

Jubilee Kiambaa fallout intensifies

Newly-elected MP for Kiambaa constituency Njuguna Wanjiku reacts to his supporters moments after he was declared the winner. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



ON THE SPOT



DAVID MURATHE



RAPHAEL TUJU



ADAN KEYNAN



KANINI KEWA

Page 2 Secretary General Tuju forced to fight off claims that he and the party's vice-chairman David Murathe bungled last week's by-election

700,000
EU jabs
to boost
Covid war



Covid-19 vaccine
taskforce chair Willis
Akhwele.

Ruto, Raila
trade fresh
barbs over
BBI push

DP says time not ripe to change the Constitution but former PM tells him he wants to maintain status quo because he is reaping from it

Village loses 13 in tanker tragedy

Disaster at night:

All the victims who were siphoning fuel from accident truck at Malanga trading centre on Kisumu-Busia highway on Saturday night knew one another

PAGE 5



James Omollo, who was injured in the Malanga fuel tanker tragedy, speaks from his hospital bed in Yala sub-county hospital LEFT Villagers mingle around the charred remains of a lorry involved in the fire accident. PD/VIOLA KOSOME

POINTERS



NEWS BEAT PAGE 14

Why it's a tough time for Kenyan corporate sector



OPINION PAGE 10

Balancing act dilemma in Uhuru succession politics

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	23°	Nyeri	19°
Mombasa	28°	Kitui	27°
Kisumu	28°	Wajir	33°

Storm in Jubilee over Kiambaa mini-poll loss

Party calls a crisis meeting of its officials to chart the way forward as top leaders deny bungling by-election

■ by Clement Kamau
@PeopleDailyKe

The fallout in the Jubilee Party over its defeat in the Kiambaa by-election widened at the weekend with Secretary General Raphael Tuju forced to fight off claims that he and vice-chairman David Murathe bungled the poll.

The election, which was billed as a face-off between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto, saw Njuguna Wanjiku of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) beat Jubilee's Kariri Njama with a margin of 510 votes. Wanjiku garnered 21,773 votes against Njama's 21,263.

Tuju yesterday laughed off claims that he and Murathe were the cause of Thursday's defeat, saying they campaigned as a party and no individual should be blamed.

"I have heard some people saying that we were responsible. I am only a secretary general and an employee of the party. Some of the high-ranking members who are saying that are my bosses. It will be impolite for me to respond to their claims," he told People Daily yesterday.

Some Jubilee MPs led by Kanini Kega (Kieni) have pointed an accusing finger at the two, whom they accused of failing to lead from the front.

The MP said they had given the two a one-week ultimatum to resign from their positions voluntarily or risk being evicted from office. "We never saw them on the ground during the campaign period. For us to move forward as a strong party, they have to quit so that we can inject new blood of leadership," he said.

Back to drawing board

Murathe has defended himself against the accusations and challenged individuals who, he said, were given campaign money to explain how it was utilised. There have been murmurs that some Jubilee leaders pocketed cash that was meant for the campaigns.

"Those who bungled the Kiambaa by-election must account for the money we gave them for the election campaigns," Murathe said. Tuju could not be drawn into the demand for his resignation but sources in the party said him and Murathe had resolved to stay put.

The UDA victory has pushed Jubilee back to the drawing board, with the party calling a crisis meeting of its top officials on Wednesday to take stock after the Kiambaa outcome.

Highlighting the increasing disquiet in the party, a high-ranking Jubilee MP in the National Assembly yesterday asked President Kenyatta to dissolve his government



Kiambaa's Jubilee candidate Kariri Njama accompanied by other party members and supporters during the campaigns in Gachie last week. He lost to Njuguna Wanjiku of United Democratic Alliance in the hotly contested race. PD/FILE

following the deep divisions in the party.

Jubilee parliamentary secretary and Eldas MP Adan Keynan acknowledged that the party had been shaken and blamed the situation on "technocrats who know nothing about politics".

In a statement, Keynan asked Uhuru to dissolve the government and vet his advisers. "Time has come for none other than the President to act and decisively so by shaking up his inner circle. In doing so, he must go for nothing less than loyalty and appreciate the strategic role politics plays in actualisation of policy decisions," he said.

Immediate former National Assembly Majority Leader Aden Duale has claimed that the Jubilee party has serious structural problems. He said UDA party would be the party to watch come 2022 General Election.

Jubilee is our party and we have realised that it has serious structural problems. The party is sick structurally. Some of the key organs of the party have failed and it's no longer a secret," he said.

Addressing the press at his Garissa residence on Saturday, Duale said despite the defects, "we still command the highest number of members both in the Senate and National Assembly".

On the Kiambaa by-election, Duale said the polls "was just a warm up of the real

POOR SHOW

- **Njuguna Wanjiku of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) won the Kiambaa parliamentary seat in Thursdays by-election.**
- **The Deputy President's party and its affiliates have won six out of eight by-elections held recently.**

battle come 2022". With only 13 months before the 2022 General Election, the UDA win in the Central Kenya region has triggered debate on whether the victory was a dress rehearsal for the upcoming polls. It is worth noting that Ruto's party and its affiliates have won six out of eight by-elections held recently.

Gaining traction

The party has won in Juja and Kiambaa constituencies both in Kiambaa county, Gaturi ward in Murang'a county, Lake View in Naivasha, London ward in Nakuru County and Ruirii in Nyandarua while Jubilee secured wins in Hells Gate in Naivasha and Muguga ward.

Mathira MP Nderitu Gachagua, a staunch Ruto supporter, said the Kiambaa by-election was a titanic battle for both UDA and Jubilee, adding that its outcome was a demonstration that the new party was gaining traction in the region.

"We have made a conscious decision to join UDA in droves and we no longer subscribe to Jubilee ideologies. For the avoidance of doubt, we are not interested in the affairs of the Jubilee government because our eyes are focused on the 2022 polls," he said.

His Kiharu counterpart Ndindi Nyoro said Ruto-affiliated MPs from Mt Kenya had moved on.

"Majority of Jubilee legislators are now wearing yellow. An egg's yolk (yellow) is what matters and we have left them with the shell to rebrand," said the MP. Yellow is the UDA brand colour.

Senator Irungu Kang'ata said UDA holds the future of the country and advised those who want to be politically relevant in future to join the same. "UDA is the hustlers movement party, which seeks to address the plight of the mostly ignored and down-trodden common man and it's unstoppable," he said.



Ministry provides 192 technical schools with modern equipment

■ by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The Ministry of Education has provided state-of-the-art equipment to 192 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Tvet) institutions, accounting to a total investment of about Sh26 billion since 2013.

Tvet Principal Secretary Margaret Mwakima (pictured) said the government is working to equip young people with employability skills, to match the industries and societal needs.

She said the ministry has been working to ensure access of skills through expansion of TVET institutions in every constituency.

"We now have 238 Tvet institutions across the country compared to 52 in 2013. Some 192 training institutions have been provided with state-of-the-art equipment investment of Sh26 billion since 2013 and learners

provided with capitation, where each student receives Sh30,000 per year," said Mwakima, on the celebration of World Youth Skill Day.

The PS also said that the ministry has recruited over 3,000 trainers and to ensure access to training programs for the youth.

Mwakima said there are now nine national polytechnics and the Ministry plans to elevate another 12, which will bring the total number of polytechnics to 21.

She said the government has undertaken a broad range of innovative activities to ensure the youth acquire information and skills relevant to the labour market.

She explained that demographic dividends can be realized if the youths who constitute the largest group of the population are empowered to be productive and contribute to the growth of the economy.

BRIEFLY

Chebukati refutes IEBC server hacking claims

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) Chairman Wafula Chebukati has refuted claims that the electronic voter registration system has been hacked. Chebukati said yesterday that what's being cited as hacked is information lawfully requested from his office. "What is being reported in the media is not data obtained through hacking of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system but possibly from entities that may have legitimately obtained it from the IEBC through formal

request," Chebukati posted on the Commission's website last evening. This was after it was claimed in the mainstream and social media that an unknown person had hacked into the BVR system.

He said IEBC invests heavily in security of its information assets adding that the BVR system has been designed to have its own isolated network, set of servers as well as user account directory to ensure integrity, confidentiality and high availability.

—George Kebaso

With Kirungustu Jnr.

@KirungustuJ



Men and women, are they different?

Despite the visible physical differences, there are people today who insist that male and female are totally the same. But are they?



Cellulite is a female problem

Cellulite is the dimpling of the skin, especially on hips, buttocks and thighs, a problem that doesn't afflict men. And this is due to the different ratio of muscle, fat and connective tissue in the male and female bodies. Generally, men are born with more developed muscles, and their skin contains more collagen which helps it maintain its elasticity.

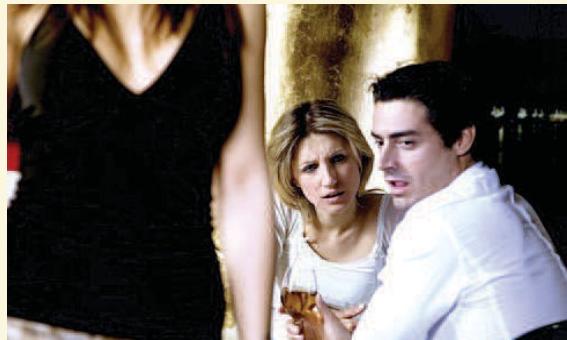
Men suffer more from abdominal fat

Yes, the curse of the 'katambi'. Men are more likely to suffer from abdominal fat because their bodies don't accumulate fat under the skin as women's bodies do. Instead, the fat is stored between the internal organs in the abdominal area. A fatty belly is more dangerous and increases the risk of premature death, one of reasons women live longer.



Men sweat more

Men's bodies contain 1.5 times more sebaceous and sweat glands than women's bodies do. This is why men's bodies tend to be oilier than women's, and they tend to suffer more from sweat stains on clothes.



Easier for dudes to focus on moving

Men see objects in motion much better than stationary objects, probably because they were hunters in the past and used to follow prey. Today it makes men notice and be more attracted to women dancing – or walking along the road – as opposed to the one sitting in front of them – or on the passenger seat.



Boys have weaker immunity

Remember that high testosterone levels things? Well, it happens to harbour an anti-inflammatory effect which is bad for immunity. How testosterone achieves this dubious feat is by strengthening the genes that reduce inflamma-

tion, so the body tends to produce fewer antibodies for diseases that attack it. Men's immune system ends up being weaker making them more likely to contract infectious diseases. Women, on the other hand, develop more antibodies for disease,



It is easier for men to sleep at night

And it's all down to the level of electrical activity in the brains. When men click the 'shut down' button at night, their brains decrease the electrical activity by 70 per cent. Women, on the other hand, barely get it hibernation mode

as their brains lower the pulses by only 10 per cent. The reason for this apparently goes back to our hunting days. While men would get a good rest when they returned from a hunt, women took care of the home and children, which happens to

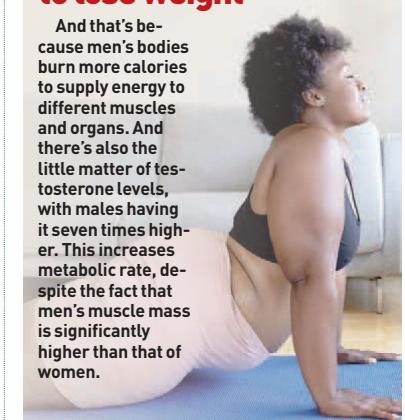
The female body is way more sophisticated

The sons of Adam are pretty basic creatures genetically. Let's explain. Women have two X chromosomes while men have an X chromosome and a Y chromosome. An X chromosome contains between 900 and 1,200 genes, while the Y chromosome has only 78 genes. So, biologically, the bodies of men are much less complex than women.



It is harder for women to lose weight

And that's because men's bodies burn more calories to supply energy to different muscles and organs. And there's also the little matter of testosterone levels, with males having it seven times higher. This increases metabolic rate, despite the fact that men's muscle mass is significantly higher than that of women.



Ruto, Raila trade barbs over bid to rewrite Constitution

DP says changes not a priority but former PM tells him he prefers status quo because it benefits him

■ by Munira Mandano and Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

Deputy President William Ruto and Opposition leader Raila Odinga yesterday renewed their political rivalry when they clashed over the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI).

While Raila insisted that the BBI process would solve the myriad problems bedeviling the country, Ruto maintained that the push to change the Constitution was not a priority.

Raila, who spoke in Chitengerwa village in Matuga constituency, Kwale County during the burial of Mzee Hassan Chitembe Bundu, hit out at leaders who opposed to the BBI process as selfish and liars.

Raila said the lies being peddled around by anti-BBI crusaders were aimed at serving their selfish interests and not the people's.

In a veiled reference to Ruto, the ODM leader said opponents of the 2010 Constitution were the same ones currently misleading the country lying that the BBI was proposing the creation of positions for individuals.

"We sat at the Bomas for over one year as your representatives. We held discussions and came up with a report," he said.

"The issue of positions in the Executive is contained in the Bomas draft and was just lifted and put in the BBI recommendations, it is in black and white," he said.

Raila scoffed at critics of the BBI process accusing them of opposing the allocation of more resources to the counties from the current 15 per cent to 35 per cent to enhance service delivery to the people adding that they only want the money to remain in Nairobi so that they can loot it.

"They are not interested in services reaching you, they want the money to be controlled in Nairobi for them to loot like they have been doing," he said.

The ODM leader said there are many proposals in the BBI report aimed at benefiting mwananchi, "but since they know they will not have anywhere to steal from, they want to oppose it and peddle lies to you" he said and urged Kenyans to stop listening to them.

But speaking in Lunga Lunga constitu-



Deputy President William Ruto addresses wananchi in Ukunda, Msambweni, Kwale County yesterday.
PD/JONAH MWANGI/DPPS



ODM leader Raila Odinga in Matuga, Kwale County during the burial of Hassan Chitembe Bundu.
PD/COURTESY

ency in the same county, Ruto insisted there was no need to change the constitution.

He said that the country's priority at the moment should be to fix the economy and not to change the Constitution in order to create positions for a few individuals.

Cost of living

The DP said his competitors had "wasted" four years trying to change the Constitution in a bid to create political positions instead of coming up with strategies on how to empower low-income earners who are the majority in the country.

Ruto, who was presiding over a funds drive in the constituency, said his 2022 agenda is to assist the low-income earners through the bottom up approach to the economy.

"They have been going around the country for four years doing a process that the court has said was illegal, unconstitutional, null and void. Why are they insisting on changing the Constitution for their own interest yet the mwananchi is suffering?" Ruto asked.

He said the suffering is due to the high cost of living yet leaders were busy focusing

● ODM leader Raila Odinga said there were many proposals in the BBI report that are aimed at benefiting mwananchi.

● But Deputy President William Ruto said the priority should be to fix the economy and not change the Constitution to create positions for a few individuals.

on constitution change.

"Today the price of fuel is high, gas is expensive, when the two products are high definitely unga will be expensive, fares will be high and all this will affect the hustlers," he said.

But Raila denied that the plan to change the Constitution was aimed at creating political positions but rather to bring development and urged Kenyans to ignore politicians peddling the narrative.

Rights champion

"Sisi tunasema tunataka kuzidisha mgao wa fedha kuto ka asilimia kumi na tano ifike thelathini na tano ya pesa mashinani, manake pesa inakuja mashinani ni kidogo sana inabaki ya kulipa mishahara, katika BBI tunataka kuongeza pia constituency, hiyo ni mbaya au nzuri? (We want to increase the county allocation from the current 15 per cent to 35 percent so that more money can come to the grassroots, because the money allocated to counties is insufficient. We also want to increase the constituencies so that we can have more representation, is that okay?) he posed.

Raila praised the late Chitembe who died on Saturday after a long illness as a brave man who stood for the rights of the people. "I knew him many years ago. In the struggle for political pluralism, he was at the forefront and championed the rights of the Coast people," he said.

He eulogised Chitembe as a strong and loyal member of the ODM party saying that he will personally miss him.

In Lunga Lunga, Ruto urged Coast residents to support his 2022 presidential bid.

"We all saw what happened last week in Kiambaa where the hustler nation got the victory and that was an indication that Mt Kenya region has accepted this narrative because it is relevant to every Kenyan in this nation," Ruto said.

MP Onyonka fights clan tag in Kisii race

■ by Robert Ochoro
@PeopleDailyKe

As the 2022 General Election beckons, several gubernatorial aspirants in Kisii County are warming up to replace Governor James Ongwae who will exit after serving two terms.

Kitutu Chache South MP Richard Onyonka says he is best suited to replace Ongwae given his experience as an Assistant minister and legislator.

The MP who has served three terms uninterrupted, says he will present himself to the voters despite the fact that like Ongwae, he hails from Bogetutu clan.

"Clan factor will not be a determining factor. I have integrity, experience and I have served my people well for 15 years and voters will judge me based on that," Onyonka told People Daily yesterday.

The Ford Kenya Deputy Party leader is a son of former Cabinet Minister the late Zachary Onyonka.

However, the lawmaker, said aspirants can embrace negotiated democracy in sharing the county's top seats to foster harmony.

According to the MP there was nothing wrong with a politician going for seat previously held by a clansman.

"Kenyans elect leaders based on their manifestoes and development agenda and not clans or communities," Onyonka (below) stated, adding it is voters who determine who to elect.

David Omato, a strategic Management expert said there is likelihood for Bogetutu clan to settle for the post of deputy governor owing to clan politics which dominates the county's politics.

He said hopefuls from other clans from eight constituencies were likely to gang up to ensure that they elect a person outside Bogetutu clan.

"Other clans supported Ongwae and they expect Bogetutu leaders and voters to support hopefuls from other clans," Omato said.



ODM chief roots for locally manufactured goods, skills development

■ by Rawlings Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Opposition leader Raila Odinga yesterday released the third installment of what is seen as his 2022 election manifesto, this time pushing for locally manufactured goods under the Brand Kenya clarion.

Raila also pitched for home-grown skills that can be exported.

He said Kenya needs clear parallel education paths where those who wish to proceed to university after high school should be allowed to do

so while those who want to proceed to vocational training should also be encouraged to pursue their dreams.

Skilled labourers

"When did you last see a product with a label Made in Kenya? I have some ideas on how we can have many 'Made in Kenya' products in supermarket shelves and shops in a sustained manner that ensures home grown industrialisation."

Raila explained that nations that have industrialised started by paying attention to skilled laborers like

mechanics, tailors, carpenters, hair dressers and cooks before graduating to other high-tech aspects of industrialisation.

He said there was need to have both professional and technical skills if the country is to develop.

In a post on his social media accounts on Sunday, the ODM leader

2022

The year Kenya's next General Election will be held. Raila Odinga is widely expected to run for president again

highlighted his plans for the youth with skills development topping his list.

According to Raila, Kenya needs to start sending youths to World Skills Competition.

"We need a permanent central Human Resources Development body dedicated to identifying skilled youths, organising domestic skills competitions, picking the best performers, organising training camps and sending them out to compete with the world at the 'Skills Olympics,'" he said.

The opposition chief who has not publicly declared that he will run for president again in next year's election, said that the body would keep a data bank on the skilled youth, source support and ensure that skills and passions are turned into professions, industries and jobs for the nation.

"The body will establish a tradition of apprenticeship training to help skilled youth keep updating their skills in line with changing times," he said.



A member of the public stares at the charred remains of a lorry involved in the accident that led to the inferno that left 13 people dead in Malanga, Gem on Saturday night. PD/VIOLA KOSOME



Members of the public mingle around the charred remains of a lorry involved in the fuel tragedy. PD/VIOLA KOSOME

Village mourns as 13 die in tanker fire

Scores hospitalised with serious burns following accident in Malanga, along busy Kisumu-Busia road

■ by Eric Juma and Derek Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

At least 13 people died and scores of others injured after a petrol tanker they were siphoning fuel from burst into flames at Malanga trading centre on the Kisumu-Busia highway on Saturday night.

The neighbouring villages of Mutumbo, Lundha, Sirunga, Mwadi, Osodo and Nyabeda were sunk into mourning as the rescue mission slowly turned into a bodies recovery one.

Tens of the homes along the busy road reported casualties as the full impact of the accident emerged during the day.

Early Sunday, villagers reported finding bodies of dead people by the road side.

"This morning, we found several people on the plantations near the scene. I can confirm seeing four bodies. They were collected by police. Others had severe burns," Caroline Apandi told *People Daily*.

Her story was corroborated by other people from the neighbouring homes who reported losing relatives in the fire that also destroyed vegetation and other properties, including more than 20 boda boda motor-cycles.

Villagers who spoke to *People Daily*, said the fire started after the tanker, which had collided head-on with a truck ferrying milk from Busia to Kisumu, fell on an electricity pole.

The injured were rushed to the Yala sub-county hospital, the Siaya Referral Hospital and Inuka Medical centre. Majority of the dead were local villagers who had rushed to the scene of the accident to siphon fuel from the oil tanker.

The accident rekindled memories of the Sidindi fire tragedy barely 10km away from the scene of the Saturday night accident, which claimed 33 lives on July 13, 1998, when a fuel tanker they were siphoning fuel from also burst into flames.

Black spot

Dennis Odenyo, from Mwadi Village was among those who succumbed to the fierce fire as the slight bend along the Kisumu-Busia Road that is a blackspot, and a common scene for road accidents. It is not the first fatal accident at the spot.

"He was preparing to leave the country for Dubai. All he was waiting for were the confirmation papers. He had cleared with

the authorities and was ready to leave for a new job in Dubai," the mother Alice Nyakwenda told *People Daily*.

James Omollo, a boda boda operator at the Malanga Trading Centre, recounted to *People Daily* how he escaped death narrowly when the tanker burst into flames as he and fellow villagers siphoned the precious commodity.

Omollo said he was saved by a security guard manning a water kiosk who poured a jerrican of water on his burning body.

"I thank God for sparing my life," said Omolo who had already siphoned 20 litres from the tanker when all hell broke loose.

"I had already siphoned two jerricans of fuel and I was going back for the third one when the tanker suddenly burst into flames," Omollo stated as he nursed injuries at the Yala sub-district hospital.

He recounted how he watched helplessly as a woman and her baby, who was strapped on her back, burnt to death.

"It is so unfortunate that the police, instead of cordoning off the tanker to stop residents from siphoning the fuel, chose to guard the trailer, which was loaded with milk," he said.

Loud bang

Omollo said he was woken up by his children who reported that they had heard a loud bang. He called a neighbour who informed him that a tanker had overturned and villagers were siphoning fuel and he immediately rushed to the scene.

Duncan Oduor Ochieng, a Class Four pupil at Mutumbo Primary School, who suffered burns on both legs, said his mother Susan Auma asked them to go for the fuel.

"It is our mother who woke us up and gave us two jerricans to go and scoop



Members of the public at the scene of the accident that claimed 13 lives in Malanga on Kisumu/Busia Road on Saturday night. ERIC JUMA

fuel from a tanker that had overturned near Malanga Primary School," said Ochieng.

He stated that the fire left his mother with severe burns on the face and legs.

"The struggle only earned us the burns. The jerricans and the fuel we had scooped were consumed by the fire. If God was not on our side, we would have died in the fire," said Ochieng.

Hesbon Oduor, a Form Two student at Lundha Mixed Secondary School, who was undergoing treatment at Yala Sub-District Hospital, said he rose from his bed

at around 9.30pm when he heard a loud bang.

"I together with my two sisters left to find out what was happening and found people armed with jerricans, struggling to siphon fuel from the tanker. We rushed home, collected a jerrican and rushed back to the scene," said Oduor.

Oduor said his sisters stood at a distance as he struggled with others to siphon fuel before the tanker burst into flames.

"I suffered serious burns on my legs but I am lucky to be alive, not many people were lucky to survive," said Oduor.

TRAGEDY

● The accident rekindled memories of the Sidindi fire tragedy barely 10km away from the scene of the Saturday night accident, which claimed 33 lives on July 13, 1998

ARENA 254

HOSTED BY CRISS DA BASS

SATURDAY 10:00PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SHOW

KALI NI KALI WASHAIKUBALI

K24

700,000 more AstraZeneca doses expected from EU

The vaccines will reinforce ongoing second phase inoculation exercise that began in May

■ by George Kebaso
@Morarak

Kenya will shore up her AstraZeneca vaccine stocks towards the end of the week with a number of European countries, UK included, pledging to release thousands of doses to the country.

From the announcement, up to 700,000 doses could land by weekend to reinforce ongoing administration of the second dose of the vaccine.

However, it has not been formally confirmed which country is giving what number of doses with a senior official at the Ministry of Health choosing to keep the matter close to his chest.

"Let us wait until it is announced officially so that we can release the names of the countries donating to us," said the official who sought anonymity.

However, from other sources, Greece; Serbia and Spain are some of the countries willing to share their vaccine stocks.

In his daily Covid-19 report update yesterday, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said 582,391 people have already taken their second dose of the vaccine. Phase two of the immunisation programme started on May 28.

Adult population

Most of those who have taken their second dose are persons in the priority list.

"As of today, a total of 1,620,465 vaccines have so far been administered across the country. Of these, total first doses are 1,038,074 while second doses are 582,391," the CS said.

Uptake of the second dose among those who received their first is at 56 per cent with majority being males at 55 per cent while females stand at 45 per cent.

"The proportion of adults fully vaccinated is 2.1 per cent," he added.

At the same time, the CS yesterday announced that 15 patients had lost the battle to the disease. Three of the patients died in the last 24 hours while 12 are late deaths reported after conducting facility record audits in the month of May, June and July.

"This has pushed the cumulative fatalities to 3,775," he added.

The government is targeting to vaccinate 27,246,033 of the adult population.

Dr Willis Akhwale, chairman of the Vaccine Deployment Task Force said demand for the uptake of the second dose of AstraZeneca is increasing every day.



Dr Willis Akhwale, chairman of the Vaccine Deployment Task Force at a past event.
PD/JOHN OCHIENG

"About half of the people who were inoculated in the first phase have so far received their second jab. We are expecting coverage of vaccinations to go up to 70 per cent this coming week," he told People Daily in the weekend.

He said the government is banking on the arrival of the next consignment of vaccines from some European countries, hopefully by Saturday, to ramp up the vaccinations. This is clear from the vaccines the country has received so far, he noted.

Since March 3, the country has received 1,733,100 vaccine doses with 1,120,000 from the Serum Institute of India alone, an additional 72,000 from South Sudan while 258,700 were received from Denmark and 182,400 from France.

According to Dr Akhwale, so far, Nairobi is leading at 203,554 of all the adults vaccinated out of the targeted 3,052,494, an estimated 6.7 per cent.

"Nyeri is the second best at five per cent, followed by Uasin Gishu (3.9 per cent), Laikipia (3.2 per cent), Embu (2.4 per cent) and Kisumu at 2.2 per cent," he added.

Kakamega is at 2.2 per cent of the adult vaccination with 15 counties, most of them in the nomadic North Eastern, not doing well. In Baringo, for instance, there are 4,403 people, which translates to about 1.3 per cent, who have received

NOT YET CLEAR

● An official from the Ministry of Health yesterday said the country is yet to establish the quantity of vaccine to expect from each of the European nations that have pledged to donate AstraZeneca jab.

the second dose against a targeted population of 338,937.

Dr Akhwale further noted that it is not understandable why Bungoma has vaccinated only 7,009, which is about 0.8 per cent yet it has one of the highest adult targeted population of 843,735 persons. "I can't understand why they are not vaccinating," he said.

Priority groups

Concerning the priority groups, data shows that as at July 17, 50.9 per cent of healthcare workers, 24.7 per cent of teachers and 7.0 per cent of the population above 58 years have fully been vaccinated.

So far, 106,100 health workers out of the targeted population of 208,418 have received the jab.

"As at Saturday, 46,214 security officers had been vaccinated in the second phase with 81,578 teachers out of the targeted 330,671 being vaccinated. Those aged 58 years and above whom have received their second jab, are 181,225 out of 2,594, 585 of the total targeted population.

"While 165,874 others had been vaccinated by Saturday. So far 580,991 out of 3,133,674 targeted population of the priority groups, about 18.5 percent have been vaccinated," the report indicates.

Yesterday, Kagwe said 323 people tested positive from 3,676 tests conducted in the last 24 hours.

"This brings to total 192,758 confirmed positive cases from a cumulative tests of 2,053,912 so far conducted. Nairobi recorded 166 positive cases followed by Mombasa at 41 Kilifi (31) and Busia 24," he said.



Dr Meg Doherty. Director of HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes, WHO. PD/FILE

Report: Persons with HIV at higher Covid risk

■ by Mwangi Munyoro
@PeopleDailyKe

HIV infection significantly increases the risk of severe Covid-19 presentation at hospital admission and death, a new report by the World Health Organisation has warned.

Overall, 23.1 per cent of all people living with HIV, who were hospitalised with Covid-19, died. Clinical surveillance data

from 37 countries regarding the risk of Covid-19 outcomes in people living with HIV admitted to hospital was analysed.

It was established that the risk of developing severe or fatal Covid-19 was 30 per cent greater in persons with HIV than those that are free from the infection.

According to the report, underlying conditions such as diabetes and hypertension are common among persons living with HIV, further worsening their state.

Of importance is that people living with HIV – independent of their immune status – should be prioritised for vaccination. "The report will have important policy implications – providing data to confirm that HIV is a risk for poor outcomes from Covid-19 – and increases the urgency to see all People Living with HIV on treatment and with access to Covid vaccinations," said Dr Meg Doherty, Director of WHO's Global HIV, Hepatitis and STI Programmes.

BRIEFLY

Urgent vaccination of polio launched in Kajiado

Parents in Kajiado county have been urged to present their children for the second phase of vaccination against polio. The exercise that targets children under the age of five years was earlier launched in at least 13 high-risk countries to cover more than 3.4 million recipients. The second and final phase will run from July 17 to July 21. Speaking during the launch, Chief Executive in charge of Medical Services, Jacob Sampeke said the vaccination was necessitated after confirmation of six cases of polio virus in February from sewerage

-KNA

State to scale up health care at community level

The government will invest in more robust regional and national healthcare systems to facilitate easy and faster access to quality medical services at community level. Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said the Covid-19 pandemic had necessitated the shift in focus in the healthcare systems after the spread of the highly infectious disease exposed the fragility of even the most developed and powerful nations. This, he noted, "has opened our eyes to the opportunities that



will exist in a post-pandemic world". The CS was speaking at the Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital during a reception of Gruppo San Donato officials from Italy, who are in Kenya for a series of meetings to explore areas of collaboration with the government.

-KNA

Corona patients at risk due to oxygen shortage

With many Covid-19 patients facing oxygen needs, Kakamega County Referral Hospital is facing an acute shortage of life-saving medical oxygen putting the lives of patients at risk. Speaking yesterday, Health Executive Collins Matemba said Covid cases in the 13 locked counties are on the rise, and appealed to the govern-

ment to move swiftly and supply them with oxygen cylinders. "Due to the hike in Covid-19 numbers, it is my appeal to the government, through the Ministry of Health, to move with speed and supply oxygen cylinders to health facilities given mandate to handle Corona patients," he said.

-Tony Wafula

State unveils Sh200m mango processing factory in Tana River

■ by Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

Mango farmers in Hola, Tana River County have a reason to smile after the government commissioned a Sh200 million Hola integrated fruit processing factory in Galole constituency.

The factory was set up and will be operated by the Coast Development Authority (CDA) to provide a ready market for mango farmers in the county.

The plant, when fully operational, has the capacity to process 30 metric tonnes of mangoes a day and will require 30 regular workers and 2,250 mango collectors.

Addressing the media after commissioning the plant, Coast Regional Commissioner John Elungata said the factory will in the long run improve farmers' livelihoods and also create jobs for locals.

Elungata (pictured), who was accompanied by Tana River Governor Major (rtd) Dhadho Godhana, Galole



MP Said Buya Hiriba, CDA managing director Dr Mohamed Keinan, Tana River County Commissioner Mbogai Rioba among other national county government officials said mango farmers have lost thousands of shillings in the county because of lack of market for their produce.

Keinan disclosed plans are underway to upgrade the factory to a multi-fruit juice facility to include processing pineapples and other fruits grown in the region.

"I urge the local farmers to ensure

steady supply of raw materials," added.

Governor Godhana lauded the initiative saying the project falls in his development agenda of opening up cottage industries in cluster villages which are supposed to bolster the communities' economically.

The factory, he noted was in line with President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four Agenda namely food security, manufacturing and job creation, universal health and affordable housing.

Mudavadi lashes out at Ruto for running down economy

ANC leader pledges to revive economy by reducing taxes and corruption to improve living standards of common citizens

■ by Seth Mwaniki
@PeopleDailyKe

Amani National Congress (ANC) party leader Musalia Mudavadi has hit out at Deputy President William Ruto over the poor performance of the economy.

He said Ruto is part of the Jubilee administration that has failed to revive the economy making life unbearable for Kenyans because of increased cost of goods.

The former deputy premier asked Ruto to share in the failures of President Uhuru Kenyatta government where he is his deputy.

"In a kitchen set up, the chef is the head and he is assisted by a deputy chef. If the chef puts more salt on the food, the deputy should not run away from the bad food.... where was he when the chef was over salting the food?" posed the ANC leader yesterday.

Mudavadi was speaking at ACK St Peter's Cathedral Church Hall in Nyeri town in his first day of a two-day visit of the county, at ACK St Peter's Cathedral Church Hall, Nyeri town.

"Corruption has been the hallmark of this administration and it has made life very expensive. Now someone is telling you that he will fix the same economy he has been in the last eight years," he said.

Mudavadi said he was the first person to raise the red flag on the failing economy and even offered suggestion on what needed to be done.

"Everyone including those who were or are in government are now talking of how they will revive the economy, the same economy they have plundered," he said.

Lower taxes

He urged Nyeri residents to support his policy of building an economy that works for all without subjecting Kenyans to a culture of handouts.

"We want to build an economy that works for all and see unto it that Kenyans are not overtaxed. This can only be achieved through coming up with policies that uplift the common citizens," he said.

The former minister said his administration will work towards lowering taxes and ensure people have money in their pockets. The Nyeri visit comes barely two weeks after he toured Nakuru County where he was



Amani National Congress party leader Musalia Mudavadi (left) with Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Endarasha, Kieni constituency in Nyeri, yesterday. PD/JOSEPH KINGORI

IN HIS WORDS

● We cannot afford to run away from the challenges we are faced with. The cost of living is beyond the reach of many Kenyans.

● My promise is to work on lowering taxes which in the long run will put more money in peoples pockets and bring down the cost of basic goods. Lower income tax rates increase the spending power of consumers and can increase aggregate demand, leading to higher economic growth.

hosted by Governor Lee Kinyanjui. Earlier he had toured Nyandarua and his Kirinyaga counties.

Mudavadi said the reforms in the tea sector should be made to work and benefit all Kenyans and promised Nyeri people that his administration will ensure the agriculture economy of the region is supported and made to thrive again.

"Reforms in the tea sector should be supported and ensure they work for the benefit of all Kenyans. Coffee farming and even the vegetable sector must be supported through value addition and my government will ensure this is achieved and farmers are protected," he said.

Governor Kahiga welcomed the ANC leader, assuring him that the people of Nyeri and Central Kenya region at large will support a candidate who will help revive the dwindling economy of the region.

"We care more about our economy, especially our agriculture sector and looking at those interested in the presidency, we already know who that person is. Kenyans need a leader who embraces peace, his not controversial and is keen to unite all people and Mudavadi fits the bill," said the governor.

Kahiga maintained that Central region is yet to endorse any person for the presi-

dency but will walk with whoever will ensure peace prevails before, during and after the elections.

"We appreciate and love your leadership style. You are a humble person and a man of peace and that's what we need as a people of Nyeri. The people of Nyeri have no problem with you," he added.

Call for peace

And addressing faithful at PCEA Murigat Church, Abundant New Life Church and Sacred Heart Endarasha Catholic Church, Mudavadi urged the Church to hold politicians to account and advise the people on the kind of leaders they should elect in next year's general election.

"Our country is headed for transition from President Uhuru Kenyatta government to a new administration and all we need is peace for the economic prosperity of our country," said Mudavadi.

Accompanied by Kahiga and a host of MPs among them Jeremiah Kioni (Ndaraagwa), Kanini Kega (Kieni) and Senator Johnson Sakaja, he urged Nyeri residents to support his presidential bid based on his economic agenda for the country.

"We want to build an economy that works for all. We lower taxes and ensure people have money in their pockets," he said.

BRIEFLY

Lonyangapuo plea to county investors

West Pokot Governor John Lonyangapuo (pictured) has asked local and international firms to partner with the county to revitalise the Covid-19 hit economy. At the same time, the county chief has urged firms to invest in the county saying his government is ready to support projects that are geared to transforming lives of the residents. Speaking when he flagged off boda boda operators, who bought motorbikes after saving in West Pokot County Economic Sacco (Wepesa), he said the county has created an enabling business environment through digitisation of its services, elimination of unnecessary business licences and enactment of favorable laws. He asked residents to save money with the county sacco to benefit from low interest loans. County Trade development Executive Francis Kitelauyan said plans to add value to local produce are in top gear. - KNA



Boda boda rider dies in road crash

A 30-year-old boda boda rider died on Saturday after the motorbike he was riding on collided head on with a matatu in Homa Bay town. Steve Ouru succumbed to injuries sustained during the accident on Homa Bay-Rongo highway but his pillion passenger survived and is recovering at Homa Bay County Referral Hospital. Confirming the accident, Arujo sub-location assistant chief Jackton Olielo said the rider died on the spot after the accident. Concerned over the frequent accidents on Homa Bay-Rongo road, the administrator called on the relevant government agencies to consider erecting bumpers on black spots to reduce accidents. The body was taken to Homa Bay County Referral Hospital Morgue.

- KNA



REVITALISATION OF THE THIKA-NANYUKI RAILWAY LINE



Revived line boosts Mt. Kenya Region Economies



The Thika-Nanyuki Branch line is part of the Metre Gauge Railway (MGR) in Kenya. It has a direct route length of 177.2km. The Branch line was constructed in three phases, namely: Nairobi to Thika, completed in 1913; Thika to NaroMoru, completed in 1927; and NaroMoru to Nanyuki, completed in 1931. After being in a moribund state for 14 years, the line was refurbished in 2020. The MGR branch line is a single track developed for mixed traffic, i.e. freight and passenger services. It traverses six (6) counties, namely Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Nyeri and Laikipia. The stations along this line are Nairobi, Makadara, Dandora, Kahawa, Ruiru, Kalimoni, Thika, Mitubiri, Makuyu, Maragua, Murang'a, Sagana, Karatina, Kiganjo, Chaka, NaroMoru and Nanyuki.

Passenger Service

The passenger train has gained immense popularity with passengers travelling to Nanyuki and areas along the route. The train, dubbed the Safari Train, departs Nairobi on Fridays and returns on Sunday. It has First Class and Economy coaches.

Freight Service

The Thika-Nanyuki MGR freight train transports variety of cargo, including the following:

- Petroleum products from Mombasa to Nanyuki: Vivo Kenya has a fuel depot in Nanyuki, with a storage capacity of 11.5 million litres.
- Construction materials such as cement from Bamburi Nairobi Grinding Plant in Athi River to Sagana; Steel by Tropical Sky Limited and Blue Sky Limited to Thika; stones and other hardware goods to Sagana, Karatina and Nanyuki.
- General consumer goods such as sugar, household goods, crops and animal inputs from small and medium-sized enterprises based in Nairobi and Thika to Sagana, Karatina and Nanyuki.
- Agricultural inputs such as planting

seeds, animal feeds and fertilizer consigned by Kenya National Trading Corporation (KNTC) and Kenya Farmers Association (KFA).

- Imported factory materials by KEL Chemicals to Thika, following the rehabilitation of their rail siding.
- Imported and local wheat, maize to millers in Thika, Sagana, Kiganjo, Nanyuki.

- Reorganisation and rationalisation of production, distribution and location of activities.
- Stimulating the inflow of new production investments.
- Enabling the development of new types of activities.
- Improvement in the spread of knowledge and innovation.

In the down-direction, the train transports

- Cattle from ranches to the revived Kenya Meat Commission, Nairobi slaughter houses and for export market.
- Agricultural produce from Delmonte for export market.

Economic Gains

The investment and subsequent provision of passenger and freight operations along the Thika-Nanyuki corridor generates the following gains:

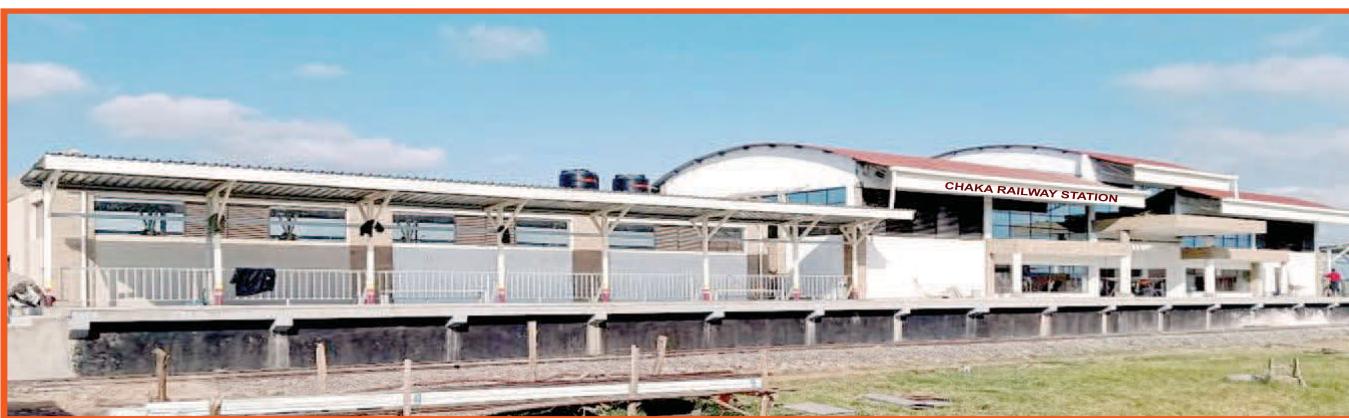
- Offers affordable, safe and reliable mode of transport for passengers.
- Increased efficiency of production, lowering the cost of doing business.

Value Proposition

The Thika-Nanyuki freight service offers the following value:

- Seamless connectivity: The integration of the Nairobi-Nanyuki line route with the rest of the MGR/SGR networks.
- Operational reliability of the service: The service frequency, adherence to scheduled transit time.
- Security for consignments against pilferage and damage.
- Convenience and efficiency of loading/unloading facilities at rail freight terminals.
- Availability of a convenient delivery service through provision of rail sidings to the final destination (i.e. door-door delivery service).
- Availability of logistics hubs along the corridor.

CHAKA RAILWAY STATION

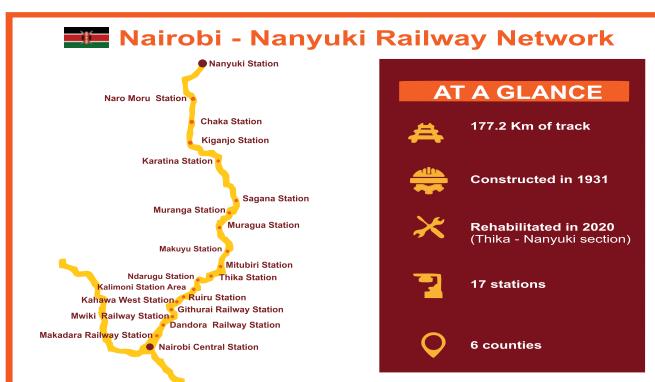


INTRODUCTION

Chaka is a growing township on the junction of Nairobi-Nanyuki Highway (A2), Chaka (Sagana State lodge) Rd and Chaka-Mweiga Rd. The township is a strategic trading centre envisioned to greatly contribute to the socio economic growth of Nyeri County. The Chaka Railway Station was constructed to serve the township, offering both passenger and cargo transport. Other railway stations within the vicinity of this station are Kiganjo and Naro Moru Railway Stations.

STATION LOCATION

The station is located in Nyeri County, Kieni Constituency.



The new railway station is strategically positioned to facilitate trade including serving the newly constructed Chaka Market which is earmarked to be an industrial hub to serve not only Nyeri county but the entire Mt Kenya region.



Station platform



Access road and Parking Lot



Chaka Market



Restaurant building

PROJECT BENEFITS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Passenger train services ✓ Freight Services ✓ Employment opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opening up of the Region ✓ Decongestion of roads ✓ Reduction in road maintenance costs |
|--|--|

B EDITORIAL

A PUBLICATION OF MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED

KEN NGARUYA:
Group Chief Executive Officer

ERIC OBINO:
Group Editor-in-Chief, Print

People Daily is published by MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED at DSM Place, Kijabe Street, P.O. Box 24943, 00100 - Nairobi,

Tel: 0730144100; 0709824000; 0204944100

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

Copyright 2021

Siphoning fuel a cheap way to die

Saturday night's fuel tragedy that left at least 13 people dead in Siaya county could have been avoided. Villagers, hoping to make a killing from an accident, are now burying their dead relatives and footing hefty hospital bills.

A fuel tanker collided with a milk lorry and the tanker overturned. Mothers woke up their children, jerricans in hand, to rush to the scene and siphon fuel they would later sell. Some had their tots strapped on their backs as they scrambled for the fuel. Unknown to them was that the truck had hit an electricity pole and it is suspected that was the cause of the fire.

By yesterday evening 20 people were fighting for their lives in different hospitals.

It is not the first time such a tragedy has befallen the country. Barely 10km from Saturday's accident scene at a place called Sidindi, 33 people died trying to siphon fuel from an overturned tanker on July 13, 1998.

Scores were injured, some with lifelong injuries. On January 31, 2009, the nation was engulfed in mourning when 113 people died from a fuel truck fire incident in Sachangwan, many others were seriously injured. The fire was so bad that many of those who died were burnt beyond recognition. It does not have to be this way every time an oil tanker has an accident. Chances of such deaths and injuries are almost obvious.

Survivors of Saturday's tragedy blamed the police for not cordoning off the scene of the accident. This is lame and irresponsible. The young men who hauled jerricans from their houses to siphon fuel should not have done that.

The mother who woke up her children to rush to the scene to scoop some fuel is to blame. The old men who couldn't resist the allure of quick money are responsible for the deaths and injuries. Safety is personal. Had the villagers kept off, their lives would be normal. The price they paid can't be quantified. How much were they going to sell the fuel for? The risk involved compared to the return is unimaginable.

Whereas police and other law enforcement agencies ought to have moved with speed and secured the area, they are not to blame for the irrational behaviour of the villagers.

It should be a lesson, albeit a painful one, to all Kenyans to stay away from fuel tankers. Losing life or suffering such injuries because of foolishness should stop.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

KAILIN GOW

A lifetime of building an empire can fall in a day, because of the wrong successor to the empire.

QUOTED TODAY



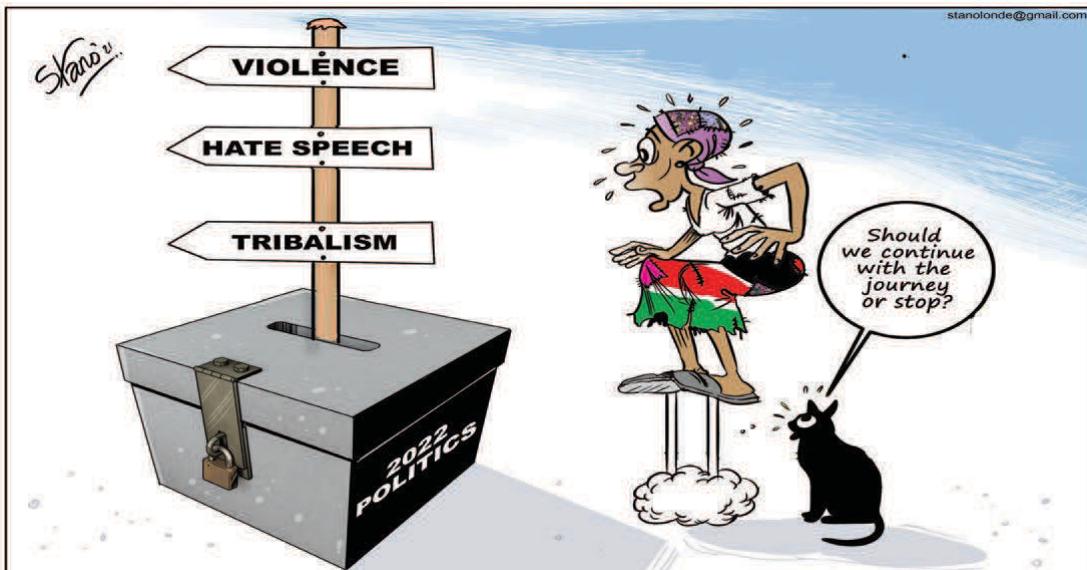
For me Nasa is a thing of the past. I am looking forward to forging alliances with other leaders especially from Mt Kenya region with a view of building a strong alliance that will unite the country.
ANC LEADER
MUSALIA MUDAVADI



The international community should work together with other countries, in ensuring that Covid-19 vaccines are available to all, so as to hasten universal economic recovery.
FOREIGN AFFAIRS CS
RAYCHELLE OMOMO



Mental health has significant social and economic implications in terms of population well-being and productivity. It is thus a major public health priority that requires key strategic intervention.
HEALTH CS MUTAHI KAGWE



Balancing act dilemma in Uhuru succession politics



HESBON OWILLA

It is also unlikely that Raila will get into a negotiating table with hard stance former allies.

ing political utterances to would be sympathisers in Raila's strongholds.

Granted, politicians eat their own words without constipation as Winston Churchill once said, but you replay Mudavadi and Kalonzo's clips talking about Raila in the last few months, and you realise that they have spewed words that would certainly cause some stomach upsets.

To situate the OKA scenario, these are the likely outcomes: Raila supporting OKA which will be a hard sell and unlikely to replicate the 2002 scenario given that none of the three Nasa principals in OKA has any serious national political gravitas. Two is President Uhuru supporting OKA – a scenario that will cause political shockwaves, but only if the President convinces Raila to support one of the four OKA leaders. Well, even if he wanted, the President would not want to lower himself to the level of meddling and pushing any definitive decision.

It is also unlikely that Raila will get into a negotiating table with hard stance former

allies, who come with fairly modest national clout in terms of voting blocks and agree to play second fiddle when everything seems to be falling in place for him.

That is almost impossible and two factors further underscore the impossibility. One, Raila has been a big factor in President Uhuru's second term stellar service delivery to the public and he knows that with the President behind him, he is likely to finally stroll to State House. He will unleash all his political wits to put at least three of the four OKA luminaries on his side and all will be set.

Number two; for these four luminaries the other option will be joining Ruto and fitting within a pecking order, that may even lower their status further given the many lieutenants that have been with the DP since 2013.

Other than Bungoma Senator Wetangula and Baringo's Gideon Moi, the other two also have to decide whether they want to go the next 10 years in the political cold and possibly oblivion or be part of the next government.

Simply put, for Mudavadi and Kalonzo Musyoka, there are three choices: Support Baba, join the Chief Hustler or go it alone. The last two options are like giving a thirsty man the options of either drinking ocean water or remain thirsty.

Hard choices indeed. Nevertheless, the winning coalition is likely to be built on continuity with grand development agenda that we have witnessed in the President's second term as the anchor.

— hesbonhansen@gmail.com

Magoha should support universities reform efforts

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has launched a radical transformation process. As other public universities dither at the banks of the creek, UoN vice-chancellor Prof Gitahi Kiama has taken the plunge.

UoN is instituting radical measures to reorganise itself and make it much leaner in a bid to eliminate duplication, cut costs and improve governance. Prof. Kiama appreciated very quickly that public universities in Kenya either undertake drastic reforms or they perish. He has been in office for barely a year.

Universities have atrophied in Kenya and have become dinosaurs, little more than glorified high schools where students continue the rote learning of their formative years in primary and secondary school that's only geared towards passing exams. They then come to swell the number of unemployed graduates. Little research or academic scholarship is going on. Something must give.

The brick and mortar model universities have been running on is now exhausted. Universities have been on a spree of building physical infrastructure and expanding student numbers. Consequently, their staff numbers have grown, making universities unwieldy, and using up

GATHU KAARA

Universities in Kenya have become dinosaurs, little more than glorified high schools

most of their resources on salaries and contractors. No money is left for the core business of universities - research, publishing and scholarship.

There's a new crisis. Out of the 144,000 students who qualified to go to university in 2021, a whopping 20,000 have chosen Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) institutions instead. University education in Kenya has become so degraded that the youth are shunning it. Something is very broken in the system. Those numbers represent a whole year's intake for several public and private universities.

Given this grim situation, one would have expected that the Ministry of Education would be the biggest champion of universities that have decided to bite the bullet to reverse the rot. Instead, Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha has opted to become the biggest stumbling block. In one stroke of a pen, he has halted these reforms.

Communication, consultation and engagement should be the

hallmarks of scholars. Legalese and long-winded letters do not fall under such category. High-handed and authoritarian models of communication are unbecoming of academics and intellectuals.

Prof. Kiama has not made a secret of his reforms. He has been all over explaining himself, and undertaken internal consultations before adoption of the reforms by the University Council. The Ministry cannot just wake up one morning when rollout of the reforms are in full swing, and take a sledgehammer to them. One could open themselves to accusations of being capricious, or worse.

Magoha needs to become the key change agent in universities and give full backing to reforms. He must put in place an environment that will be supportive of vice chancellors who embark on what is going to be a very difficult and painful task.

Universities do not have time. These reforms are long overdue. The Cabinet Secretary should encourage universities that are still in slumber

to follow the UoN lead. Other vice chancellors should be taking notes.

Indeed, it would help if the CS establishes a university reform council at his ministry, where vice chancellors and chairpersons of councils meet regularly to deliberate, exchange ideas and learn from one another on just one challenge - transformation of universities. That way, the Ministry gets an opportunity to input, influence and keep tabs on how university education is evolving. Engagement, not disruption.

A word about the university fee increase controversy. Universities are broke and the government has no money to bail them out. Their only avenue to raise revenue to meet their financial obligations and pay their hardcore debts is raising fees. That's the harsh reality. The discussion right now should be about scholarships, endowment funds and government guaranteed loans for students to enable them pay fees.

Universities are in a very bad place. Years of misgovernance, unbridled expansion and financial profligacy have brought Kenya to this very unhappy place. Sadly, the way back from the brink will be harsh, nasty and brutish. Brace Kenyans. Brace!

—gathukara@gmail.com

STREET TALK

Mobilisers disappear with politician's cash

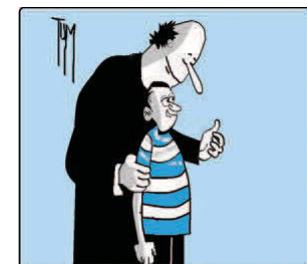
A leading political figure suffered a jolt in his quest for a top position in next year's election when a planned foray into a rival's stronghold this weekend was ruined by poor planning. Organisers of the meeting were forced to seek an alternative venue, different speakers and audience. This was after the people charged with mobilising the crowds disappeared a day to the event after pocketing thousands of shillings from the politician's office. On the material day, those who had been lined up to attend meetings shied away insisting they be paid directly, not through proxies.

Officers shoot from the hip in WhatsApp debate

A message on a WhatsApp group of a security formation was dropped a few minutes after it was posted following the intervention of senior officials. The message which insinuated that there was ethnic favouritism in the deployment of senior officers, hit a raw nerve and forced the senior command to step in. The message had accused a senior officer of favouring a certain community in the promotions. Of main concern was promotions and appointments in Nairobi. A senior officer had to intervene and demand that the discussion be dropped as the arguments threatened to get out of hand.

Gang extorting, evicting residents of old estates

A gang has taken grip of the old estates in Nairobi that are marked for demolition and gentrification. The vicious cartel, said to be headed by a prison warden, has taken over Shauri Moyo, Bahati and Starehe, and is allegedly violently extorting residents hundreds of thousands of shillings. The officer moves around with two lieutenants, one who is a police officer. The group has also retained the services of two goons who violently evict tenants at night.



TRUTHIS: True christiano are better than one when they are one.

KRA strategies is transforming tax administration



MOHAMED OMAR

The idea is to smoothen processes such as exports, imports tax filing and payments.

internal and external systems. This guarantees the underpinning clarity and precision in any intervention.

For the taxpayer, these will lead to the availability of focused and targeted services, where services are tailored to the needs of specific clusters of taxpayers thanks to the power of data analytics. To complement the application of technology is the expansion of the physical presence in different regions. The multi-channel - physical and digital- approach to enhance the availability of human and technological support mechanisms is based on the realisation that not everybody is adept at using or having access to modern technology.

Second, policy and administrative simplification is a key anchor in the transformation of any tax system. A simplified tax system is a key parameter in compliance improvement, competitiveness, expansion of the tax base and the attractiveness of the

country as a preferred investment destination. The administrative strategies in this respect revolve around streamlining the processes, systems and the procedures employed, so that it is easier and cheaper to comply. The idea is to smoothen processes such as exports, imports tax filing and payments. On the other hand, the strategic intent to simplify the regulatory and policy is about re-looking at the tax statutes for any complexities, a process spearheaded by the National Treasury.

Germaine to the concept of simplification are the proposed National Tax Policy and the Medium-Term Strategy. The National Tax Policy is meant to be the overall framework that imbues fairness and predictability into the tax system. The Medium-Term Revenue Strategy under consideration introduces a slightly longer planning horizon for revenue mobilisation measures, thereby

also injecting predictability into the system.

Third, a tax system is in a mutually reinforcing ecosystem comprising private sector, multilateral agencies, government entities, counties and taxpayers. As a result, forging strategic partnerships becomes an imperative, making it a key thrust in tax reforms. The development of taxation strategies, regulations, and guidelines require the input of the relevant stakeholders.

Fourth, a key element in achieving a transformed tax administration is the work ethos, culture and the organisational values. What matters is not necessarily the espoused values, but lived values and actions that are reflected in the service that is provided, staff productivity, and level of integrity.

Specific measures include a combination of performance frameworks, training and integrity programmes that offer a supportive environment while at the same time emphasising accountability.

— The wrtier is the KRA Commissioner – Strategy, Innovation and Risk Management

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR

IEBC interviews missing the point

@ItsGeorgeKegoro: @IEBCKenya commissioner interviews have proceeded on the FALSE basis that what is missing is the technical mastery of elections. There is a gulf between the REAL problems with elections and the assumptions informing the preparations to deliver the 2022 polls.



Bleak future for advertising

@Edwardmwasi: What trends nowadays on Twitter is not necessarily TOPICAL nor TRENDY. Marketers and influencers are now using any potential to trend hashtag to showcase their products. INNOVATION? This definitely spells a gloomy future for ADVERTISING in the media.

Made in Kenya challenge

@DavidNdii: One of my observations from #RailaMadeInKenyaChallenge is how packaging and presentation of Kenyan craft products has improved. When I was working on export promotion of SME products in the early 90s this was a big problem. Now they are world class.

///  @PeopleDailyKe ///  People Daily

Melinda celebrates Mandela

@melindagates: @NelsonMandela was an inspiration. He met unimaginable adversity with courage and helped move his country, and the world, forward with truth and compassion. He was a personal hero of mine, and today, on #MandelaDay, I celebrate his life and his legacy.

Impeachable Sources

Citizens in South Africa demand Africanisation reforms

Rioting South Africans have complained they don't feel African enough and demanded reforms that would make their country look like other countries on the continent.

The reforms, they said, can only be implemented by Jacob Zuma and vowed to ensure the former president returns to power.

"It will take a million empty shopping malls to return Zuma back to power, so be it," said Tekelezi Limpopo, proudly carrying a humongous television set on his scrawny shoulder.

Among the reforms the South Africans want to make the continent look like other African nations is a law – written or unwritten – that protects current and former presidents, their cronies and families from embarrassing court cases, tribunals, commissions and, most of all, jail.

They said no self-respecting African country drags its leaders through courts, let alone put them in prison.

"We really envy fellow Africans who do not have to go through the trauma of seeing their beloved leaders being disrespected by the justice system," said Lindiwe Buthelezi, adding that the jailing of Zuma had caused her untold suffering and offered to serve the remainder of the 15 months' sentence on his behalf.

Buthelezi said a proper African nation doesn't treat its politicians that way and demanded that South Africa stops doing things that are against cherished African values.

MAMBO MATATA

It is unAfrican to ask current and former presidents too much questions like how they made wealth or how they used public resources while in power

"In Africa, the police protect the leaders, not arrest them. It is an abomination for the police to touch a leader unless they are shielding him from harm," she added.

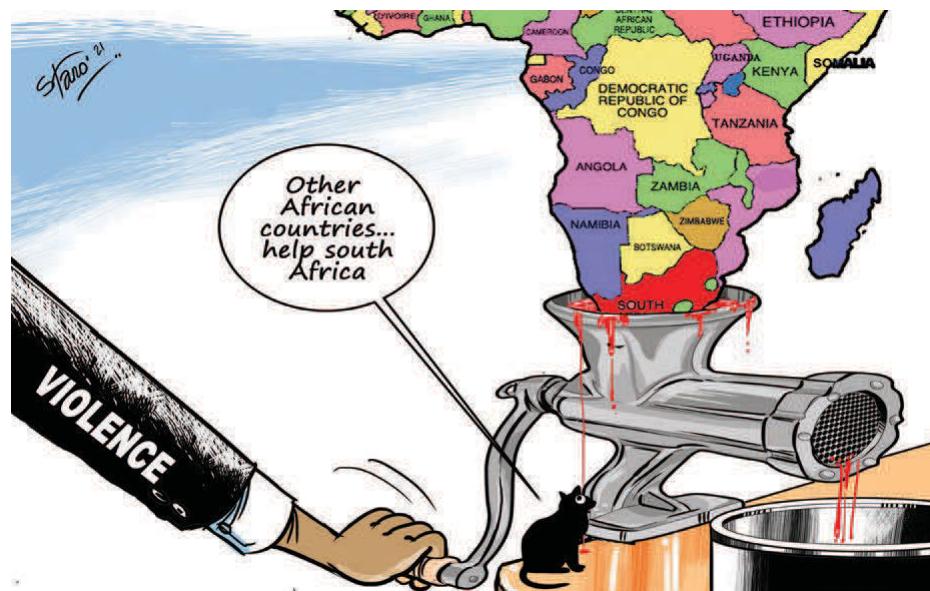
Another protestor said it was also un-African to ask current and former presidents too much questions like how they made their wealth or how they used public resources while in power.

The President, he said, is the custodian of public resources and there is nothing wrong if he has a small bite of the national cake while sharing it among the people.

"So what is wrong if Zuma used a few Rand to thatch his humble huts in Nkandla? So what is wrong if he had strategic friends like the Gup-tas?" asked the protestor who did not want to be named for fear of being victimized by the courts.

He said South Africans deserve to have leaders who can confidently stand side by side with their peers on the continent.

"Good African leaders have villas



in Paris, palaces in their rural homes and respectable offshore accounts. And here in South Africa we question a leader when he tries to put a new coat of paint on his modest house," he observed.

Those interviewed blamed Nelson Mandela for setting a bad precedent, which they said, had since made their country stick out like a sore thumb among African nations.

The first mistake that Madiba did, they said, was to step down from the

presidency after serving just a short, single term.

"Proper African presidents die in office. Mandela hurriedly dropped the thing like it was a hot brick! Who does that after serving 27 years in jail?" asked Limpopo.

He said South Africans were longing for a real strongman who would not only know how to use power but would also not be in a hurry to go home.

The high turnover of presidents in

South Africa, he added, was very un-African and ensuring presidents last in power as long as they like should be part of the Africanisation reforms.

Buthelezi said Zuma had shown that he has what it takes to be a real African president and urged him to ditch ANC and form a proper African party, of which he would be the sole proprietor, and use it to storm back to power.

—matatacolumn@gmail.com

From the Counties

Why I shall be careful before accepting graduation invitations



MCA GWINSO

To my utter disbelief, I saw a group of children in graduation regalia marching into the arena

readily accepted my invitation. I learnt a number of my colleagues had received the same invitation. We approached the Assembly Speaker to facilitate our travel and related allowances but he would hear none of it.

"It is not in our budget," he declared.

Anyway, who does not know the Speaker has never forgiven Violata for calling him a wolf in a sheep's skin? A story for another day.

"Bw Gwinso, let us just agree to spend," said MCA Matayo when I asked for his opinion on this, now that we were not going to be sponsored. "The event is worth every cent you are going to use," he assured me as we took tea in his office.

We agreed that, to cut down on

costs, we use his car.

"Yes, we can sit in front and let the women gossip at the back," I said.

"Which women?" he asked, his cup of tea halting midway to mouth.

"Our wives, of course," I answered.

The Ward Rep returned the cup to the table before it had reached his lips. He then gave me a look reserved for the utterly unhinged.

"Gwinso, you mean you intend to go travel with Madam? Are you crazy or something?"

He looked genuinely appalled. I was confused. I had thought the occasion was a perfect opportunity for couples to bond, but now this!

"Listen, go with her at your own peril. Never say I did not warn you," Matayo said with finality.

I did not know what to do since Mama Hiro was already preparing. I told Matayo as much.

"Simple," he retorted. "Just tell her due to the Covid situation, the number of invitees has been reduced."

That to me was a brilliant idea, and I bought it. Later that evening, I did not have much difficulty convincing Mama Hiro. I then embarked on preparing my speech for the event. Aware of the challenges university graduates faced upon leaving campus, I titled my speech *Entrepreneurship and innovation: The requisite skills for Today's Graduate*. It was not until 3am that I went to bed, satisfied my speech was fine-tuned.

The following morning, Matayo and I breezed into Violata's rural home.

"Karibusana, MCAs," a beaming Violata ushered us in. "Thanks for coming in time."

She then led us to a dais. From the look of things, we were the first to arrive. The seats on the dais and in the small arena were all empty.

"Feel relaxed, we will begin the function as soon as the graduands are ready," our host reassured us.

I took the opportunity to polish my speech once more. I replaced the word 'graduate' with 'baccalaureate' which to me sounded more educated. I started thinking of other ways to make my speech memorable. However, the emcee's voice crashed into my thoughts.

"Honourable guests, walking in are our esteemed graduands, without whom this function would not have been held." To my utter disbelief, I saw a group of children in graduation regalia marching into the arena. "Distinguished guests, before you are PP2 graduands ready to join Grade One," said the emcee.

"Kwani ilikuwa ni ya nursery?" I whispered to Matayo. His response was a blank stare. Anyway, we composed ourselves and officiated the brief ceremony. I am keeping my well-prepared speech for another graduation ceremony. *Bora uhai.*

— a.otieno@pu.ac.ke

I told Mama Hiro of the event and asked her to accompany me. She

Magoha warns school heads over fees

Cabinet Secretary says government has released Sh75b for free primary and secondary education

by Oliver Musembi
OliverMusembi

Education Cabinet Secretary Prof George Magoha has warned secondary school heads against sending home students over non-payment of fees.

Noting that the government had already released Sh59.4 billion to secondary schools and Sh15.2 billion to primary schools for the 2020/21 academic year, Magoha said the issue of lack of finances should not arise.

The minister said parents with fees arrears should be given time to pay instead of sending their children home, thus disrupting their learning.

Parents have complained that the two weeks holiday is too short for them to prepare to pay school fees for the coming academic year, given the prevailing harsh economic conditions.

"We have become a country of cry babies because I don't

understand where the issue of school fees crisis is coming from. Not unless you are a boarder or in private school, the government pays almost all the school fees for the learners," he said.

He was speaking at Mutomo Primary School in Gatundu South, Kiambu county when he distributed items donated by Ahadi Kenya to help pupils to stay safe from the Covid-19 infections as well as sanitary towels for girls.

The CS said parents have no reason to worry over payment of school fees with learners set to resume on July 26 and August 2 amid a government crash programme occasioned by last year's long closure of schools.

"I do not know where this noise about a fees crisis is coming from because the government pays most of the monies through the free primary and secondary education programme," Magoha said.

Crash-programme

Parents have expressed concern over payment of fees as the Education ministry has squeezed nearly eight school terms into two years to recover the lost learning time, but Magoha said the parents



Education CS Prof George Magoha (2nd left) presents sanitary towels Mutomo Primary School pupils. PD/OLIVER MUSEMBI

have only a negligible amount to chip in which includes accommodation charges and food. He warned men who

have been preying on school girls and impregnating them that they will face the full force of the law and asked victims to

Exploit Turkana rich resources to reduce poverty, county told

Turkana leaders have urged their county government to come up with practical plans to exploit numerous natural resources in the area to boost the living standards of the residents.

Led by Loima MP Jeremiah Lomorukai, they said the county is endowed with oil, rivers and underground aquifers among others resources, which can be harnessed to create jobs and maximise food production.

"River Kerio is the only permanent river which flows from its source to its mouth with no modern farming employed to maximise food production. I ask the county government of Turkana to embrace technology to also exploit the underground water to ensure the ordinary Turkana person is able to put food on the table," he said.

Most unequal

The call comes following the recent research findings by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the University of Nairobi that placed the county as both the poorest and most unequal devolved unit in the country.

Some leaders have accused

the county leaders of mismanaging the funds disbursed by the National Government.

"Poverty has remained a core thing in Turkana. Turkana should not be in this list when billions of shillings are being channelled to this county each financial year by the national government alongside donor help from organisations such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Oxfam and many other agencies," said Petroleum Cabinet Secretary John Munyeshu.

Basic needs

According to the report, Turkana county was placed at 79.4 per cent absolute poverty rate which implies the incapability for a family or an individual to afford basic needs including food, shelter, safe drinking water, education and healthcare.

The leaders were discontented with the way the constituents could not get access basic needs every person requires to sustain their life.

"How can we miss water, food for our people, can't provide drugs in our hospitals, and Turkana has continued to be poorer and poorer," exclaimed Munyeshu.

-KNA

HOW
LOW

IN SUMMARY

- Learners are set to resume learning on July 26 after a one week break while Form One's will resume on August 2.

- This is amid a government crash programme occasioned by last year's long closure of schools due to Covid-19 pandemic.

report the culprits to the authorities.

"Parents should work with teachers and administration officials to ensure that those pests preying on school girls and ruining their future are arrested and charged in court," the CS added.

Ahadi Kenya executive di-

rector Dr Stanley Kamau said it is unfortunate that a large number of school-going children were not in school yet basic education is free and compulsory.

At the same time, Prof Magoha announced that Mama Ngina University, a constituent college of Kenyatta University situated at Mutomo, will open its doors to the first batch of students in September. This comes after construction and equipping of the rural based institution which was started in 2016 was completed.

KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Paul Wainaina said initially, the university college will admit 90 students from the locality, who will study various disciplines including environmental studies, information science and hospitality.

howlow.co.ke

Pata PROBOX
2015 Model *Kwa Bei yako!*

Dial *454*1#
*Weka bid ya chini na kipekee update
Probox this Saturday 8:30am!*

**DEAL PTA
5 DAYS
TO GO!**

Call 0111 005 111

Why it's a tough time for Kenyan corporate sector

Covid-19 pushed State departments and private companies that were struggling over the edge

■ by Lewis Njoka
@LewisNjoka

An evaluation of State corporations by the National Treasury paints a grim picture of their future prospects.

In a statement on Thursday, the National Treasury said it conducted a financial evaluation of state corporations based on the services they provide. Out of 18 corporations evaluated so far, only four were found to be profitable, while the rest were in dire straits.

"State Corporations are facing financial shortfalls or liquidity gaps – the 18 State corporations have an estimated cumulative financial shortfall of about Sh70 billion annually over the next five-year period," said Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani.

The evaluation intends to analyse State corporations and make a decision on which ones are worth keeping and which ones should be privatised or dissolved in a bid to rationalise government spending.

The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, East African Portland Cement Company and Posta were classified as insolvent and could face budget cuts as Treasury moves to reduce the strain on government resources.

This even as the Consolidated National Government Investment Report for the 2019-20 financial year shows that out of 247 State corporations, 127 made either losses or have huge deficits.

Among the biggest loss-maker State corporations was Kenya Railways Corporation whose losses surged from Sh8.47 billion in 2019 to Sh24.2 billion in 2020.

Private couriers

For East African Portland Cement Company, trouble started when mismanagement saw the firm suspended from Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) in 2012 but returned quietly. Things have, however, never been the same since.

Last Friday, the firm managed to trade only 100 shares at the NSE at Sh7.30 each, confirming its bad state.

Last week, a court allowed former contract workers at the firm to attach seven bank accounts of the company to recover Sh1.3 billion in salaries owed to them.

The troubled cement manufacturer has been in the market for a buyer for some 2,076 acres, which shareholders voted to sell at an extraordinary general meeting in September 2019, in a bid to rescue it from insolvency following years of mismanagement of what was once the jewel in Kenya's cement sector.

For Postal Corporation of Kenya, it is changing technology which has led to a dip in the number of letters being sent in recent years. This underlines the precarious position of this State corporation.

Kenyans have largely turned to private couriers and electronic messaging services that are faster and more convenient. Last year, Posta made a loss of Sh1.2 billion.

The Consolidated National Government Investment Report says some of the other poor performers during the period include Kenya National Hospital, which registered a deficit of Sh2.05 billion, South Nyanza Sugar Company (Sh1.45 billion) and Kenya Post Office Savings Bank (Sh1.44 billion).

The bad tidings have also hit the private sector with an analysis of Kenya's business environment revealing that tens of once profitable companies have either collapsed or become unprofitable in the last decade resulting in loss of thousands of jobs. For many of the companies, the downturn started long before Covid-19 struck in early last year.

This despite statistics showing that Kenya posted a largely impressive growth over the period, pointing to a myriad of factors which may have led to the woes of the companies.

Knocked out

Between 2010 and 2019, Kenya consistently posted a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of above five per cent except in 2008 and 2017 election years when it dipped to 0.2 and 4.6 per cent respectively.

During that period, TransCentury Limited, Housing Finance and Home Afrika, saw their share prices dip from over Sh30 in 2013 to below five shillings and have currently wiped off millions in investor wealth.

TransCentury had earlier indicated it needed to exit the NSE to tap new capital from private equity funds that it would only invest as a non-listed business. But in May this year, the company announced that it had abandoned the delisting plan.

If it had gone ahead with the plan, it would have closed the chapter on TransCentury's decade as a publicly traded firm, during which it lost Sh12.6 billion, or 95 per cent, of its market value.

The firm's losses surged to Sh3.93 billion in 2019 compared to a net profit of Sh468.26 million in 2010 shortly before it made the move to list at the bourse.

If TransCentury had delisted, it would have joined other firms, including oil marketer KenolKobil and CMC Holdings, that have gone private in recent years, mostly through takeovers.

Samuel Nyandemo, a senior economics lecturer at University of Nairobi, says many businesses are not well structured to withstand market shocks, let alone a major disruption such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Some of the businesses were knocked out of the market. They were not competitive enough to survive," he said.



National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani during his Budget presentation last month. PD/FILE



East African Portland Cement Company is one of the struggling corporations. PD/FILE

In the banking sector, three lenders, namely Chase Bank, Imperial Bank and Dubai bank, were placed under receivership for varying reasons between 2015 and 2019 leaving thousands of depositors counting losses.

Garissa Town MP Aden Duale recently blamed the collapse of the banks on weak oversight by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), an allegation the regulator has denied.

"The estimated total losses of innocent Kenyan investments due to the negligence of CMA in terms of regulation is approximately Sh36.8 billion," Duale said.

The retail sector has also suffered, with major local and international brands biting the dust. Nakumatt, Uchumi, Tusky's, Shoprite and Choppies either collapsed or quit the local market in the last five years.

While most of the troubles are being linked to the pandemic, it is important to note that even before the pandemic reached Kenya in March last year, many companies that employed a large number of semi-skilled employees had begun scaling down operations signaling a challenging business environment.

In 2019, Finlays flower Company laid off about 1,700 workers, following in the footsteps of Karuturi which retrenched over 2,000 workers in 2016.

Shut down

In the same year, soft drink brand, Softa, closed down citing frustrations in the market, a move that saw about 10,000 direct and indirect employees lose jobs.

The country has also witnessed the flight of Foreign Direct Investment with some multinationals either quitting or selling some of their brands.

Inflows to Kenya dropped by 18 per cent to \$1.3 billion (Sh140 billion), despite several new projects in information technology and health care, said United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), compared to Sh200 billion out flows from Kenya.

Consumer goods manufacturer Unilever scaled down its operations in the country significantly and sold its margarine business to KKR, an American private equity firm. Earlier in 2014 another multinational Cadbury's, ceased manufacturing locally.

Deacons East Africa, an international brand, shut all its Kenyan chain stores in 2019 ending a 60-year presence.

Similarly, Tullow Oil has scaled down its operations in the country and was until September 2020 considering quitting the Kenyan market.

Its operations were last year hit by the pandemic with the firm threatening to in-

volve a force majeure – which is cited when unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone from fulfilling a contract happen — threatening to scatter operations in Kenya.

Other notable brands that have either announced redundancy in the recent past include Sportpesa, Sameer Group, Eveready and Silverstone air.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), 1.7 million Kenyans lost jobs between March and June last year. This excludes thousands who lost jobs before the pandemic.

However, it is not all gloom as firms like Safaricom exhibit bullish growth. The telco even aims to expand beyond the borders after bidding winning a multi-billion license in Ethiopia.

"It is a safe risk for Safaricom if they have to go out to grow... they have the capital for it. Ethiopia is a big market and I believe they have a chance even though it may take them time to break-even in the initial stages of infrastructure deployment," says Michael Mburugu, an economic expert and a partner at PKF, a regional body for accountants and business advisers.

In a telephone interview, Mburugu noted that Safaricom will aim to ride on its Kenyan success story to grow its presence in Ethiopia – a market where penetrations particularly in the telecommunications space are multifarious.

This year, the Treasury unveiled an ambitious Sh3.6 trillion budget and projects the economy will expand by 6.6 per cent in what would outpace the projected global rate and that of Sub-Saharan Africa. This will, however, come at a huge cost with 30 per cent of the entire budget going to deficit financing.

Big Four projects

While growth plummeted to 0.6 per cent last year as key sectors like tourism and related services collapsed at the onset of the Covid crisis, recovery has started this year.

Further, funds were designated for a raft of signature projects initiated by President Uhuru Kenyatta in his legacy development programme dubbed The Big Four agenda.

Uhuru has presided over a rapid increase in public borrowing. Total debt stands at 70 per cent of GDP, up from about 45 per cent when he took over in 2013.

The government has to raise its debt ceiling of 9.0 trillion shillings (\$83.49 billion) in the next financial year, the Treasury says, after raising it again in late 2019 and the government will be hard pressed to get funds to plug in a stimulus to spur serious growth any time soon.

Kangogo killed herself, officer's father declares

Police officer was found dead in her parent's bathroom after being on the run for two weeks

■ by PD Reporter
@PeopleDailyKe

The father of police officer Caroline Kangogo yesterday refuted claims his daughter was executed.

In an interview with journalists, Kangogo's father Barnaba Korir, a former police officer, said chances are his daughter took her own life, and refuted reports that she could have been killed elsewhere and her body planted in the family compound.

"*Staki watu kusema kuwa aliwawa, hiyo ni uongo kabisa mimi mwenyewe nimethibitisha kuwa alijua mwenyewe* (I don't want this issue of people saying that she was murdered, that is pure lie. I have personally checked and established that she took her own life)," said Korir, while announcing that she will be buried on Saturday.

Her body is lying at the Iten Referral Hospital mortuary. Kangogo was found dead inside a bathroom at her parents' home in Nyawa village, Tambach in Elgeyo Marakwet county in what police termed as suicide.

Elgeyo Marakwet Police Commander Patrick Lumumba said the late cop did not speak to any of her family members before killing herself.

According to police in Iten, Kangogo's body was discovered by her mother at around 8am on Friday morning. The family says no one heard any gunshot sounds.

For close to two weeks, Kangogo had eluded security operatives, who were looking for her in connection with the murder of police constable John Ogweno and Juja businessman Peter Ndwiwa.

Kangogo hit the headlines two weeks ago when Ogweno, who was attacked to the Nakuru Central Police Station, was found dead inside his car at Kasarani Police Line in Nakuru town with a gunshot wound on his head.

Kangogo immediately went underground and only resurfaced in Juja, Kiambu county on the same day, in the company of a male companion. A police signal



Clara Chepchumba, one of the late Caroline Kangogo's relatives, mourn her death at their Nyawa home in Elgeyo Marakwet county. PD/ JIMMY GITAKA

stated that she had spent the night with Ndwiwa, whose body was found at a hotel room in Kiambu. The two had booked room number 107 at the Hotel Dedamax at 4pm where they spent the night.

Mixed reactions

Kangogo's death has been received with mixed reactions, with several leaders disputing the suicide theory and claiming that security agents could have executed her. Many have questioned how she could have travelled all the way from Nairobi to her village undetected, only to take her own life. Led by Bungoma Senator Moses Wetang'ula and Law Society of Kenya

INTERIOR CS MATIANG'I ON

● The CS warned that some of the kidnappings were out of illegal business dealings that backfire and lead to abductions and killings. "Some of these incidents involve criminal business attitudes, some of our people have predatory attitudes. People get into informal but criminal business arrangements but when they go south they now resort to murdering each other," he said.

President Nelson Havi, the leaders poked holes in the statement by police that Kangogo took her own life.

"Corporal Caroline Kangogo is dead from an alleged suicide. This should not bring a closure to investigations as to who killed the two men associated with her. We might never know her side of the story! In the complex world of crime, there could be a third force!" Wetang'ula said.

Havi on the other hand faulted the media for poor analysis of the whole matter noting: "The media has been conscripted by DCI to run with the cover up story 'Caroline Kangogo commits suicide.' Who was the witness? When was the autopsy done? I remember telling the special crimes boss on Tuesday, 'I am sure you guys will eventually tell us that you found her dead,' Havi said.

Havi's statement comes after the LSK hired veteran lawyer Dr John Khaminwa to represent Kangogo when she was on the loose.

"This lady did not commit suicide. Gun placed in hand unlike where it would be because of the recoil. Blood splatter and drag would not be at the front. Shows she was brought there and left to bleed. Placing the cover on the head? The yellow Jersey still?" added lawyer Cliff Ombeta.



Evans Wanjala admitted to defiling and killing five girls in Uasin Gishu county. COURTESY

Self-confessed serial rapist and killer of minors in custody

■ by Wycliff Kipsang
@Gwsang08

A notorious killer and rapist is in police custody after he admitted to defiling and killing five girls.

According to a statement from the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI), the suspect, Evans Wanjala, committed the heinous murders between December 31, 2019 and June 15, 2021 when defiled his victims before strangling them.

"The minors, all aged between 10 and 15 years, were lured by the suspect from different locations within Moi's Bridge in Uasin Gishu county, before being taken to secluded areas where he defiled and strangled them," said a statement from DCI.

Suspect, according to detectives, gave a chilling confession how he executed the ghastly missions.

He gave blow-by-blow account how he took away the lives of Linda Cherono, 13, Mary Elusa, 14, Grace Njeri, 12, Stacy Nabiso, 10, and Lucy Wanjiro, 15 after defiling them. "Pedophile led detectives to the scene of every murder he had committed, where charred remains of the minors had earlier been retrieved," the DCI report.

In one instance, Linda Che-

rono's body was found on June 15 near Baharini Dam after she had gone missing for some days. Her half-naked body had signs of strangulation and defilement.

Modus operandi of the pedophile was replicated in all the other four murders where the victims were first defiled before being strangled.

"In two such instances, the lifeless bodies of the victims were stashed in gunny-bags covered with vegetables and left to rot in the bushes," said DCI statement read further. "Forensic analysis at DCI forensic lab connected the suspect to the murder of the minors."

REPORT



The minors... were lured by the suspect from different locations within Moi's Bridge in Uasin Gishu

BRIEFLY

Man kills self after fight with brother over phone charger

A 22-year-old man allegedly committed suicide after an argument with his brother over phone charger in Belgut sub-county, Kericho county.

Duncan Rono is said to have hung himself on a tree near their homestead hours after attacking his brother with a machete on Saturday.

Villagers said the duo quarreled over the charger with each demanding to charge his phone first. The disagreement degenerated into a fight after they failed to agree on who

should charge his phone first. The younger brother grabbed a machete and attacked his sibling. Walda chief John Koech said a neighbour, who was herding cattle discovered the body and immediately alerted his family yesterday. Koech revealed that the two quarreled over the charger before the deceased inflicted severe injuries on his elder brother using the machete.

He was rushed to Kericho County Referral Hospital.

-Philip Yegon

Nairobi to spend Sh35m in plan to digitise city court operations

■ by Alvin Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Nairobi County Government has set aside Sh35.9 million to help digitise and renovate systems at four city courts.

It is part of the Sh597.3 million Financial Year 2021-22 budget allocated to City Hall's legal sub-sector for enhancing operation in the legal department.

Details of the developments are contained in Nairobi County's Fiscal Strategy Paper for the current financial year. For renovations of the four courts and city court registry, City Hall will spend Sh10 million. Most city courts handle cases of residents, who have gone against by-laws of the county government. Each of the 47

counties has by-laws based on their needs, as it offers services to residents. City courts handle at least 40 cases daily, since they operate manually despite other courts going digital.

In order to reduce manual labour of paperwork in the courts, Sh15 million has been set aside to purchase an automated legal case management system.

"As part of development priorities for the legal sub-sector, a total of Sh15 million has been set aside for the procurement of automated legal case management system," reads the document.

A legal document management platform allows operations of the court to be fully automated by offering a digital platform that includes security, accessibility and storage.



Businesshub

CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA

Banks received loan applications from MSMEs worth Sh740 billion, of which Sh546 billion (74%) was approved

SMEs need more stimuli to fire economy, say analysts

The budget did not offer enough targeted measures to reboot the SME sector despite Covid-19 shocks.

by Noel Wandera
@PeopleDailyKe

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are between a rock and a hard place even as the country banks on the sector to regenerate the economy on the back of Covid-19 pandemic knocks.

Analysts say that budget policy measures lack the gravitas to cushion the sector and will not spark tangible growth in the short term.

This as the sector feels effects of the Covid-19 pandemic with inability to win contracts, access credit, mobilise funds, innovation, and remaining afloat heavily compromising the sector.

Treasury lined up an additional Sh2 billion for the Credit Guarantee Scheme, on top of the Sh10 billion allocated in the 2020/21 to de-risk small businesses, Ken Gichinga chief economist at Mentoria Economics says these measures are not be enough to excite growth in the sector.

The State also issued Sh616 million to SMEs involved in production of goods, having set aside a Sh5 billion stimulus package to cushion the sector from pandemic shocks at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March last year, monies Ken Gichinga chief economist at Mentoria Economics calls inadequate, considering the sector's vital role in the economy.

Emerging markets

"The stimulus package of Sh5 billion was too little to support meaningful recovery. If you look at the amount government owes to suppliers it's almost Sh307 billion which if released, can bring great vibrancy to business to an economy," said Ken Gichinga. He said increasing the allocation of funds going to servicing late payments would have been the best way of stimulating the economy.

"There is nothing rosy directed specifically to reboot the SME sector," said Karaya

SME CONFIDENCE INDEX

- Mastercard Middle East and Africa (MEA) SME Confidence Index mall and medium-sized businesses in the country have identified easier access to funding (73%), acceptance of digital payments, better data and insights, and digitizing business operations (72%) as the top three drivers for growth.

Mokaya, a tax partner at FKM Africa, and Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) member, adding that the Finance Act 2021 as constituted was meant to consolidate the fiscal policy and enable the government collect enough money to pay its maturing international financial obligations.

Karaya said the minimum tax, whose application has already been challenged at the High court by the Kitengela Bar Owners Association (KBOA), would have exempted some businesses in the distribution sector whose income is commission based, from paying 1 per cent tax on their gross turnover.

Further, despite their crucial role in driving the country's economic development, SMEs continue to experience a severe

shortfall in financing, which has historically hindered their growth.

A Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) report, noted that banks turned away 28 per cent of small businesses while micro-finance institutions declined 96 per cent of the loan applications made to them by SMEs.

"Commercial and micro-finance banks received loan applications from MSMEs worth approximately Sh740 billion, of which Sh546 billion (74 per cent) was approved," said the CBK.

This as banks continue to cut loans to the private sector to avoid losses as default rates soared to hit 14.2 per cent of all loans issued.

Financing Treasury's ambitious Sh3.6 trillion budget will also see the government go for both international and local sources, a factor that will further disadvantage SMEs since they are considered risky by the lenders compared to the government.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) warns that Africa's finance gap for SMEs stands at a whopping Sh33 trillion and that the ratio of credit to the economy is very low in Africa, averaging less than 30 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with over 135 per cent in regions such as East Asia and the Pacific region.



New branch

Archbishop Anthony Muheria officially opens the new NCBA bank office in Nyeri town, flanked by NCBA Group Managing Director John Gachora (left). The lender plans to open 15 other branches in an expansion drive to support businesses recovering from post Covid-19 economic shocks.

First cargo consignment set to leave Lamu Port to Saudi Arabia

by Reuben Mwambingu
@reubemwambingu

The first shipment is set to leave Lamu Port today for Jeddah Islamic Port (JIP) in Saudi Arabia marking the ports inaugural consignment of goods since operationalisation of the berth two months ago.

The cargo vessel MV Spirit of Dubai operated by the CMA CGM Shipping Lines left the

Port of Mombasa yesterday and will pick the port's first consignment of cargo in yet another milestone in Kenya's maritime sector.

Mixed cargo

Speaking to the media during the reception of the vessel, KPA's general manager at Lamu Port Abdullahi Samatar said the consignment was mixed cargo most of which were agricultural

products.

"With the arrival of this ship it signifies we are ready for business and therefore we expect more transhipment traffic to this port which has a competitive advantage in terms of geographical position and capacity to handle bigger vessels," said the GM.

Samatar said discussions are going on between KPA and other stakeholders to reduce tariffs

and tax rebates in a bid to make Lamu Port an attractive logistics hub. KRA regional coordinator Joseph Tonui who was in Lamu to witness the arrival of the cargo said receipt of the consignment at the LAMU Port is a clear sign of confidence by the shipping industry.

License obligation

"The dream of making LAMU the port of choice for

exports, imports and transhipment hub is becoming a reality," Tonui said. He further disclosed that a \$10 transhipment fee had already been waived amid discussions among stakeholders on tax break options.

Tonui noted that KRA has deployed clearance systems to enhance and guarantee efficiency and turnaround time at the new port.



Top oil producers agree on modest output boost starting next month

The world's leading oil producers agreed yesterday to continue to modestly boost output from August, after the United Arab Emirates blocked a deal earlier this month. An OPEC+ meeting agreed to raise output by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) each month from August to help fuel a global economic recovery as the pandemic eases, the Vienna-based group said in a press statement.

The grouping will "assess market developments" in December, it said. The deal also extends a deadline on capping output from April 2022 to the end of 2022.

Negotiations

Days of negotiations of OPEC+ members to continue to further ease production cuts became deadlocked early this month, exposing a row between the world's largest oil exporter Saudi Arabia and brash neighbour the United Arab Emirates.

Since May, the 23-member grouping, which also includes Russia, has raised oil output bit by bit, after slashing it more than a year ago when the coronavirus pandemic crushed demand. In a rare challenge to OPEC leader Saudi Arabia, the UAE slammed the proposed deal earlier this month as

"unjust," leading to a stalemate. But in a compromise, Sunday's discussions agreed to adjust output quotas next May for the UAE and several other countries, meaning their actual cuts will be less.

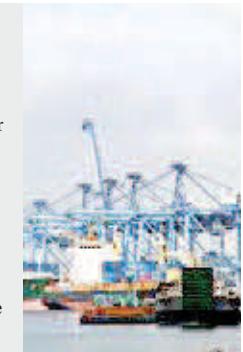
Observers had expected a deal. "A flurry of talks were held on Saturday to try and close the gap," tweeted Herman Wang, an editor of S&P Global Platts, which specialises in coverage of the energy industry.

Oil prices -- which had already been sliding owing to concerns about the global economy -- plummeted in April 2020 as coronavirus spread around the world and battered global consumption, transport and supply chains.

OPEC+ last year decided to withdraw 9.7 million bpd from the market and to gradually restore supplies by the end of April 2022. Benchmark oil prices rebounded as a result.

Economic rivalry is at the heart of the feud between OPEC members as the Gulf states try to cash in on their vast oil reserves as they face the beginning of the end of the oil era. Disagreements between Saudi Arabia and UAE -- once inseparable allies -- are usually resolved behind palace walls and rarely spill into the open.

- AFP





DIGITISATION CHALLENGE: (From left) National Youth Service(NYS) Director-General Matilda Sakwa, KPLC Board members Elizabeth Rogo and Isaac Kiwa and Kenya Power & Lighting Company CEO Bernard Ngugi exchange signed documents when Kenya Power tapped NYS in a Sh225 million network digitisation deal. PD/ALICE MBURU



SCHOLARSHIP: Family Bank CEO Rebecca Mbithi (left) with Joshua Matipe (centre) one of the 110 beneficiaries of the Family Group Foundation and Kajiado deputy governor Martin Moshiso as they unveiled the foundation's Sh30 million high school programme targeting bright and needy students. PD/ JOHN OCHIENG



COMBATING PANDEMIC: (From right) Anthony Muchoki regional manager Pwani region, Vincent Katuta head of public sector hands over a dummy cheque to Kilifi Governor Amason Jeffah Kingi together with Jeddah Kabiru relationship manager public sector. This is part of the COVID-19 relief initiative to help county combat the pandemic.

FUNDING BUSINESS: Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui (right) engages Faulu Bank CEO Apollo Njoroge (left) and George Maina - the bank's chairman- during an event to officially open the bank's new branch in Nakuru. Faulu has announced plans to lend more than Sh1 billion to farmers, traders, contractors, manufacturers and property developers in Nakuru, Nyandarua and Laikipia counties which are considered three of the fastest growing business and economic hubs in Kenya's rift valley region.



GAME OF CHANCES: Phoebe Kitawa (centre) accompanied by her daughter Harriet Eghwa receive a dummy cheque for Sh100,000. They also got air tickets for two to Dubai from Lotto ambassador and Milele FM presenter Chris Da Base (right) after winning the Tatua3 'Mia Bonus Promotion'. Phoebe, a poultry farmer from Taita Taveta will travel with Harriet to Dubai. PD/GERALD ITHANA



NURTURING TALENT: (From left) Pwani Oil Products Brand manager Evah Kariuki, Kibarani Primary School headteacher Daniel Ngyonyo, teacher Hilda Nyamvula and a grade seven pupil Zawadi James during an event organised to encourage pupils showcase creativity. The firm launched an essay writing competition dubbed "Colours in Life" in partnership with the Ministry of Education.



SETTING STANDARDS: Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu (centre) discusses the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill 2020 with Fredrick Riaga (left) CEO of Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, and Edwin Makori (right) CEO of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya before meeting the Finance and Planning Committee of the National Assembly last week. The Bill requires reporting entities to submit annual reports, after the end of each financial year, to the Office of the Auditor General within one month as opposed to three months. PD/ALICE MBURU



DONATING TO A WORTHY CAUSE: Nairobi Hospice chief executive Asaph Kinyanjui (left) receives a dummy cheque from Stephen Gikera of Gikera and Vadgama Advocates at Karen County Club during a golf charity event held at the weekend. Several corporate entities took part in the one day event to fundraise for the hospice. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

World News

Annual Hajj pilgrimage

Muslim pilgrims circumambulate around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand mosque in the holy Saudi city of Mecca during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, yesterday. The pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam, started with just 60,000 vaccinated Saudi residents allowed to take part this year because of the pandemic. For the second year in a row, Muslims from abroad have been excluded from the Hajj, which drew 2.5 million pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in 2019 before the virus struck. AFP



Ethiopia regions send troops to repel defiant Tigray rebels

Mobilisation follows Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's warning that his forces would thwart any attacks

■ Addis Ababa, Sunday

Three Ethiopian regions previously untouched by the war in Tigray confirmed on Thursday that they were deploying forces to back military operations there, signaling a potential widening of the conflict.

The reinforcements are from Oromia – Ethiopia's largest region – as well as the Sidama region and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), according to official statements and State media reports.

The mobilisation follows Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's warning on Wednesday that his forces would repel any attacks by their enemies, effectively tearing up a government-declared ceasefire on June 28.

"Oromia and Sidama regional special forces have moved towards the front line.

The Sidama special forces have arrived at the front line," state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported, adding that SNNPR forces had arrived as well.

Abiy sent troops into Tigray last November, saying the move came in response to an assault on federal army camps ordered by the region's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Declared victor

The prime minister, a 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner, declared victory in late November, but fighting persisted and TPLF leaders remained on the run.

Then the war took a stunning turn in late June when rebels retook the Tigray capital Mekelle and Abiy declared a unilateral ceasefire, pulling most troops from the region.

This week the rebels – who have rebranded as the Tigray Defence Forces (TDF) – launched a new offensive intended to drive ethnic Amhara forces off disputed territory in western and southern Tigray.

In response, Amhara security forces and militias have mobilised en masse, and a

FIGHTING REBELS

- Reinforcements are coming from Oromia – Ethiopia's largest region – as well as the Sidama region and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR)

- Tigray Defence Forces (TDF) – launched a new offensive intended to drive ethnic Amhara forces off disputed territory in western and southern Tigray

spokesman for that region, Gizachew Mu-luneh, said on Wednesday it was shifting to "attack" mode to reverse the rebels' battlefield gains.

AFP journalists who on Wednesday visited the town of Adi Arkay, near the Amhara-Tigray border, saw thousands of newly mobilised Amhara fighters awaiting orders to advance.

Officials in northern Amhara said they feared TDF fighters wanted to push south towards Addis Ababa and topple the government.

Oromia President Shimeles Abdisa said at a press conference that Tigrayan leaders wanted to "destabilise" the entire country.

"We condemn in the strongest terms possible those who are working hard to revitalise this terrorist group. We should stand united to do whatever it takes to incapacitate it," Shimeles said.

TDF spokesman Getachew Reda declared this week that the force would "liberate every square inch of Tigray".

Two days after the TDF took Mekelle, he told AFP that its forces were prepared to march on Addis Ababa if that were neces-

BRIEFLY

Four shot outside baseball stadium

At least four people were shot outside the Nationals Park Saturday in the U.S. capital, police said, suspending a baseball game between San Diego and Washington. "A shooting has been reported outside of the Third Base Gate at Nationals Park," the Washington Nationals tweeted at 9:47 p.m. ET (0147 GMT), adding that fans were encouraged to exit the stadium. The Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia (MPDC) said in a tweet shortly afterward that it was "responding to a shooting in the 1500 block of South Capitol Street, SW, in which two people were shot outside of Nationals Park. This is currently an active investigation and it appears there is no ongoing threat at this time."

- Xinhua



Massive clean-up in Europe after floods

Residents in regions of Germany and Belgium worst affected by recent floods have begun the huge task of clearing their neighbourhoods, as the waters start to recede. The scale of the damage is becoming clear, as rescue crews continue to look for victims. At least 180 people have died, and with many still missing the death toll could rise further. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been visiting the affected region. Merkel walked through the badly-hit village of Schuld, surveying the damage and speaking to residents and emergency workers. Flooding continued to wreak havoc in parts of Europe on Saturday. Emergency crews rescued people from homes in the Austrian region of Salzburg, where floodwaters submerged the streets of one town. The fire brigade said the capital Vienna saw more rainfall in an hour on Saturday night than in the previous seven weeks combined.

- BBC

Ramaphosa terms riots over ex-President Zuma's jailing pre-planned

■ Johannesburg, Sunday

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa says the violence that has rocked the country was pre-planned, describing it as an assault on democracy.

Riots were sparked by the jailing of former President Jacob Zuma.

The death toll has risen to 212, up by almost 100 since Thursday, the government said.

Police officers have been protect-

ing deliveries of food to supermarkets after days of widespread looting led to shortages.

An estimated \$1bn (£720m) worth of stock was stolen in Kwa-Zulu-Natal with at least 800 retail shops looted, a mayor in the province said.

"It is quite clear that all these incidents of unrest and looting were instigated - there were people who planned it and co-ordinated it," Ramaphosa said in a visit to KwaZulu-

Natal, Zuma's home province and the epicentre of the violence.

The president said the riots were an attempt to hijack South Africa's democracy. He told supporters that instigators had been identified, but didn't elaborate.

"We are going after them," he added.

In KwaZulu-Natal, many have been queuing for food, sometimes from the early hours of the morning just to get a few items.

People waiting told the BBC that they were concerned about feeding their families, getting formula and nappies for their babies, and even food for their pets.

The week of violence in the province has left roads damaged or blocked by rioters and the government wants to make sure the food supply is not disrupted, said Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, an acting minister.

- BBC



FANA

Oromia and Sidama regional special forces have moved towards the front line

Spice ► Flavour your day

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

YouTube has become one of the major mining fields for digital content creators. The platform is also a big revenue generator for creatives, however, as Allan Adalla writes, some scrupulous creators may be bending the rules

Before the advancement in technology, the music industry as we know it was a whole different thing. Artistes and music production studios boasted the large numbers of music album sales. Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album remains the world's best-selling album of all time, with 70 million copies sold worldwide.

Things are different now, thanks to digital sites such as the YouTube, which have shifted the paradigm to have people go online to have a view of their favourite entertainment content. This has indeed changed many creators' fortunes for the better, with creative having to earn handsomely from the views. For instance, the number of YouTube views a video garners, the likes, comments, shares and subscriber numbers determine the success of a video. A video commanding many views gets to appear at the top of search results, a move that sells it to more eyes, which translates to more revenue for the creator via ad impressions.

However, allegations that some creators, including musicians, have been 'buying' views is rife. Recently, an Instagram user claimed that the latest hit song by rapper Octopizzo titled *Pockets* has falsified YouTube views.

"I just saw on an Instastory that YouTube views of the song *Pockets* by Octopizzo has over 700k views after three days, but when I went to view them on YouTube, they had decreased to 100k views (sic)," the fan wrote on the post.

Views for sale

This is not the first time Octopizzo has fallen victim to such claims. In August 2018, he was accused of buying views for his song *Oiel*. He released the song that broke a Kenyan record at that time by garnering more than 1.4 million views within one day. Something odd about those numbers was that on the day of the release, the number one trending video was *Position* by Ethic and Kansoul with just 275,000 views. *Oiel* was trending at number 22 with 1.2 million views. At the end of the day, it didn't even make it to the top 20.

However, comedian and content creator YY defended the musician by clapping back to this fan's claims. He is against the opinion that there are fake YouTube views. "To those complaining why a person with 200,000 views is trending on YouTube more than a person with over one million views, listen before you make baseless arguments like accusing them of buying views. Videos on trending are there because of specific patterns and algorithms set by YouTube," said YY.

He added: "One can have one million views but 90 per cent of viewers have not viewed even a half of the video. The other one can have over 200,000 views with everyone watching the full video. The person with over 200,000 views will trend more than the other one because of more watch time and is keeping the audience glued on YouTube. So, if 200,000 people view the video for like six minutes and the one million people view it in one minute, the person with the 200,000 views will absolutely have more watch time, so there is nothing like buying views here."

The rules

According to YouTube, in order for one to join the YouTube Partner Programme (YPP), they should have more than 4,000 valid public watch hours in the last 12 months and more than 1,000 subscribers on their YouTube channel.

However, cybernaut George Wanyoike believes that the buying of views is something that exists. "My video was trending sometime back at number three on YouTube. Total views were 500,000, and I gained 1,300 more subscribers. Octopizzo with 1.4 million views for *Oiel* just gained 300 subscribers. That could be a proof that buying of views might have been applied. It is an unethical way of promoting content," George tells *Spice*.

Music marketer Vyto Kelvin says as long as we have advanced technology, there must be disadvantages that come with it. He adds that the initial style of selling albums was better since everything was genuine.

"We must thank the advancement in technology that has brought us YouTube and other online music platforms. However, they have come with some demerits as well, including the buying of views and chasing clout by artistes as a marketing strategy. Honestly, this behaviour paints a picture of an artiste who can do anything, deceitful or otherwise, to push numbers and stay appealing to his audience," he says.

Octopizzo didn't pick our calls, but sent a text message saying we should text him our queries, which we did. By the time of going to press, he hadn't responded to the text message.



CAMPORAGE

With Allan Adalla

Crushing art of 'kukula' school fees

Always, the easiest decision for comrades to make is how to 'eat' their school fees. Did you ever find yourself in this dilemma during your campus days? Many say that this money is sweeter than 'eating' both rent and fare. At the varsity, parents see their children as responsible grown-ups, and put trust in them by sending them the fees as early as possible when the semester begins or before the set deadline to avoid last-minute scramble.

But this is where things go awry. In campo, festivities will always come at that particular time when you don't have extra pocket money to attend these colourful events. Buddies will always invite you for gigs on that boring weekend at the hostel, just at the moment after you've spent all your money on wrong priorities. The only choice we are left with here is pulling that Sh2,000 that was part of the fee and use it to buy a ticket for the event. It's easy to convince yourself when the mind tells you that you will reclaim the money the next day, but with time, this becomes the trend.

Not all comrades pay their fees on the first days of a new semester. They always get complacent then end up paying the fees on deadline day when queues are long outside the school's finance office after getting threats that they won't sit for the end-semester examination without clearing the fees. Chapati na madondo is known as food for comrades; they can eat this for a whole semester. Not that they love it, but it is the cheapest food you can afford while in campo. However, when they start spending the fees, they begin with a quarter kg of meat to accompany the ugali, and this becomes the order of the day.

The problem strikes hard when your fellow comrades who already ate up all their fees also realise that you are now eating yours. They become your advisers to ensure that you all eat up the fees, so that you suffer together when the day of judgement comes. They will ensure that they cook for you, especially the lasses. They cooperate at this moment up until they spend every cent from your uni fees and leave you broke. The experience of replacing the spent money when the fee payment deadline comes is the roughest.

Sooner than later, you will be downloading all the mobile loan apps for obvious reasons. This can cost you a whole academic year since you will be forced to defer, as there is no institution that can possibly allow a student to proceed to the next academic year or graduate without sitting exams or with missing marks.

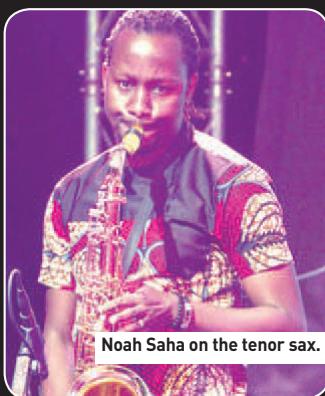
Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Music lovers
Melanie Sein,
Annbell Njoroge,
Leah Sitawa.



Alliance Française cultural affairs and communications director Harsita Waters with French Embassy culture and cooperation head Cyril Gerardon.



Noah Saha on the tenor sax.



NMS hospital management board member Queen Mwangangi, ex-Nairobi Mayor Joe Aketch and France Ambassador to Kenya Aline Kuster-Maneger.

LEST WE FORGET

by John Ochieng

The Alliance Francaise in Nairobi recently held a concert to mark the France Bastille Day. The day is normally an anniversary of the storming of a grand fortress that was infamous for holding political prisoners, during the first moments of the French Revolution in Paris in 1789. Cameroonian musician Franck Biyong's exhilarating performance paid homage to his compatriot, the late Manu Dibago, who died in March 2020 from Covid-19. Present were France Ambassador to Kenya Aline Kuster-Maneger and former Nairobi mayor Joe Aketch.

PD/JOHN OCHIENG



Cameroonian
musician Franck
Biyong entertains
the guests.



Lilian Mora, Murugi Edna and Kyende Kinoti.

Ready for the polls

by Jasmine Atieno

Kenya Editors' Guild hosted journalists to a two-day training session in Diani, Kwale county. This is in readiness for the upcoming General Elections in 2022. The training, which brought together more than 20 journalists from different media houses, focused

on conflict, hate speech, fake news and election reporting. It aimed to equip the scribes with relevant reporting skills and ethics for election reporting. In attendance was the Kenya Editors' Guild CEO Rosalia Omungo.

PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU



KNA Kwale county information officer Hussein Abdillahi with veteran journalist Macharia Gaitho.



Capital FM's Bernard Momanyi with Jumwa Mwandoro.



People Daily's Jasmine Atieno with Nancy Agutu.



Nick Gitonga,
Amina Chombo
and Lawrence
Ng'ang'a.

Ten...

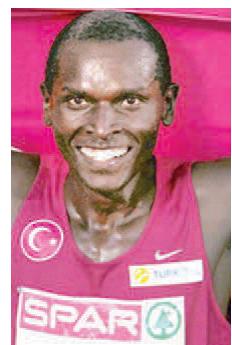
Ex-Kenyan athletes representing adopted nations in Olympics

Kenya has 'exported' top athletics talent over the years, here is a list of some top athletes who will be representing their adopted countries at the Tokyo Olympics, writes **Amos Abuga**



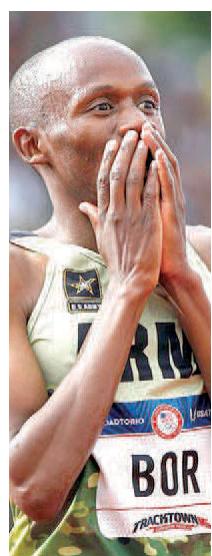
1 Paul Chelimo (5,000m, USA)

The reigning Olympic silver medalist is once again set to represent Team USA at the Olympics. The native of Iten went to the United States to attend Shorter College before transferring to UNC-Greensboro. Chelimo, 30, attained US citizenship in 2014 by joining the US Army World Class Athlete Programme and now calls Beaverton, Oregon, home. He has won three US national outdoor and four US national indoor titles. Chelimo was the bronze medalist at the 2017 worlds and placed seventh in 2019.



2 Polat Kemboi Arikan (5,000m, Turkey)

Born Paul Kipkosgei Kemboi in Cheptiret, Uasin Gishu County, in 1990, the Turkish turned athlete specialises in 3,000m and 5,000m events. He will fly the Turkish flag in Tokyo.



3 Hillary Bor (3,000m steeplechase, USA)

The Kenyan-born runner won his second US national title and became a two-time Olympian with his winning time of 8:21:34. Bor, 31, went to the United States in 2007 to attend Iowa State University where he qualified for the NCAA finals four years in a row and was second in 2009. After college, Bor joined the US Army, which provided a path to US citizenship in 2013. He was the surprise second-place finisher at the 2016 Olympic Trials, and placed seventh in Rio. He is a staff sergeant with the US Army. Icelandic goalkeeper comes in at No 9 on our list after his far from convincing displays as Leno's back-up. He was culpable for City's first goal in their 4-1 Carabao Cup rout at the Emirates last month after failing to command his six-yard area while he fumbled Riyad Mahrez's free-kick, which was straight at him. His performances have put fear into Arsenal supporters worried what will happen if Leno suffers any type of injury. But it must be highlighted that Runarsson was always viewed as third choice with room for improvement after the club failed to find a No 2 last summer. They no longer have a worthy back-up in Martinez and with Matt Macey recently joining Hibernian, the Gunners are in desperate need of a No 2 - which they will go on the hunt for this January. But we must cut Runarsson some slack, he is still learning and it is early days for him at Arsenal.



4

Eunice Cheibichii (marathon, Bahrain)

Kenyan born female long distance and cross country runner has represented Bahrain after her switch from Kenya in several international sport events. She will represent Bahrain in Tokyo 2020.

5

Winfred Mutile Yavi (3,000m steeplechase, Bahrain)

Born in Kenya, she transferred her allegiance to the oil-rich Middle Eastern state at the age of 15, becoming eligible to compete for her adopted nation in August 2016. She represented Bahrain at the 2017 World Championships finishing eighth in the steeplechase final in a personal best time of 9:22.67. She will represent her adopted country in Tokyo.



6

Bernard Keter (3,000m steeplechase, USA)

Another member of the US Army World Class Athlete Programme, Keter, 29, trains with Bor in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Kenyan native finished second with a time of 8:21.81 to make his first Olympic team. However, this is not his first international event for the US.

10,000m to go along with the silver she won a year earlier at the world championships. In 2016, Kipyego was second at the New York City Marathon and became a US citizen in January 2017.

The Olympic Trials, where she was third with a time of 2:28:52, was only her third marathon. Her post-race indulgence is ice cream.

7

Aliphine Tuliamuk (marathon, USA)

Tuliamuk won US Trials with a time of 2:27:23 on Feb. 29, 2020, the last major US track and field event before the pandemic hit. She has won 10 USATF titles from 5k through the marathon. The 32-year-old Kenya native became a US citizen in 2016 after competing for Wichita State University, where she was second in the NCAA 10,000 in 2012 and 2013.

9

Mike Kipruto Kigen (5,000m, Turkey)

The former Kenyan long distance runner specialises in 5,000m and 10,000m events. He won silver medals in both events during the 2006 Africa Championships in Athletics. In 2015, he changed his name to Kagan Kigen Ozbilgen. He will represent Turkey in Tokyo.

10

Yasemin Can (5,000m & 10,000m, Turkey)

Formerly, Vivian Jemutai, the European champion in both 5,000m and 10,000m is set to represent Turkey in Tokyo.

8

Sally Kipyego (marathon, USA)

In 2012, Kipyego represented Kenya at the London Olympic, winning the silver medal in the

You ► It's all about Life & Style

Help! I feel like a prisoner in my marriage

Hi Achokis. I have been married for seven years and have one child. I feel like my husband and I are not compatible. I like going out and having fun while my husband prefers I stay at home and behave like 'someone's wife.' He is always suspecting me of cheating on him. I feel like he wants to control me. I'm sick and tired of this and feel like I should do whatever I feel like doing without being locked up like a prisoner at home. Could our age-gap be affecting our marriage?

-Sue



ACHOKIS

Thank you Sue for your question. Have you just woken up and realised your incompatibility or is it something that has always been there? This is important, as you could have reached a stage in your life that you want to rediscover yourself as a woman, which your hubby is struggling with. He hasn't seen this version of you and so when he sees you become alive, he is thinking that it's because of someone else who has come into your life.

Possible scenarios

Though you didn't reveal your age gap, it

is true that this could affect your marriage. It can also be because of other issues such as your different personalities and backgrounds. It's clear that you are an extrovert and he is an introvert. For you, life must happen — you want to go out and enjoy, while he loves being at home. He may have got married with certain expectations about what a wife should look like and you don't seem to fit that bill. You also may have come from a strict family where you were not given much freedom and so now that you are grown-up, you want to enjoy that freedom, but you see your husband as an impediment.

Whatever the case, it is important for the two of you to have an honest discussion about the same. Why is he suspicious of you? Has there been a case of cheating in the past? Is it just about your going out or is it about the frequency or timing? Let him know that you feel controlled and want to enjoy your freedom within certain boundaries, but also listen to him to try

and understand why he is fussing about it.

Have fun together

As a married wife, you can't just live your life as a single woman — you need to know your limits. So yes, it may mean you adjusting, but it also may mean him allowing you certain freedoms. How can he allow you to be you, without it affecting the relationship? Maybe it's true that you are not meeting his expectations of a wife. Therefore, it is important to know what his expectations are. Do you have any common interests? An old woman once said, "We don't stop playing because we are old, we get old because we stop playing." Explore ways in which you can both have fun as a couple such as hiking, camping, watching movies, among others bearing in mind both your personalities.

The writers are marriage and relationship coaches
barbieachokid@gmail.com



CITYMAMACITA WITH CATHERINE NJIRU

This guy is in limbo. Kilimanjaro would call him *omuhusband*. But, we are civil people here, so we will stick to guy. So yes this *omu...eer...guy* is beyond confused. Apparently, the wife has become so religious. She attends 'fellowships' almost every evening and Sunday afternoons. Fellowships he's apparently not invited for.

Last week together with other 'sisters' and 'brothers', she travelled to Katoloni prayer mountain. They were fasting in prayer for three days. Friday, Saturday, she or rather they were back on Sunday evening absolutely tired and wasted — well, that's what the weather there does to you. Since the only mountain he knows is Mt Kenya, he couldn't argue about the sweat and strength it would take to climb this prayer

August women's 'fellowship' registration is open

one. Besides, matters religion are undeniable. The heff? Clearly disguised under the chewing gum? Oh, that must be the *diva/she* kept taking, then she quotes the Bible. Oh, 'Take this in remembrance of me.' Tactfully avoiding the part where they say who's being remembered. But if you don't read the Bible, how would you argue with the expert herself?

The change

When he's around, her conversations more than enough times go, 'Eeehe...I'm very fine man of God. The angels are around. Protecting us from every corner of this house.' Don't get

him wrong, he's more than excited for his wife. He likes the religious her — apart from the constant 'fellowship' trips and evenings, she's home and never goes out late no more. They don't compete. She's always home, when he staggers back in the wee hours. He's fine with that.

Praying... away from home

But his only concern is that she might be getting too spiritual and he's worried she'll force him into it. Do we tell him *ama injili iendelee?* Because we all know, how serious our women's conference deputy chair is with these 'fellow-

ships'. In fact, she led a powerful forum last Sunday evening. Talented woman this one. Members are even wondering what took her so long to join the 'fellowships'.

For this reason, it was decided that she deserves a special welcoming session. We are organising a trip in August. Details of the trip shall be shared soon, those who need to get their 'visa' stamped can reach any of the officials for 'recommendation letters'. *Kosa uchekwe.*

We are fasting and praying for these marriages, and it can only be done kilometres away from home. *We jenga our homes in peace!* Volume?

TWOINONE

Man, what leader are you at your home?

In every social setting, there's always a leader. The human nature requires consistent leadership even in a loving family setting. Leadership is a beautiful thing, but many people have made it to be synonymous with dictatorship. They think that their position in a person's life somewhat entitles them to be heard.

In a marriage relationship, the husband is the head of the family. Having been bestowed this privilege to lead, (and this is not to remotely suggest that women can't lead) he is not only required to provide and protect, but is designed to show direction, comfort, instructions, affirmation, love, tolerance and many other traits that humanity hungers for.

The husband must learn to nurture his wife in every area of need or weakness. He must be apt to teach and must give positive and realistic feedback. He must appreciate, praise, reward and build up his wife.

Even in a case where his wife is more financially successful than him, his role as a coach and

a trainer must never be ignored. In matters that revolve around marriage, academic and economic achievements should not really discourage the leader from taking his place and providing the much needed direction and emotional well-being within the family.

Many men complain about certain weaknesses in their marriages. These weaknesses always manifest when least expected and the result is always negative and emotionally draining.

A good man knows when to overlook a weakness. He must create time to talk to his wife and to encourage her in what he might have seen as an area that needs improvement. Many women are happy to learn something new from their husbands. They so beautifully take the posture of a child. It then becomes easy for them to listen to and to embrace new ideas and changes.

Men should strive to encourage, train, empower and to trust their wives. In this way, the two will continue being one.





NUTRITION
WITH CHRISTINE NDERITU

Snack choice: Tastier or healthier?

Have you found that when you walk into a supermarket or food store hungry you more often than not pick the less healthy snack? Well, it does not necessarily mean you have no self-control.

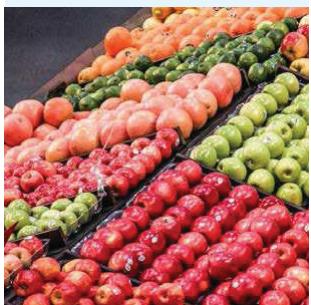
According to the study Healthy choices depend on the latency and rate of information accumulation, your brain takes a longer time to process health information than taste. In the study, participants took 400 milliseconds on average to incorporate taste information and twice as long to incorporate health information about their snack of choice.

Now this sounds like very little time, but we tend to make our decisions rather fast. Have you bought something only to realise you did not need it, or you shouldn't have bought it? These milliseconds influence many other choices depending on how the brain processes the information. So in the rush of getting something to eat, you are more likely to choose the tastier snack over the healthy one. And while you could have something tasty that is also healthy, most stores offer the unhealthy snacks more conveniently.

However, reminding yourself about the benefits of eating healthy could assist you to choose the healthier option. In the study, those that were provided with information on the benefits of healthy eating before the experiment were more likely to choose a healthy snack. But you may not always have the reminders so instead, you can slow down your decision-making process.

You know how you don't just jump into buying a house, land, or investing in something until you have really thought about it? Of course, it wouldn't take you as long to choose a snack, but as the study showed, those that took a little more time to consider the options tended to pick healthier options. You can also choose the stores that encourage you to eat healthy either by the products they sell, or how they position their products.

If the first thing you walk into is fruits, nuts, and healthier options, then this just makes it easier for you to choose what's healthier.



Fruit displayed at a supermarket.
Access to healthier snacks increases likelihood of choosing them. COURTESY

Your Health ▶ It matters

Racing against time to find

Kathure Mithika narrates the long and hard journey in searching for Sh230 million treatment for spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic disease that weakens and wastes the muscles of those affected

by Harriet James
@harriet86jim

When Kathure Mithika gave birth to her second-born daughter in January last year, she was perfect. Weighing 3.8kgs, she was a bubbly baby with dark curly hair and bright brown eyes that lit up the room and warmed her parents' hearts. When it was time to be weaned at six months old, she could feed herself with a spoon like any other child.

Kathure recalls how her baby, Ayah Lundt, loved bananas and mashed broccoli and detested avocados. But something strange happened when Ayah turned nine months old.

"She suddenly lost all the progress she had achieved. Her legs became jelly-like and caved when she tried to crawl or stand. She couldn't lift her head while lying down or even sitting on her own," Kathure narrates. She adds that one of the red flags she noticed was that Ayah couldn't eat oatmeal on her own, something she had done several times before. She knew something was wrong.

"We called our assigned home nurse and after several examinations, my baby was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy type 2 [SMA-type2]," she says.

A rare genetic disease, SMA affects the central nervous system and voluntary skeletal muscle movement. It, thereafter, progresses to affect the central nervous system, which affects the essential functions such as walking, hand movements and feeding. In time, the patient will lose their ability to swallow and breathe and will die if no treatment is given.

Though African and Kenyan statistics are unclear, globally, one in 10,000 live births have SMA, with more males affected.

"Unfortunately, SMA is complex and not a single disorder. Historically, the SMAs were classified based on age of onset and clinical presentations. These classification schemes remain useful despite significant advances in molecular genetics of these disorders," explains Dr Peter Muthinji, a specialised neurophysiologist.

Generally, SMAs are categorised from Type 1 to Type 4, with Type 1 as the most common, presenting in the first six months of life. Type 4 is the least common. Amongst infants with Type 1, the symptoms include impaired head control, profound weak muscle tone, poor feeding, weak cry, respiratory distress and severe diffuse weakness affecting predominantly the proximal muscles.

"The affected patients are never able to sit independently. Children who have it have a normal IQ, but sadly those with SMA type 1 usually die within the first two years of their lives due to respiratory complications," explains Dr Muthinji.

SMA type 2, the one baby Ayah suffers from, usually presents itself at around six to 18 months and manifests as decreased tone as well as delayed motor milestones. The child is unable to sit unsupported. Though some patients might be able to stand using a long leg brace, or standing frame, they will never be able to walk on their own. Type 3 is a relatively mild form that begins at 18 months and with this kind, patients can stand and even walk. The only thing they have challenges in is aris-



Kathure Mithika holds her daughter Ayah. COURTESY

ing from the floor or going up steps.

"For SMA type 4, patients show a gradual onset of muscle weakness in adult life, with a typical onset in the third or fourth decade," adds Dr Muthinji.

Unfortunately, the ailment has no cure.

At home, Ayah's treatment consists of getting breathing assistance twice every day. A device referred to as Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) is used to increase air pressure in her throat so that the airway does

KATHURE

She suddenly lost all the progress at nine months. Her legs became jelly like and caved when she tried to crawl or stand.

not collapse when she breathes in. They use music to soothe Ayah, as she is not a fan of the treatment.

In addition, Ayah receives alternative medicine through a lumbar puncture (a medical procedure in which a needle is inserted into the spinal canal) after every few months. To strengthen her muscles, Kathure and her husband, Frank Lundt include other activities such as crawling.

"It's been quite challenging. We can't sleep and have to rotate to take care of the children and to cater for our daily needs. It has also taken a lot of our time and too much tears and sweat, but it's all worth it for our little girl," says Kathure.

On December 5 last year, Ayah started on Spinraza, medicine used to treat SMA. Approved in 2017 by the European Medicines Agency, it is the first disease-modifying SMA therapy. Currently patients and caregivers can get their money back if they get this treatment in Denmark, where Kathure and her family lives. Though her daughter's condition has stabilised as a result of this treatment, Kathure says it has not yet improved.

The treatment they now need to stop the decay of their daughter's muscle is Zolgensma, a brand new gene therapy that can repair Ayah's genetic defect. The one-time treatment that costs Sh230m is effective in children up to two years old. While it is accepted in the European Union by the European Medical Agency, the Danish Medicines Agency has only approved the treatment for SMA type 1 patients, which cuts out Ayah from the treatment.

Hospitals in other EU countries also declined to accept Ayah as a Zolgensma patient, her mother says, with "most treating their residents only." In the US, the Food and Drug Administration has approved gene therapy drugs including Spinraza, Zolgensma and Risdiplam, which are not only not readily available, but are also by large very expensive. Kathure and her husband found out their only hope is to head to the US to get treatment, which means raising around Sh270 million, which also includes money to travel to the US, to cater for living arrangements, and other costs related to the treatment at Boston Children's Hospital. Time is running out since Ayah turns two next year in January and the drug will not be effective after her birthday.

"People are asking us why we are not looking at other hospitals, but before we settled for Boston, we had written to more than 10 hospitals in the US, Italy, Germany and Dubai. Some rejected us, but others agreed, though the price was too high. Also the paper work to be done was insane," recalls Kathure.

With a team that assisted them in the research and finding the hospital, Kathure and her husband carefully vetted the neu-

treatment for my ailing daughter

ABOUT SMA

Types

- Type 1 affects ages 0-6 months
- Type 2 affects 3 to 15 months
- Type 3 affects between 18 months and adulthood
- Type 4 affects over 30 year olds

Diagnosis

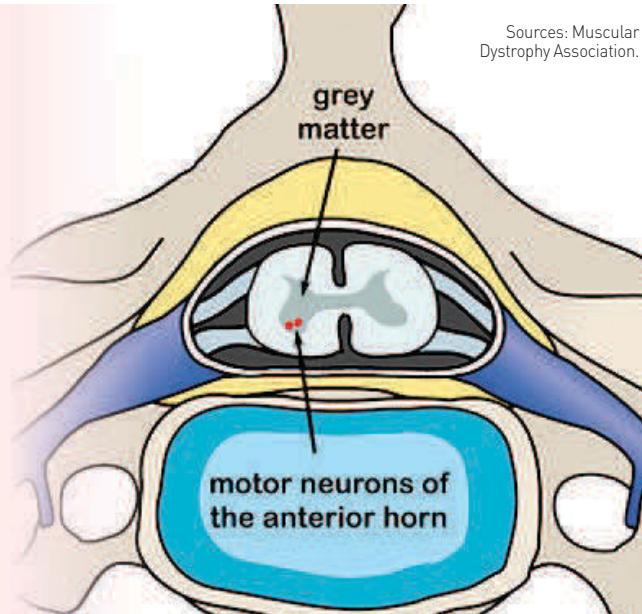
- Electromyogram (EMG) test
- CT scan
- MRI
- Muscle tissue biopsy

Symptoms

- Impaired motor function
- Breathing difficulties
- Respiratory infections
- Chest infections
- Respiratory failure
- Problems swallowing
- Muscle weakness
- Fatigue
- Spasticity
- Bone fractures
- Contractures
- Hip dislocation
- Scoliosis
- Kyphosis (curvature of the spine)

Treatment

- Medication such as Spinraza to improve motor function
- Gene therapy such as Zolgensma to improving muscle function and survival
- Muscle relaxants to reduce spasticity
- Antidepressants and anxiolytics to treating depression and anxiety.
- Occupational therapy to improve daily living and work skills.
- Respiratory devices to improve breathing



Sources: Muscular Dystrophy Association.

DR MUTHINJI

Children who have it have a normal IQ, but sadly those with SMA type 1 usually die within the first two years of their lives due to respiratory complications.



rologist who would treat their daughter. They conducted a thorough background check, and looked at how many children he or she has treated and their qualifications.

"Our goal is to see Ayah walk and while most people cannot see the importance of having her walk, I feel she has a very big chance and will benefit from not having respiratory diseases in future," she explains.

All the setbacks and challenges have not deterred this strong-willed couple's determi-

nation to save their child. Through their social media campaign dubbed 'Friends of Little Ayah', they have raised funds, shared videos of their daughter's progress and urged followers to tag anyone who can help donate via various platforms, such as GoFundMe. They have so far raised Sh215 million.

"What has surprised me is how many people, particularly Kenyans, have come together to assist us in raising the cash. I never imagined in my life that I would be in such a

position and that I would have so many people come together and just support us. I've met incredible people and I'm forever grateful for their love and support towards me and my family," says Kathure.

You can support Ayah through Mpesa Paybill 8030789, account name, Ayah or via the bank. Account details Ayah Mithika Lundt, Address: Hoejegaardsvej 4, Roenne Denmark, Bank: Arbejdernes, Landsbank, IBAN: DK845303009665072, SWIFT: ALBADDKK.

Rallying global support to raise Sh230 million for Ayah's treatment

The news about baby Ayah Lundt's urgent need for the expensive drug to save her life has touched many people's hearts. It has inspired some to form a movement to ensure they meet the August deadline of amassing the required Sh270m.

"We have a group chat and meet via Zoom every week to brainstorm on strategies for our endeavours including approaching celebs, influencers and philanthropists via social media, emails," says Edna Sangaka, a member of the group.

When Edna, a student of Math and Economics in the US, learnt about Ayah's condition from a Kenyan media, the news touched her heart. Though she donated cash, she felt much more needed to be done to save the baby's life.

"I sent a message to Mama Ayah, Kathure Mithika, and asked if I could do more on Instagram. When she said yes, I started sending messages to various celebrities on Instagram and request them to post on their wall," she says.

She adds, "I think I can speak for all of us and say this is a full-time commitment and is not for the faint of

heart. We have other commitments in our areas of work/study. During our coffee or lunch breaks we are committed to Ayah. We share the story in our areas of work, churches, malls, homes. We have become bolder in our quest and unafraid."

Esther Wanjiku, a mother of two who lives Netherlands, found out about Ayah's health from her brother who had watched it online. She researched more on the spinal muscular atrophy and the findings drove her to help Ayah live a normal life.

"My daughter is a month older than Ayah. They sometimes video chat. Seeing Ayah unable to articulate sentences as she should like my daughter because her muscle of speech is affected, makes me sad. And it's not just her speech, but her entire immune system is compromised. If nothing is done, she will die. Every minute we lose by not helping her get medicine, she is losing her motor neurons, which are unrecoverable," she says.

Esther was also moved by how difficult the whole situation has been to Ayah's mother who has kept her faith and fought to raise the funds.

"Sometimes, the Instagram live



sessions can go on for hours. It can be exhausting, especially after a long work day, but we soldier on. I look at Kathure online pushing through and it gives us fuel to help more," she says.

Tony Nzomo (pictured), a chef in Belgium who has been active in assisting Kenyans in diaspora in distress, also found out about Ayah online. He admits the mother's cry moved him so much that he began mobilising Kenyans in the diaspora and other influencers abroad and in the country to donate to the cause.

"I also reached out to media personalities on international TV stations

to air the news so we could get assistance," he narrates. It was this drive that reached CNN and the cause went global.

"Before it was aired, we had raised Sh500,000, but the funds began to rise and our phones kept ringing. In just 24 hours we had raised Sh100 million," he says. This gave their cause validity to naysayers who felt it wasn't real.

"There are people who would write negative comments on our posts telling the mother to get rid of her child, or saying the father has money or that he has abandoned the mother to take care of her daughter alone.

Others also said they are lying about Ayah's condition or that the baby is bewitched. Some don't understand that if it is fake, Kathure wouldn't be tirelessly raising cash for the seven months that this thing has been going on. Also before you start a fund raiser in Denmark, one has to register it with the government," explains Esther.

"They've also faced other challenges in doing this. First is the celebrities who block requests sent on their inbox to save baby Ayah's life. The second is those who make pledges and don't honour them.

"Some celebs promise that they would get on Instagram live streaming for the funds drive, but then switch off their phones. Others pledge and get angry when we request they send their pledge," says Tony.

The group is, however, happy that many Kenyans have come out despite the economic hardships as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and have supported the cause.

"I have met many amazing people who go above and beyond for Ayah. I really appreciate them and the work that they do," says Edna.

"I also have deep admiration for Kathure, who despite all the odds that have been stacked against her still finds the strength and courage to push on for her baby. I am not a parent, so I don't know the extreme lengths I'd go for my baby. So many times, I've felt burnt out, but when I remember her and what she and her family, especially Ayah go through every day, I find the strength to keep going for Ayah until the end. Some real bonds and friendships that I believe will continue to flourish beyond this," she says in conclusion.

-Harriet James

Scholar ► Training future leaders

BRIEFLY

118 Wings to Fly scholars admitted to 56 global institutions

■ by Barry Silah
@obel_barry

At least 118 scholars from the Equity Leadership Programme comprising of Wings to Fly alumni beneficiaries, as well as those who topped the 2019 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams in their respective sub-counties; have received admission and full financial aid to 56 global universities. The institutions are situated across five continents in different countries, including the United States of America, Canada, China, Singapore, Mauritius, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and India.

The global scholars will benefit from undergraduate scholarships from their host institutions valued at Sh1.4 million and are set to receive a token of between Sh100,000 and Sh200,000 from Equity Group to facilitate their preparation and travel to their host countries. Of the 118, 20 scholars have been admitted to Ivy League Universities in the United States, including Yale [4], Harvard [3], University of Pennsylvania [3], Princeton [1], Cornell [3], Dartmouth [2], Columbia [2] and Brown [2].

Full scholarships

Commenting on the admissions, Equity Group Foundation Executive Chairman Dr James Mwangi noted that there has been a significant growth in the number of ELP scholars admitted to various global universities on early admission. "Last year, 93 scholars had been admitted to global universities at a time like this, today, we are at 118 and counting with more scholars set to receive their admission letters within the next few weeks. In addition, 54 of these scholars have been admitted on full scholarships. We are grateful to the partnerships with these global universities that offer our children an opportunity to study, have exposure to other top scholars from other countries and with different cultures thus creating global citizens," said Mwangi.



A beneficiary of the programme during registration. COURTESY

It is a sigh of relief for Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology students after court temporarily halts legal tussle between the institution and a former employee.

■ by Douglas Dindi
@PeopleDailyKE

The appeal court has temporarily removed the main hurdle impeding the convening of the 16th graduation ceremony for Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (Mmust) after it restored the university council.

The court granted the university the injunction, stating a decision by the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) that invalidated this crucial organ in a ruling delivered on April 6 this year.

Mmust had planned to hold the graduation for the 2020/21 diploma and degree candidates on June 11, but was forced to postpone the exercise indefinitely in order to give 'life' to this vital body that had been invalidated by the court.

Acting Mmust Vice Chancellor Prof Solomon Shivairo announced early this month that the annual academic ritual postponed on June 2, will now be held virtually on August 20, in conformity with the government health and safety protocols.

"The university council is fully constituted for the graduation to take place," he said after the ruling.

"However, no public gatherings are expected at the university academic square in strict observance of government guidelines to curb spread of the coronavirus pandemic," he enumerated.

The appeal court granted the university this second chance so as not to inconvenience the students as they prepare to challenge the ruling of Justice Stephen Radido of ELRC on April 6, that nullified



Mmust graduands receiving their academic awards in 2017. PD/DOUGLAS DINDI

the appointment of five of the six Mmust council members.

The appellate court issued the stay orders on June 17, and directed the appellant to file her submissions within 14 days up to June 30. The case is fixed for a mention on July 29 while December 8, is reserved as judgement date.

Petitioner Moses Wanjala Lukoye has challenged the appointment of the council chairperson Jane Musangi and council members Stephen Mutoro, Connie Mogaka, Joshua Onyango Ogango and Gad Gathu Kiragu by education cabinet secretary Prof George Magoha on grounds of lack of consultation and was in breach of the University Act 2012.

Crippled key functions

The education cabinet secretary, the attorney general and the council chairman and members are listed as respondents in the suit. Mmust is now challenging the court verdict arguing the university was not party to the suit whose verdict had literally crippled its key functions.

In annulling the appointment, Justice Radido noted the manner the appointments were conducted was inconsistent with provisions of Article 10 of the constitution on composition, appointment and

terms of office. The judge also quashed the gazette notice No.2365 that purported to gazette the name of Musangi as Mmust council chairperson and the names of Mutoro, Mogaka, Ogango and Kiragu as members.

Mmust has remained without a substantive Vice Chancellor for over 30 months now since the exit of the late Prof and Eng Fredrick Otieno in 2018. Attempts to fill the vacant position by the ministry through the public service commission have been riddled with political interests and court battles.

The recruitment of the Mmust council and senior academic staff has remained a tug of war pitting the education CS, Public Service Commission (PSC), the Kenya University Staff Union (KUSU) and civil rights activists since the exit of the late VC prof Fredrick Otieno back in 2018.

Civil rights activist Okya Okiito Omata is battling the education ministry in court over attempts to restart the recruitment of the vice-chancellor and has successfully thwarted government machinations.

He wants the court to declare the last recruitment exercise concluded and a candidate who scored the highest points appointed as VC. He wants an order compelling the education CS to pick the

VC from among the names submitted by PSC noting the exercise was never invalidated by the court.

The government last February re-advertised the position of Mmust VC putting March 2, 2021 as the final date for submission of applications.

In suit papers, Omata argues that restarting the recruitment exercise was unfair labour practice and a waste of public resources given that it had already been concluded and that only the appointment exercise was pending.

Results of August 2019 recruitment exercise show Prof Gitonga Mburungi, former Mmust deputy VC in charge of finance and administration Prof Makhanu Sibilike and the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology VC Prof Joseph Bosire emerged top.

The title of 'acting' appears to be synonymous with Mmust. From VCs to deputy VCs the list is unending. It began with Prof Bosire, Prof Fred Otieno, Prof Asenath Sigot and now Prof Shivairo. Also serving in similar acting capacity at the institution, include Prof Judith Achoka (Planning, Research and Innovation), Prof Charles Mutai (Administration and Finance) and Dr Patrick Ojera (Academic and Students' Affairs).

University rated top performing state corporation

■ by Barry Silah
@obel_barry

The University of Embu has been ranked the top performing state corporation in the country with a 2.1250 score through a Performance Evaluation Report courtesy of the Ministry of Public Services and Gender Affairs sitting three places ahead of its counterpart Tharaka Nithi County which had a mean of 2.1791.

University of Embu is a Kenyan chartered university, which transitioned from a constituent college

to a fully-fledged university on October 7, 2016. The University was established in 1947 as an agricultural training school for pre-service training.

Other Institutions related to the Education sector were also ranked highly in the 2021 Performance Index. The University of Nairobi was ranked fourth with a grade of 2.261 while Chuka University in Tharaka Nithi County was sixth with a mean of 2.4085. Public Universities had a composite score of 3.0312.

The analysis of the performance of the tertiary institutions indicates

that there was decline in performance in the Financial Year 2019/20 compared to Financial Year 2018/19 since the average composite score changed from 3.1655 to 3.4070. In addition, four tertiary institutions achieved the "poor" performance grade as opposed to none in the Financial Year 2018/19.

Some of the top 10 performing tertiary institutions, included Nairobi Technical Training Institute with a Composite Score of 2.7225, Kabete National Polytechnic was graded second with a score of 2.7756, Meru National Polytechnic was third with

a score of 2.8140, Thika Technical Training Institute was fourth with a score of 2.8230 and Mukurweini Technical Training Institute finished the top five list with a score of 2.8248. Further analysis of the evaluation reports for tertiary institution indicates that teachers training institutes performed better than teachers training colleges and national polytechnics. This is attributed to enhanced capitation by the government and support from Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) through provision of education loans and bursaries to the students.



5.00 Inuka
 5.30 Music & The Spoken Word
 6.00 K24 This Morning
 9.00 Me & My Robot
 9.30 lebc Interviews
 13.00 News Cut
 13.30 Jungu La Spoti
 14.00 lebc Interviews
 15.30 Akili & Me
 16.00 K24 Mashinani
 16.30 Floopalo, Where Are You?
 17.00 Beatbox
 18.00 Her Mother's Daughter
 19.00 K24 Saa Moja
 19:30 Story Of Us
 20.00 Collar De Esmeraldas
 21.00 K24 Evening Edition
 22.00 Mma-Enfusion: Celebs Meet Pros
 23.00 Rhumba Oxygen-Repeat
 01:00 Al Jazeera



5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
 6.00 Rikiratha-Live
 10.00 Satai
 10.30 Ngano Ci Cucu
 11.00 Kurekereria Kodi-Live
 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
 1.30 Kayu Ka Rururi-Rpt
 2.00 lebc Interview- Live
 4.00 Ririmbuika
 7.00 Kamele Maturaini -Live
 7.30 Njungwa Ya Muthee
 Kihenjo
 8.30 Ndonga
 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro- Live
 10.00 Thenema
 11.30 Ririmbuika
 12.30 DW



5.00 Command Your Morning
 6.00 Morning Express
 8.00 Life-N-Style
 10.00 Carmela Rpt
 11.00 Tendereza
 12.00 The Entrepreneur
 12.30 Daklari Rpt
 1.00 News Desk
 1.30 Drive It
 2.00 Afri-Screen:
 4.00 Mbui Ya KTN
 4.10 The Emperor's New School
 4.30 Teenage Mutant: Ninja Turtles
 5.00 Baseline
 6.00 Losing Heaven
 7.00 KTN Leo
 7.30 Mshamba
 8.00 Steve Harvey
 9.00 KTN Prime
 10.05 Documentary
 10.30 Movie
 12.30 CNN

TIME OUT!

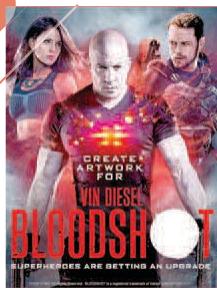


6.00PM HER MOTHER'S DAUGHTER



IN THEATRES NOW:

ANGA MEGA KISUMU: 16:20 BLOODSHOT 2020
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 19:00 BLOODSHOT 2020
 PRESTIGE CINEMA PRISTINE PLAZA: 18:30, 20:40 BLOODSHOT 2020
 ANGA MEGA KISUMU: 20:45 BAAGHI 3 2020
 NYALI CINEMAX MOMBASA: 20:45 BAAGHI 3 2020



8				1	7		6
9	6	3	8	7	5		4
	7		3				
			1				3
9	1	7		6	5	2	
6			5				
			2	4			
5	3	4	7	9	6	2	
4	9	1					5

SUDOKU

6	8	1	9	3	2	5	7	4
2	3	9	7	4	5	8	1	6
7	4	5	1	8	6	3	2	9
9	5	3	1	8	6	3	2	9
8	1	7	6	5	9	4	3	2
4	6	2	3	7	1	9	5	8
3	2	8	5	6	4	1	9	7
1	7	6	8	9	3	2	4	5
5	9	4	2	1	7	6	8	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.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



ACROSS

- Chivalrous (7)
- Summon (4)
- Fightless bird (4)
- Cardinal number (5)
- Deaden (4)
- Fasten (4)
- Information (4)
- Ceremony (6)
- Sporting side (4)
- Reverence (3)
- Sharp Pain (4)
- Food store (6)
- Anger (4)
- Exude (4)
- Gemstone (4)
- Select group (5)
- New Testament book (4)
- Entreaty (4)
- Richard, _____ Us composer (7)
- Order of business (6)
- Instruct (5)
- Cylindrical container (8)
- Soft drink (8)
- Flatten (5)
- International law agency (8)
- Collapsible canopy (8)
- Bulky (5)
- Turn up (6)
- Resolve (6)
- Collect (6)
- Cowboy rope (6)
- Boney M song, _____ of Babylon (6)
- Smouldering coal (5)

DOWNS

- Peruse
- Sieve
- Igot
- Ginger
- Through
- Brittle
- Desire
- Bulldog
- Lull
- Cold
- Bag
- Isle
- tutu
- Butler
- Lunacy
- Office
- Kermitt
- Range
- Sushi

HOROSCOPES



ARIES [MAR. 21 - APRIL 20]

Put your thoughts on paper. You may become rundown if you take on too much. You need to put some trust in others.

TAURUS [APR. 21 - MAY 21]

Don't overextend your self in order to add luxury items to your entertainment center. GEMINI [MAY 22 - JUNE 22]

Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts. You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex.

LEO [JUNE 23 - AUGUST 22]

Be prepared to make changes to your personal documents. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. When the work is done, they may serve you for a change.

VIRGO [AUG. 23 - SEPTEMBER 22]

You may be frazzled today. Attempt to face key issues with lovers or problems could escalate. Friends may not be completely honest with you.

LIBRA [SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22]

Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. Go directly to the source if you want to know exactly what's been going on. Get thinking about prolonging longevity.

SCORPIO [OCT. 23 - NOV. 22]

You may want to tell someone how you really feel. Get more involved in group efforts at work.

SAGITTARIUS [NOV. 23 - DECEMBER 21]

Travel will promote new romantic encounters. Your dedication and fortitude when dealing with humanitarian groups will enhance your reputation.

CAPRICORN [DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20]

Socializing or travel will lead to partnerships. You will attract new love interests. Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble.

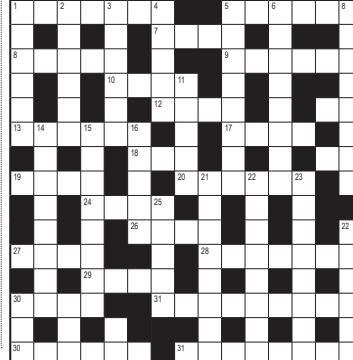
AQUARIUS [JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19]

Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Your competitive nature will enable you to win any contest you enter.

PISCES [FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20]

You can gain approval, get kudos, and ask for help if you put a little heart into your speech or request. Don't rely on others to handle the workload. Unexpected events may be upsetting.

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION



CROSS

- Pressing
- Toad
- Ripe
- Generous
- Select
- Brittle
- Bulldog
- Resume
- Location
- Slim
- Ruby
- Eyesight
- Peruse
- Sieve
- Igot
- Ginger
- Through
- Brittle
- Desire
- Bulldog
- Lull
- Cold
- Bag
- Isle
- tutu
- Butler
- Lunacy
- Office
- Kermitt
- Range
- Sushi

Sport

► The one-stop Sport shop...

City Stars bids goodbye to exiting Bosnian tactician

by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Sanjin Alagic has left his role as head coach of Nairobi City Stars at the expiry of his contract.

The Uefa Pro licensed Bosnian passes on the baton to his assistant John Amboko.

Alagic joined *Simba wa Nairobi* in July 2019 for one season initially and returned to lead the team in their first season in the top-flight following after winning the 2019/2020 National Super League.

His contract lapsed at the close of June 2021, but chose to handle three more games against Wazito, Ulinzi Stars and champions Gor Mahia on Saturday 17 July that ended 1-1 as he finalised his transition.

His exit comes at a time when there are seven more games to conclude the current 2020/21 season that, had circumstances been normal, could have wrapped

by the time his contract ended in June.

Confirming Alagic's departure, *Simba wa Nairobi* owner and chairperson Jonathan Jackson said: "I very much thank Sanjin for his passion and dedication in his professional approach to managing a team from the bottom of the super league to one of the top teams in the premier league."

Hugely proud

He added: "I greatly admire his personal engagement with the players, supporting and encouraging them individually and as a team which resulted in a very strong bond and unity among the players."

"Sanjin fitted perfectly to our puzzle and he brought professionalism to the coaching department. I wish him great further success in the future building and managing winning teams," stated Jonathan.

On his part, Alagic said of club supporters: "I am writing this to inform all of our fans that after two wonderful years with Nairobi City Stars, it is time for me to go home. I am hugely proud that I have been here for so long, when most coaches tend to change every six months. I wanted to thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for your support."

The past two years have been amazing and amongst the most intense in my career. I have spent too much time away from home. If the situation was different and my family was with me, maybe I wouldn't be writing this statement, however it is time for me to return and spend time with them."



Outgoing Nairobi City Stars head coach Sanjin Alagic. PD/BARRY SILAH



FOOTBALL - PAGE 32

Mikel Arteta 'eyes five new targets' as he looks to push for top-four finish next season



Kenya Lionesses when they took on Egypt in the final of the 2021 Fiba Women's AfroBasket tournament in Rwanda on Saturday. FIBA

Kenya Lionesses roar in Rwanda

National women's team vanquish heavyweights Egypt to qualify for Fiba AfroBasket tournament in Cameroon later in the year

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya women's national basketball team, Lionesses, are the champions of the 2021 Fiba Women's AfroBasket Zone 5 qualifiers after defeating rivals Egypt 99-83 in an entertaining final staged at Kigali Basketball Arena, Rwanda, on Saturday evening.

Lionesses, who had thrown away a first-half lead to lose 107-106 in the group stages when the two sides first met in the tournament, vowed never to disappoint again and true to their word took control of

the game from the first whistle to the last, leading in all quarters to stop Egypt and emerge champions.

The Kenyan girls who were hailed as physically fit started extremely well, winning the first quarter 29-24 with USA-based star Victoria Reynolds the top scorer with 11 points. Felmas Koranga also based in the US scored eight, with Kenyan-based duo of Natalie Akinyi of KPA adding seven points and guard Melissa Akinyi of Equity scoring three points for the first break lead.

In the second quarter, Kenyan girls scored 21 points

against Egypt's 18 to go into the first half breather leading 50-42. On resumption, Kenya charged forward to score 27 points against Egypt's 24 to take the third quarter 77-66 before wrapping up the show by scoring 22 points against Egypt's 17 in the fourth and final quarter to win the encounter and tournament 99-83 at full time to leave assistant coach Jacob Opel ecstatic.

"It was part of our plan and targets that we had. So, there's no time to rest now that we're assured of going to Cameroon in September," Opel said.

Besides Kenya winning the

KENYA LIONESSES RESULTS IN ZONE 5

First match: Lost 77-45 to host Rwanda

Second match: Beat newbies South Sudan 66-48

Third match: Lost 107-106 to Egypt, qualifying as third best.

Semis: Beat Rwanda 79-52

Finals: Beat Egypt 99-83 to lift the title.

Lionesses winning squad Guards

Rose Ouma Nalo- All Nasr UAE

Georgia Adhiambo- Ubumwe BC Rwanda

Victoria Reynolds- USA

Natalie Akinyi- KPA Kenya

Melissa Akinyi- Equity Kenya

Jemimah Omondi- Storms Kenya

Forwards

Celia Okumu- KPA Kenya

Felmas Koranga- Troy University USA

Brenda Adhiambo- USA

Centers

Vilma Akinyi- KPA Kenya

Mercy Wanyama- AD Cortegada Spain

Christine Akinyi- Zetech Sparks Kenya

overall title, individually, the Kenyan girls scooped three awards with Felmas Koranga winning the best power forward award as impressive Victoria Reynolds won two awards, the best tournament forward and tournament's most valuable player (MVP).

A super excited Reynolds said: "We started the tournament really shaky against Rwanda, but we adjusted and that's why we came strongly against Egypt. For the MVP award, personally, it hasn't hit yet. We will make you proud in Cameroon."

Foundation to construct modern basketball courts in Nairobi slums

by Barry Silah
@obel_barry

The Jonathan Jackson Foundation held their first ground-breaking ceremony for its Bakee Mtaani project of 2021 last week at Holy Ghost Mission Primary School in Riruta, Kawangware.

Bakee Mtaani (basketball in the hood) is an initiative that seeks to introduce basketball courts as safe spaces within Nairobi's informal settlements and communities. The project will include identification and construction of basketball courts, sourcing of

equipment, training of coaches and referees and comprehensive training programmes for the youths to learn the sport and ensure high levels of participation.

Exposure to professional basketball players, life skills, camaraderie and fellowship among the youth, as well as basketball scholarships to promote basketball pro-level playing as a career, are all part of the project's long-term agenda.

The ceremony will see the construction of a full-size Fiba-type basketball court built to international standards for professional tournaments. JJF in-

tends to construct 12 courts this year.

Jonathan Jackson, chairman of JJF, said: "I am greatly optimistic of the impact that a major-league basketball court will bring to the youth of this area; lives will indeed be transformed."

The chief guest, Sports Kenya Director General Pius Metto, remarked: "The initiative by JJF to construct and improve basketball courts to facilitate engagement in alternative sporting activities by the informal communities is laudable and unparalleled."

Also in attendance was Everlyne Kedogo, vice-chairman of the Nairobi



Guests who graced the ground-breaking ceremony at Holy Ghost Mission Primary School. PD/BARRY SILAH

BRIEFLY

Paul, Njeri top Africa Triathlon Zone 2 and 4 Championship

John Paul and Josette Njeri anchored team Triathlon 001 to a first place finish in the mixed relay of the Africa Zone 2 and 4 Triathlon Championship in Watamu, Kilifi County.

The duo dominated the two-day championship that kicked off with the elite and age group competition on Saturday before it concluded yesterday.

Running with the elites, John Paul and Josette won their respective age group (under-23) men and women categories, respectively. The duo also won the

overall winners' awards.

But it was the final day that they exhibited their athleticism.

Team Triathlon 001 from Mombasa County that was made up of 14-year-old Iman Kaitza, Soud Hassan, who cheated death barely two weeks ago, John Paul and Josette, the top ranked Kenyan female athlete in the junior category.

Iman had a poor start after the first round, but John Paul brought his team back into contention for the top medal when he caught up with the leaders to place third

in the second lap before handing over to Josette.

- Amos Abuga



Kenya Cup: KCB lucky escape as Kabras good form continues

RUGBY: Kenya Cup champions KCB have shown they are vulnerable after winning 22-19 their sixth fixture courtesy of a late penalty against Menengai Oilers in Nakuru. Last season runners-up Kabras Sugar didn't have the same problems as they grabbed their consecutive fifth bonus points by half time thanks to a 40-15 win over Nakuru RFC at the same venue.

The round's biggest upset was staged by MMUST when they disrespected Impala on home ground to win the clash 21-12 to climb a place to ninth with eight points while Blak Blad dropped a place to tenth with seven points after losing the varsity derby 10-25 against Strathmore Leos.

In the Ngong Road derby, starving Nondescripts finally tasted a 18-5 win over Harlequin to boost head coach Foxy Willis Oja's confidence heading into Kakamega to play Kabras Sugar next.

"We are still ticking the same boxes on our objectives list. Our mistakes today were fewer, that is a sign the team has started coming together, which is the whole point of having younger players on the team," Oja told People Sport.

Harlequins on the other hand failed to capitalise on their forwards and home advantage despite cancelling an early penalty lead by the visitors by scoring the sole try of the day when their new signing Charles Kinyanjui scored in the first quarter. - Alex Njue



Mathai wins Nanyuki leg of NCBA Golf Series

by Edwin Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Handicap nine home player John Mathai carded an excellent round of 38 points on Saturday to emerge overall winner of the Nanyuki Sports Club's leg of the 2021 NCBA Golf Series. His impressive form saw him become the Series' eighth winner, with 13 more legs to go.

His stellar effort saw him edge out fellow clubmate Peter Rimui (9), who carded a round of 36 to clinch top honours in the men's category, ahead of Cyprian Bundi (1), who finished the day with 35 points to claim runner-up spot in the category.

In the ladies' category, Dr Samantha Mathu (27) took top honours with a round of 24 points ahead of Lucy Njuguna (11), who finished the round with 21 points. In subsequent events, Gurung Tek (16) emerged as the first nine winner with 21 Stableford points, as Kelvin Gitonga (12) claimed the honours for the second nine with 19 Stableford points.

Many customers

The Nanyuki Sports Club leg, the eighth in the NCBA Golf Series, was the second event of a doubleheader weekend in the calendar, which featured a Club Nite at the Nyeri Golf Club on Friday, July 16, 2021, that was sponsored by NCBA Group.

At the Nyeri event, handicap nine home player, Felix Kibicho, was the 18-hole winner on countback, having carded a round of 35 points ahead of handicap 19, Charles Wanjau, who posted a round of 35 to claim the runner-up spot.

Meanwhile, Dr Richard Kabugi (28) was crowned the nine-hole winner on countback, having carded 18 Stableford points ahead of Dr. Ephantus Mate (14), who finished the day runner-up in the category with 18 points.

In other events, George Kiguta (10) was the first nine winner with 21 points as Dr Samuel Kiragu claimed the honours in the second nine on countback with 19 points.

Speaking on the side-lines of the Nanyuki leg of the series, NCBA Group Managing Director, John Gachora, said:

"Selecting Nanyuki to be part of this series was driven by two things: one is that we have many customers here, and part of what we do through the NCBA Golf Series is to spend time with our customers, so Nanyuki becomes that important for us."

Holiday heroics put Bucks on brink of grabbing title

Milwaukee are now within one game of their first NBA title since 1971

■ Phoenix, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

Jrue Holiday made a spectacular steal with the game up for grabs Saturday to lift the Milwaukee Bucks over Phoenix and within one game of their first NBA title since 1971.

The 31-year-old guard, coming off a woeful 4-of-20 shooting effort in game four, hit 12-of-20 in a 123-119 victory to give Milwaukee a 3-2 edge in the best-of-seven NBA Finals, which continue Tuesday in Milwaukee.

Holiday, an All-NBA Defensive First Team selection for the second time in four seasons, had game highs of 13 assists and three steals and it was the last of each that delighted the Bucks and devastated the Suns.

"The great thing about Jrue is he can affect the game in so many ways," Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "It says a lot."

Phoenix's Devin Booker was looking for a go-ahead basket but Holiday stripped the ball from him, then seconds later lofted a high pass to Greek forward Antetokounmpo, whose slam dunk was a backbreaker.

"A great play by Jrue. I don't have any other words for that one," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "I just watched it and he just makes a great play."

It's the sort of thing Milwaukee's Pat Connaughton has seen from Holiday all year.

"He's physical, he's quick, he's strong. He's got a lot of things to him. And he's got quick hands," he said. "First Team All Defensive play. It was a defensive play of the year. It just kind of shows we're built on defense."

Holiday dropped off his man to double team Booker, who scored 40 points, when he went into the paint with the ball.

"I was just trying to score," Booker said. "He was behind me. I turned and he was



Devin Booker #1 of the Phoenix Suns shoots against Jrue Holiday #21 of the Milwaukee Bucks during the second half in Game Five of the NBA Finals at Footprint Center on July 17, 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona. AFP

right there." "He turned right into me. I guess I was just in the right place at the right time," Holiday said.

"I thought he was going to shoot it and I was going to be behind him and try to contest or maybe bother him. Once he pumped-faked, I felt like I should stay down and he literally turned into me." Once Holiday dribbled away, there was Antetokounmpo waiting for a high pass rather than having Holiday run down the clock.

"Giannis took off and he was calling for the ball," Holiday said. "So at that point, I just threw it as high as I could and only

where Giannis could go get it.

"He went up there got it. They don't call him the Freak for nothing. I threw it as high as I could."

Khris Middleton saw Holiday rip the ball from Booker's grasp and knew what was coming next.

"Once it's a loose ball, Jrue has got great instincts and great hands," Middleton said. "When he's aggressive, he's one of the tougher point guards to handle -- his size, his athleticism, his skill set. He can do so many things on the court when he's aggressive."

JRUE HOLIDAY
He turned right into me. I guess I was just in the right place at the right time.

Joint Kenyan flag-bearers at opening ceremony confirmed

Nairobi, Sunday
 @PeopleDailyKe

Rugby sevens captain Andrew Amonde and women's volleyball skipper Mercy Moim will bear Kenya's flag during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games on July 23.

The decision to have two flag-bearers was made by Olympics Kenya following information from the International Olympics Committee (IOC) allowing countries to have equal gender representation at the opening ceremony. "This is a good surprise and a great honor to carry the flag of Kenya. I was not expecting it, if I look at my journey as a girl from a small village called Kaboijo, I'm elated and even more motivated to ensure our national anthem is sung during the Olympics," Moim remarked.

Female archer Shazad Anwar was Kenya's flag-bearer at the Rio 2016 Games, becoming the first female within the country to have the honor at the global showpiece. At the same time, Moscow 2013 world women's 800m gold medalist Eunice Sum has been appointed the overall captain of Team Kenya, taking over from Rio 2016 men's javelin silver medalist Julius Yego, who quit the role last week.

Sum, 33, is planning to bow out of the sport after Tokyo 2020 and will race in the women's 800m alongside Mary Moraa and Emily Tuwei. Olympics Kenya said the decision to have a lady captain stems from the fact that Kenya is historically sending 56 percent of the women representatives to the Olympics this year.

"The contingent of 87 athletes includes 49 women and 38 men. In respect to this, the Cabinet Secretary (for Sports) last week sent a stern warning to sport federations against the indecent treatment of women in sports, and inclusion in management of women's teams," Olympics Kenya said.

- Xinhua



Rugby sevens captain Andrew Amonde and Mercy Moim will bear Kenya's flag during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games on Friday. NOC-K

Kenya volleyball libero cautions other teams not to



Malkia Strikers. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

Nairobi, Sunday

@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya women's volleyball team libero Agripina Kundu has cautioned their more experienced Pool A opponents at the Tokyo Olympics not to underestimate the African side when the competition serves off on July 25.

Kundu, 28, is one of the more experienced players in a side brimming with upcoming talent, and having been part of the national set-up since 2014, the libero believes the current squad is better placed to register their best ever Olympics performance. Kenya registered

successive 11th-placed finishes at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 in their previous appearances at the Olympic Games, and on their return to the showpiece event, Kundu and her teammates are keen on progressing further than before.

The record nine-time African champions are in Pool A alongside hosts Japan, South Korea, the Dominican Republic, Serbia and Brazil, with the top four qualifying for the quarterfinals. In measures aimed at minimizing the risk of the entire team being quarantined upon arrival in Japan, the east African side traveled to Tokyo in two batches, arriving there on July 8 and 9 before

Moim's delight on being named Kenya flag-bearer

After rising through the ranks to represent the national team, the 32-year-old says it is surreal to have gotten this far

by Amos Abuga
 @Amokc1001

Malkia Strikers captain Mercy Moim is still digesting the news that she will be one of Kenya's flag-bearers at Friday's opening ceremony for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Ever since rising through the ranks representing the national team in 2003 during the junior world championships in Poland, the 32-year-old says it is surreal to have gotten this far.

"I'm so happy to get this position. It is one of those wildest dreams that come true when one least expects. From a small village in Mt Elgon called Kaboijo to the world, that is my story," Moim who will conduct the flag bearing duties with Shujaa captain Andrew Amonde told People Sport.

She was too young the last time Malkia Strikers appeared at the Athens Olympics in 2004 and the intervening 16 years have been testing for the Moim and the team, coming close in the subsequent editions in Beijing, London and Rio before lady luck struck for Tokyo.

"I have been to all competitions except the Olympics, so becoming an Olympian is excitingly sweet and special. It shows that no matter how long it takes, if you believe in yourself everything will fall in place," said the athlete who in 2005 as a 15-year-old became the youngest player to represent the country during the 15th edition of the Africa Nations Cup volleyball in Nigeria where Kenya emerged champions.

The left attacker, a perennial Africa Club Championships winner with her former club Kenya Prisons Service and currently with KCB Women's Volleyball Club, says the team is psyched up ahead of the Games.

"For sure we will be up against the very best sides in the world who come with a lot of experience at the highest level. However, I want to state that we are equally up to the task. We are at the Olympics by merit and

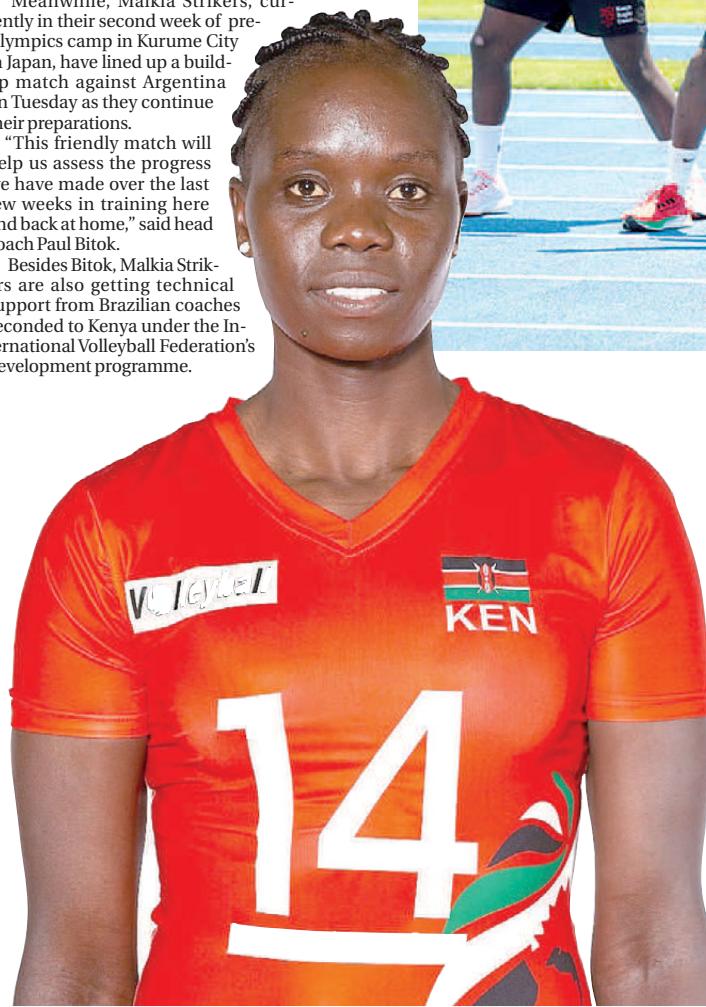
that is why we have it all to play for," added Moim.

Kenya has been drawn in a tough Group A that has hosts Japan, Brazil, South Korea, Serbia and Dominican Republic.

Meanwhile, Malkia Strikers, currently in their second week of pre-Olympics camp in Kurume City in Japan, have lined up a build-up match against Argentina on Tuesday as they continue their preparations.

"This friendly match will help us assess the progress we have made over the last few weeks in training here and back at home," said head coach Paul Bitok.

Besides Bitok, Malkia Strikers are also getting technical support from Brazilian coaches seconded to Kenya under the International Volleyball Federation's development programme.



Malkia Strikers captain Mercy Moim.

PD/DAVID NDOLLO



underestimate Kenya

flying to their pre-Olympics camp in Kurume City. "We did a lot of strength and conditioning in the gym to gain the much-needed power so that when we strike, the opponent feels the power of [national corn meal dish] ugali," Kundu said from the team's camp in Kurume on Friday.

Since April, the team has been trained by a team of Brazilian coaches seconded to the country by world governing body FIVB, and their impact with the side has impressed the seasoned libero. The South Americans introduced

the Catapult GPS system to monitor the performance of the Kenyan players for the first time, and Kundu believes the innovation has aided their quest to post their best ever Olympics performance. "With this technology, everyone is given what to work on from the analysis. It has really helped us," she added.

Kundu, who plays for local outfit Kenya Pipeline, noted they have made up for missing out on training and game time ahead of the Olympics, thanks to the technology.

- Xinhua

SA footballers first to test positive for coronavirus

Tokyo, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

Two South Africa footballers have become the first competitors to test positive for coronavirus in the athletes' village in Tokyo - five days before the start of the Olympic Games.

South Africa's Football Association confirmed Thabiso Monyane and Kamelo Mahlatsi as the cases.

Video analyst Mario Masha tested positive on Saturday and the team is in quarantine pending more test results.

Another athlete from outside the village also tested positive on Sunday.

"We have three positive cases of Covid-19 in the camp here, two players and

an official," said South Africa team manager Mxolisi Sibam.

"There is daily screening which included taking temperature and saliva testing. Masha and Monyane reported high temperatures and positive saliva



Recyclable cardboard beds and mattresses for athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Village. AFP

tests and were then taken to do the nasal test, which we all had initially taken and they unfortunately tested positive for Covid through that test. Mahlatsi is the latest player to go through the same process," added Sibam.

Monyane, a right-back with Orlando Pirates in his homeland, posted on social media when the team arrived in Tokyo.

In total, organisers on Sunday reported 10 new cases connected to the Olympics including media, contractors and other personnel. That compares with 15 new cases on Saturday.

Infection rates are rising among the general population of Tokyo, topping 1,000 new cases for four consecutive days.

- AFP



Shujaa, Lionesses keen to display Kenya magic

by Gibo Zachary

Sevens teams intensify training as they get ready to lock horns with the world's best nations in the sport

@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya men's and women's rugby sevens national teams, Shujaa and the Lionesses, says they are in Japan to put their best foot forward and showcase their brand of rugby.

Shujaa and Lionesses are camping in Kurume City in readiness for the Olympics, and speaking to the press, Shujaa's head coach Innocent 'Namcos' Simiyu said that they are happy with the facilities in Kurume and they are poised to roar when the games start.

"We are happy that we are out and have started our preparations and we're, therefore, quite happy and ready to go," said Simiyu.

Simiyu said that having left the country early to Japan, they have enough time to acclimatise and prepare for the games.

"Back at home we really focused on our game profiles but for now we're focusing on our game plans versus South Africa and the USA being the day one events and we will take a game at a time with the USA."

Talking about the Pool which Kenya is paired with South Africa and the USA as well as Ireland, which most people see as underdogs, Simiyu refused to rate them as such, saying that they will approach each match as it comes.

"Ireland is a very good team. Even before they came to the core series, they made the semifinals of the world series a couple of times. They won their series qualifiers and the repechage, so they are quite a good team and they play a very expansive game," he said, adding that they are not expecting any easy game since all pools are tough.

"For us, it is a game at a time and it's more important in regards to us hitting our standards earlier and playing our game, showcasing Kenyan talents and brand of rugby."

Simiyu said that adhering to the Covid-19 set down guidelines from back at home and World Rugby and Olympics guidelines in Japan will play a key factor considering that any team can be affected and ruled out.

His women's counterpart coach Felix Oyoo said that Lionesses are seen as underdogs in the tournament, but will not go into any game with fear as they seek to make a mark in the Olympics, the world's premier sports event.

"In a seven's game, anyone can win. So, insofar as we are the underdogs, we'll put our best foot forward without a doubt. We're playing the best teams in the world. When you look at New Zealand, they are the top team in the world. When you look at Great Britain, they are among the top three in the world. Russia is also coming up very well, and they are in the top five as well."

KENYA SHUJAA, LIONESSES OLYMPICS RUGBY 7S FIXTURES (IN KENYAN TIME)

Men:

Kenya Shujaa vs USA, Mon July 26 at 5:30-6 am

Kenya Shujaa vs South Africa, Mon July 26 at 13:13-30 pm

Kenya Shujaa vs Ireland, Tue July 27 at 5:30 am

Women:

Kenya Lionesses vs New Zealand, Thursday July 29 at 5:30-6 am

Kenya Lionesses vs Russia, Thursday July 29 at 13:13-30 pm

Kenya Lionesses vs Great Britain, Friday July 30 at 5:30 am

Ugandan who went missing says he wants work in Japan

Tokyo, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

A Ugandan weightlifter disappeared from an Olympic training camp in Japan, leaving behind a note saying he wanted to find work, Japanese officials said Friday.

Authorities were searching for Julius Ssekiteleko, 20, who failed to show up for a coronavirus test and was not in his hotel room, host city Izumisano said in a statement.

Ugandan sports officials said the athlete had recently found out he would not be able to compete at the Games because of a quota system.

A city official told AFP late Friday that a note had been found in Ssekiteleko's hotel room in which the athlete said he wanted to work in Japan and asked that his belongings be sent to his family in Uganda.

Surveillance cameras at a local train station appeared to show the athlete, who was believed to have bought a ticket to the city of Nagoya, officials added, though it was not immediately clear if he had travelled there or not.

Ssekiteleko was last seen shortly after midnight inside the hotel by a fellow athlete, the city said earlier.

He failed to conduct a required PCR test by shortly after noon and the alarm was raised when he was not found in his hotel room.

Salim Musoke Ssenkungu, president of the Ugandan Weightlifting Federation, told AFP that Ssekiteleko had been training "very hard" for his first Olympic weightlifting competition but was told this week that he would not be allowed to compete and had to return home.

- AFP



Ugandan weightlifter Julius Ssekiteleko. AFP

NSL: Fortune Sacco hit five past hapless Mwatate Utd

by Barry Silah
@PeopleSport11

Fortune Sacco were on a roll Sunday after a 5-1 drubbing of visiting Mwatate United to move second on the log in the Betika National Super League.

The Kirinyaga-based side are now up to 47 points in the standings as they seek a pathway to the premier league next season. Fortune Sacco have scored a total 10 goals in their past two matches after hitting Coast Stima 5-0 in their midweek clash, making them the highest scoring team in the league so far.

For 70 plus minutes, Fortune Sacco had led and enjoyed possession in their backyard of Kianyaga Stadium before the visiting side, who are ninth on the log, round their solitary goal.

In the 75th minute against the run of play, the Taita Taveta-based opponents found a consolation goal to somewhat ease their pain. The newcomers have had a fairly good run in the second tier championship until this week when they lost twice in a space of four days with Talanta beating them 2-0 at home on Wednesday.

Leaders FC Talanta opened a six-point gap at the apex of the league with a 2-1 win over

10-man Mt Kenya United. Ken Kenyatta's side are now on 54 points having won their fourth consecutive match in what has been a splendid second leg resurgence.

Talanta now look like the pole contenders for premiership promotion with 11 matches to go.

Kisumu Hot Stars FC, on the other hand, have endured a horrid run lately with Sunday's 2-1 loss against APS Bomet FC being a stab on the wound. Currently placed 18th on the log, Hot Stars almost look a sure bet for relegation with only 27 points in the bag for the cash-strapped side.



FC Talanta Striker David Juma (left) battles with Mt Kenya United defender Mark Otieno during a recent NSL Match. PD/DAVID NDOL

Ahly punish 10-man Chiefs to win CAF Champions League

CASABLANCA: Egyptian club Al Ahly won a record-extending 10th CAF Champions League title on Saturday with a 3-0 final victory over 10-man South African rivals Kaizer Chiefs in Casablanca.

Mohamed Sherif scored his sixth goal of the competition after 53 minutes to put the Cairo Red Devils ahead at an empty Stade Mohammed V because of the coronavirus pandemic.

A brilliant goal from Mohamed 'Afsha' Magdy on 64 minutes left little doubt about the outcome in a disappointing finale to the marquee African club competition.

Amr el Sulaya rubbed salt into the wounds of Chiefs with a third goal on 74 minutes, slamming a back-heel past Nigerian goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi.

Chiefs were struggling to contain Ahly late in the first half when they suffered a massive blow with the red-carding of Happy Mashiane.

The forward stamped on the right leg of full-back Ahmed Tawfik and, after initially flashing a yellow card, the Burundi referee checked the foul on a monitor and changed his decision.

It was a historic victory for Ahly, who became the first club to win back-to-back Champions League titles three times.

South Africa-born Ahly coach Pitso Mosimane, who supported Chiefs as a child, became the first African coach to win the competition three times. - AFP



Arsenal's overhaul

Mikel Arteta 'eyes five new targets' as he looks to push for top-four finish next season and seek to take Gunners back into European contention

London, Sunday
@PeopleSport11

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is finally ready to splash the cash this summer after a relatively quiet transfer window so far.

As it stands, Nuno Tavares is the only confirmed signing for Arsenal so far in the window after agreeing to a £6.8million deal.

Arteta is now said to be interested in adding Sheffield United's Aaron Ramsdale and Norwich City's Max Aarons to his ranks for the 2021-2022 season.

According to The Athletic, Arteta is looking to add an additional goalkeeper to his squad and has named Ramsdale as a potential target.

Having conceded 39 goals in 38 games in the previous campaign, Arteta believes Ramsdale's shot stopping qualities could benefit the Gunners next term.

As a result, Arsenal will move forward with a bid and should he accept, Ramsdale could emerge as Arsenal's No 1 between the sticks.

Arteta is also said to be in the market for a new right-back to replace Hec-

tor Bellerin - who could leave the club this summer.

Bellerin is likely to depart the Emirates after 10 years with the club, having made 239 appearances for the North London club.

Norwich City's Max Aarons is understood to be the likely choice. However, Arsenal will face stiff competition from rivals Tottenham for his signature.

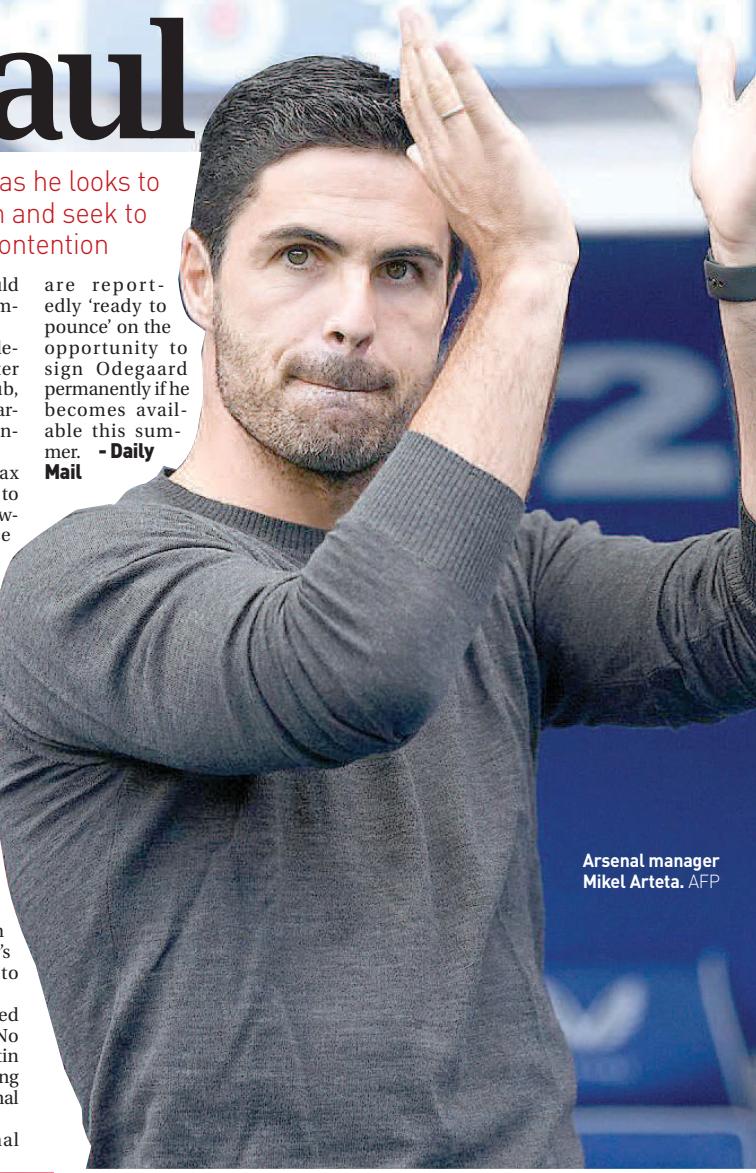
As for the middle of the park, Arteta is looking for an experienced playmaker to operate alongside Thomas Partey.

According to reports Arsenal have identified £35m-rated Ruben Neves as their primary target for the role.

As Wolves are said to be open to selling their star man, Arsenal chief Edu has been in contact with the player's agent Jorge Mendes to discuss a deal.

Edu is also interested in acquiring a new No 10 after watching Martin Odegaard impress during his loan spell with Arsenal last season.

As a result, Arsenal



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta. AFP



Download QR Code app on Google Play and scan this QR code with your smart phone for pictures, videos, more stories