remained farmers just by name but in reality, they stopped cultivating the crop as

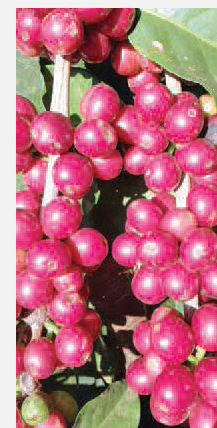
the business was no longer profitable. To revitalise the sector, the farmers rooted for fresh election of coffee managers from the factory level up. While lauding the government for the proposed coffee regulations aimed at scuttling cartels and unscrupulous players in the sector, the farmers maintained that the efforts should be accompanied with disbandment of all coffee managements to allow for transparency.

Zero work

"The government is right when it comes with new regulations to govern operations in the sector but it will be doing zero work if the devoted cartels at the factories and co-operatives are given opportunity to continue holding positions," said Ndung'u.

However, Gatundu North MP Wanjiku Kibe blamed failure by the fund to lure as many small-scale farmers from the area to the information gap.

— Mathew Ndung'u



Safaricom to pay Sh18b as H1 dividends

Telco shrugs off virus shocks to declare interim payment of 45 cents per ordinary share

by John Otini
@PeopleDailyKe

Safaricom yesterday announced a half year dividend payout of Sh18 billion, for the year ending March 2021, with the government and Vodacom set to get Sh6 billion each.

The announcement makes the telco one of the few listed companies to declare dividends amidst the coronavirus pandemic, even as it waived fees on its mobile money transfer service M-Pesa for transactions below Sh1,000.

"The board of Safaricom PLC is pleased to announce that its meeting held on February 10, 2021 resolved to approve the payment of an interim dividend of Sh0.45 per ordinary share held amounting to Sh18.029 billion for the year ending March 31, 2021," said Safaricom board in a statement.

The board said this was in recognition of its solid half-year performance, "and to support our shareholders during this the time period of Covid-19 pandemic," the company added.

Government share

The government which is the majority shareholder alongside Vodacom will each bank Sh6 billion. They both own 35 per cent of Safaricom. Vodafone which owns 5 per cent of Safaricom will get Sh900 million.

The remaining 25 per cent of the telco's shares are free-floating on the stock market. The free-floating stake is 45 per cent owned by foreign corporate investors while about 39 per cent is owned by local companies.

An estimated 15 per cent is owned by local individuals with 0.5 per cent of the free-floating stake owned by foreign individuals according to Safaricom data.

The company's half-year profit ending September 2020 dropped six per cent to Sh33 billion compared to the same period in 2019.

The telco attributed the decline to the waiver of fees on M-Pesa transactions by the central bank to increase cashless transactions and a drop in voice revenue.

President Uhuru Kenyatta had asked banks and mobile money providers to reduce costs of transactions to allow

customers use cashless modes of payment as part of the measures to prevent the transmission of Covid-19.

The interim dividend will be paid to shareholders on the register of members as at the close of business on March 5, 2021 and will come through on March 31, 2021.

The company's stock has been rallying in the recent past to a record Sh36 a share ahead of the dividend payment. The stock was trading on Thursday at Sh36.60 a share.

Safaricom's earnings in the second of the financial year are also expected to improve after the government rolled back its waiver on M-Pesa transactions.

The company is also banking on rising data connections to lift its earnings at a time when voice revenues SMS are falling due to rising internet bandwidth.

Ethiopia entry

The company which is also seeking financing for its Ethiopia entry could be keen to trim its dividend as it seeks to ramp up capital expenditure.

Last year the company announced a full-year dividend of Sh56 billion having dished out Sh74 billion the previous year in dividends.

Safaricom's market capitalisation is now 60 per cent of the entire market capitalization.

The telco was reported to have borrowed Sh24 billion to fund its dividend payment and build its infrastructure, the way cash flush tech companies like Apple do, to pay dividends.



KNOCK-ON EFFECT

● Safaricom's half year interim dividend is expected to be paid out by March 31 and will comprise of registered shareholders as of the close of business on March 5.

● Move expected to push up the demand for Safaricom shares on profits from stock which is currently trading at historical highs which anchored the recovery of performance at the bourse in the year to date.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
		AGRICULTURAL	PRICES		SHARES
17.60	8.20	Eagards Ltd Ord 1.25		12.50	
468.00	290.00	Kakui Pic Ord 5.00		370.00	
100.00	57.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		78.00	
605.00	360.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Pic Ord 20.00		360.00	
22.70	14.00	Sasini Pic Ord 1.00	18.10	18.00	100
178.00	92.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	134.75	135.00	800
AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
27.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		22.00	
BANKING					
13.85	8.50	ABSA Bank Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	9.40	9.36	68,800
31.00	12.15	BK Group Pic Ord 0.80		20.40	
166.00	60.00	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	69.00	68.25	20,800
55.50	28.00	Equity Group Holdings Pic Ord 0.50	37.80	37.50	2,778,300
7.90	2.86	HF Group Pic Ord 5.00	3.49	3.50	26,800
126.00	42.00	IGM Holdings Pic Ord 1.00	44.00	42.15	7,400
55.50	30.00	KCB Group Pic Ord 1.00	37.75	37.50	45,400
6.50	3.22	National Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00		4.12	
41.00	20.00	NCSA Group Pic Ord 5.00	24.25	24.45	119,100
117.75	72.25	Stanbic Holdings Pic Ord 5.00	85.00	85.00	652,600
225.00	135.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	135.00	135.00	231,600
17.00	10.05	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.70	12.55	342,100
COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Pic Ord 2.50		0.45	
1.30	0.75	Kenyan East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	1.10	1.15	6,500
8.00	2.50	Express Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	4.00	3.80	100
0.00	0.00	Homeboy Entertainment Pic 0.50		4.66	
9.50	0.80	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00		3.83	
8.80	4.21	Longhorn Publishers Pic Ord 1.00	4.79	4.64	1,700
5.80	0.49	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.00	4.98	5.04	150,500
7.00	9.00	Nation Media Group Pic Ord 2.50	12.90	13.85	166,600
4.70	1.72	Samuel Africa Pic Ord 5.00	3.00	3.00	500
33.00	18.00	Standard Group Pic Ord 5.00		19.00	
25.15	11.50	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	14.50	14.55	300
0.95	0.23	Uchumi Supermarket Pic Ord 5.00	0.27	0.28	9,300
25.00	5.80	WPP Scamgroup Pic Ord 1.00	5.96	5.94	84,400
CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pic Ord 1.00		5.55	
145.75	19.85	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	40.65	41.50	109,700
92.80	36.00	Crown Paints Kenya Pic Ord 5.00		40.00	
3.98	1.26	E.A. Cobles Ltd Ord 0.50	1.46	1.43	1,000
20.50	10.00	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		10.20	
ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.40	4.00	KenGen Cs Pic Ord 2.50	4.82	4.82	155,000
5.50	1.18	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pic Ord 2.50	1.55	1.57	671,900
5.50	5.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co 4% Pref 20.00		5.00	
4.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Co 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	
33.00	21.00	Total Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	25.60	23.50	400
8.70	5.00	Umenne Ltd Ord 0.50		6.90	
INSURANCE					
10.50	5.70	British Holdings Pic Ord 0.10	7.04	7.20	40,100
4.85	1.95	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.13	2.19	160,600
442.00	210.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	276.00	276.50	1,000
16.30	2.00	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.49	2.44	197,100
13.00	6.80	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	7.48	7.48	8,300
26.00	11.00	Sanlam Kenya Pic Ord 0.00		11.30	
INVESTMENT					
37.40	15.15	Centum Investment Co Pic Ord 5.00	17.50	17.45	17,700
0.77	0.30	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.36	0.35	6,800
1500.00	1,500.00	Kurwitu Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00		1,500.00	
3.39	1.82	Kyung Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.28	2.15	3,200
4.50	1.10	Trans-Century Pic Ord 0.50	1.35	1.36	300
INVESTMENT SERVICES					
16.00	6.50	Nairobi Securities Exchange Pic Ord 4.00	8.60	8.64	3,600
MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
87.00	52.25	B.O.C Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	59.25	59.75	2,000
700.00	305.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pic Ord 10.00	424.25	420.00	7,300
13.00	7.10	Carlsberg Investments Pic Ord 1.00	12.80	12.80	5,000
230.00	135.00	East African Breweries Ltd Ord 2.00	177.25	177.50	836,200
3.15	0.77	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	1.35	1.30	3,300
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		32.00	
TELECOMMUNICATION					
38.00	20.10	Safaricom Pic Ord 5.00	37.80	36.40	3,948,700
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
11.00	4.98	ILAM FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00	6.04	6.00	26,000
EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
2100.00	1235.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	19331	1975.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: UP 3.90 points to close at 162.50

NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 3.15 points to close at 1882.68

NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: UP 60.79 points to close at 3588.76

MARKET WATCH

TREASURY BONDS CLOSURE OF REGISTERS

TREASURY BONDS CLOSURE OF REGISTERS FOR PAYMENTS DUE IN JAN AND FEB 2021

ISSUE NO.	PAYMENT DATE	PERIOD OF CLOSURE	PAYMENT TYPE	APPLICABLE INTEREST RATE (%)	REFERENCE
FXD1/2014/010	18-01-2021	14-01-2021 to 18-01-2021	Interest	12.150	Fixed
FXD2/2016/005	18-01-2021	14-01-2021 to 18-01-2021	Interest	14.069	Fixed
FXD1/2017/010	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.966	Fixed
FXD1/2018/015	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.550	Fixed
FXD2/2018/020	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	13.200	Fixed
FXD1/2019/002	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest & Redemption	10.751	Fixed
FXD1/2019/015	25-01-2021	21-01-2021 to 25-01-2021	Interest	12.867	Fixed
FXD3/2019/015	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
SBH1/2011/030	15-02-2021	11-02-2021 to 15-02-2021	Interest	12.000	Fixed
FXD1/2013/015	15-02-2021	11-02-2021 to 15-02-2021	Interest	11.250	Fixed
FXD3/2019/010	15-02-2021	11-02-2021 to 15-02-2021	Interest	11.517	Fixed
FXD2/2016/010	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	15.039	Fixed
IFB1/2017/012	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.500	Fixed
FXD1/2017/005	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.465	Fixed
FXD1/2018/010	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.686	Fixed
FXD2/2019/005	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	11.304	Fixed
FXD1/2019/010	22-02-2021	18-02-2021 to 22-02-2021	Interest	12.438	Fixed
FXD1/2020/015	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	15.900	Fixed

PREPARED BY: VINCENT LANGAT

CHECKED BY: JOHN K. NIAU

AUTHORISED BY: JEREMIAH K. TOMBO

Date: 07/12/2020

Date: 08/12/2020

Date: 08/12/2020

CBK KEY RATES

Central Bank Rate	7.00%	27/01/2021
Inter-Bank Rate	4.57%	10/02/2021
CBK Discount Window	13.00%	27/01/2021
91-Day T-Bill	6.873%	08/02/2021
REPO	0.00%	28/01/2021
Inflation Rate	5.69%	January 2021
Lending Rate	11.99%	November, 2020
Savings Rate	3.42%	November, 2020
Deposit Rate	6.31%	November, 2020
KBRR	8.9%	27/07/2016

KEY CBK INDICATIVE EXCHANGE RATES 11/2/2021

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	109.4512	109.3512	109.5512
SW KRONER	13.1666	13.1504	13.1827
STG POUND	150.3426	150.1888	150.4965
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	82.5330	82.4545	82.6116
SAUDI RIYAL	29.1792	29.1518	29.2066
SA RAND	7.4508	7.4414	7.4601
S FRANC	122.8133	122.6735	122.9531
NOR KRONER	12.9668	12.9519	12.9817
KES / USHS	33.4853	33.4090	33.5616
KES / TSHS	21.1876	21.1225	21.2526
KES / RWF	9.0712	9.0433	9.0991
KES / BIF	17.7547	17.6769	17.8325
JPY (100)	104.4731	104.3626	104.5835
IND RUPEE	1.5033	1.5018	1.5048
HONGKONG DOLLAR	14.1184	14.1055	14.1313
EURO	132.6547	132.5182	132.7912
DAN KRONER	17.8431	17.8239	17.8623
CHINESE YUAN	16.9774	16.9513	17.0034
CAN \$	86.1956	86.1033	86.2879
AUSTRALIAN \$	84.6386	84.5503	84.7269
AE DIRHAM	29.7976	29.7676	29.8277

Unilever tops employer recognition award

by Benard Sigei
@PeopleDailyKe

Unilever Kenya was yesterday named one of Africa's top employers for the fifth year running by the Top Employer Institute.

The multinational consumer goods company was accredited for its excellence in talent strategy, workforce planning, talent acquisition, on-boarding, learning and development.

"Our clientele are the ones who have made us get recognised because they are appreciative of the unlimited services we offer them because we strive to give them our best because we believe people with purpose succeed," said Luck Ochieng, Unilever Kenya Managing Director.

Ochieng added that in spite of the co-

rona virus pandemic that crippled the economy bringing with it retrenchments the company has stood by the people and will continue holding their hands as they navigate the hard times caused by the worst pandemic experienced world over.

On the category of the top employers status Unilever Uganda also retained the crown while first time participants Ethio-

pia was second in its home ground.

The international certification institute picks out the best in over 1000 companies globally ranked in an extremely competitive HR best practices survey covering six domains and 20 subtopics across the entire HR spectrum.

Gender balance

"With our achievement just last year on gender balance across our management internationally, this hard-earned victory is another feather in our cap," Ochieng said.

The firm which is 107-year old in Kenya has the highest female manager representatives with 50 per cent representatives being women up 12 per cent 11 years ago breaking the record of achieving gender balance giving high positions to women.

QUOTE NAME

On gender balance... this hard-

This law above all has a political rather than legal motive. It's stigmatising

BRIEFLY

Turkish soldiers killed in Iraq

At least three Turkish soldiers have been killed during a new offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq, according to the Turkish defence ministry. Turkey on Wednesday launched an operation, dubbed "Claw-Eagle 2", against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) fighters in the northern Iraqi region of Dohuk. Two Turkish soldiers died and two others were wounded on Wednesday in clashes with the "terrorists" in the region of Gara, the defence ministry said. Another soldier was killed on Thursday, said the ministry, without proving casualty figures for the PKK. The PKK, listed as a "terrorist" group by Turkey, - BBC



DRC confirms two Ebola deaths

A second person has died of Ebola this week in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's North Kivu province, the health ministry and the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a statement. A 60-year-old woman who died on Wednesday in the district of Biena had a link with a woman who also died after contracting Ebola and was married to a survivor of the previous major outbreak, the statement said. The DRC's health ministry has deployed a team to the area and is tracing more than 100 contacts of the two women in the health zones of Biena and Katwa, it said in the statement. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, stressed on Thursday. - AFP

Qatar working on return Iran return to accord



Doha, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

Qatar is working to de-escalate tension in the region by advocating for a return to the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, state media quoted Qatar's foreign minister as saying.

The remarks came in briefing notes about two separate calls

earlier in the week between Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and US Special Representative for Iran Robert Malley and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

US President Joe Biden's administration is exploring ways to restore the nuclear deal that Iran signed with world powers, under which it received sanctions

relief in return for abandoning its nuclear programme. The US was pulled out of the deal in 2018 by former President Donald Trump, who reimposed sanctions on Iran.

"The State of Qatar is working on de-escalation through a political and diplomatic process to return to the nuclear agreement," said Al Thani.

- BBC

Proposed separatism law to punish French Muslims

Civil rights groups, academics and experts raise alarm ahead of key vote on controversial bill next week

Paris, Thursday

On October 2 last year, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a law against what he called "Islamist separatism" aimed at tackling "radical" movements in the country.

He described Islam as a religion "in crisis" globally, as he sought to boost support for measures intended to regulate how the faith is practised in France.

Critics say the proposed law further stigmatises France's 5.7 million-strong Muslim community - not only those individuals it supposedly targets - and forms part of a wider crackdown on civil liberties.

On February 4, the French lower house backed the bill. An anticipated vote by parliamentarians is expected to take place next week.

The National Assembly is now sorting through 1,860 proposed amendments to the controversial bill, including an extension of the hijab ban on university students and a ban on religious symbols worn by parents on school trips.

The legislation, officially named the draft bill on "Respect for the Principles of the Republic", has been the subject of fierce debate in civil society and among politicians.

"I don't see how this will help to stop the terrorism," said Ouadie Elhamamouchi, a lawyer for the Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF) civil rights group.

"This law above all has a political rather than legal motive. It's stigmatising Muslims."

CCIF itself was forced to relocate after the French government accused the group of harbouring "radical" links and ordered its closure during the crackdown on suspected "separatism". Rights groups condemned the move against CCIF, saying it added to a climate of Islamophobia.

Xenophobic arguments
If the law is passed, according to Elhamamouchi-

SEPARATIST LAW

● He described Islam as a religion "in crisis" globally, as he sought to boost support for measures intended to regulate how the faith is practised in France

● Measures agreed for the separatism law to date include sanctions for online hate speech, tighter controls on homeschooling, limits on donations to religious groups from abroad, and a requirement for all associations in France receiving public funding

chi, the government will be legitimising the xenophobic arguments made by France's resurgent far-right groups.

"It will fan the flames of the right," he said. "We will have crossed a line, and it will be an attack on public freedom. It is simply unjust. The law has set a very worrying discourse and French Muslims will suffer."

'Macron's gamble'

Measures agreed for the separatism law to date include sanctions for online hate speech, tighter controls on homeschooling, limits on donations to religious groups from abroad, and a requirement for all associations in France receiving public funding to sign a contract pledging to respect Republican values.

The latter, which will allow associations to be abolished more easily, was opposed by France's League of Human Rights.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, head of the left-wing La France Insoumise party, raised his concerns during the opening debates on the separatism law.

"We do not build France against those who compose it," he said. "This text is useless, it is dangerous." - AFP

KIRIYU MERCHANTS
Kilimamb Properties Bldg, Ngara Road, P.O. Box 1041-0000 Nairobi, Tel: 020-2019760
Cell: 0722-527 064 Email: kiranai@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
Duly instructed by our principals on behalf of their clients, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned Motor Vehicle on 19th Feb 2021 at SK Dhababa Auction Yard, Ruaka-Ruiri Bypass road Marula at 10:30 AM.

1. REPOSSESSION
FINANCER -VS- FRACHIAH WANJURU MAINA & HARRISON NJORGE MWAIWA
Motor Vehicle Reg. No KCG 835X
Make : PREMIO
Year of Manufacture : 2009
Chassis Number : NZT260-3444198
Color : SILVER

CONDITIONS FOR SALE
1. Cash at the fall of the hammer.
2. Sale subject to reasonable reserve price.

PHTUMA AUCTIONEERS
Public Auctioneers Class "B" Court Brokers, Repossessors, Estate Agents, Commission Agents, Court Process Servers, Commercial Investigators, Debt Collectors and General Merchants

Nelson Plaza 3rd Floor, Room No. 5, Ngara Road Opp. Station, P.O. Box 33366-00100 Nairobi, Tel: (020) 2390883, Cell: 0722 403139, Email: phtuma@gmail.com

PUBLIC AUCTION
MATTER OF DISTRESS FOR RENT
SEVENTIES COMPANY LIMITED -VS- DENNIS MUIJA

Duly instructed by our principal, we will sell the under listed items on Friday, February 19, 2021 outside Santon House, Kasarani at 11:00am.

1 Floor mat, 3 small tables, 1 two way gas burner, 3 window curtains, 1 set 7 seater sofa.

Terms: Cash.
All are welcome

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

The owner of Plot L.R. NO. Dagoretti/Waitihaka/3045 located off Kabira-Waitihaka Road in Nairobi County, intends to change user from Single Dwelling Unit to Multiple Dwelling Unit (Apartments), 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:

The 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 USE

The owner of Plot L.R. NO. DAGORETTI/RIRUTA/5.97 located off Naivasha Road in Riruta, Nairobi County, intends to change user from Single Dwelling Unit to Multiple Dwelling Unit (Flats), 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:

The County Secretary,
Nairobi City County,
P.O. Box 30075,
NAIROBI.

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

The registered owner of plot L.R. No. 97/1400/126 situated in Tassia Estate off Outlying road in Nairobi City County, proposes to change its use from Single Dwelling to Multi-dwelling (Flat), subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services. Individuals, Organizations, etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this publication to:

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

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

The registered owner of plot No. Dag/Riruta/5788 located in Dagoretti off Ngina Road, intend to change its use from Agricultural to Multi-dwelling units (flats), subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services. Any individual, institution, organization, etc. with objections or concern 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.

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

The registered owner of parcel NO'S Thika Municipality Block 19/1017 located in Ngongwa area in Thika Sub County, proposes to change the use from Agricultural to Multi-dwelling Residential (Low-rise apartment), subject to approval by Nairobi County Government. Individuals, institutions, Members of the public etc. with any comments and or objections to the proposed should forward them within 14 days of this notice to:

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING,
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION URBAN
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 2344-00900
KIAMBU

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

The owner of Plot L.R. NO. NRB/BLK 157/1215 located off Spine Road, along Nasra Road in Nairobi County, intends to change user from Single Dwelling Unit to Multiple Dwelling Unit (Apartments), 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:

The 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 USE

The registered owner of plot L.R. No. 97/1400/123 situated in Tassia Estate off Outlying road in Nairobi City County, proposes to change its use from Single Dwelling to Multi-dwelling (Flat), subject to approval by Nairobi Metropolitan Services. Individuals, Organizations, etc. with objections or comments to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this publication to:

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

Spice

Flavour your day
@ElijahGitau

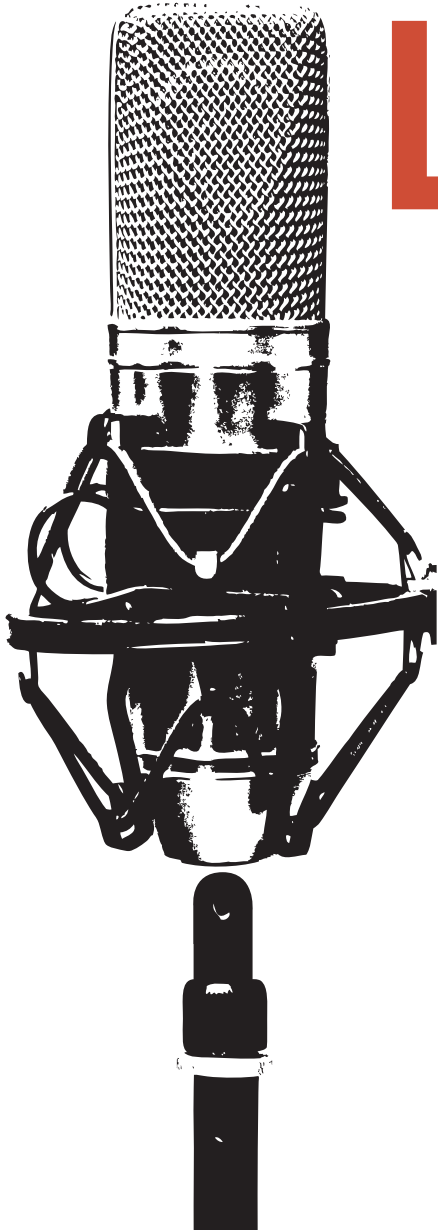


Tina Kaggia



Alex Mwakideu

LIVE ON AIR



For years, radio has remained a mainstream medium for information dissemination and entertainment. And as the globe sets itself to mark the World Radio Day tomorrow, **Elly Gitau** looks at how the Kenyan radio is fairing at a time when the digital space is threatening to take over

"Make me your radio, turn me up when you feel low, this melody was meant for you, just sing along to my stereo." These are the lyrics to the chorus of the song *Stereo Hearts*, the 2011 hit song by American rap rock band Gym Class Heroes featuring Adam Levine.

Stereo Hearts is a love song the singers cryptically used to show their feelings and desires to be loved. The cryptic use of radio in this jam came out so well. To the lovers of radio, myself included, listening to this song, especially the chorus, always leaves a happy feeling in your heart and mind. I digress.

For the people born in Kenya up to probably 1998, the most synonymous news and entertainment medium they became fond of was the radio. In a majority of homes then, TV and newspapers were deemed a luxury, only affordable by the rich. But radio reigned supreme. Radio was an adored feature. Radio was loved, almost worshipped. Radio was like an occult; it made families whole, so to speak.

By the turn of the new millennium, access to electricity was only confined in urban areas, with most rural parts of the country pitted in darkness, unlike today when millions of households are connected to the national grid. According to the World Bank's statistics, more than 70 per cent of the Kenya's population had access to electricity by 2018. Before year 2000, a majority of radio listeners in the coun-

try solely relied on dry cells to power their valued gadgets.

"Radio has always been a major part of my life. Growing up, my brother DNA (artiste) and I would record over my dad's cassettes and listen to ourselves talk and sing. I always wanted to be on radio," says Tina Kaggia, the breakfast show presenter at Nation FM, who was inspired by the likes of Teddy Muthusi, Munene Nyagah, Ngatia Murenga and Fareed Khimani.

She adds that being the introvert she is, many people didn't think she would hack being on-air. "What people don't understand is that introverts take note of their surroundings, and that is how I can do a breakfast show solo. The greatest challenge though is protecting your Zen (the mindful awareness of the present moment). It can be tricky when you are having a horrible day, but the show must go on. Also, people prodding into your private life can be a challenge," she says.

Tina opines that even with the powerful emergence of the digital media, the mainstream radio will never die.

"Podcasts and other digital media are great, and they are a great avenue to explore. Jasper Murume and I started Nyumbani Radio podcast when Covid-19 hit, but the radio educates, informs and entertains with little or no internet access. Radio is here to stay," says Tina also nicknamed The Voice, who has been on radio for more than a decade now.

Voices of yore

Having joined radio in 1977, veteran radio broadcaster Anunda Sakwa, however, says that radio has long lost

direction. "The radio lost it when employers started employing half-baked graduates as presenters. Many of the presenters today are the 'know it all' type that can never heed advice from radio legends. They say that we are old and understand nothing about today's radio. I admit that dynamics have changed over the time, especially due to the rapid emergence of the digital space, but we must stick to what radio stood for," he tells *Spice*.

Milele FM breakfast show presenter Alex Mwakideu—who has been on radio for 16 years—begs to differ with Sakwa on the calibre of presenters in today's radio. According to him, there has to be no better time to be on radio than now.

"Times have changed and everyone must move with the time for them to fit in today's society. I ought to see the social media not as a threat to radio but as strength. The two complement each other. When I hype my show or a news piece on my social platforms, it adds more listenership," says Mwakideu, whose career in radio was greatly influenced by the late Tony Msalame and Classic 105's Maina Kageni.

He adds, "I understand where Sakwa is coming from and I respect his opinion as a legend of the industry. His time on radio was when radio used to be so powerful that it could overthrow a president from power. Today's presenters and media owners are mostly after ratings in order to bring in the revenue. So, presenters must pull every effort to gain as many listeners as possible. This is just part of the radio evolution, and if you fail to adapt, you'll definitely fall off."



Jalang'o



Carol Radull



Jahmby Koikai

Digital realisation

Carol Radull was on radio for 24 years, until last year when she pulled the plug on her illustrious career. Although proud and thankful of the "valuable" experiences learned on radio, she doesn't miss it.

"The digital space has disrupted the radio in a major way, and I am grateful for making the transition. There are a lot of opportunities in the digital platforms because they communicate more directly to your listeners. But the radio will still rule for many years to come, because in many parts of the world, a lot of people cannot yet afford resources such as the internet to go online. But for me, the radio is not the only option," says Radull, who marked her debut on radio in 1997 at the BBC World Service.

DJ Joe Mfalme owes his success in the music industry to radio. Until last month, he was a resident spin-doctor at Capital FM for 12 years, before making the switch to Homeboyz Radio. He opines that as a deejay, it is easier to do a show on radio than on any other medium.

"Radio has always been the best for me because it comes with more freedom than say the TV. It is hard to do a three-hour music show on TV, but it is doable on radio. On TV, you'll need to dress accordingly for the set, among other requirements, whereas on radio, no such restrictions can hinder you from doing a show. Yes, the digital media has its strengths, but it's not a threat to the mass radio. The radio will be here for the long haul," says Joe, a great fan of ex-KBC presenter John Karani.

Jahmby Koikai aka Fyah Mummah managed to create a massive fan base as a reggae radio presenter during her time on the now defunct Metro FM. She says that radio doesn't command the influence it used to back in the day, as the space is now saturated with niche radio stations.

"During my time on KBC and then Metro FM, I loved the interaction with our listeners via phone calls, emails and letters. Today, the listeners are spoilt for choice because there are too many radio stations, which is making

listening to radio lose its taste. I love radio and I miss being on air, but I have personal reservations and requirements that anyone who would have interest to hire me must meet," she says.

Felix Odiwuor aka Jalang'o has been on radio for 15 years now. He believes that of all the mainstream media, radio is still in the lead. "A majority of people still listen to radio to get factual news. However, radio presenters, journalists and newsreaders have to up their game because of the disruption caused by the digital media. Back then, the radio used to 'break the news', but today, people themselves are breaking the news on social media. So, as a broadcaster, you must rise above this challenge for you to remain relevant. And that makes this the best time to be on radio," he intimates.

The regulation

Kenya has more than 140 licensed radio stations and whereas there are two categories of radio (free to air and subscription), one must be approved and issued with an operating license by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) at a fee to operate a radio station. The fees are charged according to the license category and the location of service delivery.

"In accordance with provisions of Section 46C of the Kenya Information and Communications Act, 1998, it is illegal to provide any form of broadcasting service in Kenya without a licence. Contravention of this law attracts a fine not exceeding Sh1 million or im-

KOIKAI

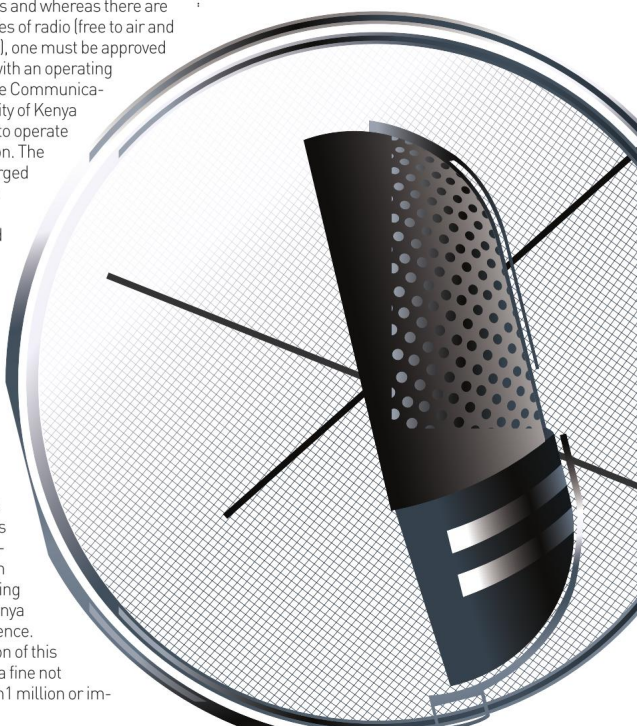


Today, the listeners are spoilt for choice because there are too many radio stations.

prisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both," cites the CA.

The World Radio Day, which is observed annually on February 13, was proclaimed in 2011 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.

"Radio is a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse. At the global level, radio remains the most widely consumed medium. This unique ability to reach out the widest audience means radio can shape a society's experience of diversity, stand as an arena for all voices to speak out, be represented and heard," the Unesco cites.



SWEETNSOUR

@Alberto_Mwas @martkinel

DStv's Honey channel to boost local productions

DStv is set to launch a new Pan-African lifestyle channel that will go live on Monday, February 15. Dubbed *Honey*, the channel will broadcast productions created for Kenyans by Kenyans. Leading the talent pack will be co-hosts Patricia Kihoro (pictured) and Foi Wambui in the romance-inspired show *Yes! Ndio!* Patricia and Foi act as event planners and engineer a proposal that not only guarantees a "yes", but also stays true to the couple's love story.



Oscar Awards announce nine categories for 2021 fete

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars) has announced the shortlists for nine categories for the upcoming awarding event. The categories and number of films include documentary feature (15), documentary short subject (10), international feature (15), makeup and hairstyling (10), original score (15), original song (15), animated short film (10), live action short film

(10) and visual effects (10). The shortlist voting concluded last Friday, and the remaining will move on to the official phase one voting, which will take place from March 5 to 9. The nominations will be announced on March 15, with the show scheduled to take place on April 25. Kenya submitted documentary film *The Letter* by Maia Lekow and Chris King in the Best International Film category.



Jux, Otile to headline mega Valentine's gig in Nairobi

Love is in the air, so they say. And if you are looking for a place to spend your Valentine's Day date with your loved ones, Nairobi will be smoking hot come Sunday. One of the biggest concerts lined up to electrify and serenade lovebirds will be held at the Evergreen Centre-Royal Gardenia along Kiambu Road on the Valentine's Day. The show will present an exciting array of performers led by one of 254's finest R&B stars Otile Brown, bongo's finest Juma Jux, *mu-githi* supremo Samidoh and Kenya's fastest rising singing talent Nikita Kering. Serving the music fun from the decks will be DJ Crème De La Crème, with radio presenter Maina Kageni playing host.

Boma Home of Property & Leisure

Kisumu county has unveiled the final design of the new urban spatial, physical and land use development plan to help manage its growth. The blueprint entails a framework to accommodate new growth and development of existing growth nodes

by **Noven Owiti**
@PeopleDailyKE

Planning processes of the proposed project to redesign Kisumu city geographical planning are gaining momentum. Already the county government department of the city directorate has given its green light by approving final design of the new plan.

Proposals to restructure the town's geographical outlook is expected to give the lakeside town a new face of property development.

This new development, which is a joint venture by the Kisumu Lakefront Development Corporation and Kenya Urban Roads Authority comes as relief for developers in the county who have time and again raised concerns of poor planning as one of key challenges hampering their work.

The entrepreneurs have in the past decried that the current city planning drawn by the defunct municipal council was not favourable to some of their development projects. The old plan has resulted in poor drainage and imbalanced sewerage connectivity in the areas potential for further development.

Various projects have been lined up for development along the lakefront, including the establishment of a marina at Dunga and harbour where big passenger vessels and boats will dock.

Its implementation is set to begin before the 2021 Afro-Cities conference set to be hosted by the lakeside city.

Steve Gome, Kisumu's director of urban planning says the proposed new city plan will open property investment opportunities by releasing land at the waterfront for redevelopment, urban renewal of old municipal estates and other infrastructure, such as high-rise buildings and skyscrapers facing the lake.

"The new master plan will redefine land use hence dictate the value of property particularly in the areas surrounding the Central Business District and lake front," he said, predicting a rise in land value.

Similarly, he says the new city plan presents open chances of more high-end development, both commercial and residential buildings coming up in the lakeside city as a result of proposed restructuring of the old plan. "With a new city outlook coming into effect, we are likely to see a new face of real estate development with many highrise buildings being put up in certain demarcated areas," says Gome.

According to the director, the current plan was not in line with the aspirations of the town's modern growth as it was developed in the colonial days.

The plan, which has cost the county government nearly Sh300 million to prepare will eventually be implemented at a cost running into billions of shillings, joint funding by the county government and

New plan to redesign Kisumu city to spur real estate growth

the private sector.

Gome told *Boma* that implementation of the proposed plan will be gradual and has been segregated into short, medium and long term interventions. The entire implementation process is expected to be complete in 20 years, whose outcome is primed to shape the property market outlook for Kisumu town and its environs.

The new master plan has proposed improvement of Kisumu drainage and sewer system, integrated solid waste management, streetlighting and waterfront development.

Under the project the town would be zoned into five strategic planning zones, including the CBD, the waterfront (about 60 metres from the CBD), middle level estates (areas around the CBD), slum belt and extended areas (areas falling between the slums and the city).

As part



Steve Gome. PD/NOVEN OWITI.

of the plan implementation the county government has kicked off demolition of buildings believed to have been illegally put up in undemarcated areas, such as on top of sewer lines. The devolved unit is also recovering illegally acquired parcels of land.

Recently, immediate former Kisumu city manager Doris Ombara blamed 'rogue' planners' workmanship for the initially poorly planned town, a situation she attributed to irregular developments coming up in undesignated areas. "With this kind of project, we will be able to control developments coming up within the city. It will help us know exactly the type of buildings needed in each area," Ombara said while stressing the need for having controlled development distribution within the town to ensure maximum utilisation of space.

Due to its rapid growth, she stated that Kisumu requires creation of adequate space for further expansion.

Kisumu

DIXON OBUNGU

We anticipate the new planning model will transform Kisumu's property development sphere. Buildings will no longer be sited where they are not designated

county Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development executive Dixon Obungu equally regretted the manner in which several structures were irregularly set up in the town because of poor planning by the previous local council authorities, noting that redesigning the town plan will largely improve and market its property sector.

Obungu stated that the new master plan will ensure proper planning particularly for new developments, adding that modification of the town plan will help in controlling development for better service delivery to the residents. "We anticipate the new planning model will transform Kisumu's property development sphere. Buildings will no longer be sited where they are not designated," said Obungu.

He said a redesigned city plan would prescribe the kind of developments being put up in specific areas, emphasising that cases of illegal buildings sprawling up will be dealt with.

Cytonn real estate 2018 survey on Kisumu pointed out unstructured planning regulations as a leading factor hindering the real estate sector's growth within the town.

The report revealed that the city is poorly planned, based on the defunct municipal Town Plan developed in 1974. It indicated the presence of little clarity on policies guiding the planning; which may lead to urban sprawl in urban centres and reduce land use maximisation.

The study further established lack of space for expansion. It showed that due to poor planning, residential developments in areas, such as Milimani are close to the CBD and hence the city's commercial hub cannot expand outwards. The study also highlighted sewerage connectivity as a major challenge in Kisumu town, especially in areas where new apartments are coming up.

Kisumu county Physical Planning, Housing and Urban Development executive Dixon Obungu. PD/NOVEN OWITI.



BRIEF

Property sector witnessing slow uptake of new units

by Barry Silah
@obel_barry

Property prices are expected to begin on a weaker footing this year as the economy continues to evolve out of shocks occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Architecture Association of Kenya (AAK), the rebound of key segments in real estate will be slow and gradual as the residential sector, for instance, continues to feature defaults and re-structures in payment cycles.

"A few defaults have been noted among the growing number of tenants using flexible rent payment platforms or those that have landlords willing to offer monthly and quarterly rental payments. On the property acquisition side, many payment plans for properties are being extended while the very small pool of Kenyans using mortgages may note difficulty in meeting payments due to salary cuts and layoffs," AAK stated during the launch of the Status of the Built Environment report for July to December 2020 last week.

Nevertheless, AAK President Mugure Njendu says pockets of value still exist in segments such as industrial real estate on the back of the rise of e-commerce and local manufacturing.

"A lot of businesses have restructured their operations cutting out retail to rent out warehouses to store wares, which they alternatively sell through e-commerce. Local manufacturing has also thrived from import constraints resulting in greater demand for warehouses and other storage facilities," she said.

It also highlights opportunities for the local economy. The most vibrant sector has been the industrial sector with an increase in rents, development pipeline and leasing activity and new tenants according to the report.

LOUNGE

Ornamental birds now trendy landscaping pieces

Beauty animals, such as peacocks, exotic ducks, turkeys, bantam chicken crested cranes, parrots, Egyptian geese and guinea fowls have become the newest sensation in many homes. **Peter Irungu** explains why you can consider animals to beautify your compound

by Njeri Maina
@njerimainar

You have probably seen sculptures of swans and geese, and the metallic giraffes displayed on the sides of the road, especially in upmarket areas. You have also likely found the same ornamental objects displayed in people's homes or in restaurants.

While these objects are beautiful in their own right, more people are choosing the real animals over the sculptures as a landscaping option. More people are choosing to rear birds, such as geese, peacocks and ostriches to roam their compounds as natural live ornaments. But where can someone get these ornamental animals and are there any regulations governing this growing landscaping trend?

Sourcing for the birds

Peter Irungu Kunyonya, the owner and proprietor of Nyika Birds talks of how the practice of keeping ornamental birds not just as a farming and revenue generator, but as ornamental centerpieces, is slowly growing in Kenya. "I started this breeding farm in 2009 and have seen the local uptake and interest in the birds grow year on year. We are a licensed seller by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and have a variety of ornamental birds such as peacocks, exotic ducks, turkeys, bantam chicken and guinea fowls just to name a few. One can come



to our farm in Utawala and see the birds to decide on what they want to buy. We can also advise on care and management and walk buyers through the process even long after the sale has happened," Peter explains.

He talks about how the lifespan of the birds also plays a role into the type of bird bought just as much as the aesthetic look of the bird does.

He says that having a licence is crucial, also because one requires one when getting a transportation license.

Some of the ways to care for the birds is to ensure they live in a clean place, whether in a beautiful outdoors cage or while roaming freely in the compound. Also regularly vaccinating the birds, especially with every change of season to ensure longevity. Regular deworming and flea checks are a must as it is only when the bird is healthy that one can enjoy its value, ornamental or otherwise.



What the law says

According to the law, all wild animals belong to the government and are managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service. As such, one cannot just spot a wild peacock, ostrich, guinea fowl, zebra or antelope and simply domesticate them even when they are naturally occurring and right outside one's homestead. Thus any person hoping to keep game birds, or live animals should get a license. The licensing forms are downloadable from the KWS website. One can only buy the animals from a licensed seller, and show the place or cage that they will be housing said animals.

According to the wildlife and management act tenth schedule, the animals licensable to homes include tortoises, chameleons, ostriches, specific pigeons, specific doves, ducks, specific guinea fowls, among others. Larger animals, such as antelopes and giraffes can only be licensed to already existing ecotourism facilities and not to personal homes or estates, and many factors, such as habitat, acreage and climate come into consideration. Harboring animals or birds without a license and in contravention of the permits issued by KWS is committing an offence and one is liable to a fine not exceeding Sh5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both if found guilty. In case there is an inspection by a warden and the game birds or animals are not found to be living in humane conditions, the license can be revoked and the animals reverted back to the government.

ABOVE: There is a rising demand for ornamental birds in the country. PD/ COURTESY.

ABOVE LEFT: Ornamental birds proprietor Peter Kunyonya balances a pair of Jacobin pigeons in his hands. PD/NJERI MAINA.

DÉCOR WITH BETTY MUINDI

Four genius ways to camouflage your TV

There is no delicate way to say it, a television can be an obvious eyesore in any room they're in. They shouldn't be the focal point of a living room, that is why in an ideal world, we'd all have two living rooms - one for TV viewing and one for entertaining guest. If you want a TV design that's less invasive, and more décor friendly, here are some creative designs that allow a big screen to reside in your room without looking like your life revolves around it.

1. PICTURE SCREEN

When you're done watching, switch it to gallery mode for gorgeous photos accom-

panied by mood-enhancing music. Search for images of your choice on YouTube and play it to make your TV look like a piece of art instead of a black hole.

2. CREATE AN ART WALL

Whether you're buying original works or reproduction prints, surround your television with these pieces to tease the eye away from the unsightly black screen.

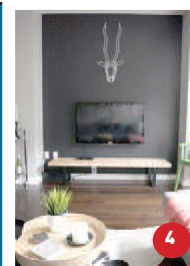
3. MAKE YOUR TV THE ART

TV manufacturers have started creating screens, which turn into a painting when not in use. When on stand-by mode it becomes a work of art - and automatically

turns off 10 seconds after you leave the room to save on power. Another Australian company has added a piece of mineral glass to a regular Samsung smart TV, transforming it into a mirror when off rather than plain black.

4. PAINT THE WALL CHARCOAL

If your TV is wall-mounted or sits on a console, paint the wall behind it a moody charcoal. Dark interiors are on-trend and have the effect of creating a cosy yet dramatic space perfect for a living room. Better still, the dark tones will envelope your television screen and make it blend into its surroundings.



You

► It's all about Life & Style

Socks and sex: Getting the right gift on lovers' day

Valentine's Day is around the corner. This year instead of going the cliché way, experts expound on the art of gifting to ensure that you and your loved one have an unforgettable day of love

by Nailantei Norari
@nartnorari

There is no holiday that has been commercialised as much as Valentine's Day. This is probably the reason why social media is littered with pleas for the President to completely lockdown the country, with many people claiming to be nursing heartbreaks just before the said holiday as their partners seek to spare themselves the gifting expense this season. What is interesting is that gifting occurs even in the animal kingdom, with male spiders wooing the lady long legs with balls of silk. The one gifting the bigger token wins the lady's affection even in the spider world. But what is the history of gifting and what are its psychological underpinnings?

History of gifts

Gifting is something that is quite common, especially in African culture. Apart from ceremonies such as births and marriages where gifts were expected to be exchanged, one could not visit their neighbour empty handed. For those who believe in Darwinian theory of existence, cavemen used to gift each other. While for Africans, it was a sign of goodwill and community, cavemen mostly used it as a tool to exert power and control or show pleasure and displeasure by gifting

MATHEKA

Using sex as a gift for instance delinks the act from the mutual give and take it is and repositions it as something to be earned, given and withheld.

those who served the leader well and leaving out those who did not serve him well. Maurice Matheka a leading psychologist and sexologist in Kenya, talks about the importance of understanding the cultural context of gifting as it forms part of the template that influences one's giving or receiving of gifts.

"Other than the cultural template, there are psychological reasons behind the gifting process whether someone is crafting a whole experience around the gifting or simply giving a different pair of socks and different position during sex," says Maurice. He adds that gifts can be used to garner affection, show appreciation or even at times to assuage the guilt. As much as it is said that it is the intention and not the gift that counts, both count in equal measure.

He gives the example of guilt packages, where one may buy a gift to cover up tracks or to make themselves feel better after cheating or as an advance for wrongs to be done or things to be asked for. In such cases, the person has deep seated psychological issues that they are not willing to work on but are instead putting gift band aids on a wound that requires intensive surgery.

The same gift will be received differently by various people owing to the history between the giver and recipient, what it means to the former as well as what it means to the latter. What might just be another pair of socks to one partner, might be the love gift of the century to an older couple who have been looking for thermal socks to no success.



Maurice Matheka, sexologist

Languages of love

Allan Lawrence agrees with this adding that there is no wrong and right gift.

"It is true that people use gifts to affirm and cement love while others weaponized gifts and use them as a tool of control. But there is no right or wrong gift, as all humans are different individuals with varying wants and needs," says Allan. He says that different people perceive love and affection differently. The key here is to communicate with your partner and be attentive to their needs or wants as this will help in deciding the best gift to give at what time and where. Gifting if done correctly can strengthen the partnership or friendship of those involved. And the great thing is you do not even have to break the bank to do it," Allan explains.

He references Gary Chapman's book *The Five Languages Of Love* namely; acts of service, quality time, physical touch, affirmation and gifting citing how gifting can be anything in the love language that your partner understands. He talks of combining your partner's dominant love languages and using that while choosing the gifts.

Maurice adds that there can be a wrong gift, especially that which is being used as a means to an end.

"Using sex as a gift for instance delinks the act from the mutual give and take it is and repositions it as something to be earned, given and withheld," he says. Sex is an experience that is easily sullied, and gifting it is a small step towards commercializing it and a big one towards totally ruining a relationship. It is not a power tool.

He explains how this can be a dangerous spiral towards a detrimental end of a relationship, where one party withholds sex if aggrieved, and gifts it when they deem it fit.

Maurice reiterates on the importance of making gifting and appreciation an everyday thing and the importance of being adventurous in sex too so that some positions and experiences are not saved for a special occasion, but are part of everyday life.

Celebrating Valentine's during a pandemic

by Nailantei Norari
@nartnorari

The Covid-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions have changed the way people explore romance, date and even celebrate relationship milestones. Having carried over into 2021, this Valentine's day will be an unusual one as couples stay cooped up together. This means that couples will have to rethink how they celebrate Valentine's day in order to still make their significant other feel special. It calls for unprecedented creativity and work from both parties, but is largely doable.

It is important for the couple to break the monotony of their partnered life together. If they spend the entire day cooped up indoors, they can use Valentine's to have an outdoors picnic with delivered food and drinks, and all the lush trimmings of flowers and lanterns for a cozy dinner. The couple can also go for dinner while observing all Covid prevention protocols. Remember to dress up and do full makeup, and show up as your best dressed self even if it is to your balcony picnic.

If the relationship is too new and you want to gift your partner, gift them with a gift card from a place they frequent. This could be a gift card for a mani-pedi for the girls, or a gift card to the barbershop complete with a full body massage for the men. Gift experiences rather than a physical thing where you can, as experiences tend to have a larger emotional impact compared to a physical gift. Feel free to learn massage techniques, buy massage oils and pamper your better half with a feet massage or a full body massage if you are the very confident kind.

There is no reason to limit the amazing experiences shared over valentines solely outside the bedroom. Feel free to play romantic games, and try out new things in the bedroom. This is the chance to kick monotonous sex out of your bed and seek novel experiences. These ideas need not be confined to valentines. Heck, you can have that picnic and do those bedroom somersaults today or next month. Better still, do this every day.

Allan Lawrence, counselling psychologist





- 6.00 Inuka
- 6.30 Voice Of Deliverance
- 7.00 Jus Kidz
- 8.00 K24 This Morning
- 11.00 Daily Brief
- 13.00 News Cut
- 13.30 Jungu La Spoti
- 14.00 Kenyan Movie
- 15.00 Paula & Friends
- 15.30 Akili & Me
- 16.00 K24 Mashinani
- 16.30 Floopaloo, Where Are You?
- 17.00 Beatbox
- 18.00 Till Morning Comes
- 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 19.30 Daughters Of Eve
- 20.00 Kilimo Na Biashara
- 20.30 Premier League World
- 21.00 The Loop
- 22.00 Unplugged
- 22.40 Movie
- 00.10 Overdrive
- 02.10 Al Jazeera



- 6.00 Ime Ria Rucini
- 7.00 Rikiratha-Live
- 10.00 Ngano Cia Cucu
- 10.30 Satai
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodii
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Thirinka
- 3.00 Njunga Ya Muthee
- Kihenjo
- 3.30 Satai
- 3.50 Kameme Toonz
- 4.00 Ririmuka
- 6.00 Ndukanigarira
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini
- 7.30 Wendo Muroge
- 8.00 Njunga Ya Muthee
- Kihenjo
- 8.30 Mbugi Matu
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa
- Mohoro-Live
- 10.00 Kigoo-Live
- 12.00 Deutsche Welle



- 12.00 Football Review- Rpt
- 6.00 Morning Express
- 08.00 Life N' Style
- 12.00 Documentary
- 4.00 Mibu-Ya-Ktn
- 5.00 Baseline
- 6.00 Losing Heaven
- 7.00 KTN Leo
- 7.30 Just Kidding
- 8.00 Food Detectives
- 8.30 New Beginnings
- 9.00 KTN Friday Briefing
- 10.20 Movie

TIME OUT!

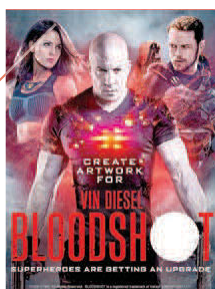


17.00pm BEATBOX



::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	6	3		2	8	
			4	2	7	3
7	2	9				4
3		5	2		4	
2						6
	4			5	9	1
9				4	3	7
5	7	1	9			
4	6		3	1	9	

SUDOKU

5	4	2	7	8	3	9	6	1
8	1	9	2	5	6	7	3	4
6	7	3	9	1	4	2	5	8
7	6	8	1	9	2	3	4	5
3	2	1	6	4	5	8	9	7
4	9	5	3	7	8	1	2	6
2	8	6	4	3	1	5	7	9
1	3	7	5	6	9	4	8	2
9	5	4	8	2	7	6	1	3

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.

1	2		3		4	5		6
				7				
8						9		
10								
					11			
12	13							15
						16		
				17				
18			19					
					20			
		21						
22								
					23			

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

Get involved in sports events that will benefit your physical appearance. Discord may arise with someone you're close to.

TAURUS (APR. 21- MAY 21)

Visit friends or relatives who have been confirmed. You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)

You will be able to find the perfect outfit, and the greatest new accessory for your house. Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Your interests could lead you down avenues you never realized existed. Visit friends or relatives who have been confirmed.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

You haven't been totally honest with yourself and it's time to review your motives. You may have more people on your domestic scene than anticipated.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 -SEPT. 23)

You'll feel much better when your slate is clean again. Opportunities to learn important information will surface through discussions with peers or seminars you attend.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 -OCT. 23)

You won't be admired at home if you haven't been taking care of your share of the work. Losses are likely if you aren't careful where you leave your valuables.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

You may have a tendency to put on weight. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make property investments.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

You must try to include your mate in your activities today. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22- JAN. 20)

Travel could include delays and other minor problems. Try to avoid serious discussions with loved ones. Get together with those you find mentally stimulating.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21- FEB. 19)

You are in a high cycle where travel, education, and creative endeavors are concerned. Secret affairs could cause upset. You can make new friends and experience new things if you do a bit of traveling.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

You are best to be discreet. You may have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork facing you. Keep the promises you've made or you can expect to be in the doghouse.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

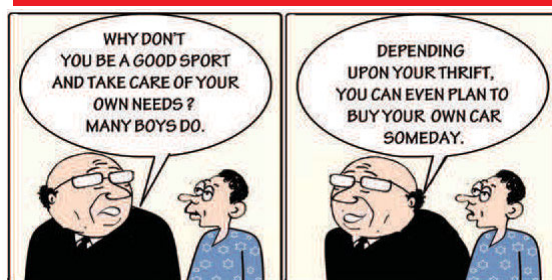
ACROSS

1. Become
4. Sprout
9. Monitor
10. Equates
11. Steal
12. Hobby
14. Ashes
15. Feign
17. Spill
18. Orinoco
20. Unaided
21. Speeds
22. Storms

DOWN

1. Bemuse
2. Concerti
3. Metal
5. Ploughs
6. Omit
7. Trashy
8. Treacherous
13. Bewilder
14. Annoyed
15. Floods
16. Eludes
17. Slant
19. Idle

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



ACROSS

1. Ornament (6)
5. Drunkard (3)
7. Hard close-grained wood (5)
8. Country in North Africa (7)
9. Country in the Arabian peninsula (5)
10. Tall type of furry hat (8)
12. Topics for debate (6)
14. Routed (anag) (6)
17. Replies to a query (8)
18. Long - owl: bird (5)
20. Movement conveying an expression (7)
21. Unwarranted (5)
22. Add together (3)
23. Groups of three (6)
2. Large waves (7)
3. Bowed to royalty (8)

DOWN

4. Salver (4)
5. Glisten (7)
6. Expressed gratitude (7)
7. Water container (5)
11. Person who writes music (8)
12. Alphabetical lists (7)
13. Breastbone (7)
15. Put up with (7)
16. Edge or border (5)
19. Extinct bird (4)



Sport

► The one-stop Sport shop...

FOOTBALL-P630

Everton edge Tottenham in nine-goal thriller, Man City cruise into FA Cup quarters



by William Mutito
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) men's league champions Ulinzi Warriors and losing finalists Nairobi City Thunder have been exempted from the first two weekends of action as the league jumps off on Saturday.

Warriors have three of their key players, Eric Mutoro, Victor Bosire and Joseph Khaemba engaged with the national team that is preparing for the second window of the Afrobasket qualifiers set for February 17 to 21 in Cameroon while Thunder have their coach Sadat Gaya and captain Griffin Ligore engaged in the same.

"We requested for his not



Yoni Wanambiro of USIU (left) and Griffin Ligore of Thunder vie for the ball in a past league match. PD/ PHILLIP KAMAKYA

because we are not ready but missing such key players at the beginning of the season could dent our performance. We need that depth especially coming

off this long layoff where players will need match fitness before they can be fully fit," explained Warriors' team manager Stephen Bartilol.

Sabrina (right) with NOCK President Paul Tergat just before the championships opening ceremony. INSET: Kenya's skier Sabrina Wanjiku does final touches before taking part in the World Ski Championships in Cortina, Italy. PD/ SPORTPICHA

Rare talent

International scribes flock to interview Kenya's Sabrina at World Ski Championships in Italy, owing to the fact that he hails from a country without snow

by Audrey Miheso
@PeopleDailyKe

National Olympic Committee of Kenya (Noc-K) president Paul Tergat has paid glowing tribute to Sabrina Wanjiku, Kenya's sole participant at the World Ski Championships currently taking place in Cortina, Italy.

After having numerous interviews with the leading sports media houses in Europe, Tergat stated that Sabrina was a great sports ambassador for Kenya.

"The kind of media interest and following she has drawn in this event can only be matched by the same following she got when she competed at the Winter Olympics in South Korea in 2018," Tergat told People Sport.

He added: "She is certainly someone who is making our country be known around the world. Having been recognised and appointed in 2018 as a UN environment ambassador as well, it greatly underscores the often-stated fact that Kenya's sports people are the biggest assets of promoting the country."

With the coronavirus pandemic having hit the country hard especially the tourism sector, Sabrina's

activities are slowly painting the Kenyan picture on the global map.

"I have toured the city of Cortina this morning and after every few steps someone is interested in knowing about Kenya's participation in the Ski championship and Sabrina is a name everyone is easily associating with," Tergat said.

He said the Olympic body would continue supporting the athlete and hopes that her return to competition now, soon after recovering from an injury in October will give her the platform to continue her effective preparation for the Winter Olympics scheduled for Beijing next year.

At 22 years old, Sabrina has already competed in numerous events where she excelled. She was the sole flag bearer in the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea in 2018 and before that the Youth Winter Olympics, Lillehammer 2016 where she finished in top 25 in all her events.

She was also first placed at the Slovenia Super-G championships in



2019 and emerged

the winner at the International African World Championships in 2019.

"We are also happy to note that we have gotten a lot of interest from other Kenyans participating in winter sports and welcome them to intensify their training so that they can represent the country in more international events," said Noc-K Secretary General Francis Mutuku.

He added: "Of immediate interest, a young man, Dennis Ondiba, who is a cross country skiing athlete based in Czech Republic, and will be participating in the qualifiers of the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships coming up later in the month. We'll keep Kenyans informed in the coming days about these events, in the hope that these athletes going against the odds will inspire even more to come up."

GOLF DRAWS

Ruiru: Tomorrow: Ladies medal sponsored by RSC UON Alumni Ladies & Kericho Gold: First Tee: 7:40 P Gichohi, J Boro, K Waruingi, J Kariuki; 6:50 Kiambu x 4; 7:00 T Mwaura, S Kanyora, B Waweru, H Mwaura; 7:10 E Waitithaka, L Oyuga, V Mwaura, Prof Wanyoike; 7:20 D Waruinge, P Kamau, P Wainaina, M Chege; 7:30 J M Mwangi, E Mwangi, S Kingara, N Nguithi; 7:40 A Kariuki, D Kabera, Z Muigai; 7:50 G Muthwale, S Mugwe, Sigona x 2; 8:00 A Kamau, A Njoroge, M Johnson, I Njoroge; 8:10 Dr Otieno, P Ngugi, S Waititu; 8:20 Muthaiga x 4; 8:30 Gpark x 4; 8:40 M Mwaura, J M Mwangi, P Ngugi; 8:50 K Jimm, J N Wanyoike, J Wanyoike; 9:00 M Kamau, P Wainaina, A Ngugi, P M Mwaura; 11:00 Chairman x 4; 11:10 Captain x 4; 11:20 Sponsors x 4; 11:30 B Waweru, F Kimani, A K Ndungu, Fr Gaitho; 11:40 D G mwangi, A Muigai, P N Mburu, M Muturi; 11:50 A Machocha, J Waweru, M Kenji, J G Mwangi; 12:00 J Mathenge, N Nguithi, J Kagicha, B Ndongu; 12:10 N Mwaura, J Njagu, P Wainaina; 12:20 Maj Mwaura, S G Njuguna, J Kambo, Gen Waweru; 12:30 K Muchiri, G W Kuria, J Kanari, B Muchungi; 12:40 G park x 4; 12:50 T Wainaina, C Wambui, F Mwaura; 13:00 Limuru x 4; Tenth Tee: 6:40 S Mwitari, J Kariuki, A Maina; 6:50 S K Nyirigi, B Okumu, S Kamau, G Wachira; 7:00 G Gathara, E Karanja, P Kamau, G Karuku; 7:10 D Kariuki, A Muigai, G Nduungu, M Nyangi; 7:20 Nyeri x 4; 7:30 Royal x 4; 7:40 B Mugo, B Ndungu, S Gitonga, J K Ndungu; 7:50 J Mutugi, C Kamene, E Maina; 8:00 P Gichu, M Waititu, Wahome W, T Kiragu; 8:10 Thika x 4; 8:20 M Nduati, H Muia, A Ngumba; 8:30 Kaf x 4; 8:40 J K Muraguri, C Njeru, J Wambugu, R G Kamau; 8:50 C Kiyukia, J Kamau, K Kimathi; 9:00 M Muriu, K Munyua, A Muya, J M Wwangi; 11:00 Sponsors x 4; 11:10 G Itegi, D K Mbugua, C Kariuki, M Karanja; 11:20 R Kithuka, Brig Mohamed, L Nganga, D Mukai; 11:30 J Muratha, S Kihanya, M Wambugu; 11:40 M Karanja, S Njiru, C Kariuki, J Mathenge; 12:00 Kericho gold x 4; 12:10 B Kimani, S Mwangi, D Kamau, P Wamae; 12:20 J P Muraguri, M Nyangi, W Njenga, S Gichuru; 12:30 Lady Captain x 4; 12:40 J Muratha, J Nduati, S Kihanya, E Mwaura; 12:50 S Wambugu, M Mburu, K Ngige; 13:00 F Wagura, J Kilonzo, P Njiru, P Kiarie; 13:10 P Karoki, J M Ndungu, N Njau, A K Kio; P Accepted.

Vet Lab: Tomorrow: NCBA Golf Series, Sponsored by NCBA Bank: 1st Tee 6:34 Ian Maina, E. Omollo, P. Njunge, E. Omollo, I. Makokha; 6:42 C. Maranga, J. Odhiambo, B. Kiraithe, T. Macakage; 6:50 G. Karuga, M. Iraki, M. Kihara, P. Njuguna; 6:58 E. Ngundi, R. Kanake, C. Maithe, D. Karuga; 7:06 A. Unia, M. Thyaka, Mohan

Shah, Y. Saito; 7:14 R. Sanghani, Paresh Shah, Nilesh Kriplani, Manish Shah; 7:22 F. Nurani, F. Muthiani, J. Ojowa, P. Gow; 7:30 P. Scoville, A. Modi, Jack Mwangi, C. Owour; 7:38 J. Kirui, F. K. Mugo, M. N. Kinuthia, J. M. Mwaura; 7:46 P. Karingu, S. Kiragu, F. Musila, D. Mwangi; 7:54 M. Bector, BSN Cheruvot, B. Mandere, G. Kariuki; 8:02 K. Joshi, R. B. Shah, S. Mbugua, P. Kavia; 8:10 H. Kamuti, K. R. Shah, J. Mugo, E. Maritim; 8:18 U. Raikundalia, R. Lakhani, A. asol, C. Wangari; 8:26 A. Kipkoti, P. Jakaa, N. Kariuki, M. Gatundu; 8:34 E. Ouko, NCBA, M. Maingi, J. Muri; 11:28 A. Nyaga, Anik Patel, T. Mwithiga, N. Njogu; 11:36 Rohit Shah, A. Kimani, M. Kombo, P. Karobia; 11:44 R. Muigai, Jeff Mugo, R. Ndei, J. Njuguna; 11:52 H. Joshi, T. Njonjo, J. Raithatha, D. G. Muchungu; 12:00 E. Nabutola, N. Nyoike, P. Kanari; 12:08 K. Njenga, E. Mogoa, C. Owiti, C. Omondi; 12:16 O. F. Kibuna, M. Makundi, M. Karobia, D. Nyakang'o; 12:24 N. Imbugwa, A. Njenga, P. Karimi, S. Tarmohammed; 12:32 C. Wambasi, S. Orinda, E. Njuki, S. Tarmohammed; 12:40 Captain x 4; 12:48 P. Okoth, B. Kagiri, H. Obino, F. Mwaniki; 12:56 A. Mussaji, C. Smith, S. D'souza, H. Bhangra; 1:04 V. Landa, F. Wahome, J. Mugo, NCBA.

10th Tee 6:34 P. Mungai, V. Tank, E. Mugo, J. Ngugi; 6:42 B. Omolo, H. Tank, C. Mwangi, Nikhil Kriplani; 6:50 B. M. Mbal, P. Kenneth, S. Kagwi, F. W. Gaitho; 6:58 G. Mboya, P. Kiige, C. Bor, V. Waiyaki; 7:06 K. Chege, D. Waruinge, P. Waiyaki, E. G. Wachira; 7:14 K. Njane, J. Kosgei, P. Chibole, Agamjot Kaur; 7:22 Bosco Chibole, J. Kisolo, C. G. Munyori, NCBA; 7:30 P. Mokaya, Jane Mwangi, J. Osoro, Pranay Shah; 7:38 J. Karingu, I. Samani, Jayshwin Shah, J. Kinuthia; 7:46 D. Kavia, P. Okemwa, F. Ogutu, W. Okello; 7:54 B. Akun, R. Bore, R. D'souza, Renato D'souza; 8:02 D. Kimani, Y. Asami, NCBA, K. Oba; 8:10 B. Lakhani, J. Ngeera, S. Thakkar, N. Carolan; 8:18 P. S. Sokhi, P. Gichuru, M. N. Kanyi, H. S. Sokhi; 8:34 R. Agung, N. Ndegwa, R. Saboyeni, N. Njirani; 11:28 P. N. Muiruri, L. Munyua, J. G. Chege, S. Kigera; 11:36 S. Kabari, P. Njoki, C. Kamari, D. Ndegwa; 11:44 V. Budhdhe, J. G. Njenga, Waweru Mathenge, K. Grettton; 11:52 M. Mbugua, C. Gichobi, D. Thiong'o, G. Wanjohi; 12:00 K. Bosire, F. Ngigi, J. Katiku, K. Monari; 12:08 NCBA x 4; 12:16 T. Thanawalla, D. G. Kariuki, W. Muguima, D. Mukabi; 12:24 W. Nadida, T. Chirchir, M. G. Kimani, M. Marigi; 12:32 S. Manji, E. Mbole, K. Samani, B. Kimeu; 12:40 B. Njoroge, J. Ndonga, S. Ondieki, J. Wafula; 12:48 O. Abekah, A. Kale, M. Gorassia, S. Mwatha; 12:56 R. Wafula, S. Kantania, A. Khamar, NCBA; 1:04 M. Kinuthia, M. Wairimu, R. Mangat, Shitil Shah.

Strictly No Post Entries!

AK to carry out age verification on junior athletes at Cross Country championships

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

Athletics Kenya (AK) will use tomorrow's annual National Cross Country Championships to conduct thorough age verification as well as monitor the performance of the junior stars in preparation for the World Under 20 Championships.

Youth committee member Eliud Wambua revealed that the objective of the programme was to have athletes in the right age bracket compete at the biennial event slated for August 17-22 in Nairobi.

The committee will also reflect on the performances posted by the athletes and thereafter develop an elaborate plan for their training programme.

"We shall be able to identify which camps the athletes are coming from since AK has been conducting countrywide camps training for the Under 20 Championships. It will be important to note that from the event on Saturday, the best performing athletes who are unattached to any camp will also be selected and placed in existing camps accordingly as per their potentials," revealed Wambua.

Wambua also said that the under 20

pre-trials event held in Nairobi last November gave the federation a glimpse of what to expect as preps intensify for the global event.

"With the postponement of the global extravaganza, the athletes born in 2001 were locked out on age criteria. Fortunately, it means we also gain through those born in 2015. So I can say we lost and gained in equal measure. So yes, we have a strong team," he stated.

Wambua further disclosed that the committee has lined up camps in April where potential athletes will undergo specialized training.



Ace Obiri moves to relays, avoids contest

Top guns set for epic battle at one of the toughest races in the world, Kenya's National Cross Country Championships cum trials

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

No doubt, it will be one of the most explosive National Cross Country Championships-cum-trials in recent times, when a large field of elite and promising athletes converge at the Ngong Race Course tomorrow to prove their mettle.

The annual event was officially launched yesterday at Riadha House with sponsors Lotto Foundation injecting Sh7million towards the championship that is set for Ngong Race Course, Nairobi tomorrow.

Top guns will lock horns as they battle for the automatic slots for the first six across the line, since

Athletics Kenya (AK) will be using the event to pick a team to represent the country at the Africa Cross Country Championships in Lome, Togo, on March 7.

After years of playing the under-study, a number of young women athletes who have graduated into the senior ranks are threatening to seize the moment and cut a niche for themselves.

The contest has over the years been billed as a battle ground for the disciplined forces Kenya Police, Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) and Kenya Prisons—but the emergence of new stars from South Rift and Central Rift regions sets adrenaline pulse racing.

Police athletes have been staging good shows in the recent past and a lot is expected when Sheila Chelang'at leads 2015 world 3000m steeplechase champion Hyvin Kiyeng, world 5000m silver medalist Margaret Chelimo, Edith Chelimo, Faith Kimutai and Caroline Nyaga against strong opposition from Kenya Defences Forces and Kenya Prisons big shots.

World cross country champion Hellen Obiri will not compete in 10km and has opted to run in mixed relays. Obiri's absence will

not water down the contest as prisons bigwigs in Rosemary Wanjiru, former Africa Cross Country champion Alice Aprot, 2017 World Cross Country bronze medalist Lilian Kasait, Loice Cheming, Abigail Chelag'at and Gladys Cherono long to lock up the opposition.

Joyce Chepkemoi, Nes-pine Chepleting, Peninah Kandie, Esther Chemutai and Gladys Chemweno will lead KDF brigade.

New talents from regions would also emerge as surprise factor. They include North Rift's Vicotty Chepng'eno, 2017 world cross country champion Irene Cheptai and Daisy Kimeli.

Central Rift region's Eva Cheronno, Agnes Chebet Betty Chepkemboi and Jackline Chepng'eno, Mercy Chepkorir and Beatrice Chebet of South Rift are also in the mix.

Agnes Mumbua, Cecilia Wayua, Lucy Muli, Christine Ndanu will lead South region squad as Sandra Chebet, Emily Chebet, Margaret Nduta, Naomi Chepkemoi, Ruth Chepng'etich and Margaret Ngoiri anchor the Nairobi team.



Hellen Obiri (right) and Joyce Chepkemoi of Laikipia Air Base lead the 10,000m women race during the KDF Cross Country championships at the Moi Air Base last week. INSET: Kibiwot Kandie leads the 10,000m men race during KDF Cross Country event. PD/ PHILLIP KAMAKYA

Kericho Lemotit camp athletes confident of ruling the Ngong roost

by Phillip Yegon
@PeopleDailyKe

Lemotit Athletics Training Camp in Kericho County has sent a star-studded team to the National Cross Country Championships slated for tomorrow at Ngong Race Course in Nairobi.

A strong team of 15 athletes from the camp are among participants in the championships which will be used to pick a team to the Africa Cross Country Championships scheduled for March 6 and 7 in Lome, Togo.

World beaters and upcoming athletes from the camp qualified for the national showpiece through their regional qualifiers and have vowed to light-up tomorrow's championships.

Senior athletes from the camp include the reigning World Cross Country champion Beatrice Chebet who will feature in the 10km race and Sandrafelis Chebet who will also compete in the same race. Sandrafelis

is the 2018 Valencia 10km road race winner.

Mercy Chepkorir Kirarei, the 3000m World Silver medalist during Youth Olympics Games held in Argentina will also run the 10km race in tomorrow's national event. Emily Chebet is also set for 10km in tomorrow's championships.

Trizah Cherotich, Dorcas Chepkemoi, Cynthia Chepkirui and Diana Chepkorir will fly the camp's flag high during the national Cross-Country championships. They will compete in 6km Junior Women.

Those from the camp and are lining-up for 5km U18 Girls are, Isca Chelangat, Joyline Chepkemoi, Fancy Chepkorir, Daisy Chepkorir, Florence Chepkoech, Sharon Chepkemei and Miriam Chemutai.

The camp's head coach Paul Kemei is upbeat of stellar performances among the athletes from his camp.

He says the athletes had trained well enough and were in good shape ahead of tomorrow's competition in Nairobi.

"They are in good shape and well prepared for the task ahead. I have a lot of hopes from them for stellar performances among. They are ready and in fact racing to go," Kemei said.

The youthful tactician is upbeat that the athletes from his side will win their races and subsequently make it to the national team to represent the country in coming championships.

Kemei said the athletes at the camp were serious about their sport careers and were well disciplined saying if they continue that way, they have a bright future.

Beatrice Chebet races to the finish line during a past local cross country race. PD/WEBSTER NYANDIKA



BRIEFLY

Bayern Munich striker Mueller tests positive for coronavirus

BERLIN: Bayern Munich forward Thomas Mueller is set to miss out on Thursday's Club World Cup final in Doha after testing positive for the coronavirus on Wednesday, according to German media reports. According to Sky Sports Germany and Bild newspaper, World Cup winner Mueller tested positive after Bayern's training session on Wednesday. A positive test would rule the veteran striker out of Thursday's clash with Mexican CONCACAF champions Tigres in the Qatar capital, in which European champions Bayern are aiming for a historic sixth title in 12

months. Neither Bayern nor tournament organisers FIFA have yet confirmed the positive test. Mueller would be the third Bayern player to contract the coronavirus in recent weeks, after positive tests for Javi Martinez and Leon Goretzka meant they were unable to travel with the rest of the squad to Qatar.

His absence would be the latest blow to Bayern's Club World Cup campaign, after Jerome Boateng returned home to Germany on Wednesday for personal reasons amid reports that his former girlfriend had died. **-AFP**

Atalanta beat Napoli in thriller to set up Coppa Italia final with Juventus

ROME: Atalanta eliminated Napoli in the second leg of the Coppa Italia semifinals with a 3-1 home victory on Wednesday, setting up a clash against Juventus in the final. In the reverse fixture last week, the two sides played out a 0-0 draw despite Atalanta's dominance at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium. In Wednesday's game, Atalanta showed no mercy as Duvan Zapata and Matteo Pessina scored just 15 minutes into the game, putting the home side firmly in charge before half-time. Napoli got a lifeline in the 53rd minute as Hirving Lozano pulled one goal back with a double-strike, but Atalanta sealed



the win in the 78th minute when Pessina dinked over an on-rushing David Ospina after a great team move. Atalanta will face Juventus in the final on May 19, after the Bianconeri saw off Inter Milan on Tuesday. **-AFP**

Tokyo Olympics boss Mori to resign over controversial sexist remarks

TOKYO: Tokyo Olympics chief Yoshiro Mori is to resign after he sparked outrage in Japan and abroad by claiming that women talk too much in meetings, reports said Thursday. The decision comes after a barrage of criticism from politicians to sports stars, and is the latest headache for organisers as they battle public disquiet over plans to hold the Games this summer despite the pandemic. Multiple Japanese media outlets, citing anonymous sources, said the 83-year-old has told officials he wishes to step down and will announce his resignation at a meeting of Games organ-



isers on Friday. His most likely successor is Saburo Kawabuchi, an 84-year-old long-time sports administrator, local media reported. **-AFP**

We made more mistakes than chances: Jose

ENGLISH FA CUP FIFTH ROUND RESULTS:

Swansea	1-3 Manchester City
Leicester	1-0 Brighton
Sheffield United	1-0 Bristol City
Everton	5-4 Tottenham

Played Tuesday:

Burnley	0-2 Bournemouth
Manchester United	1-0 West Ham

Tottenham boss fumes after watching his side fall to Everton in nine-goal thriller, Man City cruise into FA Cup quarters

London, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

Everton upped the pressure on Jose Mourinho with a thrilling 5-4 victory over Tottenham after extra-time to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals, as Manchester City eased into the last eight by beating Swansea on Wednesday.

Tottenham face a daunting trip to City in the Premier League on Saturday and defeat after a drain-

ing 120 minutes was the last thing Mourinho wanted.

Spurs have lost four of their last five games and one of three chances to end the club's 13-year wait to win a trophy in cup competitions is now gone.

"Attacking football only wins matches when you don't make more defensive mistakes than you create," said Mourinho, who once described a 5-4 result as a "hockey score".

"It was the mouse and the cat. The mouse was our defensive mistakes and the cat was us playing very well, scoring goals, but it wasn't enough."

Mourinho's men made a bright start at Goodison Park as Davinson Sanchez headed them into the lead after just three minutes.

However, the defensive errors

that have cost Tottenham dear in recent months were in evidence as Everton struck three times in seven minutes just before half-time through Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Richardson and Gylfi Sigurdsson's penalty.

Erik Lamela reduced Spurs' deficit in first-half stoppage time before another rare goal for Sanchez made it 3-3.

Richardson then smashed home from a narrow angle to restore Everton's lead.

Mourinho had left Harry Kane on the bench from the start to ease his return from an ankle injury. But the England captain ended up playing for over an hour and met Son Heung-min's cross at the back post with bullet header seven minutes from time to send the game into extra-time. **-AFP**

Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (left) and Portuguese head coach Jose Mourinho react at the final whistle during their English FA Cup fifth round football match against Everton at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north west England on Wednesday night. AFP

Rakitic return haunts Barcelona as Sevilla win first leg of Copa del Rey semi-final

Madrid, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

A spectacular individual goal from Jules Kounde and a second-half strike from Ivan Rakitic (pictured) gave Sevilla a 2-0 win over FC Barcelona in the first leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal on Wednesday. Sevilla played an intelligent game against a rival missing several key players and was able to soak up pressure in attack.

Barca coach Ronald Koeman produced a surprise in his starting 11, using Junior Firpo as a right-back and moving Oscar Minguez into central defense. Both Pedro and Leo Messi, who has scored 37 goals against Sevilla, were back among the starters. Sevilla missed the injured Lucas Ocampos, who was replaced by recent signing Alejandro Gomez, while Ivan Rakitic lined up against his former club. Sevilla started slowly and Bono made a fine save when Messi was one on one with the Sevilla goalkeeper before the home side began to get into the game and defender Jules Kounde opened the scoring with a fine individual move that saw him slip the ball past Samuel Umtiti and beat Marc Andre Ter Stegen with a diagonal shot. Ter Stegen was back in action before half-

time with an excellent save to deny Sergio Escudero a second goal for Sevilla after the full back's long-range shot.

Barca looked to take a step forward at the start of the second half and Bono got down to save a shot from Messi from the edge of the area, before punching away a dangerous corner from Ousmane Dembele.

At the other end Youssef En-Nesyri got mixed up with his own feet when he had space to run into and Aleix Vidal failed to control a ball from the left when he had more time than he thought.

Barca pressed hard but left more space at the back and Rakitic netted Sevilla's second

of the game with just over five minutes left to play when he broke the off-side trap, kept his nerve and smashed the ball over Ter Stegen into the net. Messi had a free kick in the 90th minute to try and score a vital away goal, but Bono got down well to make the save. Barca needs to score three goals against a rival that has yet to concede in this season's Cup if they are to reach the final. Thursday sees Athletic Club Bilbao and Levante play the first leg of their semifinal. **-Xinhua**



Gor seek solace in Confed Cup against Napsa Stars of Zambia

Nairobi, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenyan Premier League champions Gor Mahia FC are on the hunt for redemption after an embarrassing 8-1 mauling on aggregate by Algerian side CR Belouizdad on their last continental outing in the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Champions League.

The heavy two-legged defeat in the first round of the competition in January cost them a ticket to the lucrative group stages of the Champions League, but Gor landed a continental football lifeline after

being relegated to the playoffs of the second tier Confederations Cup. New Brazilian head coach Carlos Manuel Vaz Pinto is confident the team will qualify for the group stages of the Confed Cup and repeat the deep run from two seasons ago where the club sailed to the quarterfinals in the 2018-19 campaign. "This is our goal to reach the group stages. It is important to not only Gor Mahia but to Kenya and of course, all the players dream of playing at this stage. It gives them a different image outside the country but the most important for Gor is to get better CAF rankings," Pinto said.

The Zambian side is scheduled to arrive in Nairobi on Wednesday with the CAF appointing Ugandan William Oloya as the center referee for the first leg on Sunday. Oloya will be assisted by his compatriots Lee Okello (first assistant referee), Isa Masembe (second assistant referee), and Chelangat Ali Sabila (fourth official). Alexis Redemptus Nshimiimana from Rwanda will serve as the Match Commissioner while Wycliffe Makanga, who doubles up as the Kenya national football team Harambee Stars' team doctor, will serve as the Covid-19 Officer.



Gor Mahia captain Kenneth Muguna during a past training session. PD/ ALEX NJUE



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Kaizer Chiefs' Anthony Akumu (right) vies for the ball against Cole Alexander of Bidvest Wits during a recent South Africa Premier League. PD/ FILE

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FIXTURES:

*Today:	
V Club (COD)	vs Simba (TAN) 10pm
Zamalek (EGY)	vs Mouloudia Alger (ALG) 10pm
*Saturday:	
TP Mazembe (COD)	vs CR Belouizdad (ALG) 4pm
Esperance (TUN)	vs Teungueth (SEN) 4pm
M. Sundowns (RSA)	vs Al Hilal (SUD) 7pm
Horoya (GUI)	vs Petro Atletico (ANG) 7pm
W. Casablanca (MAR)	vs Kaizer Chiefs (RSA) 10pm
*Tuesday:	
Al Ahly (EGY, holders)	vs Al Merrikh (SUD) 10pm

Top fixtures lined up in CAF Champs League

Akumu's struggling Kaizer Chiefs face baptism by fire in Casablanca, Morocco

Johannesburg, Thursday
@PeopleDailyKe

Coach Gavin Hunt must have hoped South African strugglers Kaizer Chiefs could have a gentler introduction to the CAF Champions League group stage than facing Wydad Casablanca in Morocco on Saturday.

In the past five seasons, Wydad have won the marquee African club competition and also been runners-up once,

semi-finalists twice and quarter-finalists once.

Under vastly experienced local Hunt, the most decorated club in South Africa have won only five of 19 matches in domestic competitions this season and scored less than a goal per game.

Chiefs have reserved their best performances for journeys into Africa, defeating PWD Bamenda in Cameroon and 2018 semi-finalists Primeiro Agosto in Angola to reach the group stage for the first time.

Here, AFP Sport looks at the seven matchday one fixtures on Friday and Saturday, with defending champions Al

Ahly of Egypt beginning their Group A schedule only on Tuesday due to FIFA Club World Cup commitments.

Group A

Simba of Tanzania will play V Club of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa with an understandable degree of trepidation having suffered a 5-0 hiding there when the clubs clashed two years ago.

V Club comfortably disposed of Young Buffaloes from eSwatini in their only two-leg qualifier while Simba upset Plateau United of Nigeria, then buried Platinum of Zimbabwe under a late second-leg goal rush.

Assuming they suffer no after-effects from three Club World Cup matches in eight days, Ahly should be too strong for Sudanese visitors Al Merrikh, provided they shackle five-goal Seifeldin Malik.

Group B

CR Belouizdad boast the most impressive qualifying record this season among the 16 title contenders with four wins, a 12-1 goal tally and a midfielder with a fondness for goals in Amir Sayoud.

But after home and away victories over Al Nasr of Libya and Gor Mahia of Kenya comes a much tougher test against five-time champions TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Lubumbashi.

After five straight CAF campaigns un-

der coach Pitso Mosimane, who joined Al Ahly last September, Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa host Al Hilal of Sudan with Manqoba Mngqithi and Rhulani Mokoena at the helm.

Group C

Wydad can call on forward Ayoub el Kaabi, who last weekend captained Morocco to a second successive African Nations Championship title when they overcame Mali 2-0 in the final.

Yahya Jabrane was another starter in Cameroon from Wydad and fellow midfielder Walid el Karti came off the bench to swell the representation from the club who conquered Africa in 2017.

The Moroccans will be favourites against Chiefs and the biggest challenge is likely to come from Horoya of Guinea, whose star midfielder Morlaye Sylla could play a key role in defeating Angolan visitors Petro Atletico.

Group D

Little-known Senegalese outfit Teungueth are in a similar situation to Kaizer Chiefs -- debuting in the group stage away to powerful north African opponents.

Teungueth face four-time champions Esperance of Tunisia having caused the shock of the two qualifying rounds by eliminating Raja Casablanca of Morocco in a penalty shootout after two goalless draws.

-AFP

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