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Showdown over coalitions bill

Page 8 Legislators allied to Ruto scuttle debate on proposed controversial law on political coalitions in stormy four-hour session characterised by heckling



Members of Parliament who support the Handshake and those allied to Deputy President William Ruto brief the press after the Special sitting of the House yesterday was adjourned to January 2022. PD/SAMUEL KARIUKI



New rules as 18 MPs get Omicron

Fighting infections: State imposes tough sanctions to check fast-spreading Covid variant during the festive season even as scores of lawmakers and Parliament staff are taken into isolation after contracting virus in Tanzania **PAGE 4**

Matiang'i puts NTSA on notice over fake logbooks

Page 12 The CS says an audit of all staff operations at agency is ongoing and a report would be released on the same soon



Ministry of Health officials conduct a mass testing exercise for Covid-19 in Nairobi's Kawangware area last year.
Most of the new infections in the country now are of the Omicron variant. PD/FILE

SOME MEMBERS OF BUNGE FC



3,328

People who tested positive in the last 24hrs, equivalent to 29.7%

11,197

Number of samples tested in the last 24hrs

Hard times force most Kenyans to

Survey shows most citizens are hard-pressed by Covid shocks and school fees due to packed academic calendar

■ by Alvin Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

More than 60 per cent of Kenyans have no plans for Christmas and New Year festivities, a new survey has revealed.

According to a survey by research firm Infotrac, Kenyans say they had no plans to celebrate Christmas due to the high cost of living largely attributable to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The poll, which was conducted between November 9 and 22, showed that most of those intending to celebrate Christmas will do so under a strict budget.

"Even those with plans will only have just the usual celebrations. Their plans will neither be exaggerated nor extravagant," said Infotrac chief executive Angela Ambitho, noting that most of them were careful with their spending since schools are also set to open in early January.

To save on cost, the poll observed that 66 per cent will be spending time with family, 24 per cent will either be going to church or attend prayers while 21 per cent plan to spend the day with friends.

A total of 12 per cent will be partying and drinking, eight per cent stay indoors while one per cent said they will visit the sick and children's homes.

Festivity plans

Central region leads by the number of people who don't have any plans for Christmas with 75 per cent followed closely by the Coast at 69 per cent, Nairobi (61 per cent) and Rift-valley 58 per cent.

For those planning to spend Christmas, Eastern region leads with 48 per cent, Western and Nyanza regions come second and third respectively with 46 and 45 per cent.

In terms of gender, females lead by 40 per cent while only 39 per cent men plan to celebrate the occasion.

The poll observed that many Kenyans were still struggling to recover from the harsh effects of Covid-19 as they also tried to compete with a strenuous academic calendar.

The report also indicated 55 per cent of Kenyans feel the country is heading in the



wrong direction, citing various reasons. It said 58 per cent of those who feel the country is headed in the wrong direction, cited poor management of the economy as a key problem.

The findings said 38 per cent were bothered by the high cost of living while 17 per cent are unhappy with unemployment.

Rampant corruption was also cited as a reason as to why the country is heading in the wrong direction with 11 per cent.

"The high cost of living and unemployment are the issues Kenyans want urgently addressed by the government," said Ambitho.

The study showed Nyanza region has the highest number of people who believe the country is on the wrong path at 63 per cent followed by Western at 59 per cent and then North-Eastern at 57 per cent. Others were Coast (50 per cent), Rift Valley (54 per cent), Nairobi (56 per cent) and Central (49 per cent).

Of all the regions, Nairobi and Nyanza residents are the worst affected by the high cost of living where 36 per cent feel the need for an urgent government redress on the same.

Overall, more females 55 per cent than males 54 per cent believe the country is go-

ing in the wrong direction.

The poll also said Kenyans are of the view the government is to blame for the economic difficulties.

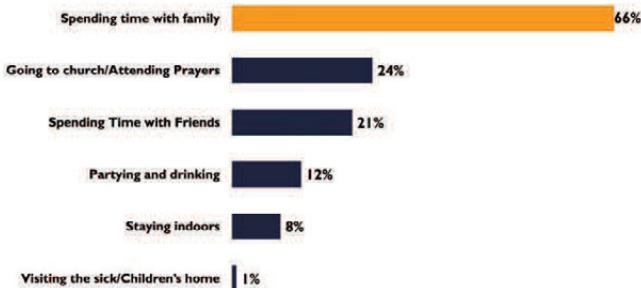
A total of 39 per cent said mismanagement of the government is the biggest problem that has led to the economic difficulties with 32 and 20 per cent blaming it on corruption and Covid-19, respectively.

The number of those who have lost faith in the government due to mismanagement of the economy has been on the rise since last year, demonstrating what has become the country's growing disquiet among Kenyans over the state of affairs since the pandemic was reported.

In June 2019, most Kenyans were in support of the government, with 52 per cent of the view those in leadership were doing a good job in running the economy.

That figure, however, declined in the following months, with more than 56 per cent of those interviewed in December are of the view that the country was heading in the wrong direction, a figure that would rise again in March 2021 to 65 per cent.

Conversely though, 32 per cent of Kenyans believe the country is heading in the right direction, citing peace in the country, while 18 per cent were of the view that the country has good infrastructure.



Children thank President for Christmas treat

■ by PD Reporter
@PeopleDailyKe

More than 250 children, who joined thousands others for the President's Children Christmas Party want President Uhuru Kenyatta to know how the rare invitation to State House made them feel.

The children from Child Welfare Society of Kenya (CWSK) yesterday expressed gratitude to the President for choosing to share his Christmas with the vulnerable in society.

In the company of CWSK chief executive Irene Mureithi and a trustee Haida Bruno, the children and staff spent the day they described as memorable and "the best in their life" together with the First Family who went out of their way to organise a grand celebration for more than 5,000 children to mark the start of this year's Christ-

mas and New Year festivities. The event, characterised by song and dance and tents of age-appropriate games and sports, kicked off with the national anthem at 9am and went on until 8pm.

Fun activities

The children were let free to enjoy the day as they saw fit, engaging in various fun activities ranging from bouncing castles, chess, bike rides, skating, dancing and singing.

Grace Makasi, 10, says: "I was excited by everything. State House is a fun place and I visited every corner and ate new foods. I played, took photos and got a gift from the President. I thank the President for remembering us and giving us gifts. I will want to go back again".

Isabela Anyango, 15, who says the experience felt like she was in Wonderland,

said, "I thank God for giving us the best President ever. May God continue protecting and give him many years to witness His goodness." She said her dream of becoming the best musician and news anchor felt achievable after entering State House.

"I am happy that children without families have someone who remembers them out there. Being at State House made me feel loved and wanted," said 17-year-old Jenifer Njeri.

Mureithi said the whole experience was out of this world. "The lives of all the children who were there are forever transformed. They will never forget what it felt like to be so close to the President. There can be no better way to celebrate Christmas."

The highlight of the celebrations were the firecrackers that rented the air after the President's wishes to the children after 7pm.



Some of the 5,000 youngsters from various children's homes who attended the Christmas party at State House this week. COURTESY

skip merrymaking



Travellers to the North Rift region get stranded at a stage near Afya Centre in Nairobi, yesterday. Fares have doubled due to the high demand occasioned by Christmas holidays. PD/KENNA CLAUDE



Mombasa residents rush for Christmas shopping at Marikiti market, yesterday. Traders complained of tough economic times which has reduced inflow of customers this festive season. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

Solar energy equipment dealer lights up faces of poor families

by Derek Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Several families from Wayu Duka in Hola, Tana River County and Mile 46 in Elang'ata Waus in Kajiado County, have benefitted from food supplies donated by solar products provider Bboxx Kenya.

The two areas have suffered severe drought in recent months which has wiped out their livestock, leaving them wallowing in abject poverty, according to the Coast Regional Area

manager Anthony Odima.

"We are human beings and it's been a sad state of affairs as we were seeing what they were going through, with animals dying every other day and children asking for drinking water. We felt we needed to come in to support them," Odima concluded.

Wayu Duka senior chief Hussein Shambaro Elema welcomed the donations as most of the residents have been affected by the drought. "The foodstuff will go a long way in addressing the plight of the families affected by the long drought."

ODIMA

11 We felt we needed to come in to support them

Why the Philippines mark Christmas for more than four months every year

In the centuries-old carol "The 12 Days of Christmas," celebrations span less than two weeks. Today Christmas is regularly celebrated throughout December, and in some places, a good portion of November too. But four months of festivities in the Philippines gives new meaning to the term "holiday season."

Christmas is celebrated during the "ber" months, as it's called in the Philippines — that is, September, October, November and December, said Robert Blancaflor, president of the Manila-based events design company Robert Blancaflor Group. "Christmas is the longest celebrated season in the Philippines and ... our country celebrates it the longest globally," he said. "Can you imagine a whole nation willingly sharing warmth and love... this long?"

But the parties don't end in December.

"Christmas fever starts on September 1 and ends the first week of January," said Marot Nelmida-Flores, a professor of Philippine studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Recent phenomenon

This is, however, "a recent phenomenon," she said. And the reason why is a familiar one. "With the proliferation of shopping malls, first in metro Manila which later on mushroomed far into the provinces, Christmas carols started to be heard soon after All Saints Day [on] Nov. 1," said Joven Cuanang, a neurologist and respected art and culture enthusiast in the Philippines. "This was to attract people to start shopping for Christmas gifts — it was commerce-driven."

Retail stores pushing out Christmas-themed merchandise earlier than in the past is responsible for so-called "Christmas creep" in many countries. A significant difference is that while others condemn the practice, Filipinos largely embrace it. "Filipinos start to make parol, or Christmas lanterns, as early as September," said Nelmida-Flores. "Now, many parts of the islands have their own trade-mark parol and Christmas theme plazas and parks."

Another factor which adds to seasonal cheer, said Nelmida-Flores, is the return of the "balikbayan" — the estimated 2.2 million Filipino citizens who work abroad, according to the Philippines Statistics Authority. Overseas Filipino workers sent nearly \$30 billion dollars back to the Philippines in 2020, which represents nearly 10 per cent of the country's total gross domestic product, according to data website Statista.

That likely won't happen this year. Many of the overseas workers, who live in places like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong, aren't traveling

this year due to the global pandemic.

Marites Rheme Lopez Javier, who has been living and working in Singapore for 18 years, hasn't seen her family in the Philippines since 2019. She plans to celebrate Christmas with them, including her first grandchild born last month, via video chat.

Javier said radio stations begin to play English and Tagalog Christmas songs in September. This is also when decorations go up. Festivals and beauty pageants, a controversial yet wildly popular activity in the Philippines, start in October, she said.

She said as a child her family made their Christmas tree from manila paper and cardboard. Now, inexpensive plastic trees are the norm in her village.

When asked if she feels there's "too much Christmas" in the Philippines, the 45-year-old native of Luzon island said, "No, we enjoy it! It's a very happy time."

The Peninsula Manila used to light its 45-foot Christmas tree in early November, but "we've moved it a tad earlier to the second Friday of October," said Mariano Garchitorena, the hotel's director of public relations. He said "there's no reason for delaying Christmas, since Christmas is always a good idea," adding that this is what "any good Filipino, like myself, would say." The hotel includes al fresco dining in its holiday plans "to take advantage of the nippy weather," said Garchitorena. The average temperature in Manila in December is 25°C, according to Climate-Data.org.

Nina Halley, founder of the Manila floral and décor company The Love Garden, said she starts receiving Christmas orders in July. "Philippines is very much influenced by the West, particularly the US," said Halley. "So the same pines and cypresses, pinecones and dried oranges are heavily used in our décor. Believe it or not, we import fir trees ... from Europe."

Religion is the foundation of the Philippines' long festive period, said Blancaflor, adding that "the country is celebrating [its] 500th year of Christianity" this year.

Some 92 per cent of people in the Philippines are Christian, according to the Stanford School of Medicine. Among the population of 110 million, more than 80 per cent identify as Roman Catholic — a figure greater than that of Italy.

Blancaflor said the Christmas season highlights the best traits of the Filipino people: hospitality, generosity, creativity and dedication to family.

Most importantly, he said, Christmas showcases the culture's devotion to helping one another. Poverty levels climbed to nearly 24 per cent earlier this year, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

- Agencies



Linda Abella, 63, fixes decorations on her Christmas tree outside her house in typhoon-hit Palo, Philippines on December 23, 2013. COURTESY

Concerns grow as 18 MPs test positive after Arusha tour

■ by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

Scores of lawmakers and parliamentary staff have tested positive for Covid-19 Omicron variant after returning from a sports event in neighbouring Tanzania, it has emerged.

Sources within the Parliamentary Service Commission, who sought anonymity because they are not authorised to discuss health status of their colleagues put the number of MPs who have tested positive for the fast-spreading variant at 18.

According to the highly-placed sources, also affected are 41 parlia-

mentary staff, who accompanied the lawmakers to the East African parliamentary games in Arusha.

In a press statement yesterday, National Assembly Clerk Michael Sialai said his office was aware that the current surge in Covid cases had occasioned the routine random testing of members and staff.

Sialai noted that as a result of the testing, a "small number" of members and staff had returned positive results. "Affected members and staff have since been advised to isolate and follow relevant Covid protocols as guided by MoH," he said.

He added: "Our medical team is conducting follow ups to ensure

MICHAEL SIALAI
**11 Affected
members
and staff
have since
been advised
to isolate**

compliance and offer any necessary help to the affected members and staff."

Sialai assured the public that all necessary precautions are being taken to comply with Ministry of Health guidelines and Covid-19 protocols within the precincts of Parliament.

Cheering squad leader

"I know eight out of 10 of my colleagues who travelled to Arusha have tested positive but nothing to worry about," Nominated Senator David Sankok, who travelled as the cheering squad leader, told People Daily yesterday.

"No hospitalisation case has been registered yet. However, a majority of us are safe; as you can see this afternoon, we had

over 150 MPs in the House," said Sankok, adding that all legislators and staff tested for Covid-19 in the small dining hall of Parliament on Tuesday.

It was not immediately clear the size of the Kenyan delegation to the Arusha games that took place between December 4 and 17.

The national Parliaments of Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, and the East African Legislative Assembly competed in eight sports disciplines including football, netball, volleyball, tug of war, golf, basketball, and darts.

Similar infections were reported in neighbouring Uganda, where about 50 MPs and staff tested positive for the variant.

Ministry unveils sanctions to check Omicron spread

Health minister says directives seek to check the fast-spreading variant during the festive season

■ by George Kebaso
@PeopleDailyKe

The government yesterday moved to impose tough sanctions to check the fast-spreading Omicron Covid variant during the festive season.

At a press conference, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe warned that Kenyans will be required to provide proof of vaccination to be allowed to access various services or attend events during the festive season.

"Proof of vaccination will be required in the following settings: All organised events, including weddings, funerals, receptions, organised parties, conferences, sports, trade fairs and workshops," the CS said in a message calculated to check spread of the virus during the holiday season. The warning came as scores of MPs and parliamentary staff were taken into isolation after testing positive for the Omicron variant after returning from a sports event in neighbouring Tanzania.

Fast spreading variant

Sources within Parliamentary Service Commission put the number of MPs who have tested positive for the fast spreading variant at 18 (see separate story).

Separately, the World Health Organisation issued a global warning over the new variant, asking people to call off Christmas and New Year celebrations in order to contain the marauding variant.

WHO Director General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus was quoted: "All of us are sick of this pandemic, all of us want to spend time with friends and family, all of us want to get back to normal. (See separate story).

Kenya's neighbours, notably Rwanda and South Sudan, also moved to impose

partial lockdowns to check spread of the virus.

In a statement, South Sudan Vice-President Hussein Abdelbagi Akol announced that the government had imposed a partial lockdown with effect from December 21 to January 10, 2022, to prevent spread of the two active variants, Delta and Omicron in the country.

Yesterday, Kagwe announced that nobody would be allowed to attend indoor concerts, theatre, dance and symphony events if they are not fully vaccinated, or are not able to show proof of vaccination.

Kagwe also said licensed hotels, restaurants and cafes that offer table service - indoor and patio dining, including liquor tasting rooms in wineries, breweries or distilleries must adhere to these measures.

"Pubs, bars and lounges (indoor and patio dining); nightclubs, casinos and movie theatres, game parks and game reserves, museums, supermarkets, shopping malls and indoor markets and banking halls will also be affected," he added.

Kagwe called on Kenyans to get the Covid-19 jab, saying it offered the best protection against the virus. "This means we need all adults in the country vaccinated in the shortest time possible to ensure we have many people protected against severe disease," he added. Proof of vaccination, Kagwe said, will also be required for those using transport services such as international and domestic flights, train services, PSVs, boda boda and taxi.

He said all government and parastatal offices are also expected to implement the directive.

"As part of the heightened Covid-19 containment measures, the National Emergency Response Committee on coronavirus on November 21, directed that everybody seeking in-person Government services should be fully vaccinated and proof of vaccination availed by December 21," he pointed out. In public places, the CS maintained that all persons must show proof of vaccination for admission into national parks and game reserves, hotels, bars and



**Health workers
from the National
Metropolitan
Services, Starehe
sub-county,
administer
Covid-19 jabs
to the public in
Nairobi. PD/FILE**

PROOF OF VACCINE

- **Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe has warned that proof of vaccination will be required in organised events, indoor concerts among other social functions.**

- **CS further warned that licensed hotels, restaurants and cafes that offer table services, indoor and patio dining, including liquor tasting rooms in wineries, breweries or distilleries must adhere to these measures.**

restaurants as well as use of public transport means including domestic flights, train and passenger services vehicles.

"All visitors, tourists, travellers from Europe, must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination before entry into the country," Kagwe restated.

These guidelines, he noted, have been developed to guide public interaction and operation at public facilities in line with NERCC recommendations. "It is important to note that these guidelines may be reviewed depending on Covid disease trends globally and within the country."

Event organiser

He outlined that the government will require that an event organiser, or facility manager ensures that all protocols issued by the ministry for the prevention and control of Covid are observed.

"These include hand-washing, sanitising, physical distancing, wearing of face masks, temperature checking and observation for signs and symptoms of Covid-19," he said.

In the escalated measures, the government expects that all workers or service providers must have undergone Covid vaccination and possess vaccination certificates. Also, all participants must provide a vaccination certificate as proof of being fully vaccinated against the virus.

Exemptions from vaccination against Covid on medical grounds may be issued by a licensed medical practitioner.

"Children and adolescents below the age of 15 years are exempted from this requirement," he said.

WHO urges people to cancel some holiday plans

The World Health Organisation has urged people to cancel some of their holiday plans to protect public health, as the Omicron variant spreads globally.

"An event cancelled is better than a life cancelled," said WHO head Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, adding that "difficult decisions" must be made.

A number of countries have acted to try to halt the spread of the variant, including imposing travel curbs.

In the US, Omicron is now dominant, accounting for 73 per cent of new infections. President Joe Biden is expected to address the nation on Tuesday but the White House said he was not planning on "locking the country down".

The country's top infectious disease expert, Dr Anthony Fauci, earlier warned that Christmas travel would increase the spread of Omicron even among the fully vaccinated.

Americans are now advised against travel to more than 80 nations that appear on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Very High list for Covid-19, including almost all of Europe.

France and Germany are among the nations imposing travel curbs to tackle Omicron, while the Netherlands has introduced a strict lockdown over the Christmas period.

In the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday that the government needed to "reserve the possibility" of bringing in new rules in England as Omicron cases surged, but did not announce further restrictions.

New Year's Eve celebrations in London's Trafalgar Square have been cancelled "in the interests of public safety", Mayor Sadiq Khan said.

And on Tuesday, New Zealand postponed its phased reopening to international travel until the end of February at least. WHO has classed omicron -first detected in South Africa in November - as a "variant of concern".

Speaking at a briefing on Monday, Dr Tedros said there was now evidence that the variant was "spreading significantly faster" than the previous dominant version, Delta.

-Agencies

KNEC plans for five exams in a year

Examinations agency working around a tight programme that is likely to be interrupted by elections

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The national examinations body is working on a tight programme to deliver five national examinations in a year likely to be disrupted by the General Election.

The Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) announced yesterday that it was putting in place modalities to ensure that it delivers the exams, notwithstanding the disruptions expected to be occasioned by the campaigns for the August election.

Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof George Magoha said the duty at hand is to prepare those exams effectively, even as he lauded examiners who have developed the test papers.

"This coming year will test whether the transformation we have done at KNEC is sustainable or not and the reason is instead of having the two usual exams, we will have five and my orders from the President is that I give all my time to focus on delivery of these exams," said the CS.

He made the remarks at the KNEC offices yesterday when he launched the Council's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

"I want to thank those who have worked with other experts to develop questions, which have now formed the tests for the

exams to be done in March and in December," the CS said.

"We are in a transitional year, nothing stops despite being an election year. The children shall have their examination in December and we want to prepare properly," he added.

The CS also assured that the December exams will be ready for administration by the end of February.

The five exams are 2021 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams to be written in March while the 2022 KCPE and KCSE and Grade 6 exams are scheduled for December.

"The exams for December will be ready for administration which means it will not matter who takes over as president, we will have delivered what we have to for our children, who are at the centre of all this," said the CS.

Transformative affair

He said the exam is one of the transformative areas and has been successful.

"We came here six years ago and nobody wanted to be associated with KNEC. Now there are many people who will come to see how we are doing it. So forget about politics. Our children going to universities are much better," he said.

He said the Government has been thorough in preparing the exams and much as the issue of credibility and corruption is a bigger problem in the country, KNEC is now one of the strongest brands.

The CS also dismissed reports that the



PLANNING FOR FIVE EXAMS

- The five exams are 2021 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams to be written in March while the 2022 KCPE and KCSE and Grade 6 exams are scheduled for December

Education CS George Magoha with head of Kenya Secondary Schools Association Kahi Indimili during the launch of KNEC 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. PD/KENNA CLAUDE

Government will increase examination fees.

"The President ordered that there will be no exam fees for all children for both public and private schools, which means for both poor and rich children. The government is paying for them and that policy will not change," Magoha said.

KNEC Chief Executive Officer Dr David Njengere said that the Council seeks to re-engineer itself and provide the necessary assessment to ensure the country is on the

right trajectory in the education sector and in national development.

"The Strategic Plan we are launching today the focus is on how we will enhance assessment and ensure credible certification," said Njengere.

Credible examinations

Though the Strategic Plan has covered many issues, he said that the critical ones include helping KNEC consolidate all the gains the country has made in ensuring credible exams since 2016 when reforming the system began.

"We have identified all the things that we have done in these reforms and consolidated them in the Strategic Plan to make sure we do not lose out on any of the things," said Njengere.

The CEO also said entrenched in the plan is research and innovation to help make sure KNEC does not go back to the old days before 2016.

He said it is through research that KNEC will continuously improve its systems by identifying all the weak areas in its processes, which already underway.

"We have started these processes through Competency Based Assessment (CBA). Each of these assessments have been preceded by pilot studies before national roll out. So we are sure that what we are offering the country in the name of CBA is something that has been well researched and we are innovating within those assessments, especially to make sure that we do not miss out on any child," Njengere explained.

BRIEFLY

1,963 teachers set for promotions

Some 1,963 teachers are due for promotion in line with Career Progression Guidelines (CPG) following a successful interview conducted last month.

Out of the total number, 1,040 selected for consideration senior teachers who include Chief Principals, Senior Principals, Principals, Deputy Principal I and II, Senior Lecturers I and II, Curriculum Support Officer I and II and Senior Head Teachers.

Others to be considered in this category are Deputy Head Teacher II, Senior Teacher I and II.

"The interviews advertised vacancies were conducted in the field with effect from November 1 to 12. Based on the criteria outlined in the report, a total of 1,963 teachers have been proposed for promotion," said the TSC.

The second category has 923 teachers from Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) and hard to sell areas and include Senior Master II/ Deputy Principal III, Senior Master III and IV, Secondary Teacher I and II, Deputy head teacher I and II, Senior Teacher I and II as well as Primary Teacher I. - Irene Githinji



Four perish, several injured in Manyani bus, truck road crash



by Reuben Mwambingu
@PeopleDailyKe

Four people died on the spot and several others were injured in a road accident involving a Mombasa-bound passenger bus and two trailers at Manyani on Nairobi-Mombasa Highway, yesterday morning.

The accident occurred at a notorious black spot between Manyani and Man Eaters, about 35 kilometres North of Voi town.

Police said the bus, belonging to Dreamline Express Limited carrying 44 passengers, was trying to overtake a truck when it rammed into the rear right-side edge of the container.

The ensuing impact saw the bus swerve into

the path of an oncoming Nairobi bound trailer resulting in a head-on collision.

Both drivers died on the spot, according to police.

According to Dreamline Express limited, the ill-fated bus, registration number KCU 965C was enroute to Mombasa from Busia when the accident happened.

The company confirmed the demise of a dedicated, passionate and diligent driver in the tragic accident."

"It is with great sadness and with a heavy heart that we announce the demise of one of our drivers, Abdulghafur Shafi, in a road traffic incident at Manyani area early today morning," the company said.

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Why nominations pose headache for Ruto, Raila

Duo will have to fund nominations or find other means of picking candidates amid fears of possible fallouts

by Rawlings Otiemo
@PeopleDailyKe

The 2022 presidential race front-runners Deputy President William Ruto and Orange party leader Raila Odinga face an uphill task in managing party primaries.

Arch-rivals, who have a huge following with politicians eyeing various seats on parties they lead, will have to spend money to fund nominations or use alternative means of picking candidates amid fears of possible fallouts.

Although both are seen to have well-oiled machinery to hunt for votes across the country, the biggest headache is to conduct free, fair, transparent and verifiable nominations for the August 22 polls.

One of the biggest nightmares is to ensure they have enough funds to conduct the exercise, which is normally acrimonious and leads to fallouts.

Conducting competitive primaries for Ward Reps, Member of Parliament, Woman Rep and governor is estimated to cost at least Sh20 billion, according to ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna.

Sifuna has listed personnel, materials, security, transport, logistics and communication as key components in tabulating the cost of conducting credible nominations using the secret ballot.

"If ODM were to conduct nominations across the country using secret ballot, it will require at least half the amount of money the electoral commission is asking to conduct the General Election," said Sifuna.

He added: "Our members should know that the party does not have that kind of money. But if they can give me the money, I will ensure nominations by secret ballot are done."

Membership card

For instance, in the run-up to the 2017 polls, Jubilee party had issued its members with a membership card to enable them participate in the primaries but they abandoned the idea after chaos, rigging and voter bribery accusations emerged.

Elections Observers Group (ELOG) National Coordinator Mule Musau observed that the dominant political parties; Jubilee, ODM and the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) have no financial or logistical capacity to conduct free, fair, credible and transparent nominations.

"One of the biggest issues in conducting party primaries by political parties is resources. What they do even where they are dominant is a modicum of election but not quality elections," said Musau.

Musau further argues that apart from resources, the National Elec-



tions Boards (NEBs) of the political parties are not professionally constituted.

"The reason why party primaries are a sham is because the elections boards are appointed by party leaders. Professionals do not run those boards because very few of them or none has ever managed any elections. They, therefore, just look for short roots," he said.

Amani National Congress (ANC) Secretary General Simon Gikuru also ruled out the possibility of using the secret ballot to pick candidates.

Secret ballot

Gikuru instead charged that ANC will use consensus, direct nominations, appointment, interviews – and secret ballot as the last resort.

"We have several ways of picking our candidates to contest in the General Election. We encourage consensus, direct nomination, appointment and interviews. We only use secret ballot as the last resort. We will have a budget but secret ballot is not our first priority," he said. In their research titled 'The cost of politics in Kenya; Implications for Political Participation and Development', Karuti Kanyinga and Tom Mboya opine that party primaries have traditionally been hotly contested affairs in the country.

"These processes can be more important, more competitive, and thus more expensive than the General Election. This is a result of the prevailing political culture whereby a ticket from a dominant party could proffer a distinct advantage by dint of ethno-regional support," says the duo in their report.

The lessons learned from previous nominations have perhaps made the Raila Odinga-led Orange party to use opinion polls in some areas to get candidates who will fly its flag in next year's polls.

Raila said while the ODM constitution allows the party to issue direct nominations, they will only do so once they establish through various mechanisms who the most popular aspirant is.

"The party has the ability to issue direct nominations. This will be done after an opinion poll is conducted to establish who the most

Agitated delegates go on rampage and kick ballot boxes during a past botched ODM Homa Bay senatorial nominations.

PD/FILE

popular candidate is," said Raila.

In the months leading up to the 2013 elections, the National Treasury allocated the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Sh36 billion. The election cost per voter was Sh2,500 in a year that had 14.4 million registered voters.

In the 2017 election, IEBC received Sh49.9 billion, making it one of the most expensive elections globally.

In August this year, IEBC declared that it will need Sh40.9 billion to conduct the 2022 polls with Sh40.3 billion being directed on activities around the elections and Sh588 million to be spent on procuring items for Covid-19 prevention protocols.

Sifuna said already ODM has started picking its popular candidates to various seats, adding that the party advocates for consensus, then opinion polls, delegates system and lastly universal suffrage by bona fide registered members.

He, however, ruled out secret ballot, saying the cost is prohibitive and in the event the party will use universal suffrage; secret ballot will still not be used.

COastal region

In October, Ruto moved to quell divisions that had emerged in his UDA party within the coastal region and promised fair nominations.

"It is going to be a win-win race. Those who lose in the party primaries will be considered for nominations in the order of their performance," the DP said.

"National political parties are the ultimate guarantee for democracy, unity and development. UDA is building a tribeless and equal-opportunity mass party that will take Kenya forward. It is in the Hustler movement that our hard work and determination will count, and not who we know," Ruto added.

Already cracks have started emerging in UDA as gubernatorial aspirants in his North Rift backyard quarel.

In Uasin Gishu, for instance, those in the race to succeed Governor Jackson Mandago include Ruto's ally Soy MP Caleb Kositany and local politician Jonathan Bii alias Chelilim.

HUGE TASK

● One of the biggest nightmares for DP William Ruto and ODM leader Raila Odinga is to ensure they have enough funds to conduct the exercise, which is normally acrimonious and leads to fallouts..

● ODM Secretary-General Edwin Sifuna argues that if IEBC requires Sh40 billion to conduct elections, parties that have a national outlook such as ODM will require at least half of the electoral commission's budget to conduct meaningful party primaries.

BRIEFLY

CS directed to settle Kandara residents on Del Monte land

Parliament has directed that 7,449 acres of land held by Del Monte Fruit Processing Company be surrendered to Kandara Residents Association.

Further, MPs have directed the Lands Cabinet Secretary Farida Karoney to reverse her decision to allocate the land to Kiambu and Murang'a county governments in 60 days.

National Assembly's Committee on Implementation of House Resolutions in a report tabled yesterday, said the lease for L.R No 12158 that resulted from amalgamation of several parcels should be reverted back to the government and declared public land.

"The land in question should revert to the government within 60 days of adoption of its report for it to be allocated to the rightful owners," ruled the committee chaired by Narok North MP Moitale Ole Kenta.

The ministry had in total disregard to findings of the committee allocated the land to the two counties as op-

osed to MPs' resolution that the parcel be allocated in 70-30 basis.

The committee had directed that the resident's association who had petitioned parliament to intervene, benefit from 70 per cent of the land found to be public land with the counties getting the remaining 30 percent.

"The Ministry of Lands in consultation with the National Land Commission should allocate the land excised from Del Monte Kenya Limited to Kandara Residents Association and County Governments of Murang'a and Kiambu in the ratio of 70:30, as per the National Land Commission's gazette notice 1995 of 2015," the committee said in a report.

The committee probed the implementation of recommendations of the Lands committee which questioned how Del Monte Kenya acquired more than 2,900 acres of land that had been surrendered to the government in 1973.

— Anthony Mwangi

Presidential aspirant Kituyi to unveil his political party

Presidential aspirant Dr Mukhisa Kituyi is set to unveil his new party next month.

According to Party of Growth and Prosperity (PGP) secretary general Saul Busolo, the outfit had met all the requirements that enabled the Registrar of Political Parties to give them a clearance certificate.

Speaking yesterday, Busolo, said Kituyi intends to initiate talks with Defence Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa of Democratic Alliance Party of Kenya with the aim of consolidating their parties. "Kituyi also wishes to change the name to Sauti ya Wazalendo with slogan 'Mbele iko Sawa' for presidency in 2022," said Busolo. "PGP was yesterday issued a certificate of full

registration after successfully complying to requirements of Section 7 of the Political Parties Act 2011. PGP marks the 84th political party to be fully registered," said the Registrar of Political Parties on twitter.

Wamalwa is associated with DAP-K, which picked Kanduyi MP Wafula Wamunyinyi as the party leader while his Tongaren counterpart Eseli Simiyu is the Secretary General.

— Titus Oteba

Blow as Karua loses bid to prosecute Waiguru's ally

Narc-Kenya party leader Martha Karua has suffered a major blow after she lost an attempt to privately prosecute Governor Ann Waiguru's chief campaigner James Kangara and three polls agency officials over alleged electoral malpractices in the 2017 polls.

Milimani Senior Principal Magistrate Abdul Zainab rejected Karua's request to assume prosecutorial duties, saying she did not demonstrate how the Director of Public Prosecutions failed to discharge his duties.

In her ruling, the magis-

trate said for a private citizen to be permitted to undertake prosecution, he or she must show the DPP failed in his mandate under article 157 of the Constitution. "I find that the application for private prosecution by Karua lacks merit and is dismissed in totality," she ruled. Abdul said Karua (pictured) did not file a formal report with the DPP on the alleged electoral offences.

In her application, Karua had claimed that voter bribery was rampant in Kirinyaga governor's poll.

— Nancy Gitonga

DCI wants Wanjigi, wife charged over Sh56m land fraud

Investigations were launched after it emerged the parcel in Nairobi worth Sh1.2b is claimed by three parties

by Zadock Angira
PeopleDailyKe

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has recommended the prosecution of businessman Jimi Wanjigi and his wife Irene Nzisa for allegedly obtaining money by false pretence and conspiracy to defraud involving a Sh1.2 billion piece of land in Nairobi.

Detectives from the Land Fraud Unit of the DCI on December 10 forwarded the inquiry file to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with recommendations that Wanjigi, Nzisa, John Nyanja Njenga and Caroline Njoki, an advocate, be charged with obtaining Sh56 million from Kenroid Limited, by falsely pretending they were in a position to sell the company a 0.3314 hectare piece of land on General Mathenge road in Westlands.

The DCI had launched investigations to establish the real owners of the land, Grant I.R No.65800 L.R No.1870/II/200, which is claimed by three parties – Aureum Ltd owned by the Wanjis, businesswoman Cissy Kalunde Musembi and Horizon Hills Limited.

Three grants

"Three Grants were issued and registered against one parcel of land contrary to the relevant land registration Acts and laws, which dictate that registration of one parcel of land, shall be one Title deed against one person or entity," the DCI report reads.

Yesterday, Wanjigi, through one of his aides, declined to comment on the investigations and the report, insisting he was yet to see the communication. "We are aware of the issue of the land in question but we cannot comment on a report that we have not seen. Let's cross the bridge when we get there," the aide said.

The DCI has also recommended that businessmen Mohammed Hassanali, Kaneez Noorani, Hamanshu Dodhia, and Mohamed Hussein Noorani be charged together with the Wanjis while the Registrar of Titles, Fredrick Lubulellah,



Businessman Jimi Wanjigi and his wife Irene Nzisa. PD/FILE

be charged with four counts of making false entries in a land document. According to the DCI, the Wanjis appointed two proxies, Thuo Augustine Kairu and Tyl Company, to stand in as purchasers of the land on their behalf from Horizon Hills Limited at a cost of Sh154 million.

On April 9, 2010, Kairu and Tyl Ltd acquired three company shares at a consideration of Sh51 million from Horizon Hills Limited. On April 23, Kairu purported to have transferred one share to Nzisa before resigning six days later.

On April 29, 2020, Kairu, under Nzisa's instructions, wrote an unrefined letter as chairman of Tyl Limited, addressed to the Manager, Chase Bank, authorising him to transfer Sh138.6 million by RTGS from Chase Bank (SBM) A/c No. 1104021100 under the name of JM Njage and Co Advocate at Bank of Africa.

Investigations, however, revealed that Tyl Ltd did not have an account with the bank, which was confirmed by a Chase Bank official in an affidavit dated July 23, 2019. This, therefore, means no such payments would have been made from a non-existent account.

The probe noted some contradiction in a case where Nzisa claimed that in 2010, jointly with her husband Wanjigi, purchased the land at a cost of Sh154 million from Horizon Hills through Kairu and Tyl Company Ltd (John Njenga). On the contrary, Wanjigi's evidence indicated the land was offered to them in 2006.

According to the Lands Registry, the land was sold to Dodhia Foam Limited when the lease was about to expire in 1991. Dodhia Foam applied for a new lease and pursuant to a surrender of old Grant, a new Grant for 50 years was granted by the government and a re-surveying of the land was done culminating in the issuing of a new Deed Plan number 175145, dated July

20, 1993.

A new lease was issued on April 21, 1995 but was back-dated to June 1, 1993.

From the file, it is purported that Dodhia Foam Limited transferred the land to Velji Premchand Dodhia and Hiramshu Velji Dodhia in 1997.

Horizon claims to have purchased the land at Sh33.6 million but there is no proof of payment or sale agreement.

In early 2018, Nzisa and Wanjigi, as directors of Horizon Hills Limited, took possession of the land and offered it for sale to Kenroid Limited through their lawyer Caroline Njoki Gachihi.

It was during the transaction the buyer realised the existence of another firm with a similar name, Horizon Hills Ltd (under Certificate of Incorporation No.C110776) registered on December 3, 2004, whereas Wanjigi's was registered on June 24, 2006.

According to Nairobi City County documents, land rates from November 2014 to April 2018 were paid by Horizon Hills Limited but from February 2018 payment was done by Cissy Kalunde Musembi.

Ironically, in the course of the probe, a senior Government Printer John Ondigo stated that he had received three title deeds marked 'A' (Cissy Kalunde) 'B' (Aureum Limited), and 'C' (Horizon Hills Limited). Ondigo, however, declared titles for HHL and Kalunde's as not genuine. DCI, however, dismissed this.

The investigations further revealed that Nzisa and Wanjigi, realising the misrepresentation, colluded with a registrar of companies official Hiram Gichuhi Wanjohi, and they changed the firm's name from Horizon to Aureum Ltd through a certificate dated May 31, 2018, endorsed on the Grant and at the Lands Registry on June 5, 2018.

Investigations revealed that Stephen Chege Njoroge, a senior lands registration officer, effected the change of name.



COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

DETERMINATION ON MOBILE TERMINATION RATES AND FIXED TERMINATION RATES - INTERCONNECTION DETERMINATION NO.3 OF 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Communication Authority of Kenya (CA) is the regulatory authority for the ICT industry in Kenya with responsibilities in telecommunications, e-commerce, broadcasting, postal/courier services and cyber security. CA is also responsible for managing the country's numbering and frequency spectrum resources, administering the Universal Service Fund (USF) as well as safeguarding interests of consumers of ICT services.
2. The Authority is also mandated to manage competition in the ICT sector. One of the key activities in the management of competition is the regulation of retail and wholesale tariffs for communications services in accordance with the Kenya Information and Communications (Tariff) Regulations, 2010.
3. Interconnection involves allowing customers of one service provider to communicate with customers of another service provider. This implies that, for customers of one operator to communicate with the customer of another operator, the systems of the two operators must be interconnected for the traffic to flow through.
4. Interconnection is an essential component of telecommunications and its pricing and access can be used as a barrier to entry and expansion, thereby impeding competition. Moreover, high interconnection prices mean higher calling rates which ultimately reduce consumer welfare.
5. The monitoring and adjustment of interconnection rates therefore ensures economic regulations imposed accurately reflect the current structure of the Kenyan telecommunication market.

II. BASIS OF REVIEW OF THE VOICE TERMINATION RATES

6. In the past, the Authority has issued two Determinations on the Termination Rates: Determination No.1 of 2007 on Retail and Interconnection Rates among the Fixed and Mobile Telecommunications Networks in Kenya and Determination No. 2 of 2010 (plus Addendum No 2) on Pure Long Run Incremental Cost (LRIC) Based Interconnection Rate Regime. The Determinations were implemented on a glide-path over a period four years each.
7. Upon expiry of the glide path in 2015, the Authority took a decision to observe the market reaction before undertaking another costing study. Currently, all the telecommunications service providers are implementing a mobile and fixed voice termination rate (MTR and FTR) of KES 0.99.
8. However, over time, the Authority has recognized that the current voice termination rates may not reflect the true cost of interconnection. Further, the current voice termination rates may be preventing operators from offering consumers more affordable and competitive prices and services.

III. REVIEW PROCESS

9. As required by the Constitution, the Authority in July 2021, published a *Notice of Intention to Review* the Rates in local dailies with nationwide circulation. Thereafter, the Authority undertook a public consultation exercise on the review of Mobile Termination Rates (MTR) and Fixed Termination Rates (FTR), during which it received views and comments from various stakeholders including the mobile operators. The comments from stakeholders are available on the Authority's website. To arrive at the ideal interconnection rate, the Authority considered the following:
 - a. **Regulatory Objectives:** Section 23 of the Kenya Information and Communications Act No. 2 of 1998 defines a set of objectives that the Authority's decisions should support including economic efficiency, promotion of competition and stimulation of investments.
 - b. **Stakeholder Impact:** The impact on the consumers was analysed by focusing on prices for the telecommunications services, availability of service, service quality and innovation. It was concluded that lower voice termination rates would facilitate greater retail price flexibility, which should facilitate reduction in overall price levels for mobile services to the benefit of consumers. Further, the impact on industry players was analysed based on: revenues, levels of profitability and sustainability. It was concluded that the proposed revisions will lead to reduced net transfers occasioned by the current imbalanced market share.
 - c. **Regulatory Cost Benefit Analysis:** The Authority considered as to whether the benefit of implementation of the revised rates outweighs the costs, and if the regulatory risks are acceptable. The Authority concluded that the benefits far outweigh any costs and risks.

IV. THE DETERMINATION

10. Taking into account the benchmarking study and input from stakeholders, the Authority made the following determination:

- a. **THAT** all mobile and fixed telecommunications operators in Kenya shall implement the MTR and FTR outlined in the Table below:

Interconnection Rates for Mobile and Fixed Operators

Effective Date	1 st January 2022
Mobile Termination Rate (KES. per minute)	0.12
Fixed Termination Rate (KES. Per minute)	0.12

- b. **THAT** the new interconnection rates shall apply to only local voice traffic. For the avoidance of doubt, this refers to traffic originating and terminating within Kenya.
- c. **THAT** all operators have the liberty to negotiate interconnection rates that are lower than the capped rates.
- d. **THAT** all operators will be required to vary their interconnection agreements in line with this determination and file with the Authority their deeds of variation by 1st February, 2022.

Dated this 23rd Day of December, 2021.

Ezra Chiloba
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Ruto MPs scuttle debate to amend political parties law

It is believed they had conspired to table as many amendments as possible to ensure the debate on the contested bill was delayed

by Anthony Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

MPs allied to Deputy President William Ruto scuttled debate on the controversial Political Parties (Amendment) Bill in a stormy four-hour session characterised by heckling and name calling.

The session was eventually adjourned to the delight of pro-Ruto legislators who had conspired to table as many amendments as possible to ensure the debate was delayed or spilled into the next sitting scheduled for late January.

Early yesterday morning, the United Democratic Alliance (UDA)-allied MPs tabled a total of 17 amendments to the Bill, leaving Deputy Speaker Moses Cheboi with no option but to delay debate to allow the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee to go through them before debate.

Before the adjournment, however, the House was treated to all manner of theatrics as the opposing camps engaged in supremacy battles with each side seeking to control the proceedings.

Cosmetic sitting

The Bill, sponsored by Majority Leader Amos Kimunya, seeks to, among other things, allow a coalition of parties to field a candidate in the coming elections.

The proponents say the Bill will allow the registration of Raila Odinga's Azimio La Umoja coalition as a party and clear the way for it to field its own candidates in the coming elections.

Presently, a coalition cannot sponsor a candidate as one must belong to a party or is an independent candidate to vie for a seat.

It also aims to effectively force a party to enter into a coalition six months before the General Election, a proposal critics say is aimed to force fence-sitters such as the One Kenya Alliance (OKA) principals Kalonzo Musyoka, Musalia Mudavadi and Moses Wetang'ula to choose which side to join hands with ahead of the next elections by February 2022. "Contrary to the asper-



Members of Parliament during a past session. FILE

sions by some of us, this Bill is not meant to favour one of the competing sides but to address the issues which have been coming along during and after every election," said Kimunya when he moved the motion for the adoption of the Bill during the Second Reading.

He added: "The law is intended to cure the problems that have beclouded our politics for ages. Coalitions are the way to go, those opposing the Bill should know that were it not for coalitions UDA could not have been born."

However, with the amendments piling, it was not possible to proceed as Cheboi, who was sitting in for the indisposed Speaker Justin Muturi, said the proposed changes must be taken to the Legal committee for consideration.

Citing Standing Order 131, Cheboi said the committee should harmonise the amendments introduced by members before the Bill proceeds to the Third reading.

"This will definitely require time and cannot be completed in the short time remaining. I, therefore, adjourn the session to January 25, 2022, to allow the requisite committee to look into the amendments and report to the House," ruled Cheboi after four hours of debate punctuated by cheers and jeers from both sides.

His ruling was, however, met by loud protests from the pro-Handshake legislators who demanded that debate proceed to the end since the afternoon sitting had been gazetted. Cheboi, however, ruled them out of order, saying his ruling was

informed by the Standing Orders he said were supreme in the House.

"Unless you want to do a cosmetic sitting, my ruling is that the House stands adjourned to allow the committee to harmonise the amendments," Cheboi concluded.

Out of the initial 18 amendments, 17 were from UDA-allied MPs with nominated MP Geoffrey Osotsi the only member from the Handshake team who had sought to table an amendment. He later withdrew his effort that aimed at deleting a section giving powers to parties to expel rebel members with least consideration of the Constitution.

The UDA members who presented the amendments were Aden Duale (Garrisa Township), Kimani Ichung'wa (Kikuyu), Alice Wahome (Kandara) and John Kiarie (Dagoretti South), among others.

Pro-Handshake

Earlier, the UDA side had attempted to force a further delay by pushing for more time to be allocated during the Second Reading by forcing a division.

The pro-Handshake side, however, triumphed, garnering 103 votes against the pro-Ruto group's 68.

After the adjournment, the UDA side broke into song and dance with the "Si Uchawi ni Maombi" song as the opposing side shouted them down.

"We had a hidden card under our sleeves and knew when to unleash it, we got them off guard," said an elated Wahome.

Their opponents, led by Minority Leader

John Mbadi and the Minority Whip Junet Mohammed, said they respected the Speaker's decision but argued that the Bill should have been passed and the amendments to be considered in the Third Reading.

"Our position is that the Speaker has misinterpreted the Standing Orders. He has denied the majority their say," Mbadi said.

Added Mbadi: "We want to amend the law to create a system where we form a party which becomes a coalition and other political parties become corporate members. Individuals can join and become members."

Junet said going by the numbers in the House, the Handshake group had proven that it had the strength to pass the Bill, dismissing the assertion by the UDA team that they have numbers as far-fetched.

"Where were the over 150 members they claim to have; they could only amass 68 members. They do not have the numbers as they claim outside there," Junet said.

Ndaragwa MP Jeremiah Kioni said he was unhappy with the decision made by the Speaker that delayed passage of the Bill.

"We would have wanted to finish this business once and for all but the Speaker in his wisdom has decided to push it to another month," Kioni, a member of the Kieleweke side of the Jubilee Party, said.

Public participation

Kioni, who chairs the Constitutional Implementation and Oversight Committee (CIOC), said the Bill is intended to allow small parties from all parts of the country to benefit from joining coalitions.

"We want to have a law in place so that we can be able to benefit Kenyans in the next General Election. But we are saying that it's not over till it's over."

We are going to win in the next vote and I'm sure after the Third Reading this will become law before the next elections," Kioni said.

Wahome said what concerned them was the speed with which the Bill was brought before the House, saying public participation had not been given a chance.

"These movements have made some of us raise suspicions over the intentions of the Bill. It is clear that the architects of the Bill want to tie OKA leaders, namely Musalia Mudavadi (ANC) and Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper) by ensuring that they have no time to delay on which coalition to join by shortening the period within which to enter into a coalition agreement," Wahome said.

She added: "The intention of the Bill is to rig the election, you can see the hands of the Handshake partners in this."

The outspoken legislator said Parliament should not allow the Registrar of Political Parties to be the holder of the register of political parties, cautioning that should the Bill be passed, it would find problems due to its constitutionality.

Board Azimio la Umoja train lest you are left behind, says Raila

by Kepher Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

ODM leader Raila Odinga yesterday said the quest for unity under the Azimio La Umoja movement was unstoppable, and warned those who are unwilling to join the movement that they will be left behind.

Speaking after joining Kenyans to travel in the recently launched Nairobi-Kisumu train service in a ceremonial ride that started from Fort Tenan in Kericho to the lake city, Raila said nothing will stop him and President Uhuru Kenyatta from pursuing peace and unity of all Kenyans.

"The power of unity has impacted so many people around the world and Kenya is no exception. We must revert to the days before independence when our unity was rock solid," Raila said.

He added: "There is no reason why some leaders should pull parallel to this cause, when I and President Uhuru Kenyatta have buried the hatchet and agreed to unite Kenyans."

The former Prime Minister said his main focus is to bring all Kenyans together arguing that great things could only be achieved if the people work together.

Kenya Railway recently launched a passenger train ser-

vice between the two cities, more than a decade after the route was discontinued. The company charges Sh600 one-way and aims to capitalise on the festive season travel.

Governors

Raila was accompanied by governors Wycliffe Oparanya (Kakamega), James Ongwae (Kisii) and Anyang' Nyong'o, (Kisumu).

Others were EAC Chief Administrative Secretary Ken Obura, Kenya Railways MD Philip Mainga and Kisumu County Speaker Elisha Oraro.

During the journey, Raila addressed crowds in Fort Tenan,

Muhoroni, Miwani and Kisumu Railway Station.

He told Kenyans opposed to the Azimio La Umoja movement that history will prove them wrong when Kenyans shun tribal cocoons in favour of national unity.

"Soon those who have refused to join us and are pulling parallel or against the unity call will be rendered redundant. They better board the unity train now or else they will be left behind," he said.

He called on eligible voters who have attained the age of 18 and above to take advantage of the planned mass registration expected to begin in January.



ODM leader Raila Odinga with Kakamega Governor Wycliffe Oparanya are served refreshments aboard the Nairobi-Kisumu train, yesterday. PD/VIOLA KOSOME

Ngatia entry in city contest complicates party choices

ODM and other like minded parties are reportedly divided over who to front

by PD Reporter
@PeopleDailyKe

The entry of businessman Richard Ngatia into the race for Nairobi governorship has heightened political intrigues in opposition chief Raila Odinga's newly formed Azimio La Umoja Movement.

The nascent movement that is expected to act as the umbrella coalition of Jubilee, ODM and other like-minded parties is reportedly sharply divided over who to front.

ODM is also said to be sharply divided over the position, with some members vouching for Westlands MP Tim Wanyonyi who has already declared his interest, while some are pushing that the seat be left for a Jubilee aspirant in reciprocation of their support for the former's presidential bid.

Sources say that one of the conditions Mt Kenya leaders have given Raila is to support a candidate of their choice for Nairobi gubernatorial seat.

Pressure has now been mounting on Wanyonyi, who

has surprisingly vowed to stay put, to step down in favour of an aspirant to be identified by the Jubilee side.

A section of ODM politicians have already thrown weight behind the economist and are lobbying for negotiated democracy to have Wanyonyi drop his bid and instead depose Ngatia.

During the Azimio La Umoja launch at Karasani Stadium on Friday, December 10, where Raila officially launched his presidential bid, Ngatia, who is the current president of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was among the few people who got the rare chance to speak.

Waiting for guidance

Other names being touted for the position under the Azimio movement include former Dagoretti South MP, businesswoman Agnes Kagure, former Gatanga MP Peter Kenneth and Makadara MP George Aladwa.

Yesterday, Aladwa who is also the Nairobi ODM branch chairman disclosed that the party has not settled on any individual for the Nairobi governorship, and members are still waiting for guidance from Raila and President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Egerton dows threaten legal action if salary is withheld

by Roy Lumbe
@PeopleDailyKe

The standoff between Egerton University's management and workers is far from over as the latter's strike enters its sixth week.

Yesterday, the University Academic Staff Union (UASU) Egerton chapter accused the institution of using highhanded means, including threats to withhold the December salaries, to force them to return to work.

"They have resorted to unorthodox manoeuvres including intimidation and arm-twisting of our members," said UASU Egerton Chapter Secretary Grace Kibue.

Kibue said the Deputy

Vice Chancellor in charge of administration had warned that the striking workers would not be paid salaries.

Kibue termed the decision as illegal and vowed to go to court if the administration withholds their salaries.

"The management shall pay the December salaries, and further salaries on time by the end of every month and should they fail to do so we will seek court redress," she said.

Kibue accused the management of unwillingness to resolve the stalemate.

Lecturers and non-teaching staff downed their tools on November 15 accusing the university of failing to honour the 2017-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement.



Businessman Richard Ngatia at a past function in Nairobi. FILE

KNCCI POSITION

- Those opposed to the businessman's bid say that he must first relinquish the position of KNCCI before declaring for the gubernatorial seat.

- They also claim that Ngatia's name and image remains tainted after he was linked to some scandals at the Ministry of Health.

the two parties respective National Delegates Congress early in the year.

But Aladwa remained categorical that ODM would push to front a member of the Luhya community for the seat due to their numerical strength in the city.

Although Wanyonyi declined to comment on the intrigues surrounding the race for the position, those in his camp claim he has been facing lost of pressure to drop his bid and instead support an individual

fronted by the Jubilee side.

"There is a lot of manipulation and cash exchanging hands to ensure that Wanyonyi bid is frustrated," said one of the MP's aides.

In October, Wanyonyi appeared to have received a boost in his bid for the seat when Raila and his wife Ida Odinga, declared their support for him.

But that seems to be facing opposition with a section of legislators allied to President Uhuru reportedly vouching for Ngatia, on grounds that ODM cannot be supported to capture the presidency as well as the Nairobi governor seat.

Those pushing for Ngatia's candidature argue that since ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna has already declared his interest for the Senate seat, the governorship should be left for the latter since both Wanyonyi and Sifuna are members of the Luhya community.

howlow.co.ke

Jichagulie

ZAWADI

Kila Siku ya December!

Dial *454*2#

Chagua kati ya BIKE, JIKONI Combo, TV Combo
au Samsung Galaxy M31 Tatu!

BIKE

TV Combo

Samsung Galaxy M31 Tatu!

JIKONI

HOW LOW

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EDITORIAL

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Let not Christmas be Covid Waterloo

The country's Covid-19 infection rate has averaged 27 per cent in the last five days and the fast-spreading Omicron variant is said to be responsible for the high rate of infection.

According to the World Health Organisation, a normal situation should be one where the infection rate is below five per cent.

The Omicron variant that was first detected in South Africa is said to spread twice as fast as the Delta strain and can affect even those who are vaccinated.

The difference, though, is those vaccinated can withstand the ravages of the infection.

Experts in Kenya predict a peak in the recent wave of infections to be around mid-January and this is partly because people will lower their guard during the festive period.

Christmas is here and it is time to make merry. It is time to meet those who we do not often spend time with and it is also a moment to party and mingle with crowds.

But there lies the big danger. Omicron will spread in those parties; it will devastate villages; it will send many to hospital and God forbid it will send some to early graves. However, the situation does not have to be this grim.

Head of the World Health Organisation Tedros Ghebreyesus has advice on what to do. He admits the world is sick of the pandemic and the earlier we get rid of it the better.

He says the fastest way to do this is to make the difficult decisions to protect ourselves and others.

And he advises that while everyone wants to party over the festivity, an event cancelled is better than a life terminated.

He wants people to postpone travel and merrymaking so that lives can be saved. In his words, you better delay the celebration than end up grieving.

We urge Kenyans to first get vaccinated. That barely nine million people have been vaccinated is an indictment of our fight against the deadly virus; getting jabbed will lessen the effects of the infection. Secondly, adhering to the protocols of keeping the virus at bay, that is, washing hands with soap regularly, keeping social distance and wearing a mask will save lives.

Lastly, avoid the Christmas crowd or movement. These simple steps will make Kenyans have an easy time next year. It is incomprehensible for the country to go into another punishing lockdown because of a surge in new infections.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

POPE JOHN XXIII

Mankind is a great, an immense family. This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.

QUOTED TODAY



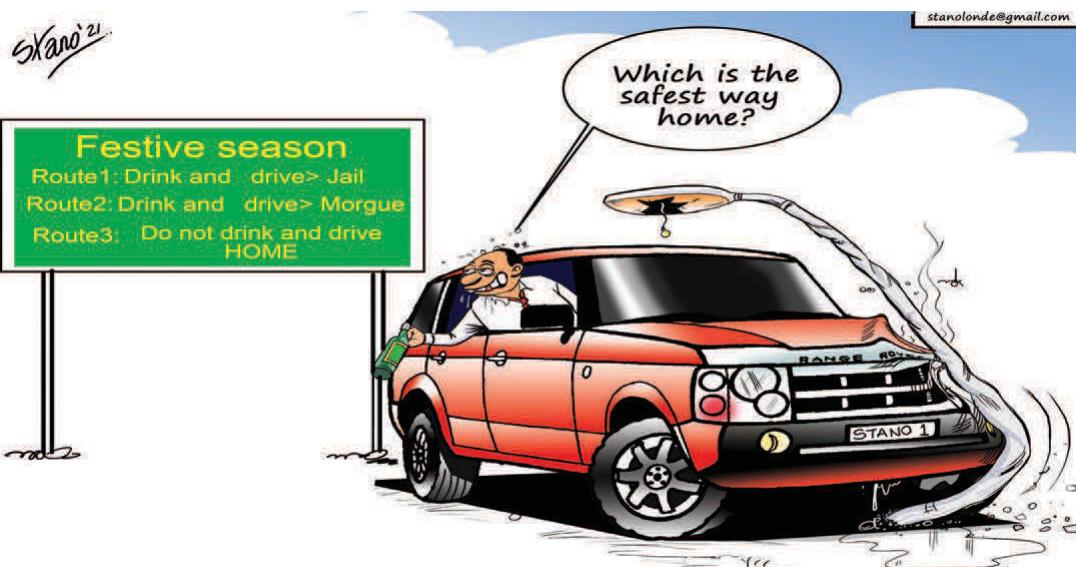
Raila Odinga
The power of unity has impacted so many people around the world and Kenya is no exception. We must revert to pre-independence days when our unity was rock solid. There is no reason why some leaders should pull parallel to this cause.



David Sankau
I know eight out of 10 of my colleagues who travelled to Arusha have tested positive for the virus, but nothing to worry about. No hospitalisation case has been registered yet.



Mule Musau
One of the biggest issues in conducting party primaries in Kenya is resources. Our parties don't have funds to conduct elections. What they do even where they are dominant is a modicum of election.



Damning report of US airstrikes on civilians



STEPHEN NDEGWA

Shockingly, the Pentagon report shows no remorse for the hundreds of innocent lives lost.

carelessness in the goings-on in the Pentagon war room, where decisions are made on the targets for drone strikes.

The attitude portrayed is that of, oops! "looks like (there are) children as well". It shows a panicky US that cannot wait to finish its mission no matter what, in order to minimize casualty on its side. The bungled strikes show that the country's military follows a certain template that profiles people and modus operandi. In the Afghanistan case, the alleged bombs packed in the boot of the bombed out car were actually water jerry cans.

There can be no excuse for killing innocent people even as collateral damage, particularly for the sanctimonious US, which condemns other countries for violation of human rights. Honestly, the killing of non-combatants in war is the highest form of inhumanity.

The US should be ashamed of its allegations about China's human rights abuse against Muslim Uyghurs in the Xinjiang autonomous region. It is a stark case of double standards.

Analysts also say the US could be using

Xinjiang as a red herring in order to hoodwink the world from the injustices it has wrought on Muslim lands globally. In its fight against terrorism, America has profiled Muslims and ruthlessly hunted those it declares guilty.

Apart from the direct attacks of Muslim countries in the guise of fighting terrorism, the US has used proxies to destroy Islamic nations.

The most notable in this case is the so-called Arab Spring revolution, a series of popular uprisings and armed rebellions that rocked many Arab nations in the early 2010s. Although the US' hand could not be directly connected to the violence, its subsequent pronouncements of its officials, show both moral and covert support for the regime change chaos.

Furthermore, the US had funded pro-democracy groups and activists in the region for many years prior to the Arab Spring. Its activities in the Arab world was political engineering, aimed at leading to the chaos at a predetermined period without the U.S. role being visible.

But since no single country can call out America's shortcomings the way it usually does to all and sundry, it is a high time the international community, through the United Nations Security Council, asked the superpower to be more accountable for its gross violations of international humanitarian law.

— The writer comments on international affairs

Businesses must lead in respecting human rights

Businesses in every sector today are confronted with a variety of human rights issues that are intertwined with their core business objectives. These challenges can be pressing and complex for firms operating in a global economy where the cost of unmanaged human rights risks is high.

Whether it's tackling labour practices in manufacturing or agriculture, security in extractive sectors, decent work, non-discrimination or equal pay, businesses must build expertise to conduct effective human rights due diligence and institute appropriate response mechanisms to deal with identified challenges.

In many ways, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought human rights into sharp focus. Businesses are expected to take enhanced measures to safeguard the rights of workers, communities, and consumers even as they struggle to stay afloat. Investors have also increased scrutiny on corporations to avert risks of financial loss and litigation stemming from human rights abuses.

All businesses can look to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) as a soft law and an authoritative global framework that helps them understand their responsibilities to respect hu-



JUDY NJINO

All businesses can look to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

man rights. The UNGPs lay out a clear framework for preventing and remedying the harmful effects of corporations on human rights.

The UNGPs "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework share an inherent notion, that business respect for human rights can only be accomplished by putting people at the centre of a risk-based strategy, shifting the focus from risk to people. Human rights due diligence is defined by this essential shift in viewpoint, and it is also a critical contribution that business can make to the larger sustainable development agenda.

However, ten years after their adoption, the primary expectation of a turning point has yet to materialise.

At such a time, the world is shifting and governments including Germany and Norway have adopted a "smart mix" of compulsory and voluntary measures to demand human rights compliance from businesses. However, we have learnt that enacting a law does not always imply that it will be followed. For instance, even though corruption is unlawful

in most countries, unethical and fraudulent practices persist.

In Africa, only Kenya and Uganda have made attempts to develop their National Action Plans (NAP) to operationalise the UNGPs. With the opening of markets and increase in cross-border trade, respect for human rights will become a defining feature of our continent's competitiveness.

Kenya's NAP lays forth national policy priorities on Business and Human Rights, with a focus on five thematic issues: Land and Natural Resources, Revenue Transparency, Environmental Protection, Labour and Access to Remedy. The five-year framework will enable private and State-owned businesses to commit, act and report on their actual and potential human rights risks.

What actions can businesses, large and small alike, take to make human rights an inherent part of their corporate strategy?

Firstly, a transformational way of thinking is required within the business sector and respect for human rights should be regarded as a way of

doing business. Taking up this new mindset helps companies to become more aware of the human rights risks as well as opportunities to do good. Businesses can then develop robust policies, processes and activities to guide their response.

Secondly, it is vital to establish a strong culture of ethics and integrity that fosters trust with consumers, investors, employees, suppliers and other stakeholders through communicating and executing the human rights policies in a systemic, comprehensive, and open manner.

Lastly, beyond these minimum requirements, companies can make voluntary, positive contributions to support human rights. For example, they can create diverse and inclusive workplaces, invest in communities and public policy advocacy and engage employees and communities to promote collective action. It is also important to note that while these type of actions to support human rights are encouraged, they do not substitute basic respect for human rights. Looking ahead, it is apparent that more needs to be done and businesses have a unique opportunity to be a shining beacon for human rights.

— The writer is Executive Director, Global Compact Network — info@globalcompactkenya.org

ODDLY ENOUGH



Scientists discover fossil of millipede the size of a car

Giant millipedes as long as a car and weighing 50kg once hunted across northern England, experts have said, following the discovery of a 326 million-year-old fossil. The fossil was found by "fluke" when a section of a cliff fell at Howick Beach in Northumberland and was discovered by a former PhD student. Experts said in order to get so big, the creature, known as Arthropleura, must have found a nutrient-rich plant diet and may even have been predators, feasting on other invertebrates or small amphibians. Only a section of the fossil has been found, according to experts. They believe the specimen is a section of the creature's exoskeleton that it shed near a river bed, which was then preserved by the sand. "It was a complete fluke of a discovery," said Dr Neil Davies, from Cambridge University's Department of Earth Sciences and lead author of a paper on the fossil.

"The way the boulder had fallen, it had cracked open and perfectly exposed the fossil, which one of our former PhD students happened to spot when walking by." The segment that was found measures to around 75cm long, but scientists believe its entire body could have measured around 2.7m long and weighed 50kg. The fossil was taken to Cambridge for analysis after receiving permission from Natural England and the landowners, the Howick Estate. It was so big it required four people to carry it.

— Sky News



TRUTH IS: The right kind of fear prompts us to do right.

Create policies to protect interests of intersex persons



DORIS KATHIA

Just like everyone else, intersex people need health care access.

The Constitution states that every person is equal before the law and shall enjoy equal protection by the law. However, not all seem to be privileged to enjoy these rights.

Intersex individuals' rights continue to be violated and silenced. When a mother gives birth she is excited until she finds out the baby has sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of female or male.

Many times the doctors do surgeries on intersex children to make their bodies fit binary ideas of male or female a choice probably made by the parents depending on the gender they wished for not knowing that some of these children ultimately reject their gender assignment when they are grown.

Just because sex characteristics do not meet medical and social norms, choosing a gender for someone who cannot express themselves is a human right violation. Gender identity is emotionally attached hence, this brings up questions about whether or not it's okay to do medical procedures on children's bodies when it's not needed for their health.

When we talk about protection of human rights as a basic need, we mean that everyone is able to live free from harm. Unfortunately, for intersex people it is not the case.

Just like everyone else, intersex people need health care access. But they may be denied necessary care and discriminated in health care settings once their atypical anatomy is known. Intersex issues have been framed as matters of sexual orientation and gender identity, rather than natural sex characteristics leading to a rhetoric of inclusion that is unmatched with the reality.

The child's interests, not parents, should be the primary consideration in decisions regarding invasive medical procedures.

Misinformation and directive counseling on sex normalising prevents parents from learning about

options for postponing permanent surgery interventions. Parents often consent to surgery on their children in circumstances where full information is not given, or pressure may be applied by service providers or parents themselves may feel discomfort with their child's body difference.

The Kenya Task force on Policy, Legal, Institutional and Administrative Reforms Regarding Intersex Persons constituted in 2017 need to put across measures to address the plight of intersex persons and ensure that the rights of intersex persons are upheld non-discrimination and affirmed their right to protection from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by holding that intersex persons are protected under Article 27 (4) of the Constitution.

The government needs to create policies that will make intersex persons feel comfortable and ensure

they receive care that affirms them and their choices about their bodies.

Visibility of intersex people continues to be far too low, therefore, there is an urgent need to protect the human rights of intersex people.

To ensure intersex inclusion, the government needs to create and facilitate supportive, safe and conducive environments for intersex people, their families and surroundings by enacting anti-discrimination legislation protecting the ground of sex characteristics and ensuring that intersex people are protected against intersectional discrimination.

In situations where the newborn child's sex is unclear, gender-neutral marker in identity documents like birth registration and certificates should be considered.

We need to prevent medically unnecessary sex-normalising surgeries without informed consent. This can be achieved by collecting data and understanding the experiences of intersex people and also raising awareness about intersex persons.

— The writer is a Sexual and reproductive health rights advocate

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Take vaccine or keep off others

@NelsonHavi: Let there be no debate on Covid vaccine as a condition for entry to public establishments and access to Government services. This is a pandemic for which free vaccination has been provided. Take it to live. If you don't want to, you must be prevented from endangering others. ^NH

Overused and misrepresented

@SheilahBirgen: Are there words that have been overused (and falsely represented) than Unbanked and Unconnected?" We are helping in financial inclusion by providing a platform for the unbanked and unconnected people especially in rural areas" Sir, What?

Hustler legislators impressed me

@MillicentOmanga: I'm impressed with the performance of Hustler MPs at the National Assembly today. We must act in the best interest of the public to protect the integrity of our electoral system. Laws intended to serve the interest of a few must be rejected without mercy.

Where are the 150 hustler MPs?

@o_keverenge: The 150 MPs are only available when called for handouts in Karen and Sogoi, but when it's conducting serious parliamentary business their numbers immediately shrink to 15.

Matiang'i puts agency on notice over fake logbooks

The CS says an audit of all staff operations at NTSA is ongoing and a report would be released on the same

by Zadock Angira
@PeopleDailyKe

Several suspects have been arrested in connection with the production of fake vehicle log books at the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA).

A number of vehicles have also been confiscated by detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) following the crackdown.

Among those arrested yesterday are Timothy Muiigai Mwangi, Benard Mburu and Peter Nyaga who were found with Toyota Landcruiser and Toyota Harrier, whose registration papers are suspected to be fraudulent.

Authorities yesterday said changes were expected at the NTSA as part of efforts to address loopholes enabling an ongoing scam at the agency.

On Tuesday night, Interior Cabinet Secretary (CS) Fred Matiang'i made an impromptu tour of the agency's offices and promised to take stern action.

New trend

The CS who was accompanied by top ministry officials read the Riot Act and directed them to put their house in order immediately.

The CS held an hour long meeting with the board members and officials. He said an audit of all staff operations is ongoing and would be out soon.

The scandal comes even after the government made changes at the agency early this year to enhance service delivery.

The CS said preliminary investigations had revealed that some senior NTSA officials could be part of the scam.

Detectives visited the NTSA offices and are focusing on among others, a new trend at the authority where a vehicle, for instance, is taken away from the owner for defaulting on a loan and sold to a new buyer.

But for this to happen, the vehicle owner must inform the NTSA, provide an original logbook, copy of ID, an affidavit and a Kenya Revenue Authority PIN, the one of the new owner and a police tape lift report.

Police say the scandals has been happening with the aid of insiders hence the new probe.



Police, NTSA officers carry out vehicles inspection at Vincentian area of Witeithie along Thika Superhighway recently. PD/FILE

NTSA moved the registration process of vehicles online in 2017, in what was seen as part of a solution to many complaints that emerged over fraud in the sector.

The Transport Integrated Management System (Tims) enables applicants to register and transfer vehicles easily.

It however seems to be prone to breakdowns which police believe give room to the fraud.

Investigations show this has continued to give room for production of cloned number plates, illegally registering vehicles whose tax has not been paid and illegal transfer of vehicles and production of fake logbooks.

Banks have raised concern with the authorities over the fraud, prompting the DCI to station detectives at NTSA.

The latest move came after over 450 genuine motor vehicle logbooks were recovered at a cyber cafe in Nairobi on December 17.

DCI REPORT

The mastermind of the syndicate working in cahoots with officials at the country's motor vehicle registration body.

"We are told that the piece of bread got stuck in his throat, before he fell unconscious. The teachers realised the seriousness of the incident when Ouma could not respond to first aid assistance from teachers and his colleagues and rushed him to the dispensary," Chelimo told the People Daily.

"It is something that we have always done without any trouble, but this time, it turned out to be tragic," said Peter Tetela, the school headteacher.



boss Jacob Chelimo said the boy became unconscious during the competition, and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Bulwani dispensary, a few kilometres from the school, where he had been rushed.

School eating competition turns tragic

by Henry Andanje
@PeopleDailyKe

A competition to mark a school's closing day in Busia County on Tuesday ended tragically, after 16-year-old Class Eight pupil was chocked to death by a piece of bread.

Hezron Oduor Ouma of Sikura Primary School in Elugulu location, Butula sub-county had participated in the bread eating competition, when he was chocked

Butula sub-county police

State drops rape, assault charges against late MP

The State has dropped rape charges against the late former Imenti Central MP Gideon Mwiti.

When the case came up for mention before Mlimani Chief Magistrate Wendy Micheni, the prosecution led by senior State prosecutor Anderson Gikunda, informed the court that the State

had struck out Mwiti's name from the charge sheet.

His co-accused, David Muchiri; a medical practitioner will however stand trial, Gikunda told the court.

The magistrate directed the matter to be mentioned on January 6, to confirm the number

sion to the country, and report back to the 22nd summit scheduled for next year.

While expressing satisfaction at the progress made towards greater regional solidarity and shared prosperity, Uhuru urged all member States to continue prioritizing the EAC agenda.

"Indeed, it is notable that work is progressing well in the implementation of the four pillars of EAC integration; namely the customs union, the common market, the monetary union and ultimately the political federation," President Kenyatta noted.

Economic bloc

He said the interest by DRC to join the EAC is a testament of not only the success of the regional economic bloc, but also the opportunities that remain untapped.

"This is also an affirmation of our efforts to deepen integration and widen cooperation as aptly captioned by the theme of this summit," President Kenyatta said.

In their speeches, Presidents Museveni, Kagame and Suluhu thanked Uhuru for convening the virtual meeting, and welcomed DRC's expression of interest to join EAC. The Heads of State urged the EAC council of ministers to expedite the process of admitting DRC into the community.



President Uhuru Kenyatta when he chaired the 18th extraordinary summit of the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State Summit yesterday. PSCU

Governor race divides ODM branch officials

Joho's perceived endorsement of Nassir raises different voices from leaders in the county

■ by Reuben Mwambingu
@PeopleDailyKe

Mombasa governorship race is shaping into a bitter-sweet contest between front-line rivals Abdulswamad Sharrif Nassir and Suleiman Shahbal as more leaders continue to rally support behind aspirants of their choice.

Yesterday, Jomvu MP Badi Twalib rallied ODM party members and aspirants for various wards in his constituency to support Nassir's quest for governorship.

"The leader who we have worked with, who we understand better and has a brilliant track record to take after Governor Hassan Joho is none other than Abdulswamad Sharrif Nassir. I say this without fear of contradiction because in leadership we don't beat about the bush," Twalib told aspirants and ODM grassroot leaders in his constituency yesterday.

While calling on aspirants to mobilise residents to ensure they register as voters ahead of next year's general election,

the legislator called for support of ODM leader Raila Odinga's presidency and Nassir for Mombasa governorship.

"We need to unite and work together with a primary goal of electing Raila Odinga as the fifth president. 2022 will be my third time going for Jomvu parliamentary but it pains me that we have failed to elect Odinga in 2007, 2013 and 2017. This time round I believe 2022 he will go to the State House," Twalib said: "Yesterday we saw Raila picking Joho to go and represent him in national politics having completed his term. That was a good gesture by Raila and so we want as Joho leaves, he leaves us in the safe hands of Nassir."

Preferred candidate

Twalib's call comes shortly after Governor Joho sent the strongest indications that Nassir will be his preferred candidate to replace him as the next Mombasa governor in a gesture that has sparked negative reactions from Shahbal camp.

Raila Odinga's grassroots advisor Oginga Randiki, the officials said the party and its party leader have not preferred candidates in Mombasa or any other part of the country and cautioned the public against misleading interpretations.



Mombasa county gubernatorial aspirant Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir interacts with his supporters during a past event. FILE

MOMBASA GOVERNOR RACE

- Mombasa governorship race is shaping into a bitter-sweet contest between front-line rivals Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir and Suleiman Shahbal

"When we listen to Governor Joho's remark which was made in Kiswahili "Nawaambia hawa Abdulswamad wanataka Ugavana, safari ndio hii muelikeo tumeweka." It is obvious that at no point at all in his address did Joho express partisan statements or shown his preference for honorable Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir," said Randiki adding Raila himself has been explicit that he is not going to endorse anyone.

But at the same time a section of ODM supporters and members of Bunge la wananchi asked the Party leadership to stop sending mixed signals concerning Mombasa governorship.

They said such utterances by party leadership can result in rifts that could injure the party's popularity in the region.

Yesterday Shahbal handlers dismissed Joho's move as inconsequential as "the party leader Raila Odinga has taken a position that he will not endorse anyone."

Shahbal shrugged off Joho's apparent favour for Nassir saying he will continue with his campaigns undeterred.

"Raila has made it clear what he expects from us. We are focused on the people. We need the endorsement and the support of the people. Shahbal has gone to 18 wards meeting the people through the Gumzo na Shahbal to date. He started the Youth for Shahbal, a door-to-door campaign movement which has covered 29 wards," said a statement from Shahbal's team.

The two ODM governorship aspirants have put up an intense campaign going for each other's jugular as the contest to succeed governor Hassan Joho reaches fever pitch.

Recently, Shahbal tore into Nassir's record, challenging him to account for Sh1 billion National Government Constituency Development Fund NG-CDF, his Constituency has received in close to two terms he has served as an MP in Mvita Constituency.

"We cannot allow a remote control to govern this city. We have to protect our county by not allowing people who can be controlled by others to take charge of the county. Mombasa deserves better, not a project," he said.

But on his part Nassir took issue with the "project" jibe terming it an insult and warned his rival to brace for political showdown like never before.

One-stop-shop for service providers set up at Tatu City

■ by Mathew Ndung'u and Oliver Musembi
@PeopleDailyKe

A one-stop-shop facility intended to coordinate the activities of various government entities and private service providers will start operating in January 2022, making it easy for both local and foreign investors to do business.

The shop at Tatu City in Ruiru, Kiambu county, will facilitate operation of Special Economic Zone Authority's (SEZA) activities which include application of permits, approvals, and licenses for ease of doing business with the government.

Speaking during a board of directors of the Special Economic Zones Authority visit of the 5,000-acre new city, SEZA's acting chief executive Dr Meshack Kimeu commended Tatu City as the country's first operational SEZ, responsible for catalyzing more than Sh130 billion of local, regional and international investment in Kenya.

"As a result, one-stop shops are critical to the main value an SEZ offers from a public policy perspective – they are opportunities for



Stephen Jennings, founder and chief executive of Rendeavour, Tatu City's owner and developer and Dorothy Kimeu, MBS chair of Special Economic Zones Authority during a tour of the 'One-Stop-Shop' facility at Tatu City. PD/MATHEW NDUNG'U

innovation in governance," said Kimeu.

He stated that the facility will be a benchmark for business-centric government services and another driver of Kenya's rapid rise in facilitating quicker service provision rankings globally.

On his side, Stephen Jennings, Founder and CEO of Rendeavour, Tatu City's owner and developer, noted that the facility will remove barriers in the Kenyan business environment by developing innovations in regulatory administration that make it much easier to start and operate a business.

"We anticipate that Tatu City SEZ's pioneering

one-stop shop will catalyze improvements to the ease of doing business throughout the country," he stated.

Tatu City SEZ is currently home to more than 60 businesses, thousands of homes and two schools – Crawford International and Nova Pioneer – which educate more than 3,000 students daily.

The private sector SEZ pioneer in Kenya, Tatu City recently partnered with Konza Technopolis, a public SEZ, to establish the Association of Special Economic Zones of Kenya, which aims to further economic zone development and operationalisation.



Don't politicise family planning issue: Nyoro

by Clement Kamau
@PeopleDailyKe

Kiambu Governor James Nyoro has urged politicians to desist from politicising family planning at the expense of exposing poor parents to poverty and depression.

Nyoro (pictured) said leaders should be practical when prevailing upon people in their localities not to plan their families under the pretext that re-

spective communities will lack political might and bargaining powers.

"We have to plan our families in order for the country to realise actual Universal Health Care. Politicians should be practical by advising their people on the negative effects of poor family planning," he said.

"It is immoral for politicians to use family planning as political tools by using people as voting machines," he added.

He was speaking yesterday at the Kiambu county headquarters when he, in conjunction with the Christian Health Association of Kenya, launched the county family planning strategic plan themed "Costed Implementation Plan."

"Family planning is a controversial issue but I call upon individual couples to discuss between themselves the number of children they can be able to raise comfortably," he said.

BRIEFLY

Stakeholders partner to end FGM in Narok

Gender stakeholders in Narok County have come together to develop an anti- Female Genital Mutilation surveillance framework document seeking to end the outlawed practice by next year. Stakeholders are drawn from the departments of Interior, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, gender, children, education, health and Non-Governmental Organisations. They are expected to lead the war against FGM by working together to ensure all cases on the vice are reported, investigated and prosecuted in court. Speaking yesterday, County Commissioner Evans Achoki said FGM was causing a cycle of poverty, as it is believed to open doors for early and child marriages.

-KNA

Jubilee party's string of loses in mini polls raises eyebrows

MP Adan Keynan says these are critical lessons on what they need to do to fix and revitalise outfit

by Rawlings Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Loses by the Jubilee in recent by-elections has raised eyebrows among party members.

Jubilee recorded its latest loss in Kiago ward in Meru to its rival, United Democratic Alliance of Deputy President William Ruto.

The ruling party also lost the Kiambaa mini poll, Bonchari, Juja, Londoni ward and Ruirii ward by-elections in 2021 alone.

Jubilee, however, won the Hells Gate and Mahoo wards by-elections where JP's Donald Fundi garnered 1,609 votes against UDA's candidate Daniel Kimuyu with 1,358 votes.

In the Kiagw Ward by-election, UDA's candidate Simon Ngaruni garnered 2,440 votes against Milton Mwendwa of Chama Cha Kazi party who garnered 1,823 votes while Jubilee's aspirant Samson Magambo got 1,609 votes.

Jubilee Coalition Parliamentary Group joint secretary and Eldas MP Adan Keynan argues that the performance of President Uhuru Kenyatta's party needs to be re-examined and where there are gaps, filled.

"I look at our performance in past by-elections as a source of critical lessons on what we need to do to revitalise our party, the loose joints to fix and reform areas in our readiness for the next election," said Keynan.

He went on: "I fully understand the



Eldas MP Adan Keynan during a past function. FILE

CLEAR PLAN

- **Nyeri Town MP Ngunjiri Wambugu argues Jubilee is not dead, saying it is one of the strongest and most popular parties in the country.**

- **He says the party has a clear plan about the future of its people.**

anxiety and even restlessness of our members who have been eagerly awaiting the National Delegates Convention. We are a democratic outfit guided by our party constitution. The NDC will happen hopefully early next year so that we have ample time to rebrand and rejuvenate the party in readiness for the polls,"

Bright future

Keynan further argues that they are not worried about those that have announced departure.

"We are not worried about those who have announced that they want to leave Jubilee. If anything, it is only a confirmation that they were never really with our party leader. I have said before that civility should not be mistaken for cowardice, and very soon, we will be formally kicking them out. They are at liberty to advance the agendas and motives of their new-

found masters. They should likewise let us rebrand and rejuvenate our party," he said.

Nyeri Town MP Ngunjiri Wambugu, an ardent ally of President Kenyatta, argued that contrary to their nemesis pronouncement that the Jubilee is dead, said the party has a very bright future and will shape the future politics of the country as a participant and not a spectator.

"Jubilee has been in partnership with Kenyans for nine years now. The people have greatly appreciated the works done by the Jubilee government and expressed interest in that tempo sustained in the next government. That would only happen if Jubilee took over government—therefore, Jubilee is without a doubt a party of the present and the future," said Wambugu.

The Nyeri Town lawmaker further charged that Jubilee is planning to re-establish itself, after suffering a string of damaging by-election losses, adding that some rebrand and pomp will not be enough.

He argued that the postponed NDC is because of the issues and a clear roadmap on how the party revamps and readies itself for the future will be some of the outputs.

"After the NDC, a comprehensive grassroots mobilisation campaign and aggressive membership recruitment drive will follow. Jubilee party is strong, it is not winding up and that the JP government will deliver on all its promises to the people of Kenya," he added.

Last week, while launching the Development Empowerment Party, Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi compared Jubilee to a big mansion house, which they built but were not able to enter.

"We were left to watch the house at a distance. We did not know it would come to that. We had a big dream when we formed Jubilee but that dream did not happen," he said.



Joy as donor gifts widows houses and water tanks

Poor widows in Nyeri county have a reason to smile this festive season after they were gifted houses, water tanks and other consumables by a donor, a California-based preacher, Rev Wanjiku Gachungi. The widows have been living in dilapidated makeshift houses, and have as well been trekking tens of kilometers in search of water. Speaking during the hand over of the houses and tanks to the beneficiaries, Rev Gachungi said her core target is to uplift the living standards of widows. She has been helping widows in Nyeri, Kiambu, Murang'a, Kirinyaga and Laikipia counties for the last 10 years. She said she has so far built more than 100 houses, donated 2500-litre water tanks and built chicken coops for targeted individuals.

-Seth Mwaniki

Raila men in the Rift fight over Azimio cash

by Wycliff Kipsang
@wsang08

The war of words between ODM leader Raila Odinga's allies in North Rift has intensified.

It has now emerged that the row between ODM North Rift chairman Micah Kigen and Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Alex Tolgos is linked to the use of millions of shillings allocated to Azimio la Umoja programmes in the region.

Local main players were yesterday reluctant to disclose the exact amount, with Kigen only saying "millions of shil-

lings." Kigen and Tolgos have clashed over Azimio activities with the latter accusing the county boss of failing to shed light on how the money was utilised.

According to Kigen, the funds were meant to facilitate the initiative's programmes in a region perceived to be a United Democratic Alliance zone.

But Kigen claims some leaders did not tour the whole region as they claim to popularise Azimio 'but met a few individuals in hotels'.

People Daily has established that those not comfortable with him feel he is reaping the fruits of their many years in the opposition.

It also emerged that Kigen had already reported the governor to the ODM boss, as the row between the two escalated.

"He (Tolgos) has been running a one-man show by not involving other leaders in the Azimio la Umoja Initiative programmes in the region," said Kigen.

But in a rejoinder, Tolgos yesterday laughed off Kigen's accusations, saying his focus at the moment is to implement Azimio La Umoja Initiative programmes in the region.

"I have no time for sideshows. I have decided to support Raila with no hidden agenda. People like Kigen will not distract me," said Tolgos.



ODM North Rift chair Micah Kigen. FILE

Businesshub

KENGEN REPORT



This outstanding balance is billed as per power purchase agreements between the two firms

Power firms embroiled in Sh25 billion payment row

Kenya Power has rejected Sh25.14b bill from KenGen, saying it is being overcharged

by John Otini
 @PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Power and Kengen are embroiled in another dispute after the power distributor rejected a bill from its main power producer, saying it was an overcharge. The power producer says in its annual report it is owed Sh25.141 billion by its main customer, Kenya Power. However, Kenya Power claims that it owes KenGen Sh24.889 billion which leaves Sh241 million unreconciled.

"This outstanding balance is billed as per power purchase agreements between the two companies. However KPLC confirmed Sh24.889 billion as the amount owing resulting in an unreconciled variance of Sh241 million," Kengen said in the report.

Kengen also told the Auditor General that Kenya Power also owes it Sh506 million and \$178,000, a matter that the auditor said it could not give a qualified opinion.

The power producer said it is engaging the Energy ministry and Treasury to help in resolving the issues with Kenya Power which has been undergoing a financial crisis stemming from various sources, including corruption and low demand for electricity in 2020.

"KenGen continues to engage Kenya Power and both Ministry of Energy and National Treasury to ensure fulfilment of financial obligations and resolution of issues arising from PPAs," Kengen said.

It had earlier accused Kenya Power of failing to pay interest accrued on delayed payments of the bills owed to Kengen of up to Sh900 million, a

matter Kenya Power said was beyond its control due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

KenGen currently sells its generated electric energy to a single off-taker, Kenya Power. This comes with the attendant risk of late or delayed payment for electricity sales which could have adverse effects on the KenGen's cash flow and revenues.

Geothermal drilling

Meanwhile, the power producer said its revenue from geothermal drilling activities quadrupled in the year to June 2021 thanks to Ethiopia projects. "Earnings from the new Ethiopian operations were up four times Sh440 million last year to Sh1.7 billion in the year ending June 2021, it said in the latest annual report.

The Ethiopia ventures which include drilling in Tulu Moye in Ethiopia contributed revenues that surpassed the expenses.

"The diversification venture that include drilling services in Tulu Moye in Ethiopia contributed additional revenue of Shs 1,784 million compared to Shs 440 million in the previous year," the statement said in part.

The power producer said the costs associated with the drilling of wells in Tulu Moye were Sh1.3 billion. Ethiopia operations increased the costs of staff, plant operations, and maintenance as well as drilling.

KenGen, which has for long faced the risk of having one customer, Kenya Power has been keen to diversify to drilling and other ventures to secure its cashflow. "Employee expenses increased by 8.5 per cent to Kes 7.6 billion due costs for staff engaged in the drilling operations in Ethiopia and implementation of Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), and gratuity for personnel on contract terms," KenGen said.

THE DISPUTE

● The power producer says in its annual report that it is owed Sh25.141 billion by its main customer, Kenya Power

● However, Kenya Power claims that it owes KenGen Sh24.889 billion which leaves Sh241 million unreconciled.

TRANSPORT



Java Group acquires electric motorcycles, boosts services

A Java House Group brand, 360 Degrees Pizza, has boosted its delivery services with the addition of two electric powered motorbikes from ride-hailing firm Little. This partnership is part of Java's strategy to adopt renewable and emerging technology ensuring 100 per cent zero carbon emission. "Our acquisition of these electric motorbikes is an important step in our group's commitment to developing and utilising clean energy solutions" said Java House Group CEO Derrick Van Houten in a statement.

He added that 360 Degrees is excited to acquire the bikes from Little to give customers excellent experience with timely deliveries even as carbon emission is kept at bay. The bikes run on interchangeable long-life 84-volt smart batteries with a fully charged one doing 100-150 kilometres. Little CEO Kamal Budhabhatti said that Little is keen on making zero-emissions on mobility solutions and is adopting use of E-bikes with 360 Degrees to complement use of fuel powered bikes.

- Bernard Sigei

Sri Lanka plans to pay off Iran oil debt with tea

Sri Lanka plans to settle a debt for past oil imports from Iran by paying it off in tea, a government minister said. Ramesh Pathirana said his country hoped to send \$5 million worth of tea to Iran each month to clear a \$251 million debt.

Sri Lanka is experiencing a severe debt and foreign exchange crisis, which has been made worse by the loss of tourist income during the coronavirus pandemic.

A member of the country's tea board said it was the first time tea had been bartered to settle foreign debt. Pathirana said the method of

payment would not violate United Nations or American sanctions, because tea was categorised as a food item on humanitarian grounds, and no black-listed Iranian banks would be involved.

"We hope to send \$5m worth of tea each month to repay Iran for oil purchases pending since the last four years," he told Reuters.

The Plantation Ministry said: "The recommended scheme will save Sri Lanka much-needed foreign currency since the settlement to Iran would be made in Sri Lankan rupees through the sale of Ceylon Tea." - BBC



Way to go!

Association of Computing Practitioners-Kenya [ACPK] National chair Francis Odhiambo [centre] explains a point to other council members during ACPK Annual National conference at a Mombasa hotel and attended by stakeholders from both public and private sectors countrywide. PD/BONFACE MSANGI

Maize shortage looms ahead of festivities as farmers export commodity



by Nicholas Waitathu
 @PeopleDailyKe

Millers have warned of high maize flour prices during the Christmas and New Year festivities owing to low availability of local stocks of maize as traders export to regional markets and farmers hoard the commodity.

Grain basket counties fear that the market might run out of the commodity as farmers and traders ship the commodity to the neighbouring countries despite increase in prices locally for the last one month.

Maize prices, according to the Ministry of Agriculture have in-

creased by more than 10 per cent from Sh2,700 to Sh3,000 for a 90 kilogramme bag.

But local millers blame the shortage on farmers hoarding maize in anticipation of high prices, a situation they warn will force households to dig deeper into their pockets to buy unga during Christmas and New Year festivities.

United Grain Millers Association (UGMA) chairman Ken Nyagah told *Business Hub* that the current shortage has led to increased price of maize flour being sold in the local supermarket. Currently, various maize flour brands are retailing at between

Sh100 and Sh110 for a 2kg packet.

Ministry of Agriculture has already warned of a reduction of maize following the long dry spell and inadequate rainfall in the current season. Currently, farmers in the North Rift are harvesting and farmers in Mt Kenya and eastern region planted a month ago though there is fear of low production owing to the delay of rainfall onset.

Earlier in an interview Agriculture Principal Secretary Hamadi Boga (pictured) warned that the projected short rains maize harvest of 10 million bags is likely to reduce to only five million. "Kenyans should not be

alarmed as we had factored this in our food balance sheet two months ago. We will be okay until March next year and after that we will make provision for maize importation," he said. Uasin Gishu county Executive in charge of Agriculture Samuel Yego in an interview in his office early this week said some farmers and traders are exporting the commodity to Uganda and Southern Sudan.

Nyaga said the market is already grappling with a low shortage of maize, a situation he warned is likely to trigger a high maize flour prices mainly during the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Power outage looms as four towers crash



Kenya Power and Ketraco staff repair one of the four electricity towers along the 220kv Loyangalani-Suswa line that crashed in Longonot area of Naivasha, cutting off electricity power supply to the national grid. PD/KIRERA MWITI

Electricity supply from Lake Turkana plant has been cut off indefinitely after electricity towers crashed in Longonot

by Kirera Mwiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya Power is warning of a looming power shortage in some sections of the country following the disruption of electricity supply from the 300MW Lake Turkana Wind Power Plant. It said electricity supply from the plant has been cut off indefinitely after a section of the 220kV Loiyangalani-Suswa electricity line clashed.

Four towers collapsed in Longonot area of Mai Mahiu during the incident which has raised fears of a power shortage rationing in the coming days.

Already, engineers from the power company and Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (Ketraco) have embarked on repairing the damaged sections. Following the incident, Kenya Power issued a statement to assure electricity consumers that normalcy would be restored in the coming days.

POWER plant

The company said that the incident had led to the switching off of the Turkana power plant that is connected to Suswa sub-station resulting in a generation shortfall.

"Kenya Power engineers are working closely with other agencies to reconstruct the affected section and restore power supply in the shortest time possible," said the company.

This came as families living along the powerline raised their concern after a section of the

high voltage cables that fell in their compounds in Longonot village. John Njenga, a resident of the area said the first tower crashed over the weekend before the other three followed suit, raising fear and anxiety in the area.

He noted that they had in the past requested Ketraco to relocate families near the power line but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears before the accident occurred. "It's by God's grace that the power line fell on the cowshed after one of the nearby tower lines crashed and we hope this will be fully resolved in the coming days," he said.

Coming days

Njenga said that there were fears that other towers along the line could collapse in the coming days due to the strong winds in the area.

Another resident David Waigi said the blame lay with Ketraco which failed to give ample space along the power line during its construction two years ago. He said that families living near the power line were ready to move out if the power transmission company compensated them.

"Already four electricity towers have collapsed and there are fears that more could crash leading to loss of life and property in this area," Waigi said.

POWER SHORTFALL

Kenya Power Company said that the incident had led to the switching off of the Turkana power plant that is connected to Suswa sub-station resulting in a generation shortfall.

Kenya Power engineers are working closely with other agencies to reconstruct the affected section and restore power supply in the shortest time possible, said the company.



NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
15.00	10.00	Eagads Ltd Ord 1.25 ner	12.85		
415.00	360.00	Kakutu Plc Ord 5.00	365.00		
101.00	80.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	90.00	91.00	500
350.00	260.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Plc Ord 20.00m	335.00		
22.60	16.75	Sasin Plc Ord 1.00	21.85	21.95	6,000
154.75	126.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	138.50	129.00	100

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

HIGH	LOW	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	33.90
36.00	20.00		

BANKING

HIGH	LOW	ABSA Bank Kenya Plc Ord 0.50	1120	11.20	282,400
40.00	24.30	BK Group Plc Ord 0.80	28.65	27.40	2,500
69.00	55.00	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	5725	57.00	2,400
55.00	39.25	Equity Group Holdings Plc Ord 0.50	49.15	49.00	612,700
5.20	3.40	HF Group Plc Ord 5.00	3.85	3.69	16,100
46.95	21.25	IBM Group Plc Ord 1.00	2125	21.15	7,400
50.75	40.00	KCB Group Plc Ord 1.00	44.75	44.65	177,900
29.00	23.00	NCBA Group Plc Ord 5.00	25.50	25.55	58,700
99.00	78.00	Stanbic Holdings Plc Ord 5.00	92.00	92.00	21,600
142.00	123.00	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	127.00	127.00	31,600
14.00	11.50	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.50	12.45	188,500

COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES

HIGH	LOW	Deacons (East Africa) Plc Ord 2.50	0.45
127	8.45	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	1.01
4.90	3.16	Express Kenya Plc Ord 0.3	3.85
0.00	0.00	Homeboy Entertainment Plc 0.50	4.66
9.50	0.80	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00	3.83
4.53	3.70	Lornhorn Publishers Plc Ord 1.00	3.99
13.80	4.01	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 0.50	6.22
26.50	14.35	Nation Media Group Plc Ord 2.50	18.05
4.00	2.50	Sameer Africa Plc Ord 5.00	2.54
20.00	13.55	Standard Group Plc Ord 5.00	14.95
17.00	13.20	TPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	15.40
0.29	0.20	Uchirini Supermarket Plc Ord 5.00	0.23
6.24	3.50	WPP Scangroup Plc Ord 1.00	4.00

CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED

HIGH	LOW	ARM Cement Plc Ord 1.00	5.55
41.85	33.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	3425
42.80	19.05	Crown Paints Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	30.50
1.62	1.17	E.A.Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	125
9.54	6.00	E.A.Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00	6.06

ENERGY & PETROLEUM

HIGH	LOW	KenGen Co. Plc Ord 2.50	4.28
1.99	1.29	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Plc Ord 2.50	1.73
5.50	4.50	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 4% Pref 20.00	4.53
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 7% Pref 20.00	6.00
27.50	23.15	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	23.95
7.20	5.44	Umembe Ltd Ord 0.50	7.00

INSURANCE

HIGH	LOW	Britam Holdings Plc Ord 0.10	7.04
3.50	1.74	CIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.12
392.00	271.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	31025
2.80	2.10	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.32
10.30	6.50	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	7.24
12.85	9.00	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 0.00	11.95

INVESTMENT

HIGH	LOW	Centum Investment Co Plc Ord 0.50	14.50
0.45	0.34	Home Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.37
150.00	150.00	Kurweito Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00	1,500.00
2.24	1.43	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.00
1.66	1.08	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50m	1.30

INVESTMENT SERVICES

HIGH	LOW	NairoBio Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	8.32
10.90	8.00		8.32

MANUFACTURING & ALLIED

HIGH	LOW	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 5.00	72.00
485.00	420.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Plc Ord 10.00	435.00
13.20	10.00	Carbaid Investments Plc Ord 1.00	10.65
194.00	148.00	East African Breweries Plc Ord 2.00	164.50
1.45	1.19	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	1.35
14.00	10.40	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00	10.40
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00	0.27
3150	26.10	Ungu Group Ltd Ord 0.00	27.65

TELECOMMUNICATION

HIGH	LOW	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	38.65
45.25	36.00		38.65

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST

HIGH	LOW	ILIAM FAHARI-II REIT Ord 20.00	6.56
7.48	5.90		6.60

EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

HIGH	LOW	ABSA New Gold ETF	1923i
1930.00	1780.00		1880.00

MARKET WATCH

TREASURY BONDS ISSUE



RESULTS OF 91,182 & 364 DAYS TREASURY BILLS ISSUE 24/09/91, 24/12/182 & 23/7/364 DATED 29/11/2021

Due Date	91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS	TOTAL
28/09/2022	28/09/2022	30/09/2022	28/11/2022	
Amount Offered (Kshs. M)	28,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	48,000.00
Bills Received (Kshs. M)	28,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	48,000.00
Parsons Accepted (Kshs. M)	28,421	25.70	98.35	28,545
Total Amount Accepted (Kshs. M)	33,936.28	2,528.19	6,547.11	33,003.59
Of which: Competitive bids	3,514.24	2,271.29	6,003.13	11,790.66
Non-competitive bids	322.04	246.90	543.98	1,212.93
Mid-to-Close	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Parsons / Application of Funds:				
Refuse / Redemptions	1,799.40	4,536.90	4,785.40	10,651.70
New Borrowing/Net Repayment	2,156.88	2,066.71	2,261.71	6,484.30
Mean Weighted Average Interest Rate	7.182%	7.834%	8.972%	
Weighted Average Interest Rate of 100	7.181%	7.835%	8.944%	
Interest Rate of 100	7.180%	7.834%	8.943%	
Price per Kshs 100 at average interest rate	98.241	96.240	91.011	

COMPARATIVE AVERAGE INTEREST RATES OF ACCEPTED BIDS				
	This Auction	Last Auction	Variance	
	(%)	(%)		
91-day	7.181	7.114	0.067	
182-day	7.265	7.204	0.061	
364-day	8.944	8.840	0.104	

NEXT TREASURY BILLS AUCTIONS: ISSUE NO: 24/09/91, 24/12/182 & 23/7/364 DATED 06/12/2021

LENOR 13.00% 06/12/2021

Offer amount (Kshs. M) 4,000.00 10,00

World News

SA court allows Zuma to appeal return-to-jail order

Johannesburg, Wednesday

A South African court has allowed former President Jacob Zuma to appeal a ruling that ordered him back to jail after being released in September on medical parole, meaning he will be able to spend Christmas at home.

Zuma, 79, was sentenced in June to 15

months in prison for contempt of court after ignoring instructions to participate in a corruption inquiry. He handed himself in to begin his sentence on July 7, triggering some of the worst violence South Africa had seen in years.

Anger from supporters snowballed into broader outrage over hardship and inequalities that persist 27 years after

the end of apartheid. Zuma began medical parole in September, but earlier this month the Gauteng High Court in the capital, Pretoria, ordered that decision void and that he should return to jail, raising concerns about further violence. The same court ruled on Tuesday his legal team should be able to appeal against the judgement at a higher court. - Xinhua

Rescue operations

Onlookers watching as rescue officials search for missing people after a landslide at a jade mine in Hpakant, Kachin state. The landslide occurred in the remote Hpakant area of Kachin State at around 4 a.m. (2130 GMT on Tuesday), Dashi Naw Lawn, an official at the Kachin Network Development Foundation said. About 80 people were feared swept into the lake. - AFP



Omicron: European nations reinstate Covid restrictions

EU leaders mull at bringing stringent measures as variant threatens to shake the world economy again

London, Wednesday

European leaders are reinstating coronavirus restrictions as the Omicron variant continues to spread across the continent.

Germany and Portugal are among nations announcing post-Christmas curbs and greater social distancing measures.

Omicron is already the dominant version in many European countries.

Spain has reported its highest number of daily cases since the start of the pandemic and France has warned daily cases there could soon pass 100,000.

French Health Minister Olivier Véran said the increase in daily infections in the country, currently at about 70,000, would be driven by the Omi-



Merline Jimenez (left) provides direction before administering a Covid-19 nasopharyngeal swab to a person at a testing site located in the international terminal at Los Angeles International Airport. - AFP

cron variant, which he said was likely to become the dominant variant by early January.

The surge in cases across Europe will push health systems towards the brink of collapse, the World Health Organization's top official in the continent has warned.

Case increase

Hans Kluge said "another storm" was coming and governments should brace for significant increases in cases.

France began vaccinating children between the ages of

five and 11 on Wednesday, but said that boosters were not currently being offered to 12 to 15-year-olds.

Germany announced that from 28 December limits would return that restrict private gatherings to 10 people and nightclubs would close. Football matches from that date will also be played behind closed doors.

"Coronavirus doesn't take a Christmas break," Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday.

"We cannot - and must not

- close our eyes to this next wave, which is beginning to loom over us," he added.

Meanwhile, Portugal ordered bars and nightclubs to shut from 26 December, and made working from home obligatory from that date until 9 January. Outdoor gatherings will be limited to 10 people.

Bars and restaurants in Finland will have to close at 22:00 on 24 December, as the Nordic nation sees infections at a record level. For three weeks from 28 December, restaurants will have to close at 18:00 with limited seating. Travellers coming from the EU's border-free Schengen zone will have to show a negative Covid test.

In the UK, Health Secretary Sajid Javid has announced that people infected with Covid in England will be able to end quarantine after seven days instead of 10 if they test negative on days six and seven.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson earlier ruled out any new restrictions for England before Christmas, but Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have all announced curbs on social mixing. - Xinhua

OLAF SCHOLZ

We cannot - and must not - close our eyes to this next wave, which is beginning to loom over us

BRIEFLY



UNSC renews mission in Somalia

The UN Security Council on Tuesday adopted a resolution to re-authorise the deployment of the African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Somalia for three months, till March 31, 2022. Resolution 2614, which won the unanimous approval of the 15 members of the Security Council, authorizes the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to take all necessary measures, in full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, to carry out its current mandate. AMISOM is tasked to reduce the

threat posed by al-Shabaab and armed opposition groups with a view to stabilizing Somalia.

- Xinhua

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CHANGE OF USE

The registered owner of Land Title No. Mahiga/Kamoko/1663 situated in Mahiga area, proposes to change use from Agricultural to Residential (Hostels), subject to approval by the County Government of Nyeri. Any individual(s), institutions and organization with objection(s) or comments to the proposal are requested to forward the same in writing within 14 days of publication of this notice:

The CECM – Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Urbanization, County Government of Nyeri, P.O. Box 1112-10100, Nyeri.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



CATHERINE KAGURE GITACHI

It is with profound sense of sadness that we announce the death of Catherine Kagure Gitahi on 19th December, 2021.

She hails from Ruirii, Kieni West, Nyeri County.

Daughter to the late Joel Kinyua and Agatha Njeri. Loving wife to James Gitahi Ndiritu.

Sister to Regina Kahiga, Miriam Wanjiku, Anne Muthoni, Lucy Wambui, Isaac Mbauni, Priscilla Wanjira and Martha Ngendo.

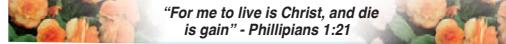
Daughter-in-law to the late Charles Ndiritu and late Bernice Wacuka. Sister-in-law to Richard Karimi, Milka Watetu, Ann Wandia, Marion Gathoni, Mary Wangari, John Mubea, Rebecca Waturi, Janifer Wagaki and Samuel Muchemi.

Mother to Rachel Njeri and Godfrey Waithaka, Benson Ndiritu and Winfred Wanja, Solomon Kinyua, Pauline Wacuka and Gilbert Karimi.

Grand mother to Jecinta Muthoni and Catherine Kagure.

The body leaves Kenyatta Funeral Home today, Thursday 23/12/2021 at 6.30am and burial ceremony to follow thereafter at her home Mbirithi village at 11.00am.

"For me to live is Christ, and die is gain" - Phillipians 1:21



Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Ann Kathambi and Joyce Thomas share fist bump. Joyce was Masterpiece Design of the Year winner.

You're honoured

By Mwangi Alberto

Amo la Moda Kenya recently held the East Africa Mashujaa Awards 2021 at the Rainbow Resort in Ruiru, Kiambu county, where leaders, players in fashion and entertainment sectors were awarded. Among those awarded were DP William Ruto, Thika Town MP Wainaina wa Jungle (Best Youth Inspiration) and Kiambu Governor James Nyoro (Best Governor Agripreneur). Politician and psychologist Gladys Chania was recognised as the Best Women Inspiration 2021, while Carolyn Njuguna—a police officer and the Githurai OCS—was honoured for her outstanding community service under her organisation Boots and Brains. Other winners included genge artiste Mejja and DJ Kalonje.

PD/MWANGI ALBERTO



Githurai OCS Carolyn Njuguna receives her gong from John Mwangi of the DJohnie Empire.



Gladys Chania with Miss Birmingham Kenya Brunah Ongut.



Kiambu County Youth Affairs and Sports chief officer George Thuku receives the award on behalf of Governor James Nyoro.



Thika Town MP Wainaina wa Jungle with aspiring youth politician Martha Kabaiku.

SEARCH PARTY

by Adalla Allan

Google Kenya recently held the 2021 Year In Search (YIS) party in Nairobi to unveil the year's top trending Google searches. This year, the event was done slightly differently, as it hosted seven of Nairobi's fast-rising stand-up comedians who used the various YIS lists as the materials for their performances. The lists ranged from overall global stories to local top 10 lists of trending topics across sports, music, lifestyle, personalities, news, and more, on "how-to" and "what is?" queries. Present were Google Africa head of communication and public affairs Dorothy Oko and Google Kenya communications and public affairs manager Sharon Machira.



Dorothy Oko head of communication and public affairs Google Africa enjoying a light moment.

PD/ADALLA ALLAN



Comedian Adan Abdi on stage.

Comedian Sharon 'shazz' Nderitu lights up the crowd



Comedian George Waweru.



Media personality Edith Kimani and friends enjoying the moments.



Patricia Kihoro looking fab!



Ivy Mugo, Sharon Machira Google Kenya's Communication and Public Affairs Manager with Oscar Koome.

Ten...

1. Practice coping mechanisms

Spending time with family members you don't typically see can stir up emotions such as excitement, sadness and even anger. Emotional eating is a normal human response, especially when we don't have the skills and tools to manage our emotions. But, don't typically inventory your emotions at the dinner table? Recognising an unenjoyable eating experience can help you understand whether you are eating for the right reasons or in response to a particular feeling. The negative emotions will typically still be there after you finish your food, along with some feelings of guilt, shame, or self-judgment. And that's no way to end a meal. Deep breathing or meditation can be helpful before you sit down to a holiday meal or whenever you need a break from the festivities. This way, you will always have something to do besides eat in social situations when a go-to steam-blower such as running isn't realistic.

2. Resign from the Clean Plate Club

Many of us were brought up where we had to finish everything on our plate and were not allowed to leave the table until we were done. It's okay to cancel your membership to the Clean Plate Club. Consider packing leftovers, or just leaving the last few bites. Even though nobody likes to waste food, overstuffing yourself won't help those in need!

3. Stick to a schedule

It's tradition to save up for the big meal because holidays are the time when we are allowed to break food rules. While you might think it's smart to bank calories by skipping meals in anticipation of a holiday meal, forgoing breakfast or lunch could actually trigger mindless eating — and overeating. We make more informed decisions about what to eat when we aren't uncomfortably hungry.

4. Recognise signs of hunger

Do you feel tired, sluggish, nauseous, or faint? Is your stomach growling and your mind wandering to thoughts of food, making it difficult to focus on tasks at hand? These can all be signs of hunger that are often ignored. It sounds simple, but recognising what actual hunger feels like can help you eat more mindfully. To do so, think about the last time you ate. If it's been more than a few hours or what you last ate was a lighter meal or snack, you are probably physically hungry.

5. Focus on sensory cues

This time of year, your senses can easily get overloaded by the sheer indulgence of the season, with its fancy cocktails, dazzling desserts, and nostalgic flavours. Taking time to really focus on the scent, taste, texture, and temperature of food is one way to practice mindful eating. If you can, pause in the beginning, middle, and end of the meal for a mindful bite or two when you can savour the food — identify a flavour you particularly like or appreciate

Tuning in to your meal, body, and thoughts while eating, can help you establish a healthier relationship with food by encouraging you to appreciate the sensory experience of eating, notice hunger and fullness cues, and get in touch with the feelings you associate with certain foods. **Ann Wairimu** explores how to get started

6. Practice portion control with small plates

One of the best ways to practice portion control is to utilise those dishes that will force you to do so. It makes sense that a dish with a smaller surface area or smaller silverware would only allow you to serve yourself a smaller portion

Tips on mindful eating this holiday



of food at a single time. The best way to avoid overstuffing ourselves is to start small, then go back for seconds if we feel our appetite hasn't been satisfied.

7. Indulge outside of holidays

The holidays are not the only time during the year when you can enjoy good food and it's important to be mindful of this fact. If you allow yourself to have certain foods all the time, then you are more likely to be mindful of how much you are having. Remember how *chapatis* were only cooked during Christmas, but now you can take them any day any time, whether for breakfast, lunch, supper or snack? Just imagine eating *mbuzi choma* once or twice a month as opposed to enjoying it once a year — chances are, you will be less likely to overindulge when it's time to sit down for a holiday meal.

8. Slow down

It can take time for the stomach to send the message to your brain that you are full. Eat too quickly and you could miss the memo until it's too late — that is, after you've scarfed down your seconds or thirds. Put down your utensil or finger food between bites. Many times people who overeat and feel guilty afterward feel out of control in the moment. But eating more slowly puts you in control and helps you enjoy every mouthful, so you feel more satisfied and give yourself the opportunity to stop before you overeat. Taking your time during meals may actually prevent obesity and reduce associated risks.

9. Enjoy

Part of eating mindfully is appreciating your favourite dishes. It's essential to having a healthy relationship with food, even when the food you love is something you might not consider healthy. There's a reason we don't eat spinach all day every day: Eating is more than the delivery of nutrients. We have cultural and emotional connections with the food we put into our body and need to regularly eat foods we love to feel not just full, but satisfied. So yes, your grand ma's *mukimo* and your cousin's pie can remain on the menu.

10. Cut yourself some slack

Real life dictates that we can't always eat 100 per cent mindfully 100 per cent of the time. But mindful eating can still be a helpful tool. It's helpful to think of mindful eating as a spectrum rather than a thing you do or do not practice all the time. It's better off to eat more mindfully when you can than stress out over eating every meal and snack with utmost concentration, particularly during the holidays. For many people, just worrying about getting through the holidays is enough. After all, eating mindlessly

Travel Wise ▶ Get set... go!

Domestic tourists bring back smiles on hoteliers despite Omicron concerns

Hope for the hospitality industry across the country has been renewed, as the Christmas season offers stakeholders a means to offset the impact of the pandemic, which brought the sector to its knees last year

■ **By Noven Owiti, Harriet James and Harrison Kivisu**
@PeopleDailyKE

With all economic sectors resuming operations, the travel and tourism industry is pinning its hopes on the festive season to reverse losses and revive fortunes. As it is, the industry has seen a sharp upswing in business in the past weeks, as the number of people visiting tourist spots across the country increases significantly after the government withdrew curbs on movement. Destinations, such as Mombasa, Masai Mara and Nakuru, and cities, such as Kisumu, which houses several tourist spots, have been witnessing huge footfall, especially getting into the festive season.

In coastal region, for example, local and international tourists have continued to troop in facilities in South and North coast for the Christmas and New Year festivities since early this month, signaling a sigh of economic relief to the sector players.

Majority of the domestic visitors are flying in, driving or disembarking through the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Madaraka Express train services, which offers cheaper transport and speed.

National parks at the coast, such as Tsavo National Park are also making a killing from some of the guests embracing game drives at the parks.

Quick cash window

This was evident when a delegation of over 300 local and international players who took part in the just ended Mombasa Open Tong IL Moo Do international martial arts championship took a game drive, in part of sports tourism promotion. "We took the delegation to Tsavo East National Park so that they can promote our local tourism and also market our destination when they get back to their respective countries," said Clarence Mwakio, Kenyas federation president.

The end of year celebrations offers coastal tourism players, especially holiday homes, hotels and resorts and tours and travel agents a brief window for them to make quick money, after suffering customer setbacks due to covid-19 disease. "Hotels in the region are receiving encouraging bookings and reservations with local holidaymakers accounting for the highest percentage," said the Chief Executive Officer of the Coast region Kenya Association of Hotel Owners and Caterers Sam Ikwaye.

He said hotels in the South Coast, North Coast have hit 100 per cent hotel bookings. Among those enjoying full bookings are Bahari Beach Resort, Pride Inn and Paradise

Beach Resort Mombasa and Crystal Bay Resort in Watamu. "We are fully booked with a mixture of local and international tourists, we anticipate good business until the end of this month, we were lucky to host a delegation of sports men and women who took part in the Mombasa Open Tong IL Moodo world competition who boosted us a lot," Hilary Siele, Travellers Beach and Club Resort in Mombasa.

Owing to the activities, the government has beefed up security at the beaches and within leisure establishments to ensure safety in anticipation of more visitors in the eve of the New Year.

Coast Regional Commissioner John Elungata said adequate security measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of local and international tourists visiting to celebrate Christmas and usher in the new year. "We are ready for the festivities and have deployed adequate security personnel to enhance patrols at the beaches, places of worship and other popular joints to ensure residents and visitors enjoy a peaceful and safe holiday season," said Elungata during an interview in Mombasa.

Practice caution

Elungata who was accompanied by the Coast Regional Police Commander Manase Musyoka asked the management of worship places and the general public to co-operate with the security personnel and volunteer information on any suspected person or illegal activities. "Those manning mosques, churches and other worship premises should introduce screening and other security measures for protection," added the Regional Commissioner.

He urged locals and visitors to avoid overcrowding, especially at the beaches, entertainment joints and public transport vehicles.

On his part, Musyoka urged bar owners and other entertainment joints to ensure total adherence of Covid-19 protocols and close their establishments in line with their operation licenses.



International Open Tong IL Moo Do players at the Tsavo East in Taita Taveta County for a game drive on Monday. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

He added that police will work closely with the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) in the enforcement of traffic regulations saying public service vehicles and other motorists should avoid reckless driving during the festive period. "Public transport vehicles and other motorists should strictly obey traffic regulations including avoiding drunk driving and over speeding," said the Police boss.

Just like the coast, players in the Lake basin are also confident the region will post booming business from domestic travellers.

Lake Victoria Tourism Association (LVTA) chairman Robinson Anyal says the hotel industry within the region has continued to register a significant improvement in business performance since the government eased some of the Covid-19 containment measures, such as lifting of the dust to dawn curfew and increasing business hours for restaurants and eateries.

And with the festive season, he says hoteliers have recorded increased business volumes majorly from corporate end-of-the-year parties, government parastatals and non-governmental organisations meetings and team building activities that have since resumed.

Similarly, he says the hotels are expecting to capitalise on opportunities that come with the festivities, such as family get-together parties, weddings, holiday travels and group retreats for guests and families. "We are expecting to handle between 40 and 50 per cent occupancies from below 15 per cent last year and above 50 per cent in 2019," Anyal said.

"Hotels in the region are recording 99 per cent bookings from the local and domestic market. Previously we were doing more than 80 per cent domestic market and less 20 per cent international market. The same figures applies to business and leisure tourism respectively," he added.

Employees recalled

The LVTA chairman, however, noted the industry is yet to fully bounce back to where it was in 2019, it is indicating better growth than in 2020 and have recalled 70 per cent of their staff on full time employment with a few being engaged on short term employment to support service delivery during the festive season. Notably, a few establishments



Samuel Mwai



Stella Maris Miriti



Elizabeth Njeri



Felix Migoya

are paying full salary while some are paying between 50 and 70 per cent salaries to their workforce.

Pauline Anyona, sales manager at Acacia Premier Hotel, says the hospitality industry in the region is showing signs of positive growth after being greatly ravaged by Covid-19. "Things are looking up. November and part of December have been busy with most hotels in Kisumu hosting big meetings and even exceeding their targets," explains Anyona.

Peter Ayuko, Kisumu's Juventure Hotel general manager conquers, saying the industry business performance is on the upward trajectory. "Immediately after the curfews were lifted, our accommodation and conference bookings shot up with accommodation stabilising at around 60 per cent," says Ayuko.

Joshua Otieno, general manager Lesavanna hotel in Kisumu town, says they expect a number of clients, including national government parastatals and county governments will be having meetings for the close of the year that will give hotels more business between December and mid-January 2022.

However, with the rise in Covid-19 infections above the 2,000-mark and the emergence of the Covid-19 Omicron variant in the country could pose another challenge for the industry. Already some tour operators and guides are feeling the effect of this with cancellations from booked clients.

Samwel Mwai, a tour operator and the CEO of Natural World Safari had already booked clients who were travelling to Masai Mara National Reserve, Amboseli National Park and Mombasa. Sadly, they all cancelled until further notice. "Omicron is creating panic in the tourism industry as we have few activities this Christmas eve. The government should give positive report and encourage more locals to travel," he says.

For Stella Maris Miriti of Stejos Tours and Travel Limited, uncertainty has led to cancellation of bookings. "Other clients had to travel to different countries and stay there for 14 days (quarantine) since their countries had banned travelling, in order to access their preferred festive destination," she says.

She adds that the temporary suspension of flights to Dubai will greatly affect tourism since a lot of Kenyans travel to Dubai over the festive season and in January because of the Shopping Festival. "New measures put in place, such as more tests, plus Visas taking long to be processed is making a lot of clients to cancel or postpone their trips," she continues.

For tour guides who were recovering from the effects of the virus last year due to border restrictions and the emergence of the Omicron variant has made things worse for them. "The cancellation of Dubai flights from Nairobi has made things worse," says Felix Migoya, a tour guide and the Secretary General of the organisation of The East Africa Tour guides and Drivers Association.



Holidaymakers throng Watamu in Mombasa. PD/HARRIET JAMES

FORK & LIFE

BY ELLY GITAU  @EllyGita

From tasty street food to fine dining affair in Dubai

Dubai is well known for its fine dining, with some of the best restaurants in the world being located in the city. Street food fans and culinary explorers will be pleased to find that some of the best meals in Dubai can be found on a shoestring budget; from the humble Indian and Pakistani cafeterias to the ubiquitous Lebanese hotspots, there are hidden gems at every corner.

1. An out-of-Africa experience

Located at the Expo 2020 Dubai venue, the Alkebulan Food Hall, which is made up of 10 African restaurants, puts a spotlight on the variety of cuisines served up from the continent. The restaurants are overseen by Kenyan Cyprian Machangoh. Located in Al Wasl Square, the space also showcases the African culture, music and heritage, giving diners a truly authentic continental experience. If you pop-in, you will also get to enjoy Kenyan celebrity chef Kiran Jethwa's meals.

2. Dine in the sky

Voted by Forbes as one of the 10 most unusual restaurants in the world, Dinner in the Sky offers amazing dining experiences with amazing views of Dubai Marina and the Persian Gulf. The restaurant is hoisted 50 feet into the air and caters for up to 22 guests for lunch, afternoon tea, dinner or special occasions.

3. Dusit Thani Dubai

Dine in Thai style with views of Burj Khalifa and Dubai's glittering skyline. Experience an authentic culinary journey focused on the freshest ingredients, harmony and balance of flavours, and exquisite presentation. So much more than a menu, Benjarong's mouth-watering selection of Authentic Thai cuisine is a true culinary journey. Carefully crafted and beautifully presented by expert Thai Chef de Cuisine Wicht Panyo and his team, the multi-award-winning cuisine finds the perfect harmony and balance between the five flavours of sweet, spicy, sour, salty, and creamy, by using the freshest, finest-quality ingredients.

4. Walnut Grove

Portions! Portions! Portions! A concept



MAIN: A huge portion of chicken served with French fries at Walnut Grove. **LEFT:** Spicy tender chicken, North African couscous salad and red pepper mayo emulsion, served at the 2nd of December Street. **BETWEEN:** Tagliatelle pasta with braised short rib ragout, with garlic bread and shaved parmesan served at Dusit Thani. PD/ELLY GITAU



coffee bring a unique and exciting blend to the Dubai dining scene. Walnut Grove's bright yet intimate space plays host to endless options of culinary delights both sweet and savoury as well as an interactive and open bakery and barista station that allows you to get closer to the handmade in-house specialities.

5. World's Instagrammable café

A visit to Dubai must include a visit to Tania's Teahouse which is the seventh most Instagrammable café in the world. Located near the world-famous Burj Al Arab seven-star hotel, this café serves a wide range of customised and speciality flavoured teas, coffees and food with interesting names.

6. 2nd of December Street

Do as the locals do and head to 2nd of December Street for some cheap eats. Formerly known as Al Dhiyafa Street, this buzzing street is the place to load your plate with cuisines from India, Iran, Lebanon and more. Discover some of Dubai's best chicken shawarmas at Al Mallah. These are served in a bread pocket with salty pickles, French fries and a generous helping of a delicious garlic paste.

MEET N GREET

HARRIET JAMES  @harriet86jim

Alloys Onchuru, GM, Lake Elementaita Mountain Lodge

What inspired you to work in the hospitality industry?

I loved the industry because there are truly limitless career opportunities and it's one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in the world. Like any other job, every day comes with new challenges and problem-solving scenarios.

Briefly share your journey

I started working at the pot wash section at The Carnivore in 2002. Thereafter, I pursued my A-Levels before joining Makerere University Business School where I studied Catering and Hotel Management. Later, a management training opportunity at Tamarind Hotel exposed me to what I love doing today.

What is unique about Lake Elementaita Mountain Lodge?

Lake Elementaita Mountain Lodge is truly magical. The one thing that makes it stand out is its strategic location. Elevated above the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) World Heritage site of Lake Elementaita, the hotel boasts of sensational views from sunrise to sunset and offers guests remarkable standards of accommodation, service, and access to first-class amenities. The other great thing is that the lodge has the capacity to accommodate 100 guests who have either come for leisure, team building, wedding or even conferencing. Some of the activities that one can enjoy include a game drive at Lake Nakuru National Park, Lake Elementaita, and also a tour around the Egerton Castle which is 45 kilometres away.

How has this year been in terms of bookings and as we get into the Christmas season?

Domestic tourism has been a good boost to our destination so far this year, and with Nakuru becoming a city, we expect to get even more guests and corporate business. We also can't wait to give our guests, who have booked in large numbers this festive season lasting memories.

What lessons have you learned about being a GM?

Every day brings new challenges and people have different needs at varied times. Flexibility is, therefore, key when problem-solving, and every challenge needs a different approach.

Kenya records 40 per cent increase in tourists arrivals this year

by Harriet James

 @harriet86jim

Kenya recorded a 40.8 per cent growth in tourism numbers with 663,036 visitors in the period between January and October this year compared to the same period last year of 470,971 arrivals the latest report by the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) reveals.

The US market recorded the highest arrivals into Kenya with 108,072 visitors contributing 16.3 per cent of the total arrivals, Uganda was second with 59,979 (9.0 per cent), and Tanzania third with 58,946 (8.9 per cent).

From Europe, the United Kingdom (UK) market in the fourth position led with 34,121 (5.1). Others in the order of arrivals were; India with 31,644 (4.8

per cent), and China with 27,494 (4.1 per cent).

Visitors who came on holiday were leading with 34.1 per cent of the arrivals at 226,168, business and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) at 178,779 (27.0 per cent), on transit at 32,879, and others at 30,868 (4.7%).

The report indicates that tourism

sector has stepped up with hotel sector reporting almost a 100 per cent vaccination of its staff. A survey carried out by the board reveals that sector has domesticated all the safety and health protocols against the corona virus as specified by the Ministry of Health.

The country also did well when it comes to awards as it won top honors at India's best award 2021 in the category

of best adventure amongst the international destinations. Olergessailie village also bagged the best tourism village award from the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) as it stood out from the 44 villages out of the 32 countries, for their natural and cultural resources, as well as innovative and transformative actions.

People Plus ▶ Tell your Story

It is business as usual, say local entrepreneurs

Business owners give a glimpse of what the festive season has in store for them as they navigate effects of the pandemic for the second year in a row

by Jasmine Atieno
@PeopleDailyKe

This year marks the second Christmas in a pandemic and while the year comes to an end, most business people are still struggling to balance the books. Christmas normally brings good tidings for luxury products as many people buy new clothes for the celebrations and gifts for their loved ones. Things this season though, might not be as expected.

Kitala based entrepreneur and the CEO of Supreme Collection, Mike Simiyu, who deals in imported high class clothes, decries a decline of business this festive season as compared to the previous years.

"Business is not good at all. Things are expensive and most customers are crying that they have no money to spend. The timeline between closing of schools and reopening is also inconvenient, it seems most people are saving money for back to school and only spending on necessities," he starts.

Mike, who used to import goods from both China and Turkey has since not travelled to China since the beginning of the pandemic.

Dollar exchange

"Since then I have travelled to Turkey three times. I was even supposed to be making a trip before the year ends, but that hasn't been possible. The air ticket is also expensive and right now we are buying the dollar at Sh120, which is just high. These rates translate to product prices as well so we have to sell on the same rate to make a little profit. Things are generally harder this year compared to last year," shares the business man.

While a usual Christmas would mean closing down for a few days after closing the books, this year things are different. Mike intends to remain open for business with no break or off day at all.

"I will not be closing business this year, because I am not travelling anywhere for the holiday season. Normally I close down from December 24 for three days, then close again

on December 30, but this time I will be open throughout," he says.

Allan Ouma Otiemo, popularly known as MC Japolo, is the CEO of Japolo Holiday Homes in Homabay, and runs a beauty products online shop, which deals in both male and female beauty products he imports from Europe. He says things are a bit shaky with the holiday homes as they have not been receiving international visitors since the onset of the pandemic. The luxury beauty products business on the other hand is booming.

Local tourists

"So far, the holiday homes business is not fairing on well because this pandemic has messed up the economy and since most of our clients are international, they are unable to travel. We are depending on local tourists, whose numbers cannot be compared to the time when money was well and freely flowing. We hope things will get better next year though. For the beauty products, demand is high since its Christmas season, everyone is out here buying classy beauty products for their loved ones, so it's not all bad," says Otiemo.



Mike Simiyu,
CEO of Supreme
Collection. PD/
JASMINE ATIENO

**MC
JAPOL**
**This pan-
demic has
messed up
the econ-
omy and
since most
of our cli-
ents are
inter-
national, they
are unable
to travel**



MIKE
**Things are
expensive
and many
customers
are crying
that they
have no
money to
spend**

As an entrepreneur running a start up, Aileen Onsombi, CEO Book Lounge, is not looking forward to taking a holiday break this festive season, business has to run as usual in service to those looking for a good book to read while on the break, a good book to gift a loved one while also getting ready for schools reopening as most parents will be buying books throughout trying to avoid the long queues at the start of the new year.

"Holiday is not in my vocabulary. I will not be 'vacaying' like most people. Because holiday means getting away to some place or taking a break from work. My bookstore shall be open throughout the season and only closed for Christmas. Being that it's a bookstore, we have to be open as parents will take the last week of December to shop for back to school reading and writing materials for their children," she says.

Online solution

She adds that as a season for gifting, customers are buying book for their loved ones and have them wrapped in gift bags as per their specifications.

"All this is done online because most customers don't physically walk to our store. They only tell us what they want and how they want the gifts wrapped. Covid-19 seemingly improved online shopping expe-

riences for most customers through various e-commerce sites. A business only needs to word product descriptions in a compelling way accompanied by high quality pictures before posting them online. So as the holiday season progresses we hope to serve as many bibliophiles as possible," shares Aileen.

Her general view of business this year is that things are still very slow with most businesses still slowly recovering from Covid-19 effects. The pandemic interfered with people's purchasing power due to loss of jobs.

"But the year has been better than last year since most businesses reopened and people went back to back. So we've been able to make new customers, reach a wider audience on our social media sites as well as be able to stock a variety of book genres. I am hopeful things will look better next year," she adds, optimistic.



MANUSCRIBES

By Manuel Ntoyai

**Sherehe
gharama**

Time ya sherehe imefika na ndio ile time wasee huskia ati skuma ama cabbage ikionja taka taka. Hii ni ile time ati ulikuwa unaenda mkaate, unajipata kwa baesa ukipiga sherehe mbaya sana. So juzi kama tuko pale zabe ya Ras, Jemo alikuja na story vile hiyo wiki amekuva akiresit tei, but jana yake, ilibidi amevunja hiyo sheria. Kuna morio wake anaitwa Wasike, na huwa mbabaz wa mtaa mpoa, hanaga story mob but pia anapenda sherehe na heye hupigia zaqke zile zabe za kizae. So hiyo day ameita Jemo akashmow ni amfikishe mahali, na juu mchizi wetu alikuwa hana shughuli, si akaingia box. Kufika, akapata ilikuwa ni ka event flani hivi ka ki corporate home na sio raiya wengi wako. Jamaa wangu na yeye akaingia kwa shughuli na kiasi after speeches, ikawa ni open bar.

But sasa mzae na yeye alikuwa na mbiro juu pia alikuwa anadai wafike bado sherehe pale local, juu kilituwa na mbuzi eating ya wababa, na hangehata.

Pale local, juu pia alikuwa na kikitu, akasema anaenza jisimamia drinks kadhaa badala ya kukaa kama anaomba ombo. Kumbe same baesa kuna morio wake alikuwa na after wamegoteana, si jamaa akaanza pia kipewa, kumbe hana any! Idhaa ya kutoka ndio Jemo anaambiwa kuna bill ya bia kadhaa ati alikuwa ame-itishia mshikaji. Sterehe gharama, ilibidi msee afulize.

By Rodgers Ndegwa

SHENG PEDIA**1**

Ngem - Cigarette
Origin - Bahati
Example - Hakuna ngori kubwa kama kuacha kuvuta ngem.

2

Kong'o - Alcohol
Origin - Kisumu
Example - Na hii festive season, biz ya kong'o zitamake profit kibao

URADI By Nafsi Huru**Tribe43 ► The Sheng Republic**

@tribe43shengmag TRIBE 43 - Sheng Republik

MULIKWA WITH MWANGI ALBERTO**Safety kwa rodi izingatiwe**

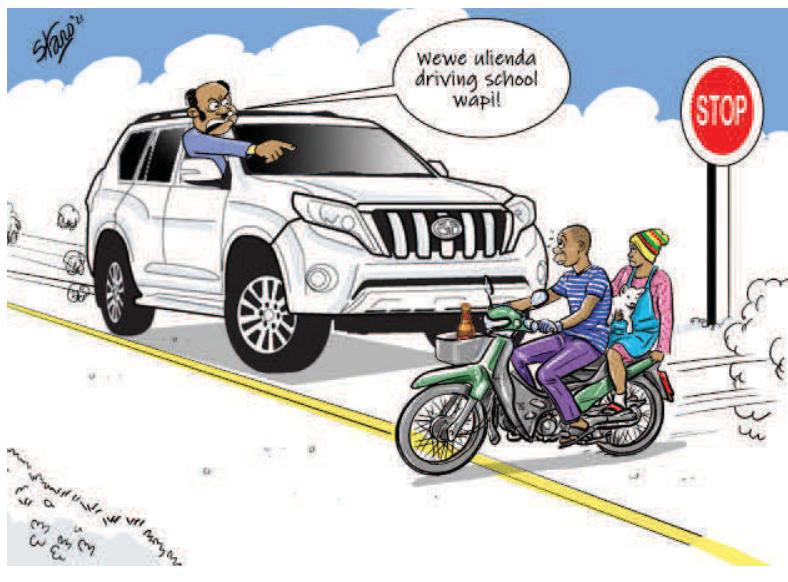
Ndirao this, yetu ni kuwashon tukuwe safe kwa kita kitu tutado hii Krisi na mwaka mpya. Festivities ndio zina-engage a higher gear, na kutoka leo all through to January madate two huko, raiya ni kutesa bila aibu! Krisi ni kesho kutwa na wasee wenye wako na kikitu kwa pori watakuwa hapa kule kucelebrate Christmas in a big way. Hii ni event humuwa mara jamo kwa mwaka, so mtu most huenda every length kumake sure sherehe imekuwa ya kurata na shoka.

Lakini ni magethaa kama hii unapatanga wenye wetu ni kama akili pia huenda leave. Unaget msee ameingia bukla ametei yake yote, lakini bado anataka kudrive home. Hii ni vako ingine ya kiumbawki nyuaesa dhani ni sherehe tu unapiga alafu upate umenyuria. So, form ni kutei responsibly, na ukiona maji imekubeba, ita ata Uber ikupeleke nyumbani. Alternatively, mnaeza enda sherehe na mbogii yako, lakini hasapo

nditni mkuuwa na kadere designated mwenye agonya ndae awavukishe makejani visafe.

Then kuna hawa wasee wa vungu wa senke. Sometimes, makadere wa peng ni kama pia akili huenda kudoze. Maharaka mingi wanakuwanga nazo ndo mirimi hushangaa ni za kuishia wapi. Ata kama ni kukimbizana na idhaa ndio upate mach-waa size yake, ni vipoa kuweka kwa mind that lazima uridu safely ndio ukue hai ama fit kuruhu tena kesho. Irresponsible behaviour pale kwa rodi inaweza kukuwacha pambaya, na pengine wenye ndio tegemeo ya famere pale home.

Mavijanaa, ni lazima ujue maisha haina rehearsals. You only live once. Na kwa hiyo, maisha yako lazima uyalinde. Hii umbwakni ya kudai sekete na anyone, na hata humind kutumia kondekcha ni ufala bwaku. Tukae safe tuone ata mwaka mpya wasee. Ama naije watu nguzay? So, kama Tribe 43family tunawawish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year manze. Iwanice!!!

**TAMBULIKA**

By Nafsi Huru

**NATTY P**

Akok Akoi aka Natty P ni msanii anapeperusha flag ya South Sudan lakini ni one of the baddest Kenyan Dancehall artiste. Natty P alianza journey yake na husuko Kakuma Refugee Camp, area iilitua Hong Kong wakiwa na maarif hadi akapave jina ya the Hong Kong Boss. Amekuwa passionate ile mbaya na mziki na doba yake ya faao alikwala mulla ya fee akakanja prodono wakafanya kwanja more fayaaa na chupa size ya nomu huko yard ya Museveni. Natty P hijawaj kiche manyu tena na amekuwa akizo ile mbaya kutoka hizo masiku. Alifika area akachwado collaboya wanga na Wyre The Love Child pale Grandpa Records, na hiyo doba ili kanashi design ma show na soko ya 254 ikananza kumkemba proper. Natty P ni msanii diverse design anaenza kuku kunjia beat yeoyote na anamuk na ulimi tatu maha ngoso, kidansu na sheng mtu yangu. Jah alimfungulia Natty P milango akaanzisha bonge la record label area ya Zimmerman hapa Kanairo penye wamechafua hits kama milioni. Studio inajita Elevate Music na quality yao huezi pima. Set up tu ni balaai ile mbaya msanii hakosi inspiration. Kama vile jina yao inadai Natty P ako na vision bwaku ya kuinua wanisa especially wenye wametengwa kiaina. Kando na ku produce mzuka fisa Elevate music inamuk na platform za kuzoza mafans. Hii ndiwekez kriisi ni k elevate music hapo tao ju Natty P na jeshi yake yote watakuwa wakichachisha na hapo Chester House Wakembe kwa mtandao ujue area ya kupiga ndirao.

TOKAJIKONI

By Nafsi Huru

VIRUSI

Leo tuko Kanairo za-nabe ya Mau Lion Art Bazuu anaendesha Paragon agency Kuchwado mboka ya IT mambo na cyber cafe na bado ma graphics nini nini akitupelika na rieng venye kanatamba.

Ilikuaje ukaamulia hii uradi?

Tangu nitambue comp nimikuaga naikemba serious design hardware yote ama software naitambua nye ndani so nikaaumuwa ndio ikue mboka kueka keroma kwa meza na mahitaji nikitezeshaa ma client.

Achievements ni kama gani?

Hii mboka imeniwezesha kujitea na mahitaji zangu sina mbrrchaa na pia nime-jenga network kinoma na experience massive sana over the years hadi saa hii bizz ya mineime stand sio mchezo.

Challenger nazo ni gani?

Kuna hii umbwakni ya kanjoo kuhanda wasee na license bei iko kwa roof. Pia bizz inahitaji management skills serious na capital most kufika penye nimeenvision lakinii biiye tuna rise mdagi mdagi

Unapataga aje clients? Niko na clientelle yenye nimikuwa niki serve for a

while juu wanapenda service, na kuna wale hupitia offeh hapa Kasaa na pia wakuzo-wa na maarif au mneti.

Social media inakusaaidia jea?

Nimewahi pata client online lakinii sii tegemei on a daily basis ju kwa ground mambo ni different lakinii kwenye awareness sio mba-yaa.

Advise to kijana anadai kuba bazuu mwenzako?

Kuwa passionate, kazi kwanza starehe baaden na kwenye pushing ukiwa na plan utakanafi.

1. Shida Za Kidosi - King Kaka ft Khaligraph Jones
2. Kuff Kaff - Virusi Mbaya & Komanda Flaqq
3. Eye Contact - Wakadinali
4. New Age - Wahenga ft Wakadinali
5. HeartBreak - Fress All Day
6. Nittembelee - Genty Plenty
7. Bars Unleashed - TrappyKyeeds, Scratchy, Monk The Don, R Bandit, Don Dada, Denno, Retti
8. Power - Natty P, Bravo Kiss, Koko DE BEst Nuchie Boom
9. Ngweterera - JayJay
10. Do Wt U Want - Tana P & Frankenstein

Sport

► The one-stop Sport shop...



Pellegrini extends stay as Betis coach until 2025

FOOTBALL: Spanish La Liga high fliers Real Betis on Tuesday confirmed that Manuel Pellegrini has extended his contract as first team coach until the end of June 2025. The 68-year-old Chilean joined Betis on a three-year contract in the summer of 2020 and led the Seville-based club to the sixth place in his first campaign, assuring qualification for the Europa League. In this season, his side currently sit third in La Liga behind Real Madrid and Sevilla, and have again qualified for the knockout stages of that European tournament. "I have been very happy this year and we want to continue along these lines as the club has some very interesting ideas for the future," said Pellegrini. Betis president Angel Haro has commented a few days ago that he wanted to secure the future of the former Manchester City, Villarreal, Real Madrid and Malaga coach. "It's not the best idea to have a coach in the last year of his contract. I would like to renew Pellegrini's deal before the end of the season," said Haro.

- Xinhua



Tokyo trims cost estimate for pandemic Olympics

OLYMPICS: Tokyo Olympics organisers revised the estimated cost of the Covid-postponed Games downwards on Wednesday, but the figure was still around double the budget proposed in the city's original 2013 bid. Despite losing out on ticket sales due to a near-total ban on spectators, organisers said they had saved cash by simplifying events and avoiding the cost of hosting millions of fans. The event went ahead this summer under strict coronavirus countermeasures after a historic pandemic delay of one year. Tokyo 2020's final pre-Games budget, released in December last year, stood at 1.64 trillion yen (\$14.3 billion) as costs ballooned because of the postponement. But on Wednesday, the organisers trimmed this figure to 1.45 trillion yen (\$12.7 billion), saying no extra bills would be sent to either the national or Tokyo city governments.

- AFP

Tottenham to appeal expulsion from Euro 2021, says Conte

FOOTBALL: Tottenham manager Antonio Conte described UEFA's decision to throw his side out of the Europa Conference League as "incredible" and suggested Spurs will launch an appeal through the courts. Spurs were handed a 3-0 defeat for their final group stage match against Rennes after the match was postponed due to a wave of positive coronavirus cases among Tottenham players and staff. A new date before the deadline of December 31 could then not be agreed between the clubs. Tottenham had needed to win their final game against the French side, who had already secured top spot in the group, to progress ahead of Vitesse Arnhem.

- AFP



AWARDS

Vincent Keter leads star studded list of nominated Soya nominees for most promising boy award- Pg26

| 25

Suns roll over Lakers as LeBron injures ankle

Los Angeles, Wednesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Devin Booker and Deandre Ayton powered the NBA-leading Phoenix Suns to a 108-90 victory Tuesday over the Los Angeles Lakers, whose superstar LeBron James suffered a left ankle injury.

Booker delivered 24 points, nine rebounds and seven assists while Bahamas big man Ayton contributed 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Suns won their fourth game in a row and sixth in seven starts.

The Suns, who lost to Milwaukee in last season's NBA Finals, improved the NBA's best record to 25-5, just ahead of the Golden State Warriors (26-6). It marks the team's second-best 30-game start in team history.

Phoenix started 0-for-9 from 3-point range and finished 12-for-41 with Booker, just back from a hamstring injury that had him miss seven games, going 6-for-11 from beyond the arc.

"Just trust your work," Booker said. "We spend countless hours in the gym. There are four quarters in the game so we try to keep going and stick it out."

The Suns led only 54-52 at halftime but stretched the margin to 85-73 entering the fourth quarter and pulled away from there.

Four-time NBA Most Valuable Player James led the Lakers with 34 points on 13-of-19 shooting and added seven rebounds, two assists and two steals while Russell Westbrook added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the hosts, whose losing streak hit three games. - AFP



Russell Westbrook (left) of the Los Angeles Lakers drives to the basket defended by Devin Booker of the Phoenix Suns in the first half at Staples Center on December 21, 2021 in California. AFP

Peponi School's Blue Indians dash to victory at a past Hog Charge event. PD/ ALEX NJUE



Hog Charge is back!

After two-years hiatus, famous mountain bike competition resumes at Peponi School in January

by Edwin Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

After a two-year hiatus on disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hog Charge, Kenya's national mountain bike competition, is back.

The 23rd edition of annual event will be held on January 23, at its traditional venue, Peponi School in Ruiru. A slew of entries had by yesterday been registered for the competition. The bike race is also a charity event whose proceeds go towards supporting the Rhino Ark, which is involved in a conservation project that focuses on the Mount Kenya water towers.

The Hog Charge, which is sponsored by milk processor Brookside Dairy, is a team competition that will see groups of four riders navigate around a course of checkpoints in the shortest time possible on mountain bikes. At the January event, teams will be entered in either the under-12, under-14 or open classes.

Next year's edition promises a more explosive contest for honours on the back drop of a challenging navigation circuit, which includes a new bike pit and cycling track. The dreaded mud gauntlet, at the penultimate stage of the race, is expected to offer a befitting challenge and excitement to both riders and spectators.

Brookside Dairy, the sponsors of the Hog Charge for the past 20 years, and hosts Peponi School have said all arrangements for resumption of the bike competition were already in place.

Over 50 schools from across the country had by yesterday confirmed participation

in the event, with the numbers still growing.

"Apart from the three entry classes of under 12, under 14 and the open category, next year's event will also feature a family fun race for both parents and their children," Ngina Pratt-Mburu, Peponi School's head of marketing, said.

The organising committee is implementing an upper limit of 160 teams. Yesterday, the online registration for the event was teeming with activity as teams raced to beat the deadline for entries.

The last event in 2020 saw Nairobi's Brookhouse International School sweep the board in both the girls and boys open cycling categories.

In the girls' open race, Brookhouse's team, The Mosquitoes weathered the then hot and dusty conditions at the Sukari Ranch to triumph in 11:54:00, while the boys' team from the same school, the Ram Riders hit the tape in 12:00:00 to emerge victorious.



Vincent Keter (right) beat Sadiki Abdellatif to win the men 1500m final race during the Kip Keino Classic Continental Athletics Tour at Kasarani Stadium. PD/David Ndolo

Tight contest

On song Vincent Keter leads a star-studded nominees shortlisted for SOYA Most Promising Boy category

by Webster Nyandika
@PeopleDailyKe

A star studded shortlist for the 2021 Soya Awards Most Promising Boy category will battle it out for the gong during the annual gala dinner to be held in Kakamega County in mid January.

The five finalists are headlined by athletics star Emmanuel Wanyonyi who clinched the World Under-20 Championships in Nairobi, clocking a Championship Record time of 1:43.76 to win the 800m.

However, Wanyonyi will face stiff challenge from fellow athlete Heriston Wanyonyi who beat all the odds to win gold in the walk race, a first for Kenya in the event, setting a personal best time of 42 minutes and 10.84 seconds.

The 18-year-old Wanyonyi stunned pre-championship favourite India's Amit Khatri to win the title after dominating the national trials in 45:47.5.

Also, in contention is another athletics star Vincent Keter who was victorious

in the 1500m race, timing 3:37.24 to beat Ethiopia's Wegene Addisu to second place.

The 19-year-old Keter ended his season on a high, winning the men's 1,500m at the World Athletics Continental Tour Kip Keino Classic in 3:35.99.

Apart from athletics, Kenya Rugby Under-20 fly-half Andrew Matoka is also in the top five finalists after a successful campaign with the Chipu, displaying a man of the match performance to guide the team to retain the Barthes Cup in Nairobi.

Top scorer

The 20-year-old Kenya 15s Under-20 vice-captain was the top point scorer at the 2021 Barthes Cup after scoring three tries and three penalties as well as 5 conversions. Due to his impressive performance, Matoka was named in all the national teams this season, featuring for the Kenya 7s, Kenya Simbas and Chipu as well as turning out for his local side Strathmore Leos to reach the semis.

A golfer Taimur Malik is also in the nomi-

MOST PROMISING BOYS SOYA AWARDS NOMINEES:

Vincent Keter (1,500m)
Taimur Malik (Golf)
Heristone Wanyonyi (Walk Race)
Emmanuel Wanyonyi (800m)
Andrew Matoka (Rugby)

nees list having had a blistering season, stunning professionals like Dismas Indiza, Greg Snow and CJ Wangai among others to win opening leg of the 2021/22 Safari Tour Golf Series at par 72 Sigona Golf Club in October.

The 17-year-old Muthaiga junior golfer was incidentally the only amateur to make the second-round cut after firing a course record round of seven under par 65 in the final round to catch up with home golfer Mohit Mediratta and Vet Lab Sports Club's Edwin Mudanyi on four under total of 284 which saw the three proceed to a play off.

Taimur also completed an impressive 54-hole total of two under par 214, to claim the 2021 Kenya Amateur Golf Championship (KAGC), formerly Goty at the Karen Challenge golf tournament.

Malik, who represented Kenya in the Magical Open, and featured for the Muthaiga and previously Windsor teams during the Tannahill Shield, got off well, firing two rounds of two under par 70 each to grab an early lead, and despite dropping two shots in the final round on day 2 for two over par 74, he still managed to beat Kenya Amateur Match Play Champion John Lejirmah of Kenya Railway Golf Club by two shots.

The 2021 Soya Awards whose theme is dubbed "from Resilience to Recovery", is boosted by Kakamega County, Lotto Foundation, CPF Financial Services, NSSF and Safaricom.

Motsepe confirms Afcon is on despite 'enormous challenge' of Covid infections

Yaoundé, Wednesday

@PeopleDailyKe

African football chief Patrice Motsepe confirmed on Tuesday that the Africa Cup of Nations (AfCon) will go ahead as planned in Cameroon next month despite the Omicron variant led surge in Covid-19 cases.

"I am going to watch, on the 9th of January, Cameroon and Burkina Faso (in the opening match)," Motsepe said, dispelling rumours that the already delayed continental showpiece could fall victim to the coronavirus pandemic.

South African mining tycoon Motsepe gave the green-light to the AfCon, originally due to be staged in 2019, after talks with Cameroon president Paul Biya.

But the 59-year-old was quick to stress the dangers presented by the new variant responsible for record daily numbers of positive cases.

Negative tests

"Omicron is an enormous challenge," Motsepe said, guaranteeing that nobody would be allowed to set foot in the stadiums without a negative PCR test. Motsepe was joined at the press briefing by the newly elected head of the Cameroon football federation, former football star Samuel Eto'o.

"I will also be there when the trophy is handed over by Eto'o" after the competition's final game on February 6, Motsepe added.

Cameroon were originally due to stage the African football showcase in 2019 but fell behind with preparations and Egypt stepped in as late replacements.

The 2021 tournament dates have changed twice, first because of fears that torrential seasonal rains could affect the tight schedule, and then because of the pandemic.

Motsepe arrived in Yaounde on Monday with rumours suggesting he was in town to read the event's last rites.

His visit to Cameroon under three weeks from the opening match, followed last week's threat from Europe's top clubs not to release players due to concerns over the Covid-safety protocol.



CAF president Patrice Motsepe reacts during a recent press conference. PD/SOPRTPICHA

BRIEFLY

Bernardeschi inspires Juve to conquer Cagliari

ROME: Federico Bernardeschi took centre stage on Tuesday as his long-awaited goal and an assist helped Juventus dominate Cagliari 2-0 in Serie A. Juve entered Allianz stadium without injured Paulo Dybala and Federico Chiesa, Moise Kean got a nod to pair with Alvaro Morata up front. The home side was close to breaking the deadlock in the 12th minute but Kean saw his header on Juan Cuadrado's floated pass rattle the upright. The goal eventually came in the 40th minute when Bernardeschi's cross-shot took a slight deflection, falling kindly into the path of Kean, who followed to head in. The away side created a couple of chances after the break as Dalbert surprisingly fired wide from a close range while Joao Pedro forced a stunning one-handed save out of Wojciech Szczesny.

- Xinhua

Napoli's Osimhen 'available' for Nigeria at Africa Cup of Nations

MILAN: Victor Osimhen said Tuesday that he will be available to play for Nigeria at the Africa Cup of Nations despite currently being out of action while recovering from a smashed cheekbone. Napoli forward Osimhen looked certain to miss out on the continental tournament, which is scheduled to kick off on January 9, after initially being ruled out for three months following surgery on face fractures suffered against Inter Milan in late November. But the 22-year-old insisted he would be ready to travel to Cameroon with the Super Eagles. "I will be available for AFCON unless if am not among the players picked to represent NIGERIA," Osimhen said on Twitter. Osimhen is currently training for Napoli while wearing a protective facemask and waiting for the go-ahead to recommence playing earlier than expected.



- AFP

Australian Open chief 'confident' Covid-hit Rafael Nadal will play

MELBOURNE: Australian Open chief Craig Tiley said Wednesday he was confident that Rafael Nadal will play in Melbourne despite testing positive for Covid-19, as fresh doubts emerged over Novak Djokovic. Spanish star Nadal said on Monday that he tested positive after returning home from an exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi and was experiencing "some unpleasant moments". While the 20-time Grand Slam champion said he was examining all his playing commitments, Tiley believes Nadal will be sufficiently recovered to chase his second Australian Open title in January. "I'm confident Rafa will be here," the tournament director told reporters in Melbourne. "Players that are testing positive now will complete a period of time until they are no longer infectious and they'll be fine." World number one Djokovic, who has won nine of his 20 Grand Slams at Melbourne Park, remains in serious doubt over his refusal to confirm if he has been vaccinated.



- AFP



Then

Name: Samuel Eto'o
Age: 40 years
Nick name: Little Milla
Sport: Football (Forward)
 Current position: President of Cameroon Football Federation.
 Teams played for: Real Madrid, Espanyol, Mallorca, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Anzi Makhachkala, Chelsea, Everton, Sampdoria, Antalyaspor, Konyaspor, Qatar SC.
 Accolades: 3 La Liga titles, Champions League (2), Serie A (1), CAF player of the year (4 times)
Hails from: Douala, Cameroon



Now

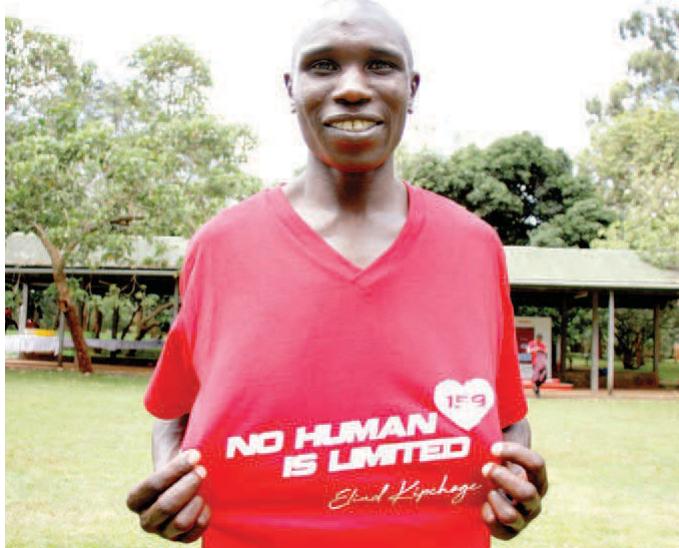
Veteran coach Ingutia praises Leopards flowing football



NAIROBI: Veteran football coach Amos Ingutia has scoffed at those admonishing AFC Leopards coach Patrick Aussiems arguing that he is making drastic steps in reviving the dwindling fortunes of the sleeping felines. Ingutia, who has coached some of Kenya's illustrious players, said the club's faithful should acknowledge the fact that Ingwe is now playing beautiful football and that it is just a matter of when it will be up there again in domestic football. "People should not make quick and unfair judgments on our beloved club despite indifferent results. Let me say that Aussiems has persevered with Leopards during turbulent periods and this is a man who

- Charles Thuku

Year of uncertainties



Kamworor reflects on 2021 when he recovered from initial accident, qualified for Tokyo Olympics, but was ruled out in last minute due to ankle injury

by Ericson Kiprono
 @PeopleDailyKe

Perhaps no athlete has quite had to face as much adversity over the past couple of years as Geoffrey Kamworor.

In 2020 his season was brought to an abrupt and painful conclusion after he was struck by a motorbike while out on a training run, sustaining a fractured tibia. Meanwhile, 2021 has also presented its challenges after injury denied the star athlete an opportunity to compete at the Tokyo Olympic Games even after qualifying while his preparations for the Valencia Marathon was also badly compromised by an ankle problem.

Yet Geoffrey is one resilient athlete. Despite going into Valencia with what he describes as "50 per cent preparation" the five-time world champion (three world half-marathon title and two world cross country crowns) defied all logic to finish fourth to scalp 49 seconds from his nine-year-old PB to run 2:05:23.

So it was little wonder the athlete-based out of the same Kaptagat training camp as Eliud Kipchoge was grinning just moments after crossing the finishing line.

"The last two years have been so challenging for me because of the injuries, but

I didn't give up, I believed in myself and the training, I kept the faith and finally got the result. I have remained

optimistic, and it (the past two years) proves to me I can overcome many challenges," Kamworor said.

After suffering what he describes as a "bad year" in 2020 he began 2021 in fine form. In his first major road outing since regaining the New York City Marathon title 18 months earlier he was pleased to run 59:38 for second in the Istanbul Half Marathon and was in "really great shape" for the Kenyan Olympic 10,000m Trials in June.

High altitude

At high altitude in Nairobi, Geoffrey ran an eye-popping 27:01.06 to destroy the field and serve notice of his medal-winning ability for the Tokyo Olympic Games. Yet two weeks later he started to feel a niggle in his left foot, which was only to worsen.

"It first it was minor and I continued to train but unfortunately I made it worse," he explains. "Then it became so bad I could not even step on the foot."

Just 10 days out from the start of the Tokyo Olympic Games an MRI scan confirmed his worst fears. He was carrying a stress fracture of the metatarsal and his Olympic dream was over.

"It was the lowest moment in my career, the lowest moment of my life," he recalls on being given the diagnosis.

"Everything was going so well. I was in great shape, looking for a medal but I knew it was beyond my control, so I had to accept the decision and move on," Kamworor said.

Given support from team-mates, management and his physio helped heal the wounds. Medics offered assurances he would make a full recovery and that had the ability to come back stronger than ever.

Despite his personal disappointment he even fully embraced the Olympic experience as a fan and enthusiastically watched his, team-mate and close friend Joshua Cheptegei compete in the 10,000m final. The Ugandan had to settle for silver behind Silemon Barega of Ethiopia and Geoffrey, showing his typically generous spirit commented: "I really wished I could have been there. I saw myself as a prospect for a medal, but I was also happy for someone else to win. In my mind I thought Joshua was the guy, but I was happy for him to win silver and happy for Barega too."

Geoffrey was delighted that eight days later the Ugandan did climb the top of the podium in the 5000m before watching his training partner Eliud Kipchoge lead home an NN Running Team one-two in the men's marathon from Abdi Nageeye, who formerly trained with Geoffrey and the team in Kaptagat. "It was really great, it was emotional watching our NN Running Team guys win gold and silver," he adds. That said - the two-time New York Marathon champion has realistic pre-race expectations.

"I told myself to try my best to run under 2:10," he says.

Going out with the second group he felt good passing halfway in low 63 minutes and after the pacemakers dropped out around 27km he hit the front of the group in pursuit of the lead pack. For around 12km he shouldered the pace - including in a windy 2km section from 31-33km - my legs were calm and I pushed where I could."

Supported by his manager Valentijn Trouw who was on a motorbike by 39km Geoffrey remarkably reeled in the leaders. But despite feeling "good energy" his fitness was not quite sufficient to push on and he wound up fourth - nonetheless securing a big and long-awaited personal best.

"With 50 percent preparation it was a good performance for me, and I look forward to returning to Valencia and competing there one day with a full preparation, to run as well as I did was something wonderful for me and to run a personal best was something extra that I did not expect," he explained.



Homeboyz eager to quench thirst with Tusker in midweek fixture

NAIROBI: After appearing to have flattered to deceive since winning the 2021 Kenyan Premier League, Tusker FC were hoping to appease their fans yet again when they engage Kakamega Homeboyz in a mouth-watering clash at Buhungu Stadium in Kakamega today. Tusker, who are placed in an odd 12th position in the standings with ten points from seven matches, did the 'inconceivable' last weekend when they beat hosts Nzoia Sugar 1-0 in Bungoma. The slim win revitalised the ale-men but be it as it may, they have their work cut out, literally, and consider-

- Charles Thuku

Juve take advantage of Atalanta slip, Salernitana in Covid cancellation

MILAN: Juventus took advantage of Atalanta's goalless draw at Genoa with a 2-0 win over Cagliari which inched them closer to Serie A's Champions League places, as Salernitana's trip to Udinese became the season's first coronavirus-related casualty. Moise Kean's header five minutes before the break and Federico Bernardeschi's precision finish after a breakaway late on at the Allianz Stadium moved Juve to within four points of fourth place in Italy's top flight, currently occupied

- AFP

SPORT



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Arsenal's English striker Eddie Nketiah (left) with the match-ball celebrates with Arsenal's English midfielder Charlie Patino on the pitch after their English League Cup quarter-final match against Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium in London on Tuesday night. Arsenal won the game 5-1. AFP



Arsenal fans go wild after 18-year-old Patino scores on his debut as his late strike, Nketiah hat-trick and Pepe goal wrap up win over Sunderland in Carabao Cup

London, Wednesday
 @PeopleDailyKe

Arsenal wonderkid Charlie Patino made his debut as the Gunners thumped Sunderland 5-1 in the Carabao Cup quarter-final on Tuesday.

Eddie Nketiah had already bagged a hat-trick, while Nicolas Pepe had struck in the first half to hand Arsenal a 4-1 lead but Patino stole the show as he scored on his debut in the 91st minute.

The 18-year-old came off the bench for Emile Smith Rowe on 80 minutes and wasted no time in stealing the headlines as he wrapped up the Gunners' victory.

Nketiah may have been the one to secure a hat-trick but it was chants of 'Oh, Charlie Pa-

tino' that could be heard from the Arsenal fans at full-time.

And supporters watching at home had a similar reaction as social media went wild in response to the youngster's debut.

Many fans hailed the midfielder for his performance with YouTuber Chunkz already claiming he is the 'best player in the world' and another fan branding him a 'generational talent'.

One supporter took to Twitter to urge everyone to remember the starlet's name as they called him a 'talent'.

Some Gunners fans did not hesitate to reveal their gushing pride for the academy product's breakthrough display.

One supported wrote: '[I] feel like a proud dad seeing Patino score.'

Arsenal have produced a number of young stars recently with the likes of Bukayo Saka and Emile Smith Rowe lighting up the pitch this season thanks to the opportunities handed to them by boss Mikel Arteta.

The Emirates faithful have already added Patino's name to the growing list of budding stars, insisting he will follow in their footsteps. Journalist Mark Mann-Bryans noted that

Henderson: EPL doesn't care about player welfare

LONDON: Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson fears player welfare is too low down the list of football's priorities as the English game continues to grapple with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Premier League announced on Monday its intention to continue with the scheduled matches over the traditionally busy Christmas and New Year period, despite more



than 90 confirmed coronavirus cases among players and staff in the last week. Last weekend, six of 10 scheduled games in England's top flight were called because of coronavirus outbreaks, with Henderson telling the BBC: "I don't think people can appreciate how intense it is until you actually see it first hand."

- AFP

Footballer star Benjamin Mendy charged with further count of rape

LONDON: Manchester City and France international footballer Benjamin Mendy has been charged with a further count of rape, a court was told on Wednesday. The 27-year-old defender was already facing six allegations of rape and one of sexual assault but was charged last week with a seventh rape. Restrictions on reporting the latest rape charge were lifted as Mendy appeared at Chester Crown Court for a preliminary hearing before his trial next year. The charges relate to alleged offences against five different women in 2020 and this year. The footballer who lives in Prestbury, near Macclesfield, northwest England, appeared alongside his co-defendant Louis Saha Matturie, 40, from Eccles, on the outskirts of Manchester. Matturie is charged with six serious sex offences against young women. Both men were remanded in custody after a 40-minute hearing. Their trial, which was scheduled to take place in January, was put back to later next year.

- AFP

MotoGP great Marquez eyes return after visual tests

MADRID: Marc Marquez, whose season came to an early end because of vision problems following a crash, will continue his preparations for the 2022 MotoGP season after reassuring eye tests, his team announced Wednesday. Honda said Marquez has made "periodic visits to an ophthalmologist to assess the evolution of his vision over the past two months." "The progress made has been deemed favorable and as a result Marquez will continue with a conservative treatment plan for the next few weeks," Honda added in a statement on their website. Marquez has been suffering from double vision since an off-road training crash at the end of October. The 28-year-old six-time MotoGP world champion missed the final two rounds of the season and the Jerez test session in December. "The situation does not prevent the rider from continuing his physical training plan to prepare himself physically for a new season," Honda said.

- AFP

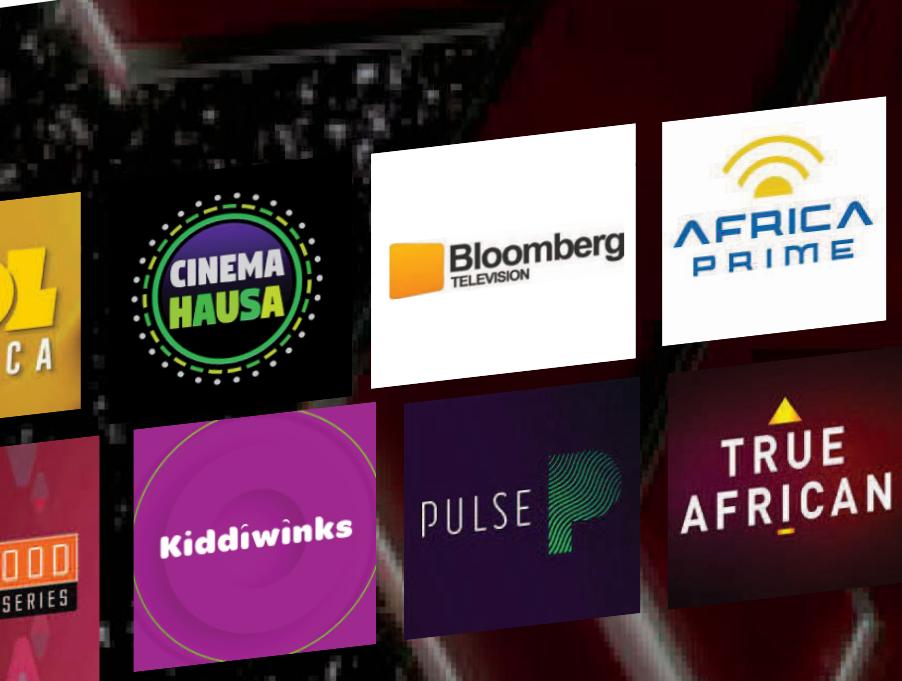


Napoli targets January swoop for Everton's Digne

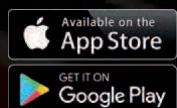
MILAN: Napoli are reportedly weighing up a potential move for Everton left-back Lucas Digne. Since arriving at Goodison Park in 2018, Digne has been a mainstay in Everton's backline, racking up 127 appearances for the club. However, he has recently fallen out with manager Rafael Benitez, and has not featured in any of the side's last three matches. It has been claimed that Everton could be open to selling the 28-year-old, who still has over three years remaining on his contract. The Premier League outfit are closing in on sealing an £18million deal for Dynamo Kiev full-back Vitaliy Mykolenko, who may be viewed as Digne's replacement. Napoli could use Digne's situation on Merseyside to their advantage, and make a bid for the Frenchman in January, according to Foot Mercato.

- AFP

DJ MIXES, IN ONE PLACE!



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