



News

Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | Nation

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II takes place today Monday 19th September at Westminster Abbey. Prior to the State Funeral, The Queen Laid-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects.

President William Ruto flew out to attend the state burial, leaving behind his second in command Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua in charge of the country in his absence.

This will be the Presidents first official visit, which comes barely a week after his inauguration as Head of State.

Also read;

Rigathi now in charge as Ruto leaves for the Queens funeral in UK

The white, lost magic of monarchy as Queen Elizabeth II is laid to rest

Five things to know about the queen's coffin procession

British citizens in Kenya hold requiem mass for the Queen at All Saints Cathedral

Ruto flies out in maiden trip as Head of State

National mourning highlights Queens personal popularity

Queen leaves UK still divided by class and with Kenyan blood on its hands

Special memorial service held in Nyeri church where Queen Elizabeth II worshipped

A monarch of contradictions, but above all an impressive woman

Queen Elizabeth must be smiling up yonder due to Safaris success

King Charles III faces a home-front reshuffle

Its because of Queen Elizabeth that the iconic Safari Rally exists

End of Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II | Nation



Blogs-opinion

Let independent institutions do their work

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

Just days after he was sworn in, Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua launched a scathing attack on the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). Presidential election runner-up Raila Odinga, a former Prime Minister, also condemned the electoral commission (IEBC) and the Judiciary and talked of plans to lead a million-man march to push for the resignation of commissioners.

The bare-knuckle attacks are likely to make the targeted officers less productive as they may be intimidated, which is likely to hamper their performance. It's important that politicians shun such unwarranted attacks on independent institutions since we depend on them for implementation of their constitutional mandate, critical for the nation.

Nevertheless, the institutions must perform their duties without fear or favour. Also, those who fail in their duty should be apprehended using the constitutional procedures as opposed to public spats and political duels.

Timothy Mwirichia, Meru

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I've been a civil servant; so, I have an idea how things work in the government. What I know is that DCI officers only come in when there is a problem and, in most cases, they are invited.

It would seem things have changed these days, going by what Deputy President (DP) Rigathi Gachagua is reported as saying. The DP allegedly said DCI officers will not be allowed to investigate government ministries.

Mr Gachagua has had some run-ins with DCI; he must detest them. But what the DP said is not government policy. He may feel entitled to make such a strong statement, given the votes he helped William Ruto to get from central Kenya to win the presidency, but his powers are limited.

When looked at soberly, the officers will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and, if there was a shortcoming in the past, correct it as expected by the new President and his deputy.

But we all know the President and his deputy do not have the capacity to hover over every government office; besides, human beings are selfish. So, theft in government offices will continue.

Let those who won't reform not cry loudly like children if they steal from public coffers and DCI is breathing down their neck for they will not be left alone to enjoy the nefarious lucre.

Githuku Mungai, Nairobi

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Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua should stop unnecessary verbal threats and intimidation of Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti. The DP should realise that the DCI can only be effective in a conducive working environment.

DCI officers' work is to investigate crime and nobody can confine their work to the office as Mr Gachagua suggests. Some work undercover to prevent crime or apprehend criminals.

The DP was further quoted as saying governors and other senior civil servants should never be arrested by junior cops. But a trained police officer can perform any task in their mandate.

Mr Gachagua should be telling us how Kenya Kwanza will save Kenyans from economic doldrums. As the DP, he should not be seen as shielding the corrupt.

Damson Opiyo Onger, Kisumu

End of Let independent institutions do their work



Blogs-opinion

President William Ruto should boost family unity

The Watchman / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Family Since the President is the symbol of national sovereignty, he should also play a role in boosting family unity, says Nderitu Wanjohi. President William Ruto, walking with and holding hands or hugging his wife Rachel in public, and DP Rigathi Gachagua doing the same, he adds, will put their wives where they actually belong and other Kenyans will follow suit. His contact is

Youth jobs The new Ruto-led administration, Richard Kihara says, should hire the many jobless young Kenyans to provide outreach services, especially in the agricultural sector and small and micro-enterprises. They should be given performance-based contracts so that they can help to increase production and create more jobs while boosting income. His contact is

Roads Belatedly congratulating new Narok Governor Patrick ole Ntutu, Chris Kiriba says this heartfelt gesture comes with a caveat. Once settled in your position, please command the Roads Department in the county to complete the drainage works on the newly tarmacked road in Lenana Estate. It should also tarmac the road to Medicatia Hospital. His contact is

Religiosity Ex-presidential aspirant and gospel musician Reuben Kigames remark that the Ruto regime is overdoing religion is one James Gakuo finds intriguing. Im surprised that he could describe Kenyans as overly religious. Whereas during Covid-19 bars were later opened but churches remained closed much longer, critics were silent. Isnt this hypocrisy? His contact is

Activist As new Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah Okoiti settles down in his new law-making role, Githuku Mungai is a little worried about what will become of the public litigation that he has for a long time done so well. Is there a person he has groomed, whether a lawyer or not, who can continue taking to court matters of public interest? His contact is

Have an equally good day, wont you!

End of President William Ruto should boost family unity



Blogs-opinion

First feed the nation, then do projects

Joe Mungai / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Kenyans are hungry and getting angry and it might get ugly; after all, a hungry man is an angry man. But I agree with President William Ruto that we cannot afford shortcuts as we seek answers to the question of hunger; we cannot live on subsidies, especially at the very end of the line of production. You don't treat a serious condition with painkillers.

We need to read up on Nigeria. The black gold (read oil) was discovered in the West African country in the 1950s. In 1971, they joined the league of leading oil producers, Opec. But then, the food-sufficient country abandoned agriculture and the young generation moved to major cities to find work in oil and related industries.

Nigeria became a leading producer of oil but became reliant on food imports. In the meantime, its population increased rapidly. The country had to review its policy on imported foods.

Kenya has had its fair share of success. The land boomies, every part of the earth in Kenya is literally big money. Our planners and government don't care where we are planting concrete, dealing a blow to food production. There is a need to put a stop to the sale and subdivision of agricultural land for development.

Food-secure

Food security is a process. We can't be food-secure while clearing forests, which affects the climate. We also need to desilt our rivers and ensure they are not polluted. When rivers are choked they die, hurting food production.

Small-scale farmers must be persuaded to form groups or cooperatives to simplify the management and monitoring of the farms. Farmers must be motivated to farm. And isn't it shameful that farmers lose a lot of food due to poor roads? How much would it cost to process perishables and dry them to avoid wastage?

We shall not be food-secure by subsidising fertiliser and other inputs but by planning. First address the issue of diminishing forests, soil erosion and pollution then bring farmers together.

Mr Mungai, a retired teacher, is a businessman and social worker in Washington State, United States.
@mungaijn

End of First feed the nation, then do projects



Blogs-opinion

Learn to eat well, but not our money

Macharia Gaitho / Tuesday, September 20, 2022

It is, indeed, great that President William Ruto recognises the dire need for lessons in etiquette around his dinner table. We do recall that in the early years of Independence, Jeans School, in Kabete, the present-day Kenya School of Government, developed such a programme for wives of the emerging African elite.

After nearly 60 years, we have a whole crop of leaders, and not just their spouses, who still need to be trained on how to handle a fork and knife.

That viral video of Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua stuffing cake into his mouth on Inauguration Day obviously was an eye-opener for President Ruto. The DP and other rustic elected leaders aside, we also boast that hustlers and Mama Mboga will be an integral part of the government. Those of wanting social skills will not be admitted to the high table before undergoing a crash course on how to conduct themselves like the hated dynasties.

We have to hope, however, that the curriculum at Kabete will not be limited to table manners, which knife, fork, spoon and glass to use with each course, and how not to drink from the finger bowl or pile the dessert on top of the main dish.

Overflowing plates

The training programme must also encompass gluttony. The Kenya Kwanza leaders around President Ruto must learn not to fill their plates to overflowing levels. Beyond that, they must also learn that grabbing public resources is a criminal offence.

Even before the Cabinet is appointed, we are seeing fellows openly casting covetous glances at the public purse.

The energy parastatals seem to be a particular target for those eyeing lucrative tenders, as is the giant transport, public works and infrastructure sector, which denizens around former President Uhuru Kenyatta had converted into personal piggy banks.

Fellows in the new regime are making all the right noises about dealing decisively with State Capture and the crony capitalism that was the hallmark of the Jubilee government. However, it is all too evident that, for many of them, it is not about ending corruption, but about it being their turn to eat. Again.

All that noise about the blatant corruption all too evident around the family and close confidants of the former president is driven by self-interest. Were not seeing genuine moral outrage about grand corruption at the heart of government but outrage that they were kept off the feeding trough that was the exclusive preserve of a few.

Campaign rhetoric

Those fellows claiming that they were targeted for investigations and prosecution are not saying that they did not steal, but that others who also stole were left untouched.

From campaign rhetoric that now seems to be government policy, we have a genuine fear that a whole crop of politicians under investigation or already indicted for corruption, assault, murder and other serious criminal offences will employ political muscle to have the charges dropped.

We heard just the other day Mr Gachagua warn the police against harassing governors and other elected leaders who were being investigated for corruption.

Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti may, indeed, have gone overboard with his theatrics and seeming over-enthusiasm on some investigations. But that cannot provide justification for any policy that makes one law for elected leaders and another for ordinary citizens.

Kenya Kwanza sycophants

Mr Kinoti, an object of hate for Kenya Kwanza sycophants, will presumably be one of the first public officers to be ejected by the new regime. But his successor will be a total and abject failure if they accept that their brief is to turn a blind eye to crime by those who claim that they are close to the President.

One of President Ruto's first executive orders was to grant financial autonomy to the Inspector-General of the National Police Service. Mr Hilary Mutyambai is now the accounting officer rather than some principal secretary in the Office of the President.

That looks like a well-meaning order on the principle that financial autonomy also translates to operational autonomy. The police service is now empowered to operate independently and properly insulated from directions by any other



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power or authority.

That other power or authority that the Constitution and laws bar from interfering with the police starts from the President downwards.

It, therefore, makes it nonsense for President Ruto to grant the police autonomy but, before the ink is dry on the executive order, Deputy President Gachagua is countermanding it with irregular roadside decrees purporting to place elected leaders above the law.

It must be made clear that leaders don't have a licence to eat public resources.

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End of Learn to eat well, but not our money



New IFC podcast promotes women in Africa's renewable energy sector

Unknown Author / Unknown Date

With renewable energy forecast to play a growing role in Africa's energy future, IFC has launched a new podcast series to promote the role of women in the sector as senior executives, engineers and thought leaders.

In the She Powers Africa podcast, host Terryanne Chebet, an entrepreneur and media specialist, speaks with leading women in Africa's renewable energy space to light the path for the next generation of African women leaders into the dynamic sector.

The first three episodes feature Jennifer Boca, Head of Environmental, Social and Governance at Lekela Power; Olaedo Osoka, CEO of Daystar Power in West Africa; and Carol Koech, the Country President for Schneider East Africa.

This engaging podcast is ideal for women interested in working in the renewable energy sector and also for anyone concerned about climate change in Africa and curious about the practical solutions. Renewable energy is Africa's energy future and ensuring more women are part of that future will enhance the sector's success," said Anne Kabugi, IFC's Regional Gender Lead for Africa.

By 2040, renewable energy could account for more than 60 percent of new electricity generation in sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa, according to the Africa Energy Outlook 2019 from the International Energy Agency.

But, despite the sector's importance, women lag behind men in leadership and technical jobs in the renewable energy sector and represent just one third of the renewable energy workforce in Africa, according to research conducted by IFC on women's participation in Africa's renewable energy sector.

The podcast is produced by IFC's Energy2Equal programme and its Women in Renewable Energy in Africa Network (W-REA), which both aim to enhance women's participation in the renewable energy sector.

Listen in.

End of New IFC podcast promotes women in Africa's renewable energy sector



EMTECH to pilot a US CBDC in The Digital Dollar Project Sandbox Programme

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

EMTECH, a first-of-its-kind central banking infrastructure provider, has announced it will take part in the recently introduced Technical Sandbox Programme by The Digital Dollar Project to explore the new possibilities of a US Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) the digital dollar.

As one of the four announced technical vendors, EMTECH will bring its unique API-First and Energy Efficient CBDC Platform to test various use cases for cross-border payments.

The firm is joining a high-profile group of former US regulators and financial services experts. This initiative marks the next step in our effort to convene the private and public sector in a symbiotic exploration of a central bank digital currency in the US, said Jennifer Lassiter, executive director of The Digital Dollar Project.

EMTECH's Founder and CEO, Carmelle Cadet, is a former Global Business and Finance Leader at IBM. In 2021, she was invited by the US Congressional Financial Services Committee to testify on whether the US dollar should be digital. A market leader in central banking infrastructure, EMTECH's mission is to leverage technology to enable access to inclusive and resilient financial ecosystems. It's exciting to be part of the Digital Dollar Project Sandbox, and we are looking forward to collaborating with the federal government, policymakers, and private sector organisations to pilot CBDC options that encompass retail or wholesale models for cross-border payment use cases, said Mrs Cadet.

In her testimony, she highlighted the firm's vision and focus on helping central banks to build modern digital cash infrastructure using blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT). A consistent recommendation to the White House and the Congressional Committee is the use of a regulatory sandbox to enable faster and safer innovation from and with the private sector.

The current ecosystem for cross-border payments is a complex nightmare for financial service providers to navigate. EMTECH's CBDC Platform, with its API-First approach and high-performance DLT, is a more modern design that we're excited to bring to the Technical Sandbox Programme, said Tabor Wells, Chief Technology Officer at EMTECH.

Earlier this year, the firm announced its partnership with Hedera Hashgraph to build an energy-efficient CBDC to support its newly announced GREEN CBDC Framework, which is designed to help central banks unlock unprecedented value in deploying a CBDC. A key pillar of the framework is reducing the carbon footprint of financial services, while also limiting energy demand from fragile power structures. You can learn more about the GREEN CBDC Framework at greencbdc.com and emtech.com.

Read more about the technical sandbox in DDP's Press Release.

About EMTECH

EMTECH is building the next generation of central banking Infrastructure to drive inclusive and resilient financial markets. The company provides software solutions and services to connect central banks, other regulators, and financial services providers, in a user and developer-friendly way.

EMTECH's API-First platforms power regulatory data exchange, currency issuance, and currency movement in financial markets. It is a diverse global firm that makes financial ecosystems inclusive and resilient by design. For more information, visit www.emtech.com.

End of EMTECH to pilot a US CBDC in The Digital Dollar Project Sandbox Programme

Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

By Evans Ongwae

Kenya performed well in cushioning its citizens against Covid-19 economic shocks, but could have done better. This is the overall scorecard by UN Women, following a study. In particular, the report stresses the importance of ensuring that adopted economic stimulus and recovery packages are gender responsive and address the gender equity gaps.

Titled, *Engendering Fiscal Stimulus Packages and Recovery Efforts Adopted in Response to the Covid-19 Health and Economic Crises*, the report states: Compared to African countries, efforts by Kenya to cushion and promote recovery of citizens and businesses during Covid-19 through Economic Stimulus packages are commendable. However, UN Women points out that the country could have achieved more had it made those fiscal and monetary measures more gender-responsive.

The study is a gender-responsive assessment of the fiscal and economic stimulus package adopted in response to Covid-19 in Kenya. It provides vital recommendations for engendering government measures in response to crises as well as for economic recovery now and in the future. It pinpoints where the governments stimulus packages fell short, and offers suggestions on how to make economic stimulus packages more responsive to the needs of women, men, boys, and girls.

Engendering economic stimulus packages means taking into account the experiences and specific needs of women, men, girls, and boys, as well as the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, including gender gaps or inequalities, gender relationships, power structures, social norms, and leadership. These should count in both the design and implementation of the stimulus measures, the report states.

During the launch of the report last month jointly with Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Public Service and Gender, Prof Margaret Kobia, the UN Women Kenya Representative Anna Mutavati, reiterated the importance of gender data in ensuring women and girls were not left behind in the development agenda.

We know that gender equality and womens empowerment are prerequisites for strong institutions, stable communities, and economies. Evidence from all around the world shows that investing in womens economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, inclusive economic growth, and wealth creation.

The UN Women study compared Kenyas response with what South Africa and Nigeria did. It recommends some lessons for Kenya to pick from the responses of the two Sub-Saharan African nations.

Consideration of the needs of women, men, boys, and girls in the design and implementation of the economic stimulus packages enhances economic and social inclusion and prospects of achievement of outcomes of cushioning against the shocks as well as recovery from the Covid-19 pandemics, the report offers.

The study is anchored on UN Womens commitment to supporting government efforts that contribute to womens livelihoods and their access to social protection, healthcare, infrastructure, food, and housing, among other sectors that the government has prioritised.

The analysis focused on economic stimulus packages implemented during the financial year 2020/2021. These include cash transfers to vulnerable families; National Hygiene Programme or the Youth Employment Programme; support to the educational sector; support to small and medium-sized enterprises liquidity; support to the construction sector; support to the health sector; support to the agricultural sector; support to the tourism sector; support to the environment; and support to the manufacturing sector.

An important underlying factor in response to and adaptability to changes in times of pandemics and crises is the feminisation of poverty, the UN Women analysis notes.

The study found that women, more than men, were deprived of social economic participation, information, and nutrition, and were generally multi-dimensionally poor. This is a key salient pathway in which gender contributes to disproportionately negative impacts of Covid-19. Women are also, more than men, involved with caregiving activities, including caring for the children, the sick, the elderly, and persons with severe disabilities.

Gender inequalities cause women and men to respond and adjust to pandemics and crises differently. Disasters and pandemics such as Covid-19 disproportionately and negatively affect women and girls when compared to men and boys, because of gender segregation in most economic activities, which is further reinforced by gender inequalities.



Unknown Author / UnKnown Date

Moreover, there has been an increase in gender-based violence, more specifically violence against women and girls.

Following the study, UN Women suggests that in times of crises, such as those comparable to the Covid-19 pandemic, Kenya could:

Consider expanding the sector coverage (of its stimulus package) for better economic recovery outcomes. This includes extending support to sectors such as housing, energy, and transport infrastructure. Temporarily expand social protection coverage during pandemics, through special programmes to reach previously uncovered beneficiaries. Consider extending social protection to practitioners in early childhood development, small-scale farmers and teachers, as well as those in creative, cultural, and sports sectors. Increase the amounts of cash transfers per recipient, for all the existing beneficiaries. Consider establishing a social relief from distress grant for caregivers, aimed at reducing increased unpaid care work during pandemics. Consider targeting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in all sectors of the economy, and not only in certain selected sectors. Consider implementing an unemployment insurance fund and compensation fund for health practitioners, and provide a temporary employee relief scheme for domestic workers. Consider enforcing the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) provisions, or even increasing the proportion reserved for women businesses. Implement special support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and also, in partnership with civil society, establish a mechanism for linking them to shelter houses. This would address some of the challenges related to increased GBV during pandemics.

Overall, the analysis showed that the size of Kenyas provisions regarding various fiscal measures is small, measured by the size of the issues the specific measures target.

End of UN Women to Kenya: You did well in cushioning citizens against Covid-19 economic shocks, but