



Ruto: Stop the lies that I planned to overthrow Uhuru P.2

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Raila's tough choices

August race: With the campaigns reaching fever pitch, ODM leader faces a dilemma where the old ways are clashing with new realities **PG 4**

AT A GLANCE

1 Azimio vs ODM: At the risk of escalating friendly fire, ODM leader must find ways to keep old allies close and new friends closer

2 Reformer vs project: Raila has the uphill task of criticising the performance of the Jubilee government while being seen to benefit from it

3 Polls pledges vs ailing economy: There are also overwhelming expectations around his campaign promises when economy is battered

4 Who will be running-mate?: Getting a deputy from his traditional strongholds is debatable. Does he go for new zones or does he sticks to the old formula?

PROF MAKAU MUTUA

1 Raila knows how to strike a balance between the interests of his allies and those of the country

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Ruto: I hatched no scheme to oust Uhuru from power

Deputy President says he could not plot to remove his boss from a government they formed together

by Harrison Kivisu
@PeopleDailyKe

An angry Deputy President William Ruto yesterday vigorously denied allegations that he once plotted to topple his boss, President Uhuru Kenyatta, terming the reports as malicious propaganda.

Speaking in Malindi, Kilifi county yesterday, the Deputy President said there is no way he could plot to remove the President from a government they struggled to form together.

His statement came a day after President Uhuru tabled impeachment claims.

"They say the Deputy President wanted to topple Uhuru Kenyatta. How can someone who helped the President form the government plot to impeach him? Let us have some respect, even if they do not want to help me, let us stop propaganda and divisive politics," said Ruto.

Ruto, who is on a charm offensive of the Coast region, said the claims lack basis and were calculated to divide the country ethnically, adding that those spreading the claims should stop.

Yesterday, a local daily quoted the President telling a gathering of hundreds of Kikuyu elders that his fallout with Ruto was as a result of the latter's plot to have him impeached.

"You are dividing Kenyans for nothing because Kenyans have rejected your project. I am sane, I am not a mad man to destroy a government I helped to form. You must be confusing me with your project," Ruto added. The DP wondered how some individuals were out to spread any falsehoods for cheap political mileage.

"I want to ask our friends to respect us who campaigned for President Uhuru. Let us stop propaganda and false rhetoric, as a Deputy President I know what I must do, and those that are spreading those lies, shame on you," he added.

Political rhetoric

Ruto said Kenyans are no longer ready to consume political rhetoric and asked Coast residents to reject Raila Odinga's empty promises.

Ruto slammed the government for what he termed as a total disregard for grassroots economies, saying his government will allocate Sh50 billion to boost small businesses countrywide.

"We will allocate Sh50 billion for revamping grassroots economies countrywide, so that the people can get empowered and uplift their lives," said Ruto.

He promised to rebuild the tourism sec-



Deputy President William Ruto addresses Malindi residents at Alaskan grounds in Malindi county, yesterday. DPPS

tor and uplift the lives of the vulnerable by creating new opportunities to make the region economically resilient.

The DP maintained that no amount of intimidation will deter him from becoming the next president.

"There are those who have Godfathers, but for us we only have God the father," Ruto said while addressing a church Gathering at the Jesus Celebration Center in Bamburi, Mombasa before heading to Malindi. He expressed confidence that he will triumph in the August 9 elections and urged the church to join the course.

"I know there are many voices you have heard with some saying some churches will be closed. We are unapologetic because we know the God we worship, so men of God I want to tell you this country is safe and God is in charge," said the DP.

A section of politicians, including the President, has castigated the DP over his contributions to the church.

Ruto encouraged the church to continue praying for peace in the country to prevail ahead of the upcoming elections.

Mombasa governor aspirant Hassan Sarai asked Kenyans to elect a God fearing president, who will put the needs of the people ahead of his own personal interests.

RUTO'S DIARY

● Today, Deputy President William Ruto is expected to conclude his three-day tour at the coast by holding a series of rallies in Kwale county where Governor Salim Mvurya will play host.

● The DP promised to rebuild the tourism sector in Kilifi and uplift the lives of the vulnerable.

Sarai termed the Deputy President as a man who fears God and his faith should not be doubted. "I can tell you without a doubt that the hustler nation is a God fearing movement, and so you should not doubt a man's faith," said Sarai.

Buy politicians

On Saturday, the Deputy President began his tour by conducting rallies at the Mwembe Tayari market in Mombasa, before proceeding to Kisumu for several stopovers where he rallied residents to support his presidential bid.

The Deputy President, firing a salvo at President Uhuru, alleged that approximately Sh1 billion has been set aside by the government to buy politicians from the United Democratic Alliance just for the sake of weakening his side.

"This month only, while Kenyans are dying of hunger, the government has spent Sh1 billion to buy politicians to return to the Jubilee party," claimed Ruto.

His sentiments were echoed by Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichung'wa, who claimed that some Principal Secretaries were being 'coerced' to give out money for buying politicians by the government.

The MP said such government officials should be held personally accountable.

"We have told them, you can buy politicians, but you cannot buy Kenyans who are yearning for a change of government," added Ichung'wa.

The DP was accompanied by Kwale Governor Salim Mvurya, MPs Mohamed Ali (Nyali), Aisha Jumwa (Malindi), Faisal Abdalla (Msambweni), Benjamin Tayari (Kinango), Khatib Mwashetani (Lungala), Kithure Kindiki (Tharaka Nithi), Ichung'wa, Sarai, UDA chairman Johnson Muthama and a host of MCAs.



Mudavadi to Luhya: Azimio does not have your interests at heart

by Enoch Amukhale
@PeopleDailyKe

community to solidly back Kenya Kwanza to form the next government.

The leaders have pitched tent in the region, popularising the alliance in readiness for the August election.

Speaking at different stopovers, the leaders hit out at Raila, accusing him of using the community to achieve his political interests.

Addressing large crowds at Mudete, Mbale and Majengo, the leaders said in Azimio, the interests of the region are not represented and urged the residents to remain steadfast in Kenya Kwanza.

Speaking in Vihiga, Mudavadi said the community is not represented on the Azimio La Umoja coalition negotiation table. He termed some individuals in the Raila Odinga-led coalition as brokers keen to reap by misleading the community to vote for the movement.

Speaking in Muhudi in Hamisi constituency, Mudavadi said in Azimio, Raila, President Uhuru Kenyatta and Wiper leader Kalonzo Musyoka are at the negotiating table and the Luhya nation has not been considered despite being the second largest voting bloc in the country. He called on the community to vote for Kenya Kwanza where their interests are well represented.

"In Kenya Kwanza we are well-represented and the alliance stands to develop the whole country not only three regions as is the case with our competitors," said Mudavadi.

At the same time, he hit out at Raila over his promise of reviving Mumias and Nzoia sugar companies, accusing him of using the industries as campaign projects every election period.

"Since the Handshake, why hasn't he used that position to bring money to the industries? Over Sh200 billion was diverted to Nyanza, why didn't he bring the money to this region?" posed Mudavadi. Ford Kenya leader Moses Wetangula asked the

"During his Sagana Three meeting, the President produced a scorecard for the Central Kenya region. When has he ever had a Kakamega one, two or three to enumerate what he has done for the region?" he asked.

With Kirungustu Jnr.

@KirungustuJ



Truly messed-up crime stories

Some crimes are so bizarre it's difficult to explain why or how anyone would even do them...



Stealing an entire bridge

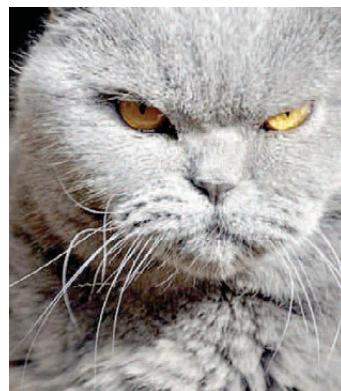
We've had our very own brand of vandals stealing chunks of rail lines and road railings for scrap metal. There have been cases of their senior counterparts from around the world stealing entire bridges, overnight. Bridge theft has occurred in the Czech Republic, England, and Turkey, to name a few countries. The case in the Czech Republic, which happened in 2012, involved the dismantling of a 10-ton bridge that had over 198 metres of track. They dismantled it, loaded the lot into trucks, and drove off. How did they do it without anyone noticing? Well, the thieves posed as people hired to demolish the bridge. Guts?



Naked man gets stuck in vent

It all started in December 2015, when some people in British Columbia reported strange noises from the house next door. Authorities arrived to find a man stuck inside a vent. He was also buck naked. The whole house was found to be trashed, and the man was assumed to have been living above the ceiling, based on the large hole in it from which he clearly fell. Police weren't exactly clear

on why he ransacked the house or what he was doing stuck in the vents when they found him—or what he was doing in general. They were, however, clear on when he got naked: at some point in the middle of his destruction spree, as they found his underwear in the toilet. That showed that he didn't come naked for the job, though it really doesn't explain what the job was and why he was there at all.



Steals to bail out thieving brother

In November 2019, in Kansas, US, 36-year-old Eric Dean McCracken was arrested for driving a Chevy Trailblazer with a suspended license. Trouble is, the SUV wasn't even McCracken's. He had stolen it, according to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. Then a few hours later, the younger brother, Keith Ray McCracken decided to go bail out his sibling. So, he stole an SUV of his own. Unfortunately for him, the 2015 Chevy Silverado he chose was being tracked by cops through its GPS. The 32-year-old McCracken was arrested after leading cops on a short chase. The brothers were shortly after reunited in jail.



The serial cat shaver

In a town in England, it was reported in January 2016 that someone was accosting cats and shaving fur off them, even though we can't think of any conceivable reason as to why anyone would do that. Two cats were found with big patches of missing fur, as though someone had a shaver, wanted to do something with it, but wasn't very good at it. The cats weren't hurt in any other way, but were understandably left shaken by the whole ordeal. The questionable motives of the assailant(s) aside, it wasn't the first time someone had shaved a neighbourhood cat. The locals remember a similar case around a year earlier when a different cat was found to have been mysteriously shaved in a similar manner. The serial cat shaver has never been caught.



Stealing giant, terrifying lizards

The Komodo dragon is the largest lizard species on the planet and is native to just a handful of Indonesian islands. Looking like the living embodiment of death, a bunch of these giant lizards is certainly not something you'd want to run across on a casual hike. And yet, some people aren't just willingly going near them—they're stealing them. Komodo dragon theft turned into such a big problem that in January 2020, authorities banned tourists from Komodo island. So, why would someone steal a Komodo dragon? Not only are they dangerous, but they don't have pretty fur to be sold or anything else of use other than the look of pure, cold death in their eyes. Some people think they are used in traditional Eastern medicine, which may be why each one of them goes for at least \$35,000 (Sh3.5m) on the black market.



Tough decisions Raila must make before elections

He has to balance the high expectation and hopes of tenacious supporters and the interests of new allies

by Emeka-Mayaka Gekara
 @PeopleDailyKe

You don't want to be Raila Odinga. With barely four months to the August elections, the Azimio presidential candidate is confronted with a series of tough decisions that will either make or break his State House ambitions.

The veteran Opposition leader, who will be making his fifth stab at the presidency, bears the enviable burden of high expectations and hopes of tenacious supporters who have stood with him every step of the way and the interests of new allies who have joined his train.

Caught between the hammer of his old supporters and the anvil of his newfound friends, Raila is walking a tight rope.

Even after winning the unlikely support of incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta, Raila is caught up in a titanic battle against Deputy President (DP) William Ruto who has been waging a rigorous campaign across the country in which he has painted the Azimio leader as untrustworthy, too old to lead and a government project.

Balancing act

Besides the onslaught from the DP, Raila has the delicate balancing act of cobbling together a coalition that will provide a path to the presidency while accommodating the various competing individual, family and regional interests as he reinforces his self-proclaimed credentials as an outsider and reformer.

As the clock ticks to the polls, eyes will be on Raila as he picks the crucial candidate for running mate, manages the usually controversial party primaries to prevent a possible fallout and keep his troops intact.

According to former United Democratic Alliance (UDA) treasurer Omingo Magara, Raila has the heavy task of tempering his campaign promises amidst the effects of a battered economy, tame loyalties as well as run and protect his Orange Democratic Party interests under the Azimio coalition.

Moreover, Raila having secured the support of Uhuru has the uphill task of criticising the performance of the Jubilee gov-

ernment at the same time disentangling himself from the ills associated with it.

"Raila has the difficult task of rewarding and pacifying politicians and families that have stood with him in his political journey

There are also overwhelming expectations around his promises when the economy is battered," said Magara, a former Raila ally who last week joined the Azimio affiliates such as Democratic Action Party of Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa perhaps helped illustrate his dilemma.

The events in Kakamega County in which Raila was forced to issue nomination certificates to candidates favoured by ODM to the chagrin of other Azimio affiliates such as Democratic Action Party of Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa perhaps helped illustrate his dilemma.

But speaking to People Daily, top honchos of his presidential campaign appeared to bank on Raila's vast experience, temperament and acumen to wriggle himself out of the impending storm.

They also painted the picture of a man who was not acting on his own and instead reinforced by a well-organised system.

According to Prof Makau Mutua, the chairperson and spokesperson of the Raila campaign and Kisumu Governor Anyang Nyong'o; a top-ranking member of the Raila think tank, the Azimio presidential candidate has not only ran for elections before, but is also an ardent coalition builder.

"Raila is not in election politics for the first time. He has been a veteran of opposition and government politics for decades. He is a strategic thinker, who understands the political pulse of the country and he knows how to strike a balance between the interests of his allies and those of the country," Makau stated.

Makau says the Azimio juggernaut is built by forces who are clear that individual interests will not be allowed to overshadow those of the movement. The law professor acknowledges the challenges that have dogged party primaries but maintained that Raila will be guided by the principles of "de-conflicting and harmonisation" in the management of the nominations exercise.

"Raila will be driven by the desire to get the best candidates to get elected to Parliament to enable him carry out his transformational work," he said.

Makau also gave a preview on some of the considerations for the post of running mate saying the Azimio leader will be seeking a leader with integrity, experience, represents diversity "and brings votes to the ticket".



Azimio presidential aspirant Raila Odinga addresses a rally at Shinyalu in Kakamega county, yesterday.
 PD/DENNIS LUMUTI

"The crucible on the running mate will be pegged on a moral, ethical, principled and experienced person who can help Raila to run the government," he said.

"The candidate will have to be presidential, share the Azimio vision and enjoy a smooth working relationship to avoid a repeat of the current situation where the President and his deputy are in conflict," he added.

Makau said the Raila presidential ticket will have to project the face of Kenya and accommodate other variables such as gender.

He said: "But the most important is that the running mate must bring votes into Azimio, so that the candidate can win with a good margin."

Political talent

And Makau has no doubt about Raila's political talent as he walks on what has been billed as his most decisive journey to the presidency: "Nobody in the current political chessboard can match his experience, political acumen and strategic mind."

Nyong'o, thinks that Raila has no burden of criticising the Uhuru administration, arguing that the issues the Azimio presidential candidate has been raising were identified under the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI).

The Kisumu governor said the idea of Raila not criticising the President was informed by the fact that his running for office is founded on the BBI in which the two identified the issues ailing Kenya such as corruption and divisive elections.

"We have been holding elections that lack legitimacy, which negates the principle of democracy. While the winner celebrates, the loser questions the legitimacy of the results. Uhuru agreed that though he was a

beneficiary of the electoral system you cannot guarantee the stability of the country and democracy after the elections," he said.

Nyong'o is confident Raila will wriggle himself out of the tightrope.

He said: "It is not Raila. The party and allies have the stamina to confront and withstand whatever challenges. He is not acting alone. He is leading a team and working alongside allies," said Nyong'o, an Azimio political strategist.

"He has the ability to lead the coalition and overcome the challenges. Raila is a coalition builder. He spearheaded the Kanu-NDP merger and brought the Liberal Democratic Party to form the Rainbow Coalition for the 2002 elections," he added.

According to Makau, the guiding principle will be the interest of the country, not of Raila's partners in the Azimio coalition.

Makau predicted that Raila will have to confront key challenges including an economy reeling from the effects of Covid-19 and what he described as a largely dysfunctional government due to the split between the President and his deputy.

ODM National Treasurer Timothy Bosire, a strong Raila ally, says the Azimio candidate will benefit from his long experience in politics, vast national and international networks in the battles ahead.

Other than the serious stumbling blocks on his, the man given his experience he became president a long time ago. He has grown into a system and network that works. He works under a system. He doesn't work alone," said Bosire.

"Raila is not going to the elections for the first time. His experience is monumental. He has been an MP, a minister and prime minister and has never gone on holiday on matters politics," said Bosire.

PROF MAKAU

The crucible on the running mate will be pegged on a moral, ethical, principled and experienced person who can help Raila to run the government

ODM leader says Luhya nation to play critical role in his government

by Dennis Lumutti
 @PeopleDailyKe

Azimio La Umoja presidential candidate Raila Odinga yesterday said the Luhya nation will play a critical role in his government if he wins the August 9 elections.

The Orange party boss revealed that he had a robust development agenda for the Western region.

Speaking in Kakamega county yesterday, Raila also called upon the

church to back his bid to succeed President Uhuru Kenyatta while promising to fully involve them in discharging his duties and responsibilities if elected president.

He said he would ensure that all the collapsed industries in the Western region were revived.

He cited Mumias Sugar Company, Webuye PanPaper Mills and Malakisi Cotton ginnery as some of the projects he would revive.

"I am in this race because I value

the people of Kenya, Luhyas included. Do you think Raila can ignore a community he traces his roots to?" he posed.

He said his forefathers were from the Wanga extraction.

Raila said Luhyas were well represented in Azimio and that he would ensure the community was economically empowered. He said the movement's main agenda was to unite and develop Kenya economically.

He hit out at Kenya Kwanzaa, say-

ing they did not have any positive agenda for the country.

He also downplayed the simmering friction in Azimio, saying he would solve all emerging issues in the movement in due course.

"We are a strong team that is committed to unite and develop Kenya. We are a big family and differences must emerge. But we shall handle them internally," he added.

He started his day at St Joseph The Worker Shibuuya Catholic Church in

Shinyalu constituency where he implored the clerics to join his bid.

"We want to unite and develop our country. Help us build on President Uhuru Kenyatta's legacy by supporting us now and after August 9. I will actively involve the clergy in this journey ahead of the next elections and thereafter," he said.

Raila then proceeded to Shinyalu, Khayega, Malinya and Musoli markets. The Azimio leader continues with his campaigns today.

Kuti quits Isiolo race on medical grounds

One-term governor drops bid to defend seat, endorses city County Majority Leader for the seat

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Isiolo Governor Mohamed Kuti has abandoned his re-election bid in the August 9 General Election citing ill health.

While announcing his retirement from active politics, Kuti endorsed Nairobi County Assembly Majority Leader Abdi Guyo to succeed him.

Kuti confirmed he has been unwell since last December.

"Unfortunately, lately I have experienced some health challenges that I strongly feel it's time to hand over leadership back to my community of Sakuye and Isiolo county at large," the governor said on Saturday during a meeting with Sakuye community elders.

"I thank the people of Isiolo who have supported me for the last 20 years and also for whom I have served as a medical officer for 10 years and 20 years in politics," the governor added.

"I have called my community, whom we have agreed

unanimously to hand the leadership and running for governor to Spring Valley/Matopeni MCA Abdi Guyo," he said, adding that Guyo is best placed to succeed him.

A surprise declaration that could change the political landscape in the county, Kuti said the community has convinced Guyo who had declared interest for Embakasi Central MP to run for Isiolo Governor.

The county boss has not appeared in public for more than three months now.

He was last seen during national celebrations by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC).

The 58-year-old governor has been in active politics for 20 years, serving as Isiolo North MP for two terms and one term as senator.

He served as Health assistant

GOVERNOR DROPS RE-ELECTION BID

● Isiolo Governor Mohamed Kuti has abandoned his re-election bid in the upcoming August General Election

● Kuti said the community has convinced Guyo who had declared interest for Embakasi Central MP to run for Isiolo Governor

minister between 2004 and 2005, Minister for Youth Affairs in 2005; and Minister for Livestock from 2008 to 2013 during retired President Mwai Kibaki's tenure.

Former governor Godana Doyo, former EACC boss Halake Waqo and politician Hussein Tene are among those eyeing the Isiolo gubernatorial seat.

Others are County Speaker Hussein Roba, Nuh Mohammed Ibrahim, Domiciano Maingi and Mugambi Kaaria.

Dr Issa, who has been at loggerheads with his boss, Kuti, over the past four years, said he will vie on a Party of National Unity (PNU) ticket.

He said his quest was prompted by the desire to ensure prudent use of public resources and prevent wastage which he says continues to deny residents services and development.

While complaining that he had been side-lined in the running of the government that he was part of and that he helped form in 2017.

Dr Issa said the county's ad-

ministration has failed to deliver on its promises to residents and that his boss does not deserve a second term.

"Our government has failed to deliver and residents should vote it out. You all know they locked me out and there is no work that has been going on in our county," he said in reference to Kuti.



Hear us out...

Azimio team led by Richard Ngatia, George Aladwa and Tim Wanyonyi (holding mic) address Kibera residents during a campaign rally at the Olympic Grounds. Ngatia (Jubilee) and Wanyonyi of ODM are facing off for Azimio ticket in the Nairobi governor race. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

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Nairobi to host regional assembly on Great Lakes Region

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

The 12th Ordinary Session of the regional Plenary Assembly will be held in Nairobi next week, hosted by the Forum of Parliaments of Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), in collaboration with the Kenya Parliament.

The event is scheduled for April 2 to April 6 at Serena Hotel, Nairobi. This year's theme is: "The role of parliaments in conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region".

The event will be officially opened by Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka, who is the president of the assembly.

The FP-ICGLR is an inter-

parliamentary group of 12 national parliaments of the ICGLR member states—Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

"The main objective of FP-ICGLR is to make significant parliamentary contribution to implementation of the pact on security, stability, and development in the Great Lakes region," the assembly said in a statement.

The FP-ICGLR intervenes in: "democracy and good governance, peace and security, humanitarian and social issues, economic development, natural resources and regional integration, and



Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka who is President of the regional assembly on the Great Lakes Region. PD/FILE

issues of gender, children and vulnerable people.

The Plenary Assembly is the supreme organ of the FP-ICGLR. In accordance with Article 6 of the Inter-Parliamentary Accord establishing the FP-ICGLR and signed in Kigali, as amended to date, the Plenary Assembly is competent to deliberate on

all matters within the scope of the forum.

The 12th Ordinary Session will start with the Seventh Statutory Meeting of the Committee on Democracy and Good Governance, and the Joint 4th Statutory Meeting of the Committee on Gender, Children and Vulnerable Person, and Social and Humanitarian Issues.

Both meetings will be held on April 2; the 24th Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee on April 3; the 12th Ordinary Session of the Conference of Speakers on April 4, and the Plenary Assembly Proper on April 5-6.

Debate will focus on security, political and humanitarian issues in the Great Lakes region.

BRIEFLY

Maseno students in demo over security

Maseno University students yesterday took to the streets demanding increased security after a colleague succumbed to injuries suffered during an attack by thugs on Friday night.

James Opollo is said to have been attacked by four people armed with machetes as he walked back to his hostel from outside the campus.

His body was found near the hostels on Saturday morning.

"We were headed to sleep late at night when four men accosted us. They attacked me before going after Opollo," narrated a fellow student.

The Dean of Students at the university, Dr Kweya Opande, said the matter was being investigated by the police.

- Justus Kiprono

Two main bills likely to derail Budget Speech

House committee warns it is unconstitutional to present estimates without passage of Revenue and Finance bills

by Anthony Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Reading of this year's national Budget set for April 7 hangs in the balance after Parliament wrote to National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani informing him that he will not be allowed to present it before passage of two crucial Bills.

In the letter, the House Business Committee (HBC) says it will be unconstitutional to present the Budget estimates without passage of the Division of Revenue Bill and the Finance Bill.

The House committee is charged with planning a business to be transacted by the House without which Parliament is paralysed. "The committee appreciated that the proposed dates are in keeping with the practice set in 2016/17 with respect to processing of Budget-related matters during an election year. The committee, however, asked that you be notified that the two Bills must be passed before then," reads the letter signed by Serah Kioko for the Clerk of the National Assembly, which is copied to Principal Secretary Julius Muia.

Proposed date for speech

"This is to acknowledge receipt of the said letter conveying the proposed date of 7th April 2022 for the public pronouncement of the 2022/23 Budget Highlights and Revenue Raising Measures. We brought the request to the attention of the House Business Committee during its last meeting," Kioko said.

According to the committee, provisions of section 39 of the Public Finance Management Act 2012, as read together with the High Court ruling of 11th December 2020 (Constitutional Petition No. 232 of

2019 as consolidated with Petition No. 277 of 2019), now imply that the presentation of the Budget Policy Highlights (Budget Speech), the consideration of Budget Estimates and the subsequent Appropriation Bill are to be preceded by the passage of the annual Division of Revenue Bill by Parliament (both Houses).

"The Division of Revenue Bill 2022 is currently in the Senate, having been passed by the National Assembly. Sections 39A and 40 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, presupposes the presentation of the Budget and the annual Finance Bill after the submission of the National Government's Budget Estimates to the National Assembly," states the committee.

The committee, which is chaired by Speaker Justin Muturi, further states: "It is therefore hoped that the foregoing matters will have been fulfilled before 7th April 2022. If not, the House is available between 7th April 2022 and 14th April 2022 and between 10th May 2022 and 9th June 2022, for purposes of the presentation of the 2022/23 Budget Highlights and Revenue Raising Measures."

"In the meantime, it may be advisable for the National Treasury to seek expedited processing of the Division of Revenue Bill 2022 with the Senate," says the committee.

Last Thursday, Muturi ruled that two requisite Bills must be passed as required by law before the Budget statement is presented. Parliament is expected in law to pass the Division of Revenue and the Finance bills before the Treasury Cabinet Secretary presents the statement.

Presentation of the Budget statement is expected to be the last for Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani under the current administration.

But Muturi warned yesterday that it will be a move in futility for the CS to present his statement without the two Bills having been passed. "There is that looming danger that includes allowing him to set his foot here to read the Budget," Muturi said.

Garissa Township MP Aden Duale raised



National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi (centre) chairs the Business Committee. PD/FILE

HURDLES IN THE CS' WAY

- The Division of Revenue Bill is currently before the Senate for debate after which it will be taken back to the National Assembly.

- Should there be amendments by the Senate, a Mediation Committee will be formed to seek concurrence. This could take more than a month.

- The Finance Bill must also be passed before the CS reads his speech. Debate and passage of the Finance Bill is likely to take more than a month, considering that there must be public participation, as stipulated by law.

the matter of constitutionality on the Budget process. "Mr Speaker, the budget-making process is clear and cannot be interfered with by the National Treasury," Duale said. He asked the Speaker to rule whether the Treasury CS has violated the Constitution by publishing the date for the Budget Statement and whether the CS has the authority to determine the date for the Budget Statement in view of these issues.

According to the MP, once the House has approved the Budget Policy Statement (BPS), with or without amendments, the next step is preparation, tabling and approval of the Division of Revenue Bill (DoRB) and the County Allocation of Revenue Bill (CARB)," said Duale.

Take about a month

He added: "Then, the Budget Estimates can be tabled, considered and approved via a House Resolution through the Committee of Supply. This is the only time the House can allow the CS to make policy pronouncements and revenue raising measures in form of a Budget statement."

The DoRB is currently before the Senate for debate after which it will be taken back to the National Assembly. However, should there be amendments by the Senate, a Mediation Committee will be formed to seek concurrence. This is most likely to take a month before it is dispensed with by the two Houses of Parliament.

Another factor likely to derail the presentation of the Budget will be the Finance Bill, which must be passed before the CS reads his speech. Debate and passage of the Finance Bill is likely to take more than

a month, considering that there must be public participation, as stipulated by law.

A three-judge bench, in a ruling on a petition by rights activist Okiya Omtata, ruled that the Finance Bill must be passed 90 days after passage of the Appropriation Bill. The Finance Bill would normally be issued after the Annual Budget speech but, following the ruling in the Omtata petition, it must be done before the presentation.

Duale, while seeking the Speaker's intervention, said it was important for Parliament to note that, subject to the High Court ruling, the Division of Revenue must be approved by Parliament before tabling of the Budget Estimates.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices Teresia Matheka, Antony Ndung'u and Jairus Ngaha ruled in 2019 that the National Budget cannot be read or unveiled before Parliament approves how the National Government will share its resources with the counties. The court held that any future tabling of Budget policy highlights without inclusion of the Division of Revenue Bill would be unconstitutional.

"A declaration is hereby issued that any subsequent tabling of the Budget policy highlights and the legislative proposal by the CS Finance without the passing, or including of, the Division of Revenue Bill, is illegal," the court ruled.

Duale noted that the DoRB has not yet been approved, the debt ceiling proposal has not been tabled, and the estimates have also not been tabled. "These need to happen before the CS can imagine being called upon to deliver his Budget Statement," said the former Majority Leader.

KCPE exam results ready for release



CS says outcome will be released today or tomorrow, depending on the President's diary

by Irene Githinji
@gigithee

Millions of the 2021 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination candidates are set to receive their results either today or tomorrow.

Education Cabinet Secretary (CS) Prof George Magoha last week assured that the results were ready and will be released, depending on President Uhuru Kenyatta's diary.

"In terms of KCPE results, we are working with Monday or Tuesday according to the President's diary," said Magoha.

As has been the norm, the CS has to present the results to the President before they are released to the public.

A total of 1.2 million candidates sat their KCPE examination from March 7 - 9 and will be expected to join secondary schools in about a month's time.

Only the English Composition and Kiswahili Insha are

marked manually while the rest of the papers, which are multiple choices are marked through Optical Mark Recognition (OMR).

The CS said it is important for the KCPE examination candidates to know how they have performed as it also gives parents time to plan for their children to join Form 1.

"I want to sympathise with our parents who have done an extremely good job during the pandemic, which they did not bring themselves and thank the teachers for allowing children who are unable to complete their fees to do their exams," said the CS.

The CS is also expected to announce the dates for Form One selection as well dates for them to report to secondary schools. The government has assured that the 100 per cent transition policy from primary to secondary schools will be

MAGOHA

11 In terms of KCPE results, we are working with Monday or Tuesday according to the President's diary

Fishermen cry foul over illegal fishing

by Kirera Mwiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Fishermen in Lake Naivasha have given the State a one-week ultimatum to deal with the runaway illegal fishing.

They noted that fish catch had dropped by over 80 per cent in the last two months after the Kenya Coast Guards Service (KCGS) down-scaled its operations.

The fishermen say that since last year, fish catch in the lake had risen by over 90 per cent following the introduction of the KCGS, who managed to do away with the illegal fishermen.

Two months ago, the KCGS made some changes leading to a return of the illegal fishermen into the troubled lake.

Lake Naivasha Network Group secretary Grace Nyam-

bura says the livelihood of tens of legal fishermen and traders was at risk due to the current threat.

Nyambura called on the KCGS Director General to intervene and increase the current number of officers overseeing fishing activities in the lake.

Asking for support

"The illegal fishermen are back in the lake after the changes made by the KCGS and fish catch is now at the lowest levels ever," she said yesterday.

Her sentiments were echoed by the network chairman Paul Olang; "Lake Naivasha is currently at the mercy of illegal fishermen and we are asking for support from coast guards who had done a credible job before their operations were down-scaled."

fully implemented, as has been the norm.

The 2022 academic year is expected to commence on April 25 while the normal school calendar will resume next year.

Already, Equity Bank has announced another phase of

the Wings to Fly scholarships, which covers beneficiaries' four years of secondary schooling.

In this phase, 2,000 learners from needy backgrounds will benefit from full scholarships through the Wings to Fly program in the 2022/23 Form

One selection cycles.

The 2021 academic year had 10,705 slots for scholarship programs but received over 114,000 applications, the highest demonstrated level of need.

Last year, the government ordered strict adherence to reduced secondary school fees, owing to revised calendar.

Laura
LA SANTA COLOMBIANA

MAGOHA

11 In terms of KCPE results, we are working with Monday or Tuesday according to the President's diary

A powerful telenovela based on the life and times of Laura Montoya, an educator and Catholic Missionary, from her birth to her youth.

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Anti-crime bodies jittery over Ruto's purge threat

Deputy President and his allies say they will clean EACC, KRA, DCI to free them from 'State capture'

■ by Jeremiah Kiplang'at
Ojere_kiplangat

Heads of the country's top investigative agencies are not resting easy after Deputy President William Ruto singled out their institutions for a clean-up if he wins the August presidential election.

After he was formally crowned the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) presidential candidate, Ruto directly accused Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) of running political errands, promising to "free them from State capture."

These institutions have become punching bags for politicians in Ruto's camp who feel they are being unfairly targeted. Since he fell out with President Uhuru Kenyatta shortly after the 2017 General-Election, the DP has directed his anger at these agencies, claiming they were acting at the behest of senior officials in the Jubilee Government. "On our first day, we will free the DCI and the KRA from State Capture. They have weaponised DCI, EACC and KRA to run political errands. We will professionalise the DCI's office and the KRA for them to discharge their constitutional and legal duties," he said.

Perform optimally

He said his team would do everything possible, if they it takes power, to ensure the institutions perform their roles optimally without external interference. "As they weaponise the KRA, we will do the complete opposite, we will professionalise KRA, digitise it and make sure it collects more taxes professionally," he added.

He did not state how he would "free" them as some of the office holders enjoy tenures of office protected by the law. This would make it difficult to remove them. It is also not clear what "freeing" means, although Ruto's allies have accused the institutions of working under orders of the Ministry of Interior and National Co-operation.

The DCI is headed by George Kinoti, a long-serving police officer who has steadily risen from the lower ranks of the Service. Uhuru picked him in 2018 for a six-year term, although an occupant of the office serves at the President's discretion.

Commissioner-General Githii Mburu heads KRA while Twalib Mbarak is the EACC chief executive officer. The KRA board appointed Mburu for an initial



DCI George Kinoti (left) with DPP Noordin Haji (right). PD/FILE

three-year term in July 2019, only for Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukar Yatani to extend his term in 2020 by two years.

The EACC board of directors appointed the anti-corruption chief executive in 2018 for a six-year term.

DCI Noordin Haji has been under pressure from the DP's team for alleged partisan conduct.

Yesterday, Haji addressed these accusations, saying his office was independent and made decisions guided by the law.

"As ODPP, we will continue to execute our mandate in accordance with the law without fear or favour and guided by facts and evidence. Let us play our respective roles to enhance confidence in the electoral processes," said the DPP during a workshop on electoral justice held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

With the General-Election slightly over four months away, heads of these institutions may follow the polls keenly as the winner might determine whether they will continue serving in office.

Kinoti has come under criticism from Ruto's camp owing to the nature of his work,

CAUSE AND EFFECT

● Deputy President William Ruto: "We will professionalise the DCI office and the KRA for them to discharge their constitutional and legal duties."

● Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji: "Our office is independent and makes decisions guided by the law. We will continue to execute our mandate."

● Directorate of Criminal Investigations head George Kinoti: "The war (on graft) will continue. We are not intimidated whatsoever. The Constitution gives us express authority to fight corruption."

although he has often said he is a neutral actor, as demanded by his office.

When police officer Kipyegon Kenei, attached to the DP's Harambee Annex office, died mysteriously in February 2020, Ruto said the DCI was engaging in a charade to score political points.

Earlier, in a highly publicised press conference, the DCI had presented CCTV footage of Kenei's last moments in office. The footage captured his movements around the building, attracting the DP's wrath. No one has been arrested for the murder to date. In November 2020, Kinoti came under criticism from Ruto's allies when he sought to reopen files on the 2007 post-election violence cases.

Not intimidated

Despite the claims, Kinoti has stood firm, claiming independence of his office. Although he has not responded to Ruto's recent accusations, Kinoti has in the past said he would not submit to fear and intimidation. "This war (on corruption) will continue. We are not intimidated whatsoever. The Constitution gives the National Police Service express authority to fight corruption," he said previously.

Ruto's allies have also directed their anger at the EACC, often over mounting cases against them, claiming they were being pursued for working with the DP.

Kirinyaga Governor Anne Waiguru, who is among Ruto's high-profile lieutenants in Mt Kenya region, dismissed renewed attempts to prosecute her over Sh10 million allegedly received as travel imprest for questionable trips. She has denied being paid despite not travelling.

Early last week, the anti-graft agency forwarded her file to the DPP for action.

Waiguru termed it a political witch-hunt against her for working with Ruto.



KUSO president-leader Anthony Manyara

Don't clear unqualified aspirants, warns varsity group

■ by Irene Githinji
Ogutu

University students say they will protest attempts by political parties to clear unqualified aspirants to vie for posts in the upcoming elections.

Kenya Universities Students Organisations (KUSO) says they will partner with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to ensure that the candidates

are of high moral and legal standing.

KUSO president Anthony Manyara, the students say they are determined to see free and fair polls but are concerned about laxity by Government institutions in enforcing election requirements.

"The concerned institutions have let persons with questionable academic qualifications, those with legal indictments, and those whose loose utterances shake the founda-

tions of the country's peace, to campaign unhindered," said Manyara.

Speaking at a Nairobi hotel, Manyara said students would seek legal redress should a person with questionable integrity be cleared to vie.

A case in point is Meru Senator Mithika Linturi, who the students said is unsuitable to vie for Meru Governor on academic grounds.

Manyara said Linturi claims to have attended Marathwada Univer-

sity in May 1988, which KUSO said is non-existent. He added that the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission wrote to the University of Nairobi on October 19, 2017 casting doubts on authenticity of the degree certificate and transcripts provided by Linturi.

"Linturi is not eligible to vie for governor or any other position except Member of the County Assembly", said Manyara.

BRIEFLY



Prices of eggs rise in Nakuru, drought looms

An acute shortage of eggs has hit Nakuru county, with farmers attributing this to the high prices of chicken feed. Supply of milk to shops has also been affected, amid a lingering drought. A survey in towns such as Naivasha, Gilgil, Maai Mahiu, Longonot and Suswa established that many shops had run out of the two commodities while others were rationing them.

Farmers warned of tough days ahead. "We have recorded a shortage of eggs and milk, which has pushed up the prices", the retailers said. The chairman of

the Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers, John Gathogo, said the livestock sector was on its knees. He added that about 50 per cent of manufacturers had closed shop while those in operation had downsized by over 40 per cent.

"The biggest challenge is livestock feeds and raw materials from neighbouring countries," he said. He spoke after touring farms in Naivasha, noting that the only solution lay in embracing GMO crops such as soya and yellow maize (banned in 2012).

-Kirera Mwiti

Race against time to finish mega projects



They include Donga Kundu bypass, Makupa Causeway, Shimoni port, and Kipevu oil terminal. He spoke while chairing the Coast Regional Development Implementation and Coordination Committee at Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

- KNA

Parties on the spot over gender rule

It is crucial that political outfits integrate equality issues in their policies and national programmes

■ by Viola Kosome
@PeopleDailyKe

With about a week to the much-anticipated party primaries, all eyes are on political parties and how they intend to fulfill the two-thirds gender quota.

Female aspirants have expressed concerns on the low numbers of women in key political party positions. This, the women argue, could affect their participation in the 2022 electoral process. The few who have broken the yoke of male dominance and are holding positions claim they are subjected to discrimination and harassment.

Some of them lead the women's league while others serve as chairpersons in counties. Among the major political parties, only UDA has appointed a woman to hold the powerful seat of the Secretary General through Veronica Maina.

In parties, however, very few women have been mandated with preparations of nominations save for ODM party, which has a woman leader, Catherine Mumma, as the National Elections Board chair.

Other parties do not have women directly involved in the management of elections and nominations. In an interview with some women leaders on the experiences of women in party leadership, *People Daily* established that a majority of them are subjected to harassment and frustrations.

Millicent Abudho, the Ford Kenya deputy party leader, says women have to work extra hard and must develop a thick skin to take up leadership positions within political parties. She claims the few who rise up the ranks become instant targets by men keen on ejecting them. "Although, I am a deputy party leader, it came through a tough struggle," she admits.

Before she became the deputy party leader, she had a short stint as Ford Kenya Secretary-General but was ousted. She blames her removal on her gender.

"If political parties were supporting women, by now we could not be having issues with the two-thirds gender rule," she said. To increase the participation of women in political leadership, she suggests that men should accept that women can also lead in political parties.

Stiff opposition

Former Citizen Conventions Party (CCP) leader Grace Akumu is among the few women who defied odds to establish her own party in 2005. She used her position to champion the interests of women amid stiff opposition from her party members.

Akumu claimed she faced all manner of attacks. And last year, she bowed out of the party and instead rejoined ODM as an ordinary member.

"When I was the CCP party leader, I was subjected to a lot of attacks both verbally and online. Even fellow women also attacked me," she claimed.

According to her, having more women in vital decision-making organs is important, especially during party nominations.

Weighing in on the matter, Nominated Senator Rose Nyamunga, said more wom-



Veronica Maina



Catherine Mumma



Millicent Abudho

en should be allowed to lead in political parties to be tested and judged fairly on whether they have performed or not.

Registrar of Political Parties Anne Nderitu says nationally, women lead only in six political parties. Having fewer numbers of women in party leadership, she says, affects decisions within the parties, especially those that affect women.

She said at the Registrar's office, they ensure every political governing body must meet the two-thirds gender rule. "We also conduct specific advocacy to talk to political parties about inclusion of women and also engage them within political parties to advocate for their rights," she said.

For the past years, she said they have seen growth from two to six parties being headed by women. The country has a total of 85 political parties that completed their registration as at February.

Patrick Odame, the Kisumu county Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission election manager, says their role is to implement the Constitution as it is.

A push by various entities to ensure the two-thirds gender rule has hit deadlocks with various State Organs faulted as some of the stumbling blocs in the quest to achieve the initiative. "Bigger part of the gender rule is for parties to front women to contest seeing as the party list has limited slots," she said.

Booker Omole, the Communist Party chairman, blames patriarchy for the low numbers of women actively participating in politics. He says during recruitment of party members, they train women to expose them to leadership through their ideological programme.

"The training helps us to prepare several women in awaiting for leadership as compared to the legislative process that tries to enforce agenda parity regulations just like in Parliament," he said.

Amani National Congress Secretary General Simon Kamau, however, holds a contrary opinion. He says women have not been isolated but instead given equal and in fact better chances than men.

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KCPE results shouldn't condemn candidates

Transitions are sometimes murky depending on how one handles them. On most occasions, they are life-changing. This week, Class Eight candidates will know what they scored in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination.

Many will be pleased with the results but some will look into the future unaware of what it holds. Before the advent of the Competency Based Curriculum, the results were a make-or-break; they would determine if one succeeded in life or joined the millions of Kenyans who struggle to eke a living; those whose tomorrow is uncertain and many a time lead their lives on the brink. However, that should not be the case. Parents and guardians should help the candidates wade through these waters. Their input is critical.

As the results are announced those who do not perform according to their aspirations or potential should not be downcast. With the right attitude the future holds immeasurable opportunities. The results, of course, are critical in facing the future but they should not be the only determinant. There are examples of those who took up the challenge and unperturbed by societal pressures to carve a bright future; there are those who also fell by the wayside weighed down by the results of the key examinations.

In this year's exams, more than 1.2 million learners sat the papers. The government has assured all learners will transition to secondary schools. The government has heavily subsidised secondary education and there is no reason why learners should not proceed to secondary schools. Corporate organisations have also moved in to offer scholarships to bright but needy learners, the county government and the Constituency Development Fund have provisions for funding deserving cases.

We call on more organisations to stand in the gap and help learners not only access education but in a comfortable and secure environment.

The sporadic attacks by **bandits** and cheating claims tried to put a blot on the exercise but they were not widespread and in many cases, were nipped in the bud. We take this opportunity to encourage all the candidates that irrespective of the results that will be announced, the future remains entirely in their hands.

They can choose to soar with eagles or decide to brood with turkeys. The choice that one will make this week will define and impact on their lives to eternity. Make the right choice.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

The life of inner peace, being harmonious and without stress, is the easiest type of existence

QUOTED TODAY



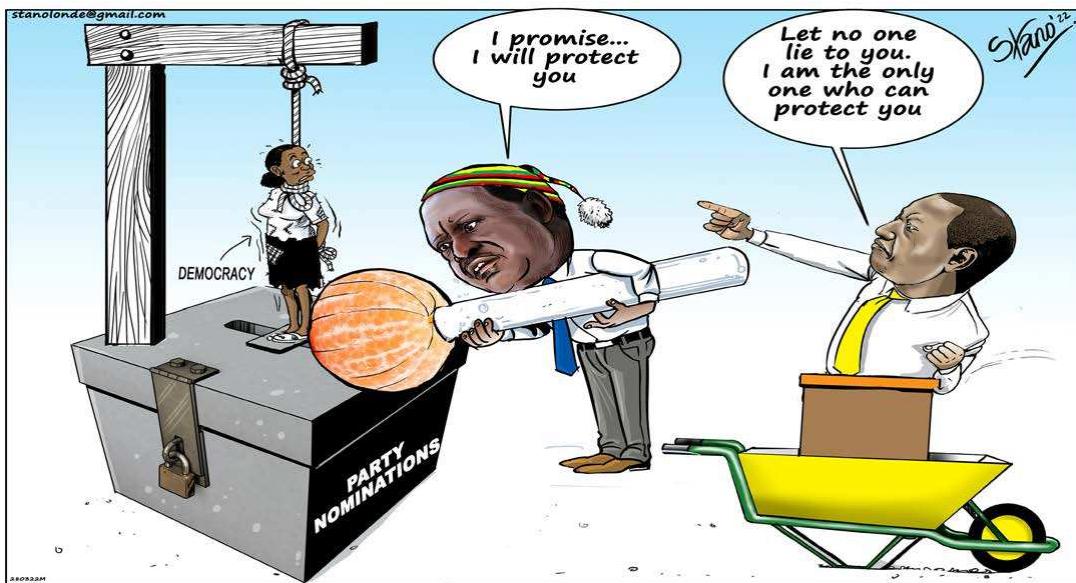
“Unfortunately, lately I have experienced some health challenges that I strongly feel it's time to hand over leadership back to my community of Sakuye and Isiolo county at large.”
ISILO GOVERNOR MOHAMED KUTTI



“I want to ask for our friends to respect us who campaigned for Uhuru Kenyatta. Let's stop false rhetoric, as a deputy president, I know what I must do, and those spreading those lies, shame on you.”
DEPUTY PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO



“You should not fail to listen to me because I am Raila's wife. When you dress in the Catholic Women Association dress; it means you are a Christian. The faith should be seen by the dress and also from your heart.”
ODM LEADER RAILA OGINGA'S WIFE IDIA



Jimi Wanjigi's puzzling rise to national stage



SAMMY KWINGA

“He joined politics at a young age in 1992 when he took part in Kenneth Matiba's campaigns”

paign plans. Wanjigi was the chief resource mobiliser. After the untimely death of Saitoti, Wanjigi worked his way into the inner circle of Uhuru's election campaigns. He is on record disclosing that the deal between Uhuru and Ruto was brokered at his Muthaiga home. Wanjigi later fell out with Uhuru and Ruto and he shifted his political investment to Raila's campaign.

The Nasa coalition received heavy financial backing by Wanjigi in the 2017 General Election. Campaign insiders intimate that Raila: the team leader and presidential candidate once found himself in a very awkward position, torn between pleasing Wanjigi-his chief financier and David Ndii, his adviser.

The tiff was due to a manifesto that Wanjigi single-handedly presented to the Nasa supreme to adopt as the coalition's manifesto.

This came along with Wanjigi's demand to be recognised as a principal in the coalition, alongside Raila, Kalonzo, Mudavadi, Wetang'ula and Isaac Ruto. This was meant

to give him decision-making influence in the coalition, allowing him to influence appointments to government and awarding of tenders.

After the disputed 2017 presidential poll and Raila's mock swearing in at Uhuru Park, Wanjigi and Raila differed on the way to proceed. In an interview on KTN, Wanjigi revealed that the plan was to march to State House after the swearing in, where Raila was to take his place as "people's president". Raila however pulled a fast one and had the handshake with Uhuru, to the surprise of Wanjigi and many others.

Shortly afterwards, Wanjigi found himself in trouble with the police over illegal possession of firearms whose licenses he allegedly did not have. Wanjigi's licenses were reportedly revoked. The DCI also explained that some of the **weapons** in Wanjigi's possession are not authorised for civilians.

Failure to achieve the desired political influence under Raila's captainship must have inspired Wanjigi to try and wrestle the leadership of the ODM party. After he failed, he bolted out and found a quiet, almost forgotten home in Safina, where he reconnected power and was allowed to hold the mantle.

But what many, including myself, keep wondering is why the son of a former Cabinet minister is so obsessed with **guns** and fortresses.

—The writer comments on topical issues

SEND YOUR OPED TO: peoplespeak@mediamax.co.ke

Next government should tackle drought as a priority

GATHU KAARA

Huge swathes of Kenya will remain economically marginalised with no hope ever unless drought is addressed

It is a crying shame that drought has become perennial and accepted as inevitable. And now, for the umpteenth time, millions of Kenyans face famine because the rains have failed.

The government estimates that at least 2.8 million people in 23 counties (over half of the country's geographical area) are threatened by famine and require relief food. This number has grown in recent months, indicating the situation is growing worse. Many of the people faced with starvation are in the perennially food shortage areas such as Baringo, Samburu and Turkana. But alarmingly, even previously food sufficient areas like Nyeri, Narok and Embu are in distress. This should worry the authorities.

The October–December 2021 short rains failed. It is hoped the long ones (March–May 2022) will improve the situation, but the gestation period between planting and harvest means unless the government supplies relief food, scores will starve.

Successive governments' performance in drought management has been wanting. Each regime has refused to prioritise drought as a key development dynamic since independence.

The governments' attitude about drought is best exemplified by the fact that National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) seems to have abdicated its space to NGOs, and drought mitigation and communication now seems to the work of the Kenya Red Cross, Oxfam and World Food Programme.

Only when the government starts giving drought the same attention and resources as say, education, roads and health, will this problem start getting addressed.

The root cause of drought in Kenya is continued almost complete dependence on rainfall for economic and social development. When rains fail, the effects are devastating. Food has to be imported; government is pushed to beg for relief food from donors; the economic mainstay of pastoralists is destroyed as flocks die in droves and they become impoverished, children can't go to school and adults spend most of their time look-

ing for water rather than engaging in economical pursuits; and in the more vulnerable areas, their entire lives are ruled by drought cycles.

In other words, huge swathes of Kenya will remain economically marginalised with no hope ever unless drought is addressed.

Equally important, as long as the perennial drought cycles define the country's vulnerability, Kenya can't develop because resources will keep on being diverted to deal with the millions faced with starvation.

The situation is worsening. Desertification is pushing relentlessly southwards, threatening Kenya's breadbaskets. Global warming is further testing the world's capacity to feed its people, as risks of droughts, falling agricultural produce and rising temperatures increase. Kenya is facing the challenges as well.

The only plan that can reverse this looming Armageddon is a Marshall Plan for agriculture—one that will

change the dynamics under which Kenya produces food.

The first dynamic is, just as we try to ensure the bulk of energy is produced from green sources, the same determination must be made in agriculture. The bulk of our food must be produced through irrigation. This means irrigation projects the size of Galana Kulalu right down to smallholder ones like Kibirigwi and Mwea schemes must become the foundation of the agricultural production. This requires a massive government intervention, and can be carried out under the Big Four agenda.

Secondly, the government must launch a major intervention to stop the desert. All water towers must be protected and rejuvenated wherever they are. This must go hand in hand with a huge increase in the planting of trees countrywide.

These issues must be taken seriously. The incoming government in August must have this as a top priority, otherwise droughts will never end and the country will never achieve its full economic potential, while those in the vulnerable areas will forever remain mired in poverty.

— gathukara@gmail.com

ODDLY ENOUGH



Duck hatches eggs at maternity centre

A Florida hospital's labour and delivery centre welcomed an unusual "delivery" when a mother duck hatched her eggs in the facility's courtyard. Beaches OB/GYN, the labour and delivery centre at Baptist Medical Centre in Jacksonville Beach, said in a Facebook post that staff escorted the mother duck and her 10 ducklings through the building after the eggs hatched in the delivery centre's fenced-in courtyard. The delivery centre said the ducks had to walk through the building to get out of the courtyard, which does not have an exit to the outside. "We're still 'quacking' up over this sweet story," the post said. "Congrats, Mama! We'll see you in six weeks for your follow-up."

— Agencies

How remote work trend is bridging the gender gap



HODA YOUNAN

This trend presents an opportunity for business leaders to hire a more diverse team

Flexible, hybrid work is here to stay. That was the prevailing sentiment from Microsoft's 2021 Work Trend Index (WTI). This is good news for innovation. Why? Because innovation surges when diversity increases, and one thing that remote and hybrid workplaces have enabled is more diverse hiring.

WTI notes that remote-work opportunities were found to be more attractive to diverse applicants—women, Gen Z jobseekers (those currently aged 18 to 25) and those without a graduate degree were more likely to apply for remote positions on LinkedIn.

For gendered diversity in workplace, remote work is driving much-needed improvement. Global statistics on gender equality in employment reveal a deeply entrenched disparity, with men participating more in the labour force and advancing more within it than female counterparts. Alarmingly, if we remain on the current hiring and promoting trajectory, it will take just over 135 years to close the gender gap worldwide. This was the finding of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its 2021 Global Gender Gap Report.

Covid pandemic has served to widen this gap, with WEF sharing early projections that show five per

cent of all employed women lost jobs in the resulting economic disruption, compared with 3.9 per cent of employed men. Women are also poorly represented in the 'jobs of the future' sector.

Such roles arose alongside digital transformation, which accelerated rapidly in response to the pandemic with businesses being forced to operate online during lockdown closures of physical spaces. WEF found that only two of eight jobs of the future that they tracked had reached gender equality.

Looking at the category of Economic Participation and Opportunity, WEF reported favourable results for sub-Saharan Africa, with the region having closed just over 66 per cent of the gender gap, outperforming the global average of 58.3 per cent. However, homing in on a per-country view shows varied progress.

Out of the 156 countries surveyed globally, Kenya was 95th on the list for overall gender parity. It fares slightly better looking at gendered hiring

and promoting, ranking 84th globally in the Economic Participation and Opportunity category, placing it 16th of the 35 countries surveyed across sub-Saharan Africa.

While participation between men and women in Kenya's labour force is roughly equal (9.1 million women vs 9.5 million men), senior roles are predominantly reserved for men. Only 18 per cent of firms have women in top management posts. Clearly, more work must be done to bridge the employment gender divide.

Being able to work remotely has opened many new career opportunities for workers across the globe. Not being confined to one geographical area means the ability to accept jobs based anywhere. As the WTI notes, "this fundamental shift expands economic opportunity for individuals and enables organisations to build high-performing, diverse teams from a near-limitless talent pool."

The index found that the number of women applying for remote work over locally based jobs on LinkedIn

increased by six per cent. This trend presents an opportunity for business leaders to hire a more diverse team where women are equally represented.

On how employers can help nurture the trend for a more representative workforce, WTI asked LinkedIn Chief Economist Karen Kimbrough for her expert advice: "Employers can help by actively seeking female talent, removing bias from job descriptions, and offering more flexibility to allow for a better work-life balance."

In attracting the right talent from a diverse pool of applicants, businesses will be setting themselves up for the kind of innovative thinking required for the future of work. Diverse businesses are more profitable, too, according to a McKinsey and Company study published in 2020.

The study found that companies whose executive teams were gender diverse were 25 per cent more likely to have above-average profitability than less-diverse businesses. This underscores the importance of not only hiring women, but of promoting them into senior roles as well.

— The writer is Marketing and Operations Director for Microsoft Middle East and Africa

Dog rescues family from house inferno

Firefighters in Rhode Island said a family was able to escape a house fire without injuries thanks to the heroic actions of their pet dog. Fire officers said the family of five was alerted to fire at their home early Thursday morning when they were awakened by their dog. "It appears the fire started on the exterior structure. And the dog was pretty active in the house and they got up to see what was going on and they saw the fire out on the porch through the sliding glass door. It's a real good story for that dog and he was able to do that and rescue his family," said an officer. Family members said the heroic dog's name is Cooter and he was a recent addition to the family. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

— Agencies

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Dirty politics now muddy church

@CisNyakundi: Meru where a leader has been extorting campaign money from State, embarrassed Ida Odinga where she attended CWA's forum. She doesn't know Ruto bought clergy ages ago. Who'll tell Azimio that Uhuru deliberately ruined their campaign?

So disgusting at a religious event

@MasterSagini_: Meru Yesterday, women invite Ida Odinga. Dress her with there uniform. All guest speak no helcking. Out of nowhere when she stands they start shouting Ruto and abusing her in a church function. Soo disgusting and disrespectful.

///  @PeopleDailyKe ///  People Daily

Booing Idah was uncalled for

@MarthaKarua: What happened at the Meru CWA function was uncalled for especially because the women through their leadership must have invited @IdaOdinga as their guest



TRUTHIS: Only God comes to the need of those who submit to His will.

From the Counties

How we lost chance to make a kill from party defectors

There comes a time when a politician needs lots of extra cash - campaign time. Here it is, and I need all the money I can lay my hands on. So when Mr Kige Ugeu came up with a plan on how to boost my campaign fund, I was game.

Lest you have forgotten, Kige is the founder of the Chameleon Party on whose ticket I intend to vie for governorship. Actually, I had intended to vie for presidency, but the party, in its wisdom, decided not to field a presidential candidate.

Kige called me one day last week. "Bwana Gwinso, I have an elaborate plan that will boost your campaign kitty in a way you never imagined."

"Which plan is this?" I said, curiously getting the better of me.

"You see, the deadline to belong to a political party is this weekend. Intelligence sources tell me there are many politicians out there who fear their parties may not nominate them. See what I mean?"

"Continue," I said.

"Let us make them aware of the existence of the Chameleon Party



MCA GWINSO

Let us organise a consultative meeting and invite those shopping for parties

and our willingness to accommodate them, at a fee of course."

I can smell a good idea when I see one, this was one of them. I also liked the mention of 'us' and 'we' - I was obviously now an insider in the party.

"Gwinso, let us organise a consultative meeting and invite those shopping for parties," Kige said.

"Has our party finally been registered?" I asked, earning myself a don't-ask-too-many-questions look from the party leader.

We agreed to urgently convene a consultative forum with would-be defectors. I suggested that my side-kick Mokonyonyo Spoiler, aka Moks, be asked to plan the logistics. He was an expert at this. Kige had no objection.

As usual, Moks did not disappoint

and by Thursday morning found the venue of the forum already arranged. For reasons best known to him, Moks had labelled Kige's seat and mine Party Honcho. Soon the guests started streaming in. To our pleasant surprise, among the guests were one current governor and two MPs, and a number of MCAs.

"We better begin. I will introduce the party and say the benefits of belonging to it," Kige told me. "Then you will give the condition for joining the party. It is only one: payment of membership fee, which is also the nomination fee."

Just as Kige rose to speak, the governor said, "Excuse me. I hope media people are not here. We want our discussions to remain private." This was met by murmurs of approval from the gathering. Kige

assured them that the meeting was chini ya maji. "I know your party leaders may not be happy to hear that you have attended a meeting of one of the most popular parties in the land," he added, making me wonder which party he was talking about.

Kige then extoled the virtues of the Chameleon Party: "This is the party of freedom. When you walk into our party, you leave worry at the door. If you lack academic credentials, worry not. We shall get you the necessary papers." An applause. "If you have any corruption cases, worry not. Our party shall ensure you are declared as clean as a whistle."

I saw the governor wave both hands in the air in appreciation. "And if you have any issues with Chapter Six of the Constitution, we shall sort you out," declared Kige earning himself a standing ovation from the attendees.

I then stood to give the condition for joining. "We are a direct ticket party, so as long as you pay the

necessary fees. Remember it is first come, first served."

"No, first pay, first get ticket," Kige corrected.

The governor was on his feet. "I must say I am very excited about this party. In fact, I will join it today, but please keep my membership secret. I have one question though, has the party been registered?"

"Not yet, but we are in the process of doing so," I said with the confidence of a senior counsel. Little did I know that I had ruined everything.

"Come on, fellows. Be serious," intoned the governor. "Today is Thursday. The deadline is Sunday, and you are here talking about the process? You have wasted our time!" he fumed.

Attempts by Kige to explain were fruitless. The gathering was already walking out of the venue. Soon, only the two of us, plus a bewildered Moks, were left in the hall. Kige was speechless. He stared at me and said only one thing: *Umechoma*.

—a.otieno@pu.ac.ke

The Politician



Impeachable Sources

Visitors flock Kenya to watch great migration in political jungle

Kenya's tourism sector is about to experience a boom as visitors from far and wide, flock the country to watch the Great Migration.

The peculiarly Kenyan spectacle, which takes place every five years, is expected to reach its peak next month. Unlike the other yearly migration which takes place in the Maasai Mara, the great migration in the political jungle, is a messy affair with no particular order or formula.

"It is a confused, helter-skelter stampede... there is no particular direction of movement. Sometimes they flee only to find themselves where they started," said Kwenda Upange, an expert who has been observing the phenomenon for 30 years. "It's more like watching headless chicken in motion," he added.

Upange attributed the migration,

which started in 1992 to political climate change, which he said had somehow turned the animals in the political jungle very itinerant, to survive the new conditions.

"In fact, the pre-1992 conditions did not allow any migration at all. The climatic changes raised the political temperatures very high and the creatures were forced to migrate every five years in order to survive," Upange explained.

Studies have shown that many of the migrants are forced to move by the extreme heat on the ground which sets their feet on fire.

"Others migrate because of heated competition while others fear being locked out in the biting cold for five years," said Hema Wanyora, another seasoned observer of the spectacle.

He added: "Others just follow the

MAMBO MATATA

Kenya is considering applying to have the great migration in the political jungle listed as Unesco cultural site

herd. It is all about herd mentality."

First-time visitors from as near as Tanzania and as far as America, said they have either been thoroughly entertained or extremely shocked by the stampede.

One Tanzanian said that while Kenya and Tanzania are close neighbours, members of the East African Community and share many historical, cultural and economic ties, no such migration ever happens in his

country. "This is unique to Kenya. We have no such migration in Tanzania. You either belong to the CCM or Chadema side of the river come rain or sunshine; election or no election. Once in a while, there are some movements but nothing of the Kenyan scale," he explained.

He added that while Kenya and Tanzania share the yearly wildebeest migration, the great migration is specifically a Kenyan event. "It looks like one has dropped a bomb in the middle of a football field that is full of people," the shocked Tanzanian observed.

He was also worried at the rate at which fertile political lands in Kenya suddenly turn into inhabitable deserts.

An American tourist who was so entertained by the great migration

said it should be declared the Eighth Wonder of the World. "This is extremely interesting. This mass movement every five years never happens in America. Except in rare situations, political creatures in US stick to their side of the political jungle for life," he said, adding the Kenya is a special case that calls for a great deal of study.

Impeachable sources say Kenya is considering applying to have the great migration in the political jungle listed as Unesco cultural site.

"After 30 years of this event, it is time we asked Unesco to list the spectacle as an important occurrence worthy of global recognition and protection," said an impeachable source at the Ministry of Culture and Social Services.

—matatacolumn@gmail.com



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The poster features the three main characters from the movie: Spider-Man (Peter Parker), Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), and MJ (Zendaya). They are positioned in front of a large, glowing circular portal that seems to be the source of the multiverse乱。The background is a dark, futuristic cityscape with various Marvel characters appearing as silhouettes or through windows. The overall theme is one of chaos and multiple realities.

Governor aspirants begin picks for running-mates

Tough balancing act for those eyeing gubernatorial positions, with community and clan optics at play

■ by People Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Candidates for governorship seats have started unveiling their running mates for the August 9 elections.

Their choices seem to have been driven by negotiated power deals involving clans as well as accommodation of minorities especially in the cosmopolitan counties.

In Mombasa, ODM's Suleiman Shahbal unveiled former cabinet minister Karisa Maitha's sister, Selina Maitha Lewa as his running mate.

Shahbal said the former government administrator was fit for the post.

Shahbal insisted he was focused more on Lewa's abilities as an individual rather than her family name or gender.

"When seeking a deputy governor, you must keep it in the back of your mind that whoever you select could be the next governor in case of your death or anything. Select someone who is professional, competent and understands the agenda for Mombasa," he said.

Shahbal's move is seen as yet another tactic in the scramble for the vote-rich Mijikenda community distributed across all the six sub-counties of Mombasa.

Mombasa has a total of 580,223 registered voters as per 2017 official Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) register where about 50 per cent of these voters are said to be from the Mijikenda community.

It is against the above backdrop observers argue that the Mijikenda factor will remain crucial in the Mombasa gubernatorial contest.

"Mijikenda are like the owners of Coast with Kwale in the South having two sub clans of Mijikenda that is Duruma and Digo and Kilifi in the north having the rest of the seven Mijikenda sub clans. Interestingly therefore you will find a lot of influence from the community either working or residing in Mombasa City. Any person who wants to become the next Mombasa governor will have to appeal to the Mijikenda vote," Pwani University Professor Halimu Shauri said.

Various aspirants

In the past successive Mombasa governorship contests, various aspirants including Governor Joho, Shahbal, former Senator Hassan Omar, former Nyali MP Hezron Awiti have picked Mijikenda running mates to bolster their chances of winning the seat.

In Machakos, former State House Chief-of-Staff Nzioka Waita settled on Machakos County Assembly Speaker Florence Mwangangi as running mate.

Mwangangi, the mother of Health Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) Mercy Mwangangi was among those contesting for the seat. The lawyer was a member of the first Judicial Service Commission under the 2010 Constitution representing women. She had previously toyed with the idea of running before the compromise last week to back Nzioka.

Waita will be vying on the Chama Cha Uzalendo party ticket, an affiliate of the



Manson Oyongo



Bishop Margaret Wanjiru



Suleiman Shahbal



Nzioka Waita

Azimio la Umoja Movement.

Besides Waita, others in the contest to succeed outgoing Alfred Mutua include Mavoko MP Patrick Makau, ex-CAS Wavinya Ndeti, Deputy Governor Francis Maliti, and former Senator Johnson Muthama the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) national chairman.

Kisii county governorship aspirant Manson Oyongo, unveiled both his preferred deputy and his choice for woman representative.

Oyongo who is the Kenya National Congress (KNC) party leader settled on Dr Alfred Ndemo from Bogeti clan and Julie Nyanchama (Bonchari), saying he will work with a Senator from another party.

Speaking during a delegates meeting attended by aspirants for parliamentary seats and MCAs he said he has given other parties a chance to elect a Senator who can oversight him.

"I urge my agents to campaign for me at the grassroots so that I can win the seat and bring forward looking change. I implore voters to use their votes to bring a change through me," Oyongo stated.

Oyongo said if elected governor, he will form cooperative societies for youths and women to access interest free loans to invest to boost their lives, adding that the members will guarantee each other in the revolving fund.

Oyongo will compete against Dagoretti North MP Simba Arati who has picked former Nyaribari Chache MP Robert Monda for running mate as well as UDA's Ezekiel Machogu who will run alongside lawyer Ogamba Migosi from

RUNNING MATE CHOICE

● Choices seem to have been driven by negotiated power deals involving clans as well as accommodation of minorities especially in the cosmopolitan counties

● In Nairobi County, Bishop Margaret Wanjiru who is vying using UDA has settled on Patrick Musili

It is a relative affair as close kindred vie for top Mandera seat

■ by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Three close relatives are in a fierce battle in Azimio La Umoja for the Mandera governorship seat.

The contest is between President Uhuru Kenyatta's Jubilee Party and Governor Ali Roba's United Democratic Movement (UDM).

The contest to succeed Roba who is serving his second and final term in office has attracted six candidates who have declared their intention to vie for the position.

They are three gubernatorial aspirants who are relatives and expected to battle it out for the Jubilee Party's ticket.

Senator Mohamed Maalim Mohamud, former Cabinet secretary Adan Mohamed, and Mombasa-based businessman Faisal Abdirahman Abass are all seeking the ruling party's ticket in their quest to succeed Governor Roba.

New twist

Abass and Adan hail from the Tuuf clan are cousins through their mothers who are sisters while Senator Mohamud is married to the former Cabinet secretary's sister. Others in the contest are former Education CAS Hassan Noor Hassan businessman Adan Haji Issack, and Ali Kiti, a banker.

On Sunday the race took a new twist as Governor Roba unveiled Mandera County Speaker Mohamed Adan

Khalif as his successor, Dr. Ali Mohamed as his running mate, and a two-term nominated Member County Assembly member of Mandera Umukheir Kassim as women representative, and Governor Ali Ibrahim Roba to vie for Senator. They will run under the UDM party.

"We have now completed our UDM line up for Mandera County and we ask our people to vote for this camp as it carries the aspirations of many," said Governor Roba, who doubles up as UDM party leader.

Expressed confidence

Under negotiated democracy that is largely practised in Mandera county, Murulle Clan Council of Elders endorsed Senator Mohamed Mohamud as the community gubernatorial and former Mandera East MP Mohamed Hussein as his running mate for the upcoming August 9 elections.

During his campaigns in Takaba on Sunday, Senator Mohamud excluded confidence in trouncing his close competitors saying they were mere "visitors" in the county.

"All I ask my opponents is that they carry out peaceful campaigns devoid of insults and violence. We have party nominations coming up next week, I will trounce all of them, they should be prepared to accept defeat," he said.

The senator drummed support for Azimio La Umoja presidential candidate Raila.



Go ye and farm...

Former PM's wife Ida Odinga, Turkish ambassador to Kenya Ahmet Cemil Miroglu (2nd left) and Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO Stanley Kamau donate avocado and banana seedlings to a farmer in Mathiyo, Murang'a county during the launch of sustainable economic livelihood farming project by Ahadi Kenya Trust and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). Over 30,000 seedlings were distributed to 25 women groups and 10 schools. PD/WANGARI NJUGUNA

Businesshub

French firm eyes majority stake in fertiliser producer

New development makes farmers optimistic of better services having grappled with costly and limited fertilisers for years

by Herald Aloo

@PeopleDailyKe

Fipar Agro International has intensified its proposition to acquire Kenyan based fertilizer company CFAO Agri Limited and enter Kenya's lucrative fertiliser sector.

It follows an invitation to interested stakeholders by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) competition commission for written representation, over the acquisition of 51 per cent stake of CFAO by Fipar, through a statement.

"The Commission will, in accordance with Article 26 of the Regulations, determine, among other things, whether or not the proposed transaction is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market and whether the proposed transaction is or would be contrary to the public interest," Comesa said in a statement on Friday, March 25.

Fipar, which is a subsidiary of a French-based agribusiness conglomerate with operations in over 100 countries, considers the investment as a strategic move to capture the local and regional fertilizer market.

The deal intends to use the Eldoret based plant to adopt products to fit local needs. The firm has an active presence in Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia.

The move is seen as a deal to bring experience and expertise in crop nutrition, accelerating and supporting the development of the Baraka fertilizers brand. It may also optimise operations through its industrial and "non straight" fertilizers expertise (Complex NPK and

Blended specific NPKs).

This acquisition will make farmers optimistic having grappled with costly and limited fertilisers for years, despite the situation having been made worse in the wake of Ukraine-Russia tiff.

Russia suspended the exportation of fertiliser, reducing a significant portion of the global supply that has seen import countries seek alternative sources.

Farm input distributors in Uasin Gishu have been informing customers of plans to revise the prices of fertilisers upwards from mid-march. Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), the commonly used planting fertilizer, is the most affected brand, followed by Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK) and Calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN).

The prices of fertilizers are currently at their highest level since 2008, with DAP hitting Sh6,000 per 50kg bag and is expected to soar further if the tension per-

sists and no subsidy is injected. NPK and CAN are currently retailing at Sh4,900 and Sh3,900, respectively.

Early this month, the agriculture Cabinet Secretary told the agriculture committee that farmers will have to contend with the current high prices of fertilisers until August as the docket awaits Sh31.8 billion approvals for subsidy.

The fertiliser shortage and high costs have added inflammatory pressures on Kenya farmers who are already burdened by the expensive fuel, weed-killing chemicals, crop seeds, and limited rainfall, threatening the country's cereal production and overall food security.

"Kenya is currently suffering from a sharp increase in feed ingredient costs, ranging from 30 per cent to 70 per cent in 2021, varying by commodity. This crisis makes silage more attractive to farmers due to high feed prices," the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) observed.



Malaria Deal

Reckitt country manager for East Africa Asif Hashmi and singer Wahu Kagwi sign a partnership during the unveiling of the singer as the new brand ambassador of Mortein in its nationwide Fight To End Malaria campaign. The deal will see Reckitt, through its Mortein brand, deepen national efforts towards a malaria-free Kenya. Looking on is June Karanja, senior brand manager Mortein (left) and Brenda Mokaya, assistant brand manager for Mortein. PD/GERALD ITHANA

Sidian Bank posts Sh486m profit after tax in 2021

by Bernard Sigei
@PeopleDailyKe

Sidian Bank has recorded a surge in net profit to Sh486.2 million for the year to 31 December 2021 from Sh18.8 million the previous year, on growth in loan book, interest income and lending fees.

During the year under review, total interest income increased to Sh3.5 billion from Sh2.4 billion. However, the mid-tier bank focusing on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) did not recommend dividend payment.

During that period, operating



expenses increased to Sh2.5 billion from Sh2.1 billion wiping out most of the gains on loan loss provisioning of Sh475.5 million up from Sh187 million. Rental charges, director's costs as well as expansion of its branch network also increased the costs.

"We have continued our expansion and recently opened a branch in Kamakis, along the Eastern Bypass to bring services closer to customers in that region. We also continue to make investments in the digital space as we provide businesses with tailor-made financial solutions," said Chege Thumbi, Sidian Bank's CEO in a statement.

Total non-performing loans increased to Sh2.5 billion from Sh2.04 billion. However, the lender has recovered from a previous two-year loss streak of Sh406 million in 2017 and Sh374 million in 2018.

CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA

 The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee will on Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Focus on inflation as CBK signals interest rates policy tomorrow

by John Otoni
@PeopleDailyKe

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) will meet tomorrow to fix the benchmark policy interest rates in the backdrop of rising cost of living, and focus on the August General Elections.

"The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022," the regulator said.

CBK has maintained interest rates at 7 per cent since 2020 with analysts had predicted that the CBK predicting a review of rates into the second half of the year.

However, with the elections just around the corner and global inflation surging in the past few months, it seems things may change, especially after Russia's attack on Ukraine which has spiked the cost of fuel and food.

"Concerns regarding the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict continued. International oil prices rose during the week ending March 24, owing to inventory draw downs," the central bank said in its weekly bulletin.

Commodities prices

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) says the overall year on year inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 5.08 per cent, in February 2022.

"This was mainly due to rise in prices of commodities under; food and non-alcoholic beverages (8.69 per cent); furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (5.41 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (4.79 per cent); and transport (4.54 per cent) between February 2021 and February 2022," KNBS said.



Exinity Capital East Africa Limited Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Exinity Capital East Africa Limited Income Statement for the Year ended 31 December 2021		
	12 months to 31.12.2021	11 months to 31.12.2020
Kshs	Kshs	Kshs
Brokerage Commissions	975	-
Realized profit/loss	34,557	-
Realized income	2,212,735	698,210
Total Income	3,249,227	698,215
Professional fees	4,706,503	2,211,000
Employee costs	37,018,875	7,388,574
Directors' emoluments	4,000,651	393,338
Depreciation expenses	197,818	137,724
Depreciation on right of use	400,881	52,277
Bent and utilities	2,785,445	598,509
Trading expenses	28,911	-
Other operational costs	4,012,464	1,567,152
Total expenses	51,613,673	12,210,835
Operating loss	(48,364,446)	(11,402,620)
Write-off of fixed assets	(29,154)	(14,200)
Net finance income/(costs)	5,679,595	(1,422,783)
Loss before tax	(42,714,005)	(13,039,603)
Income tax credit	12,551,876	3,864,438
Less for the period	(30,162,129)	(9,175,165)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(30,162,129)	(9,175,165)
Exinity Capital East Africa Limited Statement of Financial Position 31 December 2021 / 31 December 2020		
	Kshs	Kshs
ASSETS		
Noncurrent assets	2,775,348	512,476
Capital and due asset	22,793,979	-
Deferred tax asset	16,416,314	3,864,438
Total noncurrent assets	41,985,641	4,376,908
Current assets	3,175,873	361,722
Premises	483,292	-
Receivable from related parties	1,400,125	-
Staff loan	750,000	-
Trade and other receivables	-	-
Total assets	45,161,514	4,738,630
Deposits with financial institutions	30,600,000	38,608,219
Bank and bank balances	38,994,604	5,709,880
Client funds	238,203	-
Total current assets	75,614,197	36,679,821
TOTAL ASSETS	117,599,838	41,056,729
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Paid up ordinary share capital	128,740,000	43,454,000
Retained earnings	159,337,294	(4,175,165)
Total shareholders' funds	89,402,706	34,258,835
Liabilities		
Trade liabilities	22,470,239	-
Related parties	-	2,946,256
Trade payables	232,684	-
Accruals	5,091,985	3,851,638
Client's equity	202,724	-
Total liabilities	28,197,132	6,797,894
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	117,599,838	41,056,729
Exinity Capital East Africa Limited Other disclosures 31 December 2021 / 31 December 2020		
	Kshs	Kshs
Capital Strength		
(a) Paid up capital	128,740,000	43,454,000
(b) Minimum capital requirement	30,000,000	30,000,000
(a)-(b)	98,740,000	13,434,000
Shareholders' Funds		
(a) Total shareholders' funds	89,402,706	34,258,835
(b) Minimum shareholders' funds required	30,000,000	30,000,000
(a)-(b)	59,402,706	4,258,835
Liquid Capital		
For Online forex brokers	64,376,016	29,520,205
Capital > Kshs 30MM or 8% of liabilities	30,000,000	30,000,000
(a)-(b)	34,376,016	(4,795,205)

The above are extracts from the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Chairman Suzanne Kioloa Chief Executive Officer Duncan Kinuthia

Exinity Capital East Africa Limited is licensed by the Capital Markets Authority Kenya as a Non-Dealing Foreign Exchange Broker under License number 135



BRAND NEW: Mascor (EA) senior sales executive manager Mathew Rono Ouma (left) and Star Rentals' business development manager Anne Njenga are all smiles after the official handover of a new Nissan Navara Double-Cabin pickup for leasing services. Star Rentals offers leasing solutions on various movable depreciating assets. PD/Alice Mburu



SAFE TRAVEL: Autorescue Association of Kenya chair Jimmy Busienei (centre) and secretary general Wilson Wachira (right) engage a client during the association's expo at Kenya International Convention Centre (KICC) on Saturday. The lobby has moved to intensify customer awareness this year. PD/Alice Mburu



TRADE FACILITATION: Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) phytosanitary general manager Dr Isaac Macharia (left) confers with Kakuzi managing director Chris Flowers (right) at the firm's avocado packhouse in Murang'a County. The meeting helped assess Kakuzi's regulatory standards in readiness for the Chinese market export of fresh avocado fruits. PD/Alice Mburu

HEALTHY NATIONS: Cabonet Secretary Health Mutahi Kagwe (right) poses with IGAD Executive secretary Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu (left) display IGAD regional policies and strategies and health programmes recommendations after they were discussed and passed at the IGAD ministerial meeting on health in Mombasa. Kagwe called on the region to consider investing in universal health care. PD/Bonface Msangi.



AREN'T I LUCKY?: Joshua Mawia receives a dummy cheque for Sh250,000 from Lotto representative Beverly Nita after emerging winner in the Dosika Campaign last week. Joshua who is 23 years old plans to use part of the money to set up a second hand clothes business. He also intends to rest enroll for interior design short course with the balance. PD/GERALDITHANA



DOUBLE IMPACT: Tatu3 representative Olivia Nadia (centre) presents a dummy cheques for Sh100,000 to James Kamau Hadad (left) and George Kihara Githae after winning top prize in the ongoing Tatu3 Bonanza Live Show. James plans to invest in a garage while George intends to boost his wholesale business which buys and transports goods in bulk to Mombasa. PD/GERALDITHANA



MOST LOVED: UN Women Kenya representative Anna Mutavati (right) hands over a certificate of recognition to Equity Bank Kenya regional customer service manager, Mercy Kanyangi. This after the lender ranked fourth in top 100 brands most loved by Women in Kenya. PD/Alice Mburu



NEW VALUE PROPOSITION: CFAO Motors Kenya managing director Arvinder Reel (second right), CFAO Kenya chairman and Country Delegate Amb. Dennis Awori (second left) with the firm's chief operations officer Joshua Anya (left) and the chief financial officer Erwan Conan (right), during a discussion after Toyota Kenya announced its rebranding to CFAO Motors Kenya Limited. The firm says the move is meant to enhance value proposition in the automotive market. PD/JOHNOCHIENG

World News

ANTONY BLINKEN

I think the president, the White House, made the point last night that, quite simply, President Putin cannot be empowered to wage war

Pope incenses Vatican's Lady Fatima statue

Pope Francis (right) swings a thurible of incense before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, during a penitential celebration service in St. Peter's Basilica on March 25, in The Vatican, during which he is to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, based on the Marian apparitions reported in 1917 by three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria, in Fatima, Portugal. AFP



US denies Russia regime change scheme after Biden's comments

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken clarified to reporters after President Biden said Putin "cannot remain in power"

■ Washington, Wednesday

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has denied that the United States has any plans to bring about regime change in Russia or anywhere else.

Blinken's comments come a day after President Joe Biden said his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, should not be allowed to remain in power.

Biden made the unscripted remark at the end of a speech in Poland. Blinken said the president simply made the point that Putin could not be allowed to wage war against Ukraine.

The Kremlin dismissed Biden's remark, saying it was for Russians to choose their leader.

"I think the president, the White House, made the point last night that, quite simply, President Putin cannot be empowered to wage war or engage in aggression

against Ukraine or anyone else," Blinken said on Sunday during a visit to Israel.

"As you know, and as you have heard us say repeatedly, we do not have a strategy of regime change in Russia, or anywhere else, for that matter."

"In this case, as in any case, it's up to the people of the country in question, it's up to the Russian people," he added. Biden's comment prompted strong criticism from veteran US diplomat Richard Haass.

The comments "made a difficult situation more difficult and a dangerous situation more dangerous", tweeted Haass, who is president of the US Council on Foreign Relations.

"That is obvious," he added. "Less obvious is how to undo the damage, but I suggest his chief aides reach their counterparts & make clear the US is prepared to deal with this Russian government."

Haass returned to the subject after the White House qualified President Biden's remarks, saying: "The White House walk back of @POTUS regime change call is unlikely to wash."

"Putin will see it as confirmation of what he's believed all along. Bad lapse in discri-

RUSSIA REGIME CHANGE TALK

● US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has denied that the United States has any plans to bring about regime change in Russia

● Kremlin dismissed Biden's remark, saying it was for Russians to choose their leader

pline that runs risk of extending the scope and duration of the war."

In Ukraine itself, the western city of Lviv, which had been spared the worst of the fighting, came under heavy rocket fire on Saturday. It was one of several targets in the west to be struck, despite Russia saying it would focus on the east.

In an impassioned, late-night video address, President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Western countries to supply planes, tanks, and missile defence systems to Ukraine. He said his country could not defeat Russian aircraft with machine guns.

Further south, Ukraine's top human rights official has said the only major city taken by Russian forces, the port of Kherson, is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe. Lyudmilla Denisova told the BBC that areas around the city were suffering shortages of food, water and medicine.

And the leader of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic in eastern Ukraine, Leonid Pasechnik, said there was likely to be a referendum on joining Russia "in the nearest future", according to Russia's state-owned news agency RIA.

- BBC

BRIEFLY

Bloc extends date for Mali transition

The Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) on Friday announced an extension of 12 to 16 months for Malian authorities to return to constitutional order. President of the Ecowas Commission Jean-Claude Kassi Brou made the announcement while addressing the press after the fifth Extraordinary Summit of the Authority of Ecowas Heads of State and Government. "Apart from the 18 months that were given earlier for the Malian authorities to return to constitutional rule, the (Ecowas) Heads of State extended it by between 12 and 16 months within which the transition should occur, failing which Ecowas would impose sanctions on the country," he said.

- Xinhua



Pakistani Opposition starts protest march

Tens of thousands of people have started marching to the Pakistani capital in a show of opposition to Prime Minister Imran Khan who is expected to face a vote-of-no-confidence next week. Supporters from the party of former PM Nawaz Sharif began their "long march" on Saturday in the eastern city of Lahore, the political bastion of Sharif and his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party. "Prime Minister will resign before we reach Islamabad," Maryam Nawaz, Sharif's daughter and political heir, told the crowd before the march began. Thousands of PML-N supporters in different towns in Punjab are preparing to join the march which is to cover some 300km (186 miles). PML-N is not the only party heading to the capital to put pressure on Khan. Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, head of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (F) party, is also marching on the capital.

- Xinhua

Focus on Revolutionary Guard designation in Iran nukes deal



■ Tehran, Sunday

The issue of a "terror" designation on Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has taken centre stage during the ongoing efforts to revive the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

As the EU negotiations coordinator, Enrique Mora, met with Iranian officials in Tehran on Sunday, the discourse there and elsewhere was dominated by whether the US will

lift its "foreign terrorist organisation" (FTO) designation of the IRGC.

Mora and Iranian chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani exchanged views during their meeting and agreed to maintain contact. Mora then met with foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

Both Iranian officials told him that if the American side is "realistic", an agreement can be reached to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as the accord

is formally known. Mora will soon head to Washington, where he will meet American officials on Monday.

In an interview with state TV on Saturday, Amirabdollahian had confirmed the FTO designation, in addition to sanctions imposed on IRGC subsidiaries and entities, is the main remaining obstacle to a deal.

The issue of the terror designation was also discussed at the Doha Forum international conference on Sunday where both Iranian and

American officials were present.

Former Iranian foreign minister, Kamal Kharrazi, told the forum the designation needs to be lifted and several IRGC entities be delisted as they are integral to the economy.

Speaking after Kharrazi, US Special Envoy Robert Malley said the final hurdles are difficult to clear and he is not confident a deal is imminent, but a restored JCPOA would benefit Iran, the US and the region.

- AFP

Spice ▶ Flavour your day

@Elly_Gitau

BACK ON TRACK

While still recovering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the global music sector recorded growth in 2021. **Elly Gitau** looks at how the industry performed, as revealed by the Global Music Report.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, sectors across the economy were adversely affected. Livelihoods of billions of people were put on the line, as the world focused on fighting the devastating pandemic. The creative industry was not spared either, with its players bearing the blunt of the global catastrophe.

However, as the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining. Last year, the music sector was still struggling to rediscover itself, after going through a difficult 2020. But what warms the heart of many stakeholders is that in 2021, the global recorded music market grew by 18.5 per cent, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) revealed on Tuesday as it released its annual Global Music Report for 2021.

IFPI is the voice of the recording industry worldwide, representing over 8,000 record company members across the globe. Its work includes the promotion of recorded music value, campaign for the rights of record producers and expand the commercial uses of recorded music around the world.

The unprecedented growth, the report sites, was driven by growth in paid subscription streaming, with total revenues for 2021 hitting US\$25.9 billion (\$2.9 trillion). Paid subscription streaming revenues increased by 21.9 per cent to US\$12.3 billion (\$1.4 trillion). There were 523 million users of paid subscription accounts at the end of 2021.

"Total streaming [including both paid subscription and advertising-supported] grew by 24.3 per cent to reach US\$16.9 billion (\$1.9 trillion), or 65 per cent of total global recorded music revenues. In addition to streaming revenues, growth was supported by gains in other areas, including physical formats (16.1 per cent) and performance rights (4 per cent)," reads the report.

Music culture support

Opening a virtual press conference in London to unveil the report, IFPI chief executive officer Frances Moore intimated that record companies around the world were engaging at local levels to support music cultures and bring on the development of emerging music ecosystems, championing local music and creating the opportunities for it to reach a global audience.

She said, "As more markets mature, they join with and contribute to the rich, globally interconnected music world. Consequently, today's music market is the most competitive in memory. Fans are enjoying more music than ever and in so many different and new ways. This creates enormous opportunities for artists. Those who choose to partner with a record company, do so to benefit from the support of agile, highly responsive global teams of experts dedicated to helping them achieve creative and commercial success and build their long-term careers."

Moore added that the creative opportunities to share music experiences are expand-



Frances Moore



Angela Ndambuki

ing exponentially, due to advancements in technologies and the continued evolution and expansion in the online environment. "From the metaverse, to in-game content, record companies have invested in the people and the technologies to deliver new, highly interactive experiences—adding to the evolving ways for artists to make connections with their fans," she noted.

Speaking exclusively to Spice from London, IFPI regional director for Sub-Saharan Africa Angela Ndambuki said thanks to the digital environment and the investment by major players in the world music, African music is currently most appreciated.

"Afrobeat is big across continents and there are artistes who've captured the global audience with their songs; talk of tracks such as *Jerusalema*, and *Love Nwantiti*, among others. We've witnessed great collaborations between African artistes and their counterparts in the West. This shows that something is happening here. Now the work is to ensure that we inculcate in music consumers in Africa the value of paying for music. It's already happening, but we need to make it big," she said.

She added, "I think 2022 is critical to the industry since it's the year that has witnessed reduced Covid-19 restrictions and businesses are normalising operations. This will benefit the industry in many ways. We are hopeful it will be another year of growth."

Continent's performance

North Africa and the Middle East split out as a separate region in the Global Music Report for the first time, experienced growth of 35 per cent; the fastest regional growth rate globally. Streaming was a particularly strong driver in the region, with a 95.3 per cent share of the market.

Sub-Saharan Africa, also split out for the first time in IFPI's reporting, recorded a modest revenue growth of 9.6 per cent in 2021, largely driven by streaming. Ad-supported was particularly strong in this region, with revenues from this format growing by 56.4 per cent.

"Moving forward, the Sub-Saharan Africa only reporting will be an impetus to improving insights and reporting for the region. The bottom line is that the region has massive consumption of music online. The future is bright," added Angela.

However, no African country made it to the Top 10 global music markets. The USA remained the world's best music market, followed by Japan, UK, Germany and France. Others were China, South Korea, Canada, Australia and Italy, respectively.

CAMPO RAGE

With Allan Adalla

Toxic masculinity is as rife in campo as is in Nairobi streets

Not once have we come across a comrade couple living together. At campo, the 'come we stay' marriages are normal. For some comrades, it is enjoyable, while others are just forced into it due to the tough life they encounter there.

They say it's a good strategy for cutting costs as the couple shares expenses. However, there must be one between them that gives more support than the other. This can be the hardest part. Being raised dif-

ferently, everyone finds it rough to get used to each other's habits. For instance, you can find that mate who lives like a parasite and never knows anything about house chores.

As Africans, we are in a patriarchal society where men are deemed to have more power than women; men have some level of privilege to which women are not entitled. Therefore, men are entitled to provide and protect the family. This is also evident in campo where a chile

will entirely stick to a man who has a heavy pocket. That is why the well established Wababa, who have wives and children, pass this test as they have already shown the evidence that they can take good care of a side chick. These days never tell a campo lass that you are single; they assume that you are irresponsible.

What's wrong with a woman hosting her boyfriend in her house? Well, toxic masculinity has driven us to believe that

when a girl hosts a man in her house, then she is doing him the biggest favour in the world. But when the opposite happens, it's not a big deal. Once things go south in the couple's relationship, the only stuff a man leaves from that house is a suitcase. It's such a discomfiting event.

You may think that all these break-up dramas you see on the *Loyalty Test* online are scripted. You are wrong. The dramas are always drawn from true campo experiences. A woman hosting

you in campo is similar to that woman holding your manhood. Once you are caught cheating, your manhood is squeezed and out of being desperate, you will cry like a baby and continue staying with her to play it low for your buddies who you had fooled that you were the owner of the house. Call it macho or whatever you'd want to, but toxic masculinity has been the father of all these rationales that a man should be the one hosting a woman in their houses.

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Women in News director Jane Godia.

AMWIK @40

by Njenga Kung'u

The Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) celebrated its 40th birthday with a call for an improved working environment for women in the media. Executive director Judie Kaberia said time was ripe to remove barriers preventing women from sitting in key decision-making organs in newsrooms, end sexual harassment, set up a mentorship programme for female journalists and push for equity and equality in the profession. "One thing we are celebrating today is that though we have few women at the decision-making table in newsrooms, for sure we know we have no shortage of competent women professionals in the media," she said. The association also unveiled its new brand, constitution and strategic plan 2021-26.

PD/NJENGA KUNG'U



ICT Chief Administrative Secretary Nadia Ahmed, European Union Kenya Ambassador Henriette Geiger and AMWIK executive director Judie Kaberia launch the association's new constitution.



Saisa Munga with Janey Rose.



Journalist for Human Rights project manager Sammy Muraya.



Moraa Obiria, Kwamboka Oyaro and Sylvia Machini.

For little people

by Alex Mburu

Sol Kids, a venture that introduces children to a world of inspiration designed just for them, was launched in Nairobi on Wednesday. Founded by Sauti Sol and Melissa Wakhu, it will carry all children content for the brand, targeting children aged 0 to 18 years. It is a product of a dream where children have access to content that is for them, by them and about them. "Our objective is to nurture a generation of children who understand, appreciate and celebrate the privilege of being African," said Sauti Sol. The project will create and curate a variety of Pan-African content, literature, materials and fun learning experiences for children on areas of books, music, events, animation, and resources.



Sauti Sol and author Melissa Wakhu launch Sol Kids.



Mako Content and Animations executive producer and creative director Irmak Atabek.



Sol Generation CEO William Nanjero with Sauti Sol Entertainment project manager Akisa Wangari.

National Museums of Kenya cultural and design anthropologist Mathews Wakhungu, author Melissa Wakhu and Innocent Nyaga.

PD/ALEX MBURU



Ten... Tennis players who quit at their peak

The majority of players cite fatigue or injuries as the reason for hanging their rackets when least expected. Here are 10 top-rated tennis players who called it a day while at the top of their rankings, as compiled by Samuel Kariuki.



1. Ashleigh Barty

World number one Ashleigh Barty stunned the sporting world on Wednesday by announcing her retirement from tennis aged just 25, weeks after becoming the first home-grown Australian Open champion in 44 years. While announcing her retirement, Barty said it was time to 'chase other dreams.' She said that she no longer feels compelled to do what she knows is required to be the best she can be at tennis.



2. Björn Borg

The suave Swede was a dominant force in the men's game for much of the late 1970s and early '80s, winning the French Open six times as well as five successive Wimbledon crowns. But he abruptly announced his retirement in January 1983, aged 26, a decision generally attributed to burnout. A year and a half earlier, he had lost to his great rival John McEnroe in the final of the US Open, one major tournament he never managed to win.



3. Martina Hingis

In 1997 Hingis became the youngest Grand Slam singles winner of the 20th Century when she won the Australian Open aged 16 years. In March that year, she rose to be the youngest world number one in history. She struggled with ankle injuries and was just 22 when she retired in February 2003, having won five Grand Slam singles crowns and spent a total of 209 weeks at number one. "I have been in the game too long to know what it takes to get to the top and I'm no longer capable of it," Hingis said.

4. Justine Henin

Henin was 25 and on top of the world rankings when the Belgian made the shock decision to retire in 2008 after seven Grand Slam titles but with continual struggles with form and fatigue. "It's the end of a great adventure, the end of something I had dreamt of since I was five," she told reporters as she was quitting. During a brief return to the tour, Henin reached the 2010 Australian Open final, losing to Serena Williams. She retired for good in 2011.



5. Kim Clijsters

The 23-year-old Belgian retired in May 2007, having packed 34 WTA singles titles into her short career including the US Open in 2005. She said battling injuries and the constant effort to stay at the top had finally taken their toll. "It has been more than beautiful," she said. "But it's time to hang up my racket for good." She made a remarkable comeback between 2009 and 2011, during which she won two more US Opens and an Australian Open.



8. Steffi Graf

In 1999, 22-time Grand Slam winner Steffi Graf announced her immediate retirement from tennis. The 30-year-old German stunned the sporting world when, just months after winning the French Open and finishing runners-up at Wimbledon and still ranked third in the world, she decided to hang up her racket. Graf, who had fought her way back from knee surgery two years earlier, had indicated that 1999 would be her last year in the game. She said at the time: "I have no regrets because I have the feeling, I have achieved everything I could."



6. Andrea Jaeger

Another young phenom who retired in 1985 at age 19. Jaeger had been a French Open and Wimbledon finalist in 1982 and 1983, but a shoulder injury finished her troubled career. She was the youngest US Open semifinalist at 15, making her the youngest player ever to be seeded at Wimbledon. She held the record for one decade until 1990. The legendary pro tennis star is now a philanthropist and Anglican Dominican nun.



7. Tracy Austin

She was only 21 years old in 1983 and a two-time US Open champion, but injuries derailed her attempts to stay at the top. She retired at a time when was exhibiting limitless potential to be a dominant player on the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). She was the youngest woman to win the US Tennis Open in 1979 at 16. A series of injuries and then a car accident limited her career and despite a couple of attempted comebacks she never regained her earlier form.

9. Marion Bartoli

She announced her retirement from the sport following a second-round loss to Simona Halep of Romania at the 2013 Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati. After the match, Bartoli told reporters that the wear and tear on her body were overwhelming and that she was walking away from the game. The French woman began her pro career in 2001. She bounced around smaller tours overseas, finally breaking through as a permanent fixture on the WTA tour two years later. Overall, Bartoli finishes her career with eight WTA titles.

10. Andy Roddick

The American announced ahead of the 2012 US Open that it would be the last tournament of a 12 year career which yielded 32 titles. It also brought him the world number one spot as well as three heartbreaking Wimbledon final defeats before his prospects of a permanent place at the top table were swept away. A fourth-round defeat to Juan Martin Del Potro at Flushing Meadows proved to be the 30-year-old's last elite-level tennis match as he cited injuries and a lack of motivation for his retirement. "I've loved every minute of it, for the first time in my career I'm not sure what to say," emotional Roddick told the crowd.

TWOINONE

Deal with your issues from the root of the matter

Our Form Four candidates are in the midst of sitting their final exams. We have heard cases of exam cheating every now and then. This even led Education Minister George Magoha to ban exam officials from using phones in centres

In dealing with this bad habit of exam cheating, so often we look for curative measures such as the banning of mobile phones, presence of a contingent of policemen that to be honest scares me, and other such like tough measures. One question that goes unanswered time and again is, why do students and their teachers go to such lengths to cheat in exams? What makes it a matter of life and death that by hook or crook one must pass these exams?

That is the question that needs to be answered and perhaps that's why the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) was established. Not to bore you with matters best left to the education experts, there's need to look again at the question I asked earlier. What makes us do that? So often, we get caught up with the bad things the other person is doing and try to come up with solutions or preventive actions that will curb them without asking ourselves why they did what they did.

You see, when we begin to ask such questions, we will begin to deal with root issues affecting our relationships and even this menace of exam cheating. In my little knowledge of farming, you uproot the weeds, you don't cut it, otherwise when the rain falls the weeds will grow again. But if we uproot them, weed them out, even when the rains comes, the chances of them growing again are minimal.

Instead of complaining about in-laws, sex and money matters in marriage, why not dig deeper by asking the right question? You see, if we don't get to the root of the matter, which may be power play, insecurity or the baggages we came into the relationship, it will be difficult for the two to become one.

You ► It's all about Life & Style

My girlfriend does not take me seriously anymore

Hi coach. I'm Martin and have been in a relationship for the past four years. Suddenly, my girlfriend has started misbehaving and taking me for granted. She is sleeping out and whenever I ask her, she resorts to quarrelling. I have been trying my level best to treat her as my woman. Kindly, what should I do? Should I move out or stay in this relationship? Men are suffering silently in relationships nowadays. Women cannot be trusted.

OUR TAKE...



THE ACHOKIS

Thank you Martin for reaching out to us. Within four years, you should be able to know each other. From what you say, it seems like things have been okay until recently when she suddenly started misbehaving.

The question is, what caused the sudden change in behaviour? Looking back, what do you think has triggered this sudden change? Whilst it's easy to point a finger at the other person for behaving the way they do, it is always good to look inward and see what you yourself may have done or not done that caused that sudden shift. You mentioned that she's been sleeping out and asked whether you should move out, do we assume that you are living together? If so, could it be that after four years of being together and not committing to the relationship, this is making her jittery and hence looking elsewhere?

Possible reasons

Apart from you, there might be other issues affecting her that are making her act the way she is behaving. Maybe she has lost interest in you and has found someone else that she's hanging out with, but doesn't want to tell you lest it hurts you.



There's certainly something wrong with the relationship seeing that you are constantly quarrelling and can't talk out your issues. She may be reacting to your attacks, thus the constant quarrelling or she may just be putting out a smoke screen because she's guilty.

Whatever the case, there's need to sit down and talk like two adults. If this is not possible, you can incorporate a third-party whom you both agree upon. In your conversations, you need to ask her what she wants? You also need to let her know with a good tone and not in a condescending manner what you will allow and what you won't allow in the relationship. One does not need to be forced into a relationship if they are unwilling. If what she wants is not in agree-

ment with what you want, and vice versa, then there's no point sticking together.

Change your perspective

It may be painful now, but it's better to go through the pain now rather than later. You may need to go through some therapy to help you heal. What lessons about yourself and relationships have you picked from this experience? You need to check your perspective of women, as your experience may lead you to the generalisation that women are not faithful. This perspective if not dealt with may affect your future relationships.

The writers are marriage and relationship coaches
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MILLENNIAL MIX WITH NJERI MAINA

There's a difference between colleague and friend

One of my friends recently retired. The only thing he has been telling me over and over is to ensure that I know the difference between friends and colleagues. He has shared that the incessant calls he would get from his colleagues to go for a mbuzi plan and beers over the weekend, have slowly declined in tandem with the length of his retirement.

While I might have made jokes about how my retirement was quite a few decades off, I could not help, but wonder if the same would befall me once I retire. The truth in his words would nag me long after the conversation. I could

not help, but think of how my phone similarly fell silent when I recently fell ill. Out of tens of friends, only four called me during the two weeks. It, therefore, stands to chance that the multitude you call your friends are probably just people you are tethered to by convenience. The convenience here might be work, the want for beer buddies, or the want for a distraction from your marriage.

This is not to say that you cannot get work friends. In fact, if you are lucky, you will come across colleagues who will invariably turn into friends and eventually become your family. If you are twice as

lucky, these people will be your support system both at work and at home. These are the people who you will talk to even when you are on leave. That is how you will know that your work friend is indeed a true friend.

If you do not manage to turn your colleagues into your true friends, I would advise for caution. Have clear boundaries that they are your work friends. Be friendly with them, going out for lunch with them and for beers after work, but fully cognizant of the fact that these are just your colleagues and not your friends. Leave your personal life at home

as colleagues can easily use something you said in confidence to get an edge over you while a true friend would never do that. Do not invite your colleagues to your personal celebrations such as dowry negotiations or child christening. I have been privy to how colleagues malign people after personal visits. Handle your colleagues with care and love, ensuring that you remain friendly whilst upholding the boundaries that your work relationship demands. Here's to hoping you learn the discernment to know the difference between a colleague and a friend.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Relationships sink when there are too many passengers. —Unknown

Your Health ▶ It matters

Tackling devastating effects of Covid-19 on tuberculosis care

Low funding, plummeting of case notifications due to pandemic-related disruptions in services, shortage of drugs, among other issues were the highlight of this year's World TB Day, which was marked on Friday, running under the theme "Invest to end TB. Save Lives"

by Sandra Wekesa
@wekesasandra

Early last year, Collins Maleya from the sprawling Mathare slums started experiencing a persistent cough and severe night sweats, which later progressed to unintentional weight loss and loss of appetite, which did not seem to improve.

This, however, was no cause for alarm to him as he passed the symptoms as hangovers, because he would often drink himself to a stupor.

"You see, after having several glasses of the illicit brew sold to us here in the slum, I would always assume that my symptoms were just effects of the alcohol," he recalls.

However, after a month of being on bed rest and trying to get better in vain, he decided to finally seek medical advice.

"My health was deteriorating and the shivers and chest pains weren't going down. I decided to go to the hospital where a sputum test was done and after a week of waiting for results, I was diagnosed with Multidrug-Resistance Tuberculosis (MDR-TB)," he explains.

The diagnoses done through a specialised test known as rapid and precise drug sensitivity test (DST) that can detect TB and resistance of the TB germ to anti-TB medicines.

After diagnosis, Collins had to be put under strict medication, which wouldn't be commenced in his then living conditions. He was living on the streets at the time and the medication wouldn't have worked if he continued spending nights in the cold.

"It was a hurdle finding decent place to live because the streets had been my home for a very long time, so I sought the help of a Community Health Volunteer (CHV)," he says.

Drug shortage

With the help of the CHV, they found a local bar in the slums, whose owner agreed on an arrangement to have him sleep there as he looked for a place to settle. The bar was not operating during the night due to Covid-19 imposed dusk to dawn curfew.

But there was another challenge, he could not get access to medication, because of the disruptions brought about by effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I stayed for over one month before I could access and begin treatment, I would inquire at the clinic every now and then, but there was no TB medicine in stock," he says.

Eventually the clinic was supplied with medicine and he was put on the drugs immediately for 18 months.

For Collins, the disease came as a blessing in disguise, because he has been able to get a roof over his head in the slum through an African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) project, which funds his accommodation with a Sh6,000 per month stipend, but the problem of accessing treatment still worries him.

"With nine months to go before I complete this treatment, I am always scared that one day we might be told that there's shortage of drugs and I might be forced to begin my treatment afresh, which affects me psychologically," he explains.

As it is, he says it is a struggle to swallow all the 18 prescribed tablets every day and having to start over the treatment again will have a negative effect on his wellbeing.

"I have been suicidal ever since I began my medication, first, because of stigma associated with the disease and secondly, because of the many drugs I have to take, which initially was a combination of 24 pills. However, with the help of CHVs who check on me every week, I have been able to stay afloat and face my fears," he says.

Addressing the hiccup

Community health volunteers are among individuals who have played an important role in ensuring that challenges to do with access to TB drugs brought about by the pandemic are mitigated.

Florence Mwikali, a CHV in Mathare explains that reallocation of resources and health workforce to tackle Covid-19 in the country, as well as drastic pandemic response measures, such as lockdowns greatly reduced access to key health services, including tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment. "At the onset of the pandemic, most people avoided going to the hospital fearing that they would be forcefully isolated, so you would find so many missing cases. We were forced to put in more effort in contact tracing," she explains.

She adds that their key role in TB control amidst the Covid-19 pandemic was to identify those who exhibited symptoms of the diseases and refer them to various hospitals for testing and treatment.

Further, they screened people suspected to be infected by collecting sputum and transporting it to health facilities for testing. They also advised patients on recommended



Collins Maleya

nutrition practices, which help to manage the disease effectively.

They also put in more effort to ensure patients accessed treatment. "Whenever I noticed a patient wasn't going to the clinic, I would visit them wherever they were to deliver medicine," she offers.

Irungu Karuga, a TB health specialist says TB and Covid-19 have similarities in that they both are infectious respiratory illnesses. Although they are different diseases with varying symptoms, they share some of the same symptoms, such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, fatigue, and loss of appetite, although TB disease has a longer incubation period and a slower onset of disease. "Similarities between the two provide an opportunity for both to be controlled in an effective manner without any additional stress on our health system," he says.

Studies have shown that history of active as well as latent TB is an important risk factor for Covid-19 infection. This not only results in increased susceptibility, but also rapid and severe symptom development and disease progression with poor outcomes. Tuberculosis is associated with a 2.1-fold increased risk



Florence Mwikali

of severe Covid-19 disease. In addition, TB patients also tend to have co-morbid or living conditions, such as malnutrition, diabetes, smoking and HIV that increase their vulnerability. In order to address this dual morbidity of tuberculosis, Dr Karuga suggests that introduction of bidirectional screening (Covid-19 screening for all diagnosed TB patients and TB screening for all Covid-19 positive patients) will play a huge role in assessing the severity of Covid-19 among TB patients and seeing how both can be managed.

"Bidirectional screening will help address the problem of missing cases of TB among Covid-19 patients," he offers.

Reversed global progress

On her part, Head of National TB Programme Dr Carol Asin, agrees that restrictions and containments during the pandemic caused a lot of disruptions in TB prevention and treatment.

The pandemic reversed years of global progress in tackling tuberculosis. Many people struggled to seek care in the context of lockdowns and fewer people were being diagnosed and treated or provided with TB preventative

DR KARUGA

Bidirectional screening will help address the problem of missing cases of TB among Covid-19 patients.

WHO DATA

4,100
people die of TB
everyday globally

1.5
million
people died
of TB in 2020



28,000
people get sick
with TB everyday

67,354
missing
people with
TB



5 TB is fifth
leading cause of
death in Kenya
72,943
notified TB
cases in Kenya
in 2020

SOURCE: NATIONAL
TUBERCULOSIS, LEPROSY AND
LUNG DISEASE PROGRAMME
GRAPHIC: PAPAOASCAR

IN NUMBERS

TB prevalence in Kenya according to TB prevalence survey (2015/2016) is **426** per 100,000 population, meaning Kenya remains high burden for TB, TB/HIV and DRTB.

The estimated incidence of TB and DRTB respectively in Kenya in 2020 is **140,000** and **2500** people every day, according to World Health Organisation WHO.

There was **15** per cent reduction in TB case finding in 2020 largely attributed to the pandemic and subsequent responses. Lab diagnosis for TB also went down negatively affecting case finding.

75 TB patients reported to have been diagnosed with Covid-19 in 2020.

66 per cent of all cases notified with TB in 2020 were men, hence they remain the most affected population.

meet the global target of ending the disease by 2030, while the Covid-19 pandemic threatens to roll back progress made so far in the continent.

Every year, the African region requires at least \$1.3 billion (\$149 billion) for TB prevention and treatment. However, countries contribute 22 per cent of the needed budget while external funding accounts for 34 per cent. The rest of the budget remains unfunded, seriously undermining efforts to eliminate the disease.

Going by this year's theme *Invest to end TB. Save Lives*, underfunding for TB programmes has a significant impact on disease detection.

Out of an estimated 2.5 million TB cases in 2020 in Africa, only 1.4 million were detected and put on treatment. On average, 56 per cent of cases were detected and enrolled on treatment between 2015 and 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also slowed progress against TB. Globally, deaths from TB rose for the first time in a decade. Africa reported 549,000 deaths in 2020, an increase of around 2,000 over 2019. The number of newly detected TB cases also fell in high burden African countries due to disruptions by the Covid-19 pandemic on health services.

"Tuberculosis is preventable and treatable, and millions of lives have been saved. We must end the chronic underinvestment that keeps the tuberculosis burden high, leaves a huge number of cases undetected and undermines prevention and treatment," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "Africa has so far made good progress against tuberculosis and we cannot afford to lose focus on what is needed to ease the burden and save live," he added.

Under the WHO End TB Strategy, countries should aim to reduce TB cases by 80 per cent and cut deaths by 90 per cent by 2030 compared with 2015. The strategy also sets key milestones that countries should cross by 2020 and 2025 if they are to end the disease.

The 2025 milestone seeks a 50 per cent reduction in cases and a 75 per cent decline in deaths. TB cases should drop by 10 per cent every year to meet the 2025 target, yet the current rate of decline in cases stands at two per cent. From 2025 to 2030 countries should reduce cases by 17 per cent every year.

The End TB Strategy also includes a key target that seeks to reduce the catastrophic cost treatment can have on families. However, a WHO survey on the cost of tuberculosis treatment in 10 Africa countries showed that 49 per cent of TB-affected households experienced catastrophic costs. No country in Africa has yet demonstrated that it has met the target that no TB-affected households face catastrophic costs.

BRIEF**WHO raises alarm over rising obesity**

■ by Mwangi Mumero
@People DailyKE

Countries need to work together to create a better food environment so that everyone can access and afford a healthy diet and help curb increased obesity, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is warning of the rising numbers of overweight and obese persons.

According to WHO more than one billion people worldwide are obese – 650 million adults, 340 million adolescents and 39 million children. WHO estimates that by 2025, approximately 167 million people – adults and children – will become less healthy, because they are overweight or obese.

On the occasion to mark the World Obesity Day 2022 on March 4, the global health body has called upon countries to do more and reverse this predictable and preventable health crisis.

"Obesity is a disease impacting most body systems. It affects the heart, liver, kidneys, joints, and reproductive system," observed Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

He said obesity leads to a range of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, various forms of cancer, as well as mental health issues. People with obesity are also three times more likely to be hospitalised for Covid-19.

"The key to preventing obesity is to act early, ideally even before a baby is conceived. Good nutrition in pregnancy, followed by exclusive breastfeeding until the age of six months and continued breastfeeding until two years and beyond, is best for all infants and young children," said the WHO boss.

Equally, effective steps, include restricting the marketing to children of food and drinks high in fats, sugar and salt, taxing sugary drinks, and providing better access to affordable, healthy food. Cities and towns need to make space for safe walking, cycling, and recreation, and schools need to help households teach children healthy habits from early on.

Research conducted in Kenya last year by the University of Nairobi in collaboration with their colleagues from the Texas A&M University showed that at least 31 per cent of 4,340 adults aged 18 to 69 years surveyed were either overweight or obese.

The study *Prevalence and factors associated with overweight and obesity in Kenya* also indicated that the likelihood of being overweight or obesity was significantly higher among married individuals.

Adults with completed primary education or more had higher odds of being overweight or obesity compared to adults with less than primary education.

treatment," she says.

She adds that people were living in fear and due to the similarities in symptoms Covid-19 would often be confused with Covid-19. "In the quest to disintegrate the two, we came up with bidirectional screening, which was able to screen both Covid-19 and TB at the same time to be able to diagnose patients accurately," she explains.

She is, however, glad that some of the measures put in place to prevent Covid-19 helped in the fight against TB. "We were lucky because there was the introduction of masks, which meant a reduction of pulmonary TB cases, and also a bulk shipment of protective gears, which also played a role in reducing infection rates," she explains.

Dr Asin confirms that great progress has been made generally towards stopping TB over the years, assisted by the government's efforts to make TB services and commodities.

In the next year, she says they plan to increase human resource allocations and engage all care providers not only to reduce TB mortality, but also increase the strength and reach of key TB interventions. "We are working on strengthening community engagements in planning, monitoring and implementing national TB programmes and ensuring that TB services are close to people," she says.

However, even with the Covid-19 restrictions being lessened, Asin urges Kenyans to embrace the use of face masks because they have played a huge role in reducing transmission of respiratory infections.

According to a recent assessment ahead of World TB Day last week by the World Health Organisation (WHO), inadequate investment and funding for TB control in Africa is jeopardising the efforts to


NUTRITION
WITH WINNIE WANGARE
Making kidney conscious decisions to keep you healthy

About 12 million people in Kenya are having kidney disease and need kidney transplant and dialysis, this is according to kidney disease statistics in Kenya by Ankle Brace Health. In this number, only five million are undergoing treatment, while the rest are either ignorant and do not care to test for the disease so they do not know they are sick or some are sick, but lack funds to go for treatment.

Kidney disease is a major public health concern and goes undetected until it is very advanced and this is when someone would need dialysis or kidney transplant. Previously, there were only about 10 centres for kidney disease treatment, but currently there are over 220 centres. In addition, the government has provided National Health Insurance Fund to help people treat the disease

and has also provided hospitals with money for kidney disease patient clearance. Kidneys main function is to filter out waste products, excess water and impurities from the blood. These wastes are then stored in the bladder and later expelled through urine. The kidneys also regulate body PH, salt and Potassium levels, blood pressure, control Red Blood Cells production and activate a form of Vitamin D which absorbs Calcium for bone health and regulates muscle function.

When the kidneys are over-worked or damaged, kidney disease occurs. Damages may be caused by high blood pressure, diabetes and other chronic or long term conditions. Kidney disease causes other health problems including nerve damage, malnutrition and weak bones.

Overtime, if the disease gets worse and the kidneys stops functioning, one may require dialysis to help the kidneys to perform. Dialysis is a treatment that uses machine to filter and purify the blood.

We can protect our kidneys by preventing or managing health conditions like high blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Early kidney disease may not have symptoms hence it is important to go for regular check-ups and testing. The health care provider will help decide how often one should be tested and which tests to perform. More so, making physical activity part of our daily routine lowers the risk of Chronic Kidney Disease, regulates blood pressure and maintains a healthy heart. It is also advised that individuals should watch



Take Off ▶ Guru

How tech is solving water crisis in slums

Shining Hope for Communities (Shofco) is using capital intensive technology in the entire process of production, purification and dispensation of the precious commodity to impact lives in Kibra

■ by Irene Githinji
@gitshee

One of the major challenges in Nairobi's informal settlements over the years has been supply of clean water. The situation is further exacerbated by high water prices of up to Sh20 per 20-litre jerry can and affording it is quite an uphill task for a majority.

The Government and well-wishers have, however, been stepping in to save the day. For instance, the National Metropolitan Service (NMS) says it has sunk at least 193 boreholes in different informal settlement areas in the last one year alone. The Government's efforts have also been complemented by well-wisher organisations such as Shining Hope for Communities (Shofco), a grassroots movement that serves at least 350,000 urban slum dwellers in 10 informal settlements across the three cities in the country.

Aerial water piping system

In Kibra for instance, Shofco is using a capital-intensive technology in the entire process of water production and purification, thus ensuring efficiency and low maintenance.

The organisation has been implementing an aerial water piping system, a four-kilometre pipeline network to ensure communities get adequate supply. The aerial piping not only prevents water contamination during transmission, but also prevents vandalism or illegal connections.

According to a water engineer at Shofco, Jamlik Mutie, the organisation gets raw water from a borehole in the area. Once pumped from the site, it is conveyed



Florence Moraa, a resident of Kibra. Residents no longer have to walk for long distances in search of water. PD/COURTESY

to a raw water tank then to a treatment plant using a range of technologies to make sure they supply to beneficiaries clean and safe water.

He explains that the purification plant uses reverse osmosis technology, which is currently the most advanced in water purification, particularly for dissolved chemicals.

Once water is pumped from the borehole, he explains that it goes to the water storage tanks and because it does not meet the desired qualities for drinking water, it has to be treated. From the water storage tank, it passes through carbon filter that removes the larger particles. It is then conveyed to the next section, which has an additional Nano filter that removes the very fine elements of the water and then pumped to the four reverse osmosis sections. Each has capacity to produce 2,000 litres of clean water per hour.

"The reverse osmosis technology treats not only the high level of fluoride, which is normally dissolved salts, but also its salinity," he reveals.

He adds: "During that process, we are able to get clean water, though some of it is waste. The efficiency of the system is 70 per cent, so if you pump in 100 litres of raw water, the system will produce 70 litres of clean water and 30 litres of waste water," Mutie says.

MUTIE

11 The reverse osmosis technology treats not only the high level of fluoride, which is normally dissolved salts, but also its salinity

The whole clean water production process is monitored through the control panel and the pressure gauges. "We are able to monitor production of water per hour in real time. The clean water is pumped to clean water tanks and the waste goes to waste water tanks, which is recycled for cleaning and flushing the toilet," he says.

Cheap cashless system

The plant is able to produce 8,000 litres per hour. "We are serving the community through water kiosks. The water is also being used to serve the Shofco facilities, which include Kibera School For Girls, which has a population of over 600 people. We have at least 4,000 others beneficiaries in the community," he says.

The water produced is tested in Government chemists to make sure it meets the required standards for safe drinking water

"We are solving the problem of inadequate water supply in Kibra through technology and even at the water kiosks, 25 automated machines have been installed, so members of the community are able to draw water without attendants since the system is cashless, which ensures convenience," he explains.

"Communities have been positive on using the technology, may it be on



the cashless system or in drawing water because they are able to know how much money they are spending on the water, which is also highly subsidised at Sh2 per 20 litre jerry can," he says.

Because of the water technology Shofco is using, Mutie says communities are able to access water all the time and for this purpose, they have installed solar powered flood lights so that they are able to fetch water even at night.

Shofco also undertakes water analysis every month for raw and clean water and conduct regular training to ensure they have the right skills to manage the water treatment plant.

Ruth Atieno, a mother of three who lives in Kibra attests to this saying that drawing water has never been this easy. For over five years, she says she has been using water from Shofco and other than being available all the time, it is also cheap.

"Shofco has devised a token system, which allows us to load money on a card and all you do is swipe the card to the machine and the water is available. It is not a must to have vendors to sell the water. It is an easy and clean system," she says.

Another resident, Florence Moraa says that residents no longer walk for long distances in search of water since it is readily available near their homes.

She also likes the idea of aerial piping saying that it is safer. "We like the concept of aerial piping because it is safer compared to the piping on the ground. We have used the water for over five years and the fact that it never runs out is something we do not take for granted. You only need to load your token card with money and you are good to go," she says in conclusion.

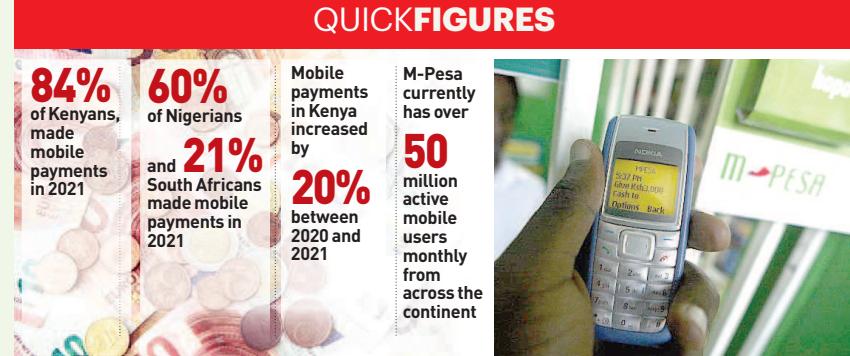
RANDOM SENSE BY EVELYN MAKENA @EVEMAKE-G

Kenya ranks highest in Africa mobile payments use

More than three quarters of Kenyans used their cell phones to make payments in 2021 exhibiting a higher mobile payment adoption rate than in Europe according to a Global Consumer Survey. The survey by Statistica shows there has been great

success in this method of payment in Kenya, which is a pioneer in development of mobile money in Africa. Kenyans used mobile money to make payments instead of cash in the past two years to limit the spread of Covid-19. Mobile payments are important in financial

inclusion of people who may not have bank accounts. Kenya ranks highest among African countries successfully using mobile payments. Other African countries, which rank highly in mobile payments are Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt.



Scholar ▶ Training future leaders

Invigilators on the spot over rampant cheating in KCSE

Irregularities continue to mar the ongoing exams. Those mandated to ensure no malpractice takes place have been accused of helping out or simply looking the other way when mobile phones, among other materials have been sneaked into exam rooms

by Mathew Ndung'u
@PeopleDailyKE

News of students blatantly cheating in the ongoing Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examinations (KCSE) under the noses of supervisors have been the order of the day in local news outlets, exposing flaws in the country's education system.

Questions have emerged over the administration of the exams as reports reveal candidates are accessing the questions before time, and as a result arrests, including of teachers, invigilators, exam centre managers, school heads and students have been made.

Malpractice has been rampant over the years, and only slowed down in 2016 when the Ministry of Education put in place watertight measures to nip the vice in the bud, and for the first time in the history of the examinations, there was no cancellation of results for any candidates.

The various reforms instituted to ensure there were no loopholes for cheating included banning use of clipboards and geometrical sets from examination rooms. Use of mobile phones within the precincts of the examination centres, as well as tough punishment for culprits.

However, the ugly past of examination cheating has reared its head again with tens of cases being reported across the country in this year's exams.

Most current and former students who spoke to *Scholar* say the malpractice is mostly executed by ill-prepared candidates who feel that sitting an exam they aren't prepared for might ruin their years in school, as well as future prospects.

Others averred that pressure from parents, society, peers and teachers to record quality grades push them to devise ways to beat the exam system. "I got the Christian Religious Education (CRE) and Kiswahili papers a few hours before we sat our exams during our time. Although I did not have enough time to seek answers to all the questions before the exam, I can say the leakage improved my overall performance," a student who sat the 2013 exams and who sought anonymity divulged.

Exam invigilators

"Most students steal exams so that they are not left behind by their peers when transitioning to the next stage of academia. It is all about competition between individual learners, as well as between schools that has aided cartels to thrive," a university student said.



Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha interacts with students at Muoho High School in Gatundu South, Kiambu County. PD/MATHEW NDUNG'U

While what former and current students say could be true, are their arguments enough to warrant the increased cases of exam malpractices in the country?

Invigilators who are currently invigilating the ongoing Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) have disclosed to *Scholar* that the exam monitors could be the thorn in the flesh that has been haunting the government over the years.

Lack of the motivation to frisk, keep an eye on students in the entire exam period, which will last for close to a month, they said could be blamed on the challenge that despite ruining the future of students, sometimes ends up having half-baked professionals released to the workforce.

According to them, the government has been paying them peanuts compared to the load and the sensitivity of the work they are expected to carry out.

The exam invigilators, supervisors, centre managers and security officers accused the government of aiding poor invigilation of exams by failing to stimulate those involved in the process.

Meagre pay

The allowances are meagre, and so unattractive to teachers such that school heads hand pick the teachers they dislike to inspect the tests as a way of punishment.

Invigilators take home Sh460 at the end of every invigilation day while their supervisors pocket Sh630 and the police and centre managers are paid Sh400 and Sh 500 respectively; money they feel can easily be made at the comfort of their homes. "Sh500 and below is what those unprofessional casual workers take home for working until mid-day. Giving professionals this kind of money, especially given the sensitivity of the work they are supposed to do is demeaning, thus the temptations to facilitate cheating for an extra coin," an invigilator said.

For the 18-day KCSE monitoring period, the highest-paid supervisor (in schools with more science subjects and international languages, such as French) walks away with a sum total of Sh 12,510 while the highest-paid invigilator gets Sh 9,860.

Sh500 and below is what those unprofessional casual workers take home for working until mid-day. Giving professionals this kind of money, especially given the sensitivity of the work they are supposed to do is demeaning, thus the temptations to facilitate cheating for an extra coin.
-Invigilator

The exam monitors further divulged that KNEC does not pay deputy headteachers despite being present at the school during the examination period and who act as assistant centre managers.

"To make the matter worse, Chemistry, Physics and Biology teachers whose subjects have practicals are supposed to prepare laboratories and venues where the practicals are supposed to take place, but they are not paid a coin," a school head in Juja, Kiambu County revealed.

As a result of the poor payments, some exam scrutineers have been working with fraudsters, crooked education and security officials to aid in the exam cheating for an extra coin.

Joe Mungai, a former Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) secretary Thika branch says exam cheating is so entrenched in the society that for it to die at once might be a pipe dream.

While appreciating that some positive efforts have been made by the government to curb the malpractice, Mungai regrets that most of those involved in the exams monitoring are products of exam cheating. "It is sad to mention that most of those expected to thwart cheating missions are products of the same vice. It is going to take a while to kill the culture. The government is, however, trying," he says.

Exchange programmes

The former unionist further points out that exam setters are ordinary teachers who can be easily corrupted by school heads, teachers and parents to give clues of what to expect in the exams. "Sometimes the teachers involved in setting the exams share the framing of the tests, which is also cheating in a way," he says.

Mungai roots for exchange programmes between Kenya and countries, such as Ghana to have the exams set elsewhere.

He further calls for formulation of better laws and policies that will see any teacher found engaging in the malpractice accorded stiffer sentences and punishments. "Deregistration of examination centres found to have been engaging in the exercise can also be effected as a way of stopping other centres from engaging in the same," he said.

BRIEFLY

Most Kenyans on vocational work have no papers - KNQA

by Irene Githinji
@gitsee

The Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA) says that at least 80 per cent of Kenyans undertaking technical and vocational work in the country have no certification despite their significant contribution in driving the economy.

KNQA Director General Dr Juma Mukhwana said a huge number of the remaining 20 per cent with certification may not be able to undertake tasks taken by those without.

"The way our economy works almost 80 per cent of people doing Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) work have no certification. Of the remaining 20 per cent who have the certificate, some of them are not able to do things that those without a certificate can do, in fact those with certificates usually have to do internship under those without certificates to become competent," said Mukhwana during a stakeholders' forum on Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) recently.

Mukhwana, however, said that the national qualification framework, which sets standards for RPL, has harmonised and disentangled systems in such a way that it is possible to link skills obtained in the informal to those in the formal sector, something that has been lacking over the years.

Coordinated way

For a person to be given a certificate, Mukhwana said they must exhibit certain competencies, adding that KNQA has set benchmarks for awarding certificates in a coordinated way. "The national qualification framework is an important tool for connecting all of us, this is what has connected the National Industrial Training Authority with TVET Curriculum Development and Assessment Certification Council, Kenya National Examination Council and universities and everyone has an equal footing. We have created a level playing field," said Mukhwana.

KNQA has, however, raised concerns that there is still low awareness in the informal sector and inadequate human and institutional capacity.

Mukhwana said that RPL policy framework has also been developed to recognise the fact that people who work in the formal and informal sectors gain knowledge, skills, expertise and attributes through practice.

According to the policy, people can approach any accredited assessment centre in the country and apply for recognition of their skills.

In return, Mukhwana explains that regulatory bodies are expected to provide quality assurance and standards in line with the RPL policy.



5.00 Inuka
5.30 Wake Up, Shape Up!
6.00 K24 This Morning
9.55 Wisdom Moments
10.05 Inuka
11.00 Daily Brief
1.00 K24 News Cut
1.30 Jungu La Spoti
2.00 Bongo Movie
3.00 Ubongo Kids
3.30 Akili & Me
4.00 K24 Mashinani
4.30 BBC Mitiakisi Leo
4.50 Akili & Me
5.00 Beatbox
6.00 Laura
7.00 Kikaoni K24
8.00 Kura 2022
9.00 K24 Evening Edition
10.00 Save A Life
11.00 Rhumba Oxygen- Rpt
01.00 Al Jazeera



5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
6.00 Rikiratha- Live
10.00 Riligu Mix- Rpt
10.30 Satai
11.00 Kurekereria Kodi- Live
1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
1.30 Thiririka
3.00 Save A Life- Rpt
3.30 Mbugi Matu- Rpt
4.00 Ririmbuwa -Live
6.00 Maisha Bure- Rpt
6.30 Wendo Wa
Githagathago
7.00 Kameme Maturaini- Live
7.30 Nditimurano
9.00 Mutamburuko Wa
Mohoro- Live
10.00 Thenema
11.30 Ririmbuwa
1.30 DW

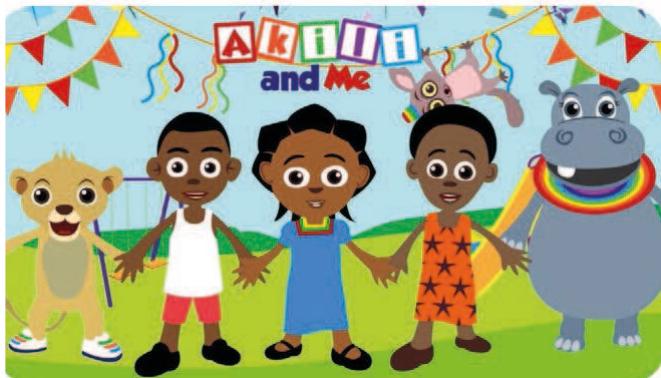


5.00 Command Your Morning
6.00 Morning Express
8.00 Life-N-Style
10.00 Carmela Rpt
11.00 Tendereza
12.00 The Entrepreneur
12.30 Daktari Rpt
1.00 News Desk
1.30 Drive It
2.00 Afri-Screen:
4.00 Mbui Ya KTN
4.10 The Emperor's New School
4.30 Teenage Mutant:
Ninja Turtles
5.00 Baseline
6.00 Losing Heaven
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!



3.30PM AKILI AND ME



::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 16:20, 21:30:
THE KASHMIR FILES

WESTGATE CINEMA: 10:50, 17:30, 17:35,

20:55: **THE KASHMIR FILES**

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

13:20: **TURNING RED 3D**

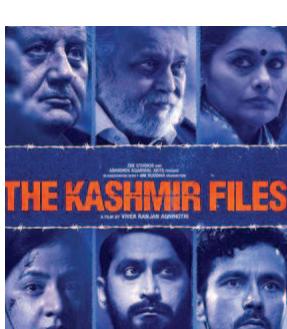
ANGA SKY PANARI

14:40: **TURNING RED 3D**

ANGA SKY PANARI

14:40: **THE CONTRACTOR**

WESTGATE CINEMA: 17:30: **THE CONTRACTOR**



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

SUDOKU

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

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

- Most precipitous (8)
- Sharp bristle (4)
- Secret store (6)
- A juvenile (5)
- External (10)
- Declares (6)
- Distinct sentence part (6)
- Gathering people (10)

DOWN

- Looking tired (5)
- Punctuation mark (5)
- Unpleasant smell (4)
- Easy chair (8)
- Unwell (4)
- Every (4)
- Decide in advance (12)
- Element added to the end

HOROSCOPES



BBC
Gear Up
Good Morning Kenya
Lay Back
Animation Time
Jee, huu ni ungwana?
Hypochondriach RR
Afrusian
Lunch
Time News
IAAF Recorded
Big Minds Rpt
Club 1
The Great Debators
Taarifa
Grapevine
First Lady
Channel 1 News
Maisha ya mama
CCTV
Lay Back

ARIES (MAR. 21-APRIL 20)
Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. This will be a great night to invite friend over to visit.

TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)
Emotional deception is evident. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. Don't invest too much of your own money.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 21)
You have a real need to be vocal. Face any emotional problems head-on to avoid situations getting out of hand. You have so much to offer; open up and let your thoughts be known.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)
Deception may cause disputes you can do without. Don't let relatives make demands of you. Try to control your irritability if you're experiencing emotional problems with your partner.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)
This will not be the time to give too much to your children. Overindulgence could cause problems for you with your loved ones. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)
You may have problems with those you live with. Things may not be as harmonious as you would like with colleagues or employers today.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)
Don't let any small misunderstandings get in the way. This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. Love relationships will flourish.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
Secret affairs will only lead to deception. Don't make any drastic changes or begin new projects today.

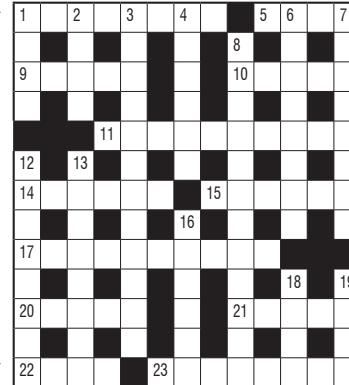
SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
Business trips will be more productive than trying to fight the red tape facing you. A second chance will result in good work.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)
Use your ingenuity to manipulate things to get what you want. Someone you live with will be impossible.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)
Expect problems with settlements that you are trying to resolve. Don't count on getting any help from those you live with. A little overtime may help you reduce the workload.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)
Don't let others take advantage of your good nature. Don't let others put unreasonable demands on you.

FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

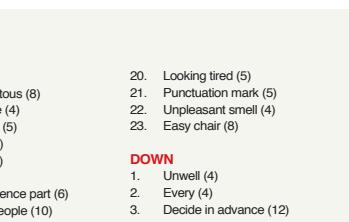


ACROSS

- Clay
- Dolphins
- Economy
- Folio
- Rogue
- Expert
- Note
- Hustle
- Heirloom
- Troop
- Until
- Atelier
- Everyone
- Fued

DOWN

- Clearing house
- Among
- Oxygen
- Difficulties
- Upset
- Short-tempered
- Domestically
- Thirsty
- Altair
- Olive



ACROSS

- of a word (6)
- 11th sign of the zodiac (8)
- Observer (8)
- Based on legend (12)
- Bowl-shaped strainer (8)
- Area of an airplane can fly in (8)
- Form of a gene (6)
- Augury (4)
- Just and unbiased

DOWN

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instruction received from our principal, we shall sell the under mentioned repossessed motor vehicle by public auction on **Friday 8th April, 2022 starting 11.00am at Eldoret Auction Centre – ELD.**

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1	KCX 477U	NISSAN SERENA

CONDITIONS OF SALE

Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.

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**GOLF**

Johnson outguns Koepka in PGA Tour Match Play duel

AUSTIN: Former world number one Dustin Johnson recovered from an early deficit to defeat Brooks Koepka and reach the semi-finals of the PGA Tour's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play in Texas on Saturday. Johnson relied on a red-hot putter to battle back from two holes down early on to grind out a 2-up victory over Koepka, who had advanced to the last eight at the Austin Country Club after eliminating current world number one Jon Rahm in the last 16 earlier Saturday. The 37-year-old Johnson was forced onto the back foot after four-time major winner Koepka picked up birdies on the second and third holes to go 2-up.

-AFP

FOOTBALL

Morelos to miss Colombia's decisive World Cup qualifier

BOGOTA: Striker Alfredo Morelos has been ruled out of Colombia's decisive 2022 World Cup qualifier against Venezuela because of a quadriceps strain, the Colombian Football Federation said on Saturday. The 31-year-old Rangers player missed Colombia's 3-0 home win over Bolivia in Barranquilla on Friday

-AFP

NBA

Bulls center fined Sh2.3m for cursing at referee

NEW YORK: Chicago Bulls center Tristan Thompson was fined Sh 2.3 million (\$20,000) by the NBA on Saturday for making profane comments to a game referee. The violation came Thursday night at New Orleans after Thompson received two technical fouls and was ejected with 21.2 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of Chicago's 126-109 loss to the Pelicans. In 48 games for the Bulls this season, Thompson is averaging 6.2 points and 5.1 rebounds per contest. The 31-year-old Canadian was a mainstay for the Cleveland Cavaliers in their run of four consecutive

trips to the NBA Finals, including an NBA title for the LeBron James-led Cavs in 2016. Thompson is on his third team of the 2021-22 season, having been traded from Boston to Sacramento last August before the campaign began, then sent from the Kings to Indiana last month.

The Pacers bought out his contract after four games and Thompson inked a free agent deal with the Bulls.

-AFP

**FOOTBALL**

Nigeria 'not favourites' to reach Qatar, says Ghana coach - Pg30



McRae Kimathi (R) and his partner Mwangi Kioni at WRC Rally Sweden. PD/COURTESY

Kimathi shifts attention

Buoyant junior rally driver turns his focus to ARC Equator rally in Naivasha

by Edwin Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

McRae Kimathi believes his return to the FIA African Rally Championship (FIA) will work to bolster his junior WRC aspirations.

Kimathi junior will be using next week's ARC Equator Rally to prepare for the WRC Croatia Rally slated for April 21-24.

The career accountant was one of the standout performers on WRC Rally Sweden where he steered his M-Sport Ford Fiesta Rally3 to a WRC 3 Podium and fourth in Junior WRC.

Despite early scares, Kimathi roared back to become the first ever Kenyan finisher on the winter fixture that ventures

deep into the frozen and remote forests of north-eastern Sweden.

"The next target for me is the African Rally Championship in Naivasha on the weekend of April 1-3 after which I will be heading out to Croatia to compete in the third round of the WRC and second of the Junior World Rally Championship."

"ARC Equator Rally is just to keep me fit for Croatia, but then again, I want to defend my Africa Rally Championship Junior title so that's something I'm very keen and passionate about. For the ARC, it's just a matter of putting into practice what we have learnt in Europe and keep improving to try and retain the title," Kimathi explained. Kimathi and his partner Mwangi Kioni will be doing the full ARC Championship in their other M-Sport Poland prepared Rally3 car that's stationed in Kenya.

He added: "About KNRC, I am not really sure as I crashed my car in Il-Bisil but if I manage

to get it fixed in time, I might do a few KNRCs."

The ARC Equator Rally will serve as a dry-run for the WRC Safari Rally slated for June.

Kimathi reveals that his Junior WRC race adversaries are experienced and well-versed with European terrain.

New stages

"Most people in Junior WRC have done these events before so for me it's just to learn the new stages and gather as many points as possible to keep improving my pace and see where I end up at the end of the season."

Because Kimathi will encounter something new in every WRC event, he is going to take part in, he believes more seat-time is inevitable on the ARC front.

"It was very interesting on snow, new terrain, new surface for me, as we had a small off which maybe was due to driver error, or maybe lack of experience but we managed to get the

car back on, thanks to spectators, we were able to get a very good finish and get some good points to start the championship with. For now, we'll just build on it and take each event as it comes as every round for me will be a new experience."

The second WRC appearance in Croatia will be a tantalizing mix of asphalt, with some surfaces worn and bumpy due to weather and water damage and others much smoother.

"Croatia will be new, a fast tarmac event and as my colleagues told me, it becomes really slippery when wet, something we have to be careful about. I have never driven on tarmac, but we are planning something soon, maybe have a test before Croatia just to know how the car feels on tarmac. All the events we must leave slightly earlier so we can get some testing time."

M-Sport Poland has been giving me an opportunity to learn and to get me up to speed."

Nets stun Heat, Sixers seize NBA East lead

Miami, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

Slumping Miami surrendered the NBA Eastern Conference lead on Saturday after a weak performance in a 110-95 home loss to Kevin Durant and the suddenly sizzling Brooklyn Nets. Durant scored 23 points, Seth Curry added 17 and Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds in Brooklyn's seventh victory over nine games.

The Heat suffered a season-high fourth consecutive loss and fell to 47-28, percentage points behind the Philadelphia 76ers 46-27 for the top spot in the East.

"We're not concerned in the sense of panicking but yeah, we have to fix some stuff," Heat guard Kyle Lowry said. "This is one of those games where you really have to say, 'All right we need to figure some things out.' They took it to us tonight."

Bam Adebayo led Miami with 14 points while star forward Jimmy Butler had only seven points on 2-of-9 shooting.

"We have to find ways to get more shots and less turnovers," Lowry said. "On the defensive end we need to figure out where we're going to be at all times. We still have some indecisiveness."

The Nets forced 21 Heat turnovers in improving to 39-35.

-AFP



Kevin Durant (right) of the Brooklyn Nets goes for a layup during their match against the Miami Heat at FTX Arena.



Obiri wins her first road race

World beater in 5000m finally debuts her long race career by bagging Istanbul Half Marathon title alongside Rodgers Kwemoi in men's category

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

World 5000m champion Hellen Obiri and Rodgers Kwemoi flew the Kenyan flag high in Turkey yesterday after they both won their races at the Istanbul Half Marathon.

Kwemoi won in a course record time of 59:15 with compatriots Daniel Matieko and Emmanuel Bor finishing in second and third respectively in 1:00:05 and 1:00:20 in a Kenyan podium sweep.

First-ever victory

In the women's race, Obiri took top honours in 1:04:48, in what will stand as her first-ever victory over the distance.

The Ethiopian duo of Tsehay Gemechu and Bekelech Gudeta finished second and third respectively in 1:05:52 and 1:06:35.

Reigning 5000m champion Hellen Obiri reacts after crossing the finish line to win gold in the 16th IAAF World Athletics Championships. PD/FILE

OBIRI
I am delighted for my victory.
I am in much better form now than I was before at Ras Al Khaimah.

It marked a sweet victory for Obiri, the world Cross Country winner who had made her half marathon debut on April 4, last year at the same course where she finished third in 1:04:51, making her the fastest debutant in half marathon history.

"Whenever I come to such a race it is my goal to run well and improve my time. I am in much better form now than I was before at Ras Al Khaimah, I am delighted for victory," noted the 32-year-old.

"I intended to try and break my personal best," Obiri said

On her transition, the two-time Olympic 5,000m silver medallist says it wasn't easy to shift gears to longer distances from track and 10km road races.

"I used to do a lot of lapping on the track and that changed to 150km and 180km in less than a week after I moved to road racing," said Obiri. "It was difficult but I have managed to adjust with time."



Kisumu Academy's newly signed John Agina (in black) making a scoring attempt at goal against KAJ HC on Saturday. PD/GIBO ZACHARY

Kisumu Academy rule Victoria Super League

by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

After being cancelled twice, the Victoria Handball Super League returned at the weekend, with former champions Kisumu Academy Men and Women, running the show.

Kisumu Academy Men who are yearning to reclaim their league title which they lost to Kisumu Saints in 2019, started the 2022 season brightly by winning all their opening three matches, on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Before they lost the title in 2019, they had won the league back-to-back in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

They got a 15-0 win over Rotary HC Men, to get their campaign underway, and on a high. In the second match, the Peter Owido coached side, humbled Stallion men 37-18.

In the third and final match of the day, they stood their ground to fend off unrelenting KAJ HC 42-31, to go top of the table standings with six maximum points.

"After the Covid-19 break, most of Kisumu Academy (men and women) players are back from injury and they have also acquired new good players like John Agina from Sauri HC, Kevin Wandera from Rongo HC, while for the ladies, Alice Akinyi and Brenda Akinyi, both from Thea queens," Victoria Handball Super League (VHSL) League Director Robert Owino told People Sports.

BRIEFLY

Lang'at, Hurisa set to meet again in Vienna

ATHLETICS: Vienna city marathon champion Leonard Lang'at will renew his rivalry with Ethiopia's Derara Hurisa during the 39th edition of Vienna city marathon on April 24 in Austria. The Nakuru-based athlete had finished in second place in a time of 2:09:25 in the last edition but was reinstated to the first position after Hurisa was disqualified after the soles of his shoes were found to be one centimetre thicker than allowed. Hurisa was running with a shoe whose sole thickness was five centimetres not the recommended four centimetres.

- KIPRONO ERICSON



Golfer Chumo eyes Kenya Ladies Open

GOLF: Former Eldoret Lady Captain Esther Chumo has set her focus on Kenya Ladies Open after missing out to play for the Kenya team at last month's Magical Kenya Ladies Open Golf Championship. Western region Ladies Open is scheduled to take place from March 28th to April 3rd where they will only rest on April 1st during the tight schedule. "At the Kenya Ladies Open, I will be playing in the western circuit in Kericho, Nyanza, Nandi, Kakamega, Kitale and of course Eldoret.

-EMMANUEL MASINDE



Union ban Shama trio for 14 years

RUGBY: Kenya Rugby Union has sanctioned Shamas players, Julian Owino and siblings James and Joseph Kang'ethe to a total of 14 years ban after the callous assault on centre referee Saidi Kenya. The three attacked the referee during the KRU Championship semifinal match between Shamas Rugby Foundation and Catholic Monks at the RFUEA Ground last Saturday. Owino was handed a 156 weeks (3 years) ban while James and Joseph got 11 and a half years collectively for sanctions with immediate effect.

-BARRY SILAH

INSIDE SPORT



NBA PAGE 28

Nets cool sputtering Heat as Sixers seize NBA East lead

**TENNIS**

Medvedev advances in Miami as Murray drops

MIAMI: Daniil Medvedev is thriving on the pressure of being the man to beat after dispatching Andy Murray in straight sets at the Miami Open on Saturday to edge closer to regaining his world number one ranking. The Russian top seed served superbly against the 34-year-old three-time Grand Slam champion to ease to a straightforward 6-4,

- AFP

CYCLING

Cycling champ Colbrelli in Italy for tests after scare

PARIS: European champion Sonny Colbrelli has returned home to Italy for tests after suffering a serious heart problem on the Tour of Catalonia in Spain this week, his team said on Sunday. The 31-year-old Bahrain Victorious rider had been in hospital in Girona after losing consciousness after an intense uphill dash for the line in last Monday's first stage where he finished second behind Australian Michael Matthews. "Given the stable clinical conditions, Sonny Colbrelli was given clearance to travel to Italy," his team said in a statement. It said Colbrelli underwent "examinations (to) investigate the cause of the unstable cardiac arrhythmia that required defibrillation."

- AFP

CRICKET

Pakistan ODIs challenging for depleted Australia side

LAHORE: Leg-spinner Adam Zampa admitted a depleted Australia face a "difficult challenge" in the one-day international series against Pakistan starting on Tuesday. Australia won the three-match Test series 1-0 after securing a well-earned 115-run victory in the third match in Lahore on Friday. But they will miss regulars

- AFP



ATHLETICS PAGE 29



ATHLETICS PAGE 29

Obiri, Kwemoi emerge winners in Istanbul

World Cup Qualifiers

ARGENTINA
Gonzalez 34'
Di Maria 79'
Messi 82'

3-0

VENEZUELA

Ghana's interim head coach Otto Addo during a recent training session with the Ghanaian national team. PD/FILE

Spoiling for a fight

Nigeria 'not favourites' to reach Qatar, claims rivaling Ghana coach

Accra, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

Ghana's interim head coach Otto Addo says he does not see Nigeria as favourites going into Tuesday's second leg of their crunch World Cup play-off.

The first leg ended 0-0 on Friday in Kumasi, meaning a home win in Abuja would be enough to send the Super Eagles through to their seventh finals.

Addo is confident that Ghana, who crashed out of this year's Africa Cup of Nations, can still reach Qatar.

"The result doesn't change anything. When we go there we want to win."

"Even though our Africa Cup of Nations was not good this year, you saw we matched Nigeria in the first

leg," said the former Black Star.

"So I don't see them as favourites, the pressure will be on them at home and away goals can hurt a lot."

The two West African rivals came into the crunch tie having both suffered early Nations Cup exits earlier this year, but in contrasting styles.

Ghana exited without a win and a humbling defeat to Comoros to exit bottom of their group, which also included Morocco and Gabon, in Cameroon.

People's favourites

Nigeria, meanwhile, won all three of their group games to become many people's favourites for the title only to be stunned by Tunisia in the Round of 16.

Addo, who was appointed interim coach after Milovan Rajevac was sacked after the Nations Cup, is confident his squad can more than match their Abuja hosts on Tuesday.

"They have high quality players but they've got respect for us and I thought the match in Kumasi was

equal in terms of performance."

Addo also praised Ghana's young Ajax star Mohammed Kudus for his performance in the first leg but has called on him to be more positive going forward in the return fixture.

"He did well, and he's obviously a player Ghana missed during the Nations Cup [when he was injured]," said Addo, who played for Ghana

"I know the fans in Kumasi loved it when Kudus was doing his thing but sometimes he could be more precise and determined to go forward."

"He has the speed and if he is in front of an opponent I think he can create more, but he's an exceptional player, no doubt."

Nigeria-Ghana is one of five crunch ties on Tuesday that will determine which teams will represent the continent at the tournament in Qatar.

In the other ties, both Algeria and Tunisia will be confident of building on their 1-0 wins in Cameroon and Mali respectively.

- AFP

ADDO

When we go there, we want to win

England make World Cup semis, India exit

Wellington, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

England snatched a late berth in the Women's World Cup semi-finals with a crushing 100-run victory over Bangladesh in their final group stage match in Wellington on Sunday.

But India, who also started the day with a must-win opportunity to make the play-offs, were denied by South Africa in a last-ball thriller in Christchurch.

South Africa had already qualified for the final four along with unbeaten Australia and the West Indies, whose place was only confirmed when India lost.

England's win sealed a dramatic resurgence for the defending champions, who had been on the brink of elimination after losing their first three matches in the 50-over competition.

Captain Heather Knight said it showed the character of the side to bounce back from their early losses when "obviously we didn't play particularly well" and then handle the pressure of a do-or-die clash with Bangladesh.

She said she had "one eye on the net run rate and one eye looking after the bowlers and trying to freshen a few of them up for the semi-final... but the main thing was getting the win".

- AFP



England's Freya Davies (C) celebrates the wicket of Bangladesh's Rumana Ahmed with teammates during their Women's Cricket World Cup match at the Basin Reserve in Wellington yesterday.
-AFP

Mighty Kabras storm semis

Tactician Katya says his side is already plotting for Homeboyz in the last four of the Enterprise Cup after dismissing Nondies

by Alex Njue
@PeopleDailyKe

Kabras coach Carlos Katya has urged his players' to stand up and be counted during the Enterprise Cup semi-finals when the team meets Homeboyz in Kakamega on Saturday.

Katya said his team will be the ones under pressure amongst the two given that they are the defending champions.

But he is confident that their driving force towards getting a slot in the final is their 34-17 win over Nondescripts in the quarter finals at the weekend.

"Nondies were a wounded and vengeful side following their relegation from the Kenya Cup and we had to be extra cautious, of which we did. I urged my players to treat the match as it was a final and was glad that our game plan worked extremely well," Katya told People Sport.

He added: "Obviously, the win gives us a lot of inspiration but it would not make sense to be carried away by the result. Homeboyz is a tough team with quality players which is why we should tread carefully."

He hinted that he shall do a player rotation to confuse opponents and ultimately achieve his goal.

And above all, Katya made it known that he shall utilize a large chunk of budding players a chance to show just what is up their sleeves.

"The young players have a burning desire to succeed and when you give them a chance they want to prove something. I have instructed them not to press the panic button but give their opponents pound for pound."

The other semi-final will be in Nairobi and shall be a replica of the playoff between Impala Saracens and KCB.



Homeboyz winger Collins Shikoli (right) with a hand off on Harlequins' Leroy Mbugua during their match at the weekend. Homeboyz won 24-19. PD/ALEX NJUE

RUGBY

Machine 'grinds' rivals Monks to clinch Championships title

by Alex Njue
@PeopleDailyKe

Two-time Kenya Cup champs Mean Machine avenged a 27-20 Championship season opener loss to Catholic Monks with a deserved 27-19 victory during the final match of the season played in Karen at the weekend.

Machine, the 2021/22 champions endured a nervy end before prevailing over a gritty Monks in a match pitting newly-qualified sides in the championship.

Following the feat, Machine will now kick off their 2023/24 season with a tricky match against Menengai Oilers while Monks will travel to Kakamega to play Kabras on unconfirmed dates. The university teams derby that was played before an enthusiastic crowd in Karen who were left yearning for more.

In the meantime, by virtue of winding up in the top two positions, Pirates and Shammahs Foundation also qualified and especially after Monks and Machine were picked to replace Nondescripts pending case that will be deliberated by the Kenya Rugby Union appeals committee involving an alleged discrepancy.

Soon after their conquest over Monks, Machine coach Nick Abok told People



Sports the team was eyeing a playoffs cut and to return to the top flight league.

"The match was all about who will carry the bragging rights and the title and my boys were focused on returning to the Kenya Cup. It was tough but I must laud my players for showing great character after suffering four losses," said Abok.

Catholic Monks won the right to host the final in Karen for the first time by virtue of finishing on top of log at the end of regular season. Monks head coach Simon Jawichre said it was unfortunate for his charges to fail to lift the title at home.

"I must congratulate Machine for winning the title. I knew it was going to be a tough match. It was payback time as we had beaten them (Machine) at their own backyard in the first match. It was hard to predict but rugby being what it is, there had to emerge a winner and in this time round, they were the ones who carried the day," said Jawichre.

CUP QUARTER-FINALS RESULTS

Homeboyz	28-0 Mwamba
Kabras	34-17 Nondescripts
Impala	20-16 Nakuru
KCB	87-12 BlakBlad

ENTERPRISE CUP SEMIFINALS PAIRINGS

Kabras vs Homeboyz - Kakamega show grounds
Impala Saracens vs KCB - Impala grounds

GOLF

Jebichii of Nandi Bears rules Safaricom Nyanza Club event

by Barry Silah
@PeopleSport11

Nandi-based Lydia Jebichii was crowned the winner of the fourth leg of the ongoing Safaricom Golf Tour held yesterday at Nyanza Golf Club.

Playing off a handicap of 21, Jebichii fended off the challenge from G. Owino, B.V Patel and B. Patel, holding a birdie on the sixth, ninth and eighteenth holes and par on the rest of the holes to emerge the tournament's winner.

"The course and particularly the greens were very good and that enabled me to play well today. I had the ball under control and struck it really nice after teeing off. Though I didn't utilise a few chances at some holes, I am glad the performance was up to mark," said Jebichii.

The Saturday's senior tournament drew 135 senior golfers from Kisumu



Lydia Jebichii, in action during the Safaricom Golf Series tour at Nyanza Golf Course in Kisumu. PD/WEBSTER NYANDIKA

and its environs including Western region golf clubs. The tournament also ran concurrently with the Safaricom Golf Outreach dubbed 'Golf Mtaani' held at Lolwe Grounds that gave over 200 young people an opportunity to learn basic skills about golf.

Jebichii joins former cadet Cyprian Bundi, the junior Golfer Leo Gitonga and Zain Manji; the winners of the first, second and third legs of the Safaricom Golf Tour.

GOLF

Host Limuru triumphs at golf Johnnie Walker clash

by Edwin Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Limuru Golf Club's Dan Lubanga led his team of Rozita D'souza, Mukami Wangai, and Hassan Ileli to carding 114 points to emerge the overall winners of the twelfth leg of the Johnnie Walker Series played at the Limuru Country Club on Saturday.

The team of Kamau Kuria, Timothy Njehia, Njeri Kiunjuri, and Aaron Kinjanui came in second having scored a combined 111 points, two more than the team of Robert Gachaga, Joseph Ikanyi, Simon Mwang'i and Robert Njenga who claimed the second runners up position.

Meanwhile, handicap 34 Hassan Ileli was back to the podium after emerging the Men's Category winner having scored 43 points, two more than second-placed Steve Wanguru (HCP 22).

In the Ladies' Category, handicap 25 Beth Kariuki was the champion having scored 41 points, beating Dr Susan Koinange (HCP 31) who scored 39 points to claim the second runner up spot.

In other results, Kuria Kamau and Mathu Ngang'a were the champions in the first and second Nines having posted 25 and 23 points respectively.

In the Longest Drive challenge, John Kariuki and Mukami Wangai were the stars in the men and ladies categories, while Dr. Carey Wangari claimed the plaudits for the Nearest to the Pin challenge.

Speaking during the tournament, Limuru Country Club Chairman David Irimu said:

"The weather was really good, following the rains yesterday and the sun today meant the temperatures were down which worked really well for most of the golfers. The course was also well laid out; it was playing easy. We are very grateful to Johnnie Walker for the sponsorship, and as a club, we are always happy to host such events. It is our hope that the winners of this series will come from this club and we wish them all the best."



A golfer in action at Limuru Country Club during the 12th leg of the Johnnie Walker Golf Series. PD/EDWIN OTIENO

PD SPORT

Arsenal willing to offer Rashford escape route from Manchester Utd



■ London, Sunday
@PeopleDailyKe

Arsenal will try to sign Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford this summer, according to reports.

Mikel Arteta's side are set to be short of attacking options at the end of the season as Alexandre Lacazette and Eddie Nketiah are both out of contract in June.

The two strikers have only scored one top-flight goal between them in 2022.

Meanwhile, Arsenal also allowed former captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to join Barcelona in January.

This has left them looking for alternatives to play up front, and the Gunners have identified Rashford as a suitable target, as reported by The Mirror.

Rashford has fallen out of favour in recent months at Old Trafford, starting just three league matches since the turn of the year.

He has only scored five goals in all competitions this term.

His lack of game time has led to him considering his future at the club, and he was dealt a further blow when Gareth Southgate left him out of his latest England squad.

Southgate subsequently vowed to meet with Rashford to try to help the 24-year-old to rediscover his best form.

With the World Cup just eight months away, Rashford may decide that a change of scenery is needed to get his career back on track.

- AFP



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Monday, March 28, 2022

/// @PeopleDailyKe /// People Daily

Back with a bang

Eriksen scores on Denmark return as England, Germany, Spain win

■ Paris, Sunday
@PeopleSport11

Denmark's Christian Eriksen made an emotional goal-scoring return to international football on Saturday as England, Germany and Spain carved out friendly victories.

Eriksen found the net two minutes after coming on with a powerful drive in a 4-2 defeat against fellow World Cup qualifiers Netherlands in Amsterdam.

It was his first national team appearance since suffering a cardiac arrest in Denmark's opening game of the European Championships against Finland in Copenhagen last June.

On Saturday, to the resounding applause of fans and even Dutch manager Louis van Gaal, the 30-year-old came off the bench and raised his hands to the sky in thanks.

His goal was 37th in 110 appearances. It was fitting he scored in the Amsterdam Arena, the home of Ajax.

Eriksen came through the ranks at the Dutch side, making 162 appearances for the club and winning five trophies, including three consecutive league titles between 2011 and 2013.

Meanwhile, Harry Kane converted a late penalty to close in on the all-time England goal-scoring record and secure a 2-1 win over Switzerland who will also be at the World Cup in Qatar in November.

Kane netted from the spot to reach 49 England goals, moving him ahead of Gary Lineker and into a second place tie with Bobby Charlton.

Only Wayne Rooney, with 53 goals, has scored more times for England.

Breel Embolo put Switzerland ahead at Wembley after 22 minutes in a first half dominated by the visitors before Luke Shaw's equaliser in first-half injury time.

Kane restored order with his 78th-minute winner.

"You have to be ready for any chance at any moment. Penalties are a great way of getting on the scoresheet, I practice and

work on them a lot," said Kane.

"It is amazing company to be with, super proud to be doing that but we look forward to the next one. A big year ahead to get more caps and more goals."

Chelsea pair Kai Havertz and Timo Werner both hit the net as Germany eased past Israel 2-0 in Sinsheim.

After the Premier League pair scored first-half goals, Germany's stand-in captain Thomas Mueller and Israel sub Yonatan Cohen both failed to convert late penalty attempts.

Germany head coach Hansi Flick has now won his first eight internationals to extend his record start.

"On the whole, it was a good performance from us for the first game of the new year," Werner told broadcaster ZDF.

Spain, World Cup winners in 2010, had to work hard to carve out a 2-1 win against Albania in Barcelona, the team's first game in Catalonia since 2004.

Ferran Torres opened the scoring for Spain in the 75th minute at Espanyol's RCDE Stadium with Myrto Uzuni equalising 10 minutes later.

However, Dani Olmo saved Spain's blushes with a last-minute winner as Spain secured an eighth win in eight matches against Albania.

"We knew it was going to be difficult. Albania are a team who defend very well," Olmo told Spanish public television.

Top-ranked Belgium led twice in Dublin but were still held 2-2 by Ireland.

Playing without the influential Kevin de Bruyne, who has been rested for the international window, Belgium took the lead after 12 minutes through Michy Batshuayi who brushed past Seamus Coleman to beat Caoimhin Kelleher in the Irish goal.

- AFP

Denmark's mid-fielder Christian Eriksen reacts as he celebrates his goal during their friendly international match against Netherlands at the Johan Cruyff Arena (Amsterdam ArenA) in Amsterdam on Saturday night.. PD/AFP

ERIKSEN IN NUMBERS

- 288: Days since his last Denmark appearance
- 497: Days since his last Denmark goal
- 3,248: Days since his last goal at the Amsterdam ArenA