



New zoom teaching model for schools

Page 6 Method will see one teacher conduct lessons in several schools simultaneously

Alarmed politicians ramp up voter registration efforts



PAGE 2 With 12 days to go before the final mass voter registration exercise closes, a paltry 230,000 new voters have been listed against a target of 4.5 million. PD/JOSEPH KINGORI

Uhuru: Raila is the best bet for Kenya

Poll countdown: President rallies Western region leaders behind ODM chief and promises to persuade Mudavadi and Wetangula to reconsider their Sunday decision to team up with Deputy President Ruto **PAGE 4**

President Uhuru Kenyatta addresses Western Kenya leaders who paid him a courtesy call at State House, Nairobi, yesterday. Those present include Defence Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa and Governors Wycliffe Oparanya (Kakamega), Wycliffe Wangamati (Bungoma), Wilbur Ottichillo (Vihiga) and Sospeter Ojaamong (Busia). PSCU



PG 5



Cops open probe on death of tech guru

PG 7



Crisis as Parliament adjourns indefinitely

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Will IEBC let Kenyans down again in August elections?



BUSINESS PAGE 17

Why cheaper energy plan may remain a pipe dream

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	27°	Nyeri	27°
Mombasa	31°	Kitui	29°
Kisumu	32°	Wajir	37°

Politicians ramp up final voter listing efforts

Number of persons who registered in first week is way far below the targets, forcing leaders' reaction

by PD Team
@PeopleDailyKe

Alarmed by extremely low voter registration turnout, politicians are pulling all stops to shore up the numbers.

With 12 days to go before the final mass voter registration closes, IEBC only managed to register a paltry 230,000 against a target of 4.5 million potential voters.

Politicians and members of the provincial administration have activated their troops to ensure wananchi register, especially in areas leaning towards Raila Odinga's Azimio movement.

Ruth Odinga, Raila's sister who is coordinating the voter registration in Nyanza, yesterday decried low voter turnout, urging the youth to register in large numbers. Ruth also called on all aspirants to suspend their campaigns and other political activities and focus on the voter registration drive.

"We want people to concentrate on voter listing and stop this election campaign's mantra in the meantime," Ruth said.

Yesterday, ODM chair of Elections Board, Prof Catherine Mumma, also pitched tent in Nyanza to woo voters to register.

On Monday, Kisumu Governor Anyang' Nyong'o gave county workers two days off to search and convince family members and friends to be enlisted. The governor said he took the bold initiative to ensure everyone eligible registers in the county.

"We want to make sure that everyone eligible to vote is listed for elections, if we are to realise democratic growth," he declared.

Nyong'o met all the county employees and tasked each of the workers to retreat to their respective wards and villages to spearhead the campaign.

"It's a civic duty for all Kenyans to register

as voters to enable them to exercise their democratic rights during the forthcoming August General Election," he said.

The governor said he made the decision after learning that few people were turning up to register as voters.

"The numbers are disappointing. Our people must come out and register as voters," said the governor.

According to County IEBC Coordinator Patrick Odame, they expect to register 130,105 in the second voter listing mass exercise that began last week on Monday.

In the last registration, the county only registered 44,666 of the targeted 173,474.

The development comes as the Kisumu County Commissioner led by Madam Josephine Ouko traversed the villages supervising the exercise. Ouko said they want the chiefs and assistants to help flush out people to go register.

In Siaya, Bondo Deputy County Commissioner Richard Karani said those who failed to register will be denied government services. The DCC directed matatu and boda boda operators, hospitals and supermarkets to not serve people who have not registered to vote or those without ID cards. "I have come from Kilifi and would not joke about my duties and one of it is to ensure persons lacking the vital documents acquire it or else we won't give you services," said Karani.

Stakeholders

Speaking during a meeting with Bondo community stakeholders Karani said those lacking the documents are a burden to society. "We won't allow busy bodies to take us for a ride. I have been issued with a target from the government in regards to ID and voter cards registration and will use every strategy at my disposal to realise it. This time round it will not be business as usual."

The DCC was accompanied by Eala MP Oburu Oginga and Bondo MP Gideon Ochanda.

"Raila risks losing the seat again if Ke-



University of Nairobi students register as voters recently at the institution during the official launch of the registration drive in institutions of higher learning.
PD/JOHN OCHIENG

nyans especially in Luo Nyanza and Siaya do not respond to the registration of voters. Raila has a better chance to succeed President Uhuru Kenyatta and he can only achieve it if most Kenyans vote him at the ballot box," said Oburu.

IEBC Bondo coordinator John Matekwa said out of a target of 18,000 only 1,600 have so far registered.

In Kajiado county, out of the 90,000 target, only 5,376 new voters have registered with Kajiado West having the lowest figure of 643. County elections manager Anthony Njoroge attributed the low numbers to apathy and the last-minute rush behavior.

"However, we are putting strategies in place to ensure we reach our targets. We are carrying out voter education to let the people know the importance of voting and together with the public administration we are creating awareness of the ongoing exercise," Njoroge said.

In Kisii, leaders have deplored slow voter registration in the area, two weeks to the close of the registration. Governor James Ongwae, Woman Representative Janet Ong'era, Deputy Governor Joash Maangi, Transport and Infrastructure CAS Chris Obure, former South Mugirango MP Manson Oyongo and Senator Sam Ongeri spoke at Agricultural Training Centre on Monday during the launch of Kisii Azimio la Umoja Chapter.

Ongwae said the county targets to register 110,000 voters but only 7,903 had registered, stressing the trend was worrying. Drumming up support for Raila's presidential bid, the leaders urged residents to register en masse to enable Raila win the presidency.

"I urge leaders to intensify voter regis-

tion campaigns in their localities to enable potential voters to register to increase our numbers," Ongwae said.

Challenged to register

Obure said the community has more locally and in the diaspora and challenged them to register and vote overwhelmingly for Raila to win.

Kisii Central Deputy County Commissioner Wilberforce Kilonzo said they had launched a campaign on Monday to enable youths to get IDs and register as voters. The exercise ends on Thursday.

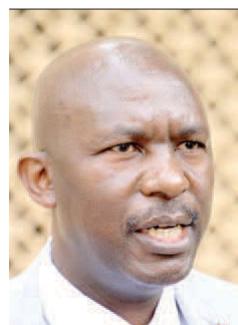
Leaders in Mombasa are startled by low turnouts in the ongoing final phase of voter registration. According to IEBC figures, Mombasa registered 7,833 new voters in the first week against the targeted 45,682.

In an interview with *People Daily* yesterday, Jamvu MP Badi Twalib said the disinterest was a concern.

"For sure this trend is shocking...as leaders, we have tried all we can to mobilise residents to register but only a few are turning up to register," Twalib said while appealing for residents to register in large numbers.

In Migori, only 6,841 have registered against a target of 110,000. However, IEBC Coordinator for Suna East Kennedy Okotho said the turnout was slowly picking up. "Our set target for the second phase of voter registration in Migori is 110,000. If we have to achieve this set target, then we need to be registering at least 5,238 voters every day for the next 21 days."

Reporting by Eric Juma, Kepher Otieno, Wycliff Kipsang, Robert Ochoro and Reuben Muambingu



Senate committee proposes passing of bill without changes

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

A senate committee that considered the controversial Political Parties (amendment) Bill has proposed it be passed without amendments.

Tabling its report before the floor of the Senate yesterday, the Senate Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs, and Human Rights quashed

all views collected during a two-day public participation exercise held last week.

"Having considered the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 56 of 2021) and the submissions received thereon, the Senate Standing Committee on Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights recommend that the Senate passes the Bill," the committee chaired by

Nyamira Senator Okong'o Omogeni (pictured) said in its report.

Consequently, Speaker Ken Lusaka has given senators 24 hours to go through the report on the bill in readiness for the Second Reading of the Bill which is scheduled for today at 2.30 pm.

"Pursuant to Standing Order 145, upon conclusion of the Second Reading, the Bill will stand committed to

the Committee of the Whole. At the Committee of the Whole, Senators may submit amendments to the Bill for consideration," Lusaka said in his communication to the House.

He directed senators wishing to introduce amendments to the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bills No. 56 of 2021) to submit to the Office of the Clerk by 2pm today, with no exception.

With Kirungustu Jnr.

@Kirungustuj



Freaky body parts we lost to evolution

Like other plants and creatures, the human body, according to Charles Darwin, is the result of millions of years of evolving. Here are some queer parts we lost over time.

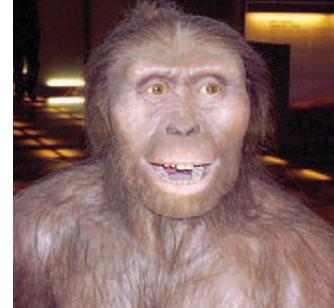
Real whiskers

Most mammals have whiskers but not humans. We had them but lost them around 800,000 years ago. To understand why we lost our whiskers, we need to understand why some animals still have them. Animals use their whiskers to complement their eye. Every creature with a whisker actually has two kinds of whiskers: a long whisker and a short whisker. Animals use the long whisker to find their way in the dark and around tight spaces while the short whisker is reserved for recognising objects. But then we transferred those jobs to our fingertips, lips and genitals etc, and made whiskers redundant.



Feet that could grab stuff

You've seen how a monkey's feet will act as an extra pair of hands when required? They are called prehensile feet and are a defining characteristic of apes and primates –apart from humans, of course. We used to have them too, until those early folks started walking upright. They quickly found out that while it made you taller, standing on two feet sucked at balance. But they so loved their new gait they started evolving their limbs around walking and running on two feet. For that, the toes got straighter and firmer and lost their flexibility. Our first four toes lost their flexibility initial and the large toe soon followed, making it our last body part to evolve.



Fur-covered bodies

In the beginning, everyone had fur. Today, we have hair, apes have fur. The change started with *Australopithecus Afarensis*, hominin that was more of an ape with human characteristics and considered our first ancestor. It had ape-like arms, legs and fur but had a large brain and walked upright. At one point, *Australopithecus afarensis* abandoned the covers of the thick forests to hunt meat in the open savannah, which exposed them to more sunlight than they were used to. But sunlight and fur make bad company. Fur prevents sweating and traps heat, a fantastic way to overheat a body and do some brain damage. So, *Australopithecus afarensis* started losing their fur and that's how we lost our free garment.

Sharp, menacing claws

Herbivores have hooves and carnivores claws. Then there are omnivores. Some have claws, others fingernails. Actually, all omnivores would have had claws, if it were not for primates, a group of closely related creatures that includes humans, apes, lemurs etc. The earliest primates had claws, which they used for digging and scratching, and when they started living on trees, for clambering up a tree trunk. However, these talons were not any good for mobility around the branches. They were also terrible at making sure you remain up there, out of reach of some creatures who would like to make a snack out of you. For that, they needed something that could grab. And that's how early primates developed hands and fingernails that could climb trees and hold onto branches.



Proper canine teeth

Unless you are a Dracula, your canine teeth are merely names. Take a peep in the mouth of a chimpanzee, gorilla, etc and see proper canines, standing long and sharp from the rest of the teeth. Ours are neither long nor sharp and are barely longer than our other teeth. In fact, our canines are currently the smallest they have ever been. Yet, we once had impressive canines, back when males had to physically fight over females. Like other apes, our large canines were useful weapons in those wars. However, as early human babies got weaker and vulnerable to predators, men started spending more time protecting their younglings than fighting each other. This was the beginning of the end for our canines. Ooh, cooking of food and more sophisticated tools for hunting and defence may have had a hand in it too.



Nice, long (not mechanical) tails

Long ago, humans had long tails –twice, actually. Yep, grew it, lost it and grew it again before losing it for a second time. We first lost our tails when we were a fish –surprise! Called Aetheretmon, this extinct fish, considered the ancestor of all land-dwelling creatures, had two tails. One, a regular tail fin for swimming, the other, a fleshy tail it used for swimming faster –like a turbo boost. But the fish later lost most of the turbo tail. Millions of years later, as it evolved into a semi-aquatic and later, land dwelling creature, the Aetheretmon lost the tail fin but regrew the fleshy one. That's the tail on most land animals today. The hominids –apes and humans –, however, completely lost this fleshy tail as it would have affected their upright stance. Today, monkeys that walk a bit more upright spot shorter tails.

President rallies Western leaders behind Raila

Head of State promised to reach out to the Luhya land supremos and persuade them to support ODM leader

by Rawlings Otieno

@PeopleDailyKe

Kenya will be safe in the hands of Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga after the August 9 General Election, President Uhuru Kenyatta said yesterday, hinting at a possibility of convincing party chiefs Musalia Mudavadi and Moses Wetang'ula to change their hearts and support the former premier.

Sources at yesterday's one-and-a-half-hour State House meeting between the President and leaders from Western region, told *People Daily* that Uhuru was emphatic about the choice of Raila as his preferred successor even as he felt disappointed with the Sunday move by ANC party leader, Mudavadi, and his Ford Kenya counterpart, Wetang'ula, to team up with Deputy President William Ruto ahead of elections.

The source, who sought anonymity because he is not authorised to discuss details of the meeting with the press, said the President promised to reach out to the Western supremos and persuade them to rescind their decision and support Raila's presidential bid.

Gone astray

"Ni kupotea wamepotea. Wangalifadika sana kama wangalibaki na Raila. Wakenya watakuwa kwa mikono mizuri chini ya uongozi wa Raila kuliko hao watu wengine wanaowakimbilia (they have gone astray because they would have benefitted more if they agreed to work with Raila. Kenyans will be safer under a Raila presidency than the other people they are rushing to)," Uhuru told the delegation.

The source said that the President was emphatic over his support for a Raila presidency than before, warning the leaders, mainly Members of Parliament, that those dismissing his preference for the ODM leader would come to regret when it would be too late.

"I am not a mad man to wake up one day and settle on a man whom I have hated almost all my life and bypass my own deputy. Do you people think I arrived at the decision without soul-searching? I have my reasons that I will soon tell Kenyans, but at an appropriate time," the President is reported to have told the delegation.

Uhuru is understood to have told the delegation that he would not tire from trying to persuade Mudavadi and Wetang'ula to change their decision to support the DP.

"The President was categorical that Kenyans will be safe in the hands of Raila than any other presidential candidate. He told us that although he was unhappy with the move the two took, he will reach out to them," said the source.

As if in response to claims by a section of leaders from Mt Kenya region that the President had not given them direction on his succession, the Head of State reportedly informed the delegation that he would embark on "a nationwide campaign for Raila at the right time".

Countywide tour

"Wacha waendelee kukimbia, lakini wajue ya kwamba kutangulia sia kufika. Wakanati utafika munione nikiwa kwa kiwanja nikisaidia ndugu yangu Raila (Even though they kicked off campaigns prematurely, let them know that that does not guarantee them victory. Very soon you will see me criss-crossing the country campaigning for my brother Raila," the President said.

Yesterday's meeting came barely two days after Mudavadi and Wetang'ula ditched the One Kenya Alliance (OKA) and joined hands with Ruto's United Democratic Alliance (UDA).

The move prompted two other OKA principals, Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka and Kanu chairman Gideon Moi to walk out of Mudavadi's presidential campaign launch ceremony at the Bomas of Kenya on Sunday.

In a hard-hitting statement on President Kenyatta's administration at the ceremony, Mudavadi said Kenyans had lived on a diet of political deceit and betrayal, adding that those in leadership had failed to place any useful premium on the words that leave their lips.



Mudavadi was categorical that he would not partner with Azimio La Umoja movement that is being championed by his political friend-turned-enemy Orange party leader Raila. "For the avoidance of doubt, the ANC stand, which I am privileged to pronounce, is that the specter called Azimio is not an option when it comes to partnerships. This is not an Azimio or about unity," said Mudavadi.

"Some shadowy elements are busy attempting to coerce, intimidate and impose hand-picked leaders. This is a perilous road that can only lead to civil strife. The stability of this country is derived from the legitimacy bestowed through popular elections," said Mudavadi.

But during yesterday's meeting, President Kenyatta who reportedly disclosed that he would soon embark on a countywide tour to campaign for Raila, wondered how Ruto who vigorously opposed the 2010 Constitution had suddenly transformed into its strongest defender.

The President disclosed that one of his first stop-overs would be the Western region where he would inspect ongoing development projects and launch new ones.

The Head of State is said to have promised the leaders that he would ensure the revival of projects such as Mumias and Nzoia sugar factories before expiry of his term.

"I think there are two roads that he promised to ensure the tarmac would commence before he leaves office," said Budalang'i MP Raphael Wanjala who was part of the delegation.

The ODM lawmaker who, however, declined to divulge more details, disclosed that the President urged leaders from the region to consolidate their more than two million voters to elect Raila.

"The only thing I can tell you is that today he was more direct about his support

for Raila. He told us that Kenyans would benefit more under Raila than Ruto. He was categorical that he would soon come out of State House to campaign for him at the opportune time," Wanjala told *People Daily*.

He also took issue with Ruto and his allies for scuttling the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) that was meant to ensure inclusivity in government.

In what could be interpreted as a determination to revive BBI in future, President Kenyatta assured the delegation that a Raila presidency would "ensure inclusivity of all Kenyans in the government".

Countrywide tour

In a statement sent to newsrooms after the meeting, State House spokesperson Kanze Dena acknowledged that President Kenyatta held a meeting with a cross-section of Western Kenya leaders who paid him a courtesy call at State House, Nairobi.

"The Head of State assured the leaders, drawn from the five Western Kenya counties of Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Trans-Nzoia and Vihiga, of the government's commitment to ensure all ongoing development projects in the populous region are completed as scheduled," said the statement.

On their part, the leaders thanked the President for the various development projects which they said had transformed the lives and wellbeing of the people of Western Kenya. Also present were Luhya Council of Elders led by their chairman Patrick Wangamati, the father to Bungoma County boss Wycliff and a delegation from the Tachoni community.

After a sumptuous meal at State House, the Western leaders told President Kenyatta about the ailing sugar sector and the President promised to address the sugar mills issue.

Butere MP turned away as an intruder at State House

by Dennis Lumiti
@PeopleDailyKe

Butere MP Tindi Mwale was yesterday turned away from the State House meeting between President Uhuru Kenyatta and a section of leaders from the Luhya community.

The MP said he was informed at the gates of State House that his name was not on the list of leaders invited to the meeting.

"I was informed on Monday that the President had invited us to State House. I therefore left the house in time but when I reached at the gate, an orderly

told me that my name was not on the list," said Mwale.

He added: "He told me that there might have been some typing error and that I wait outside as he went in to confirm if I was really wanted in the meeting."

The lawmaker said he waited at the gates for about twenty minutes but there was no response and that is when he decided to leave. He wondered why his name was not on the list.

"I was surprised because the information I had was that the meeting was for all political leaders from the Western region, including sitting MPs," he said.

UDA unveils National Elections Board

by Jeremiah Kiplang'at
@PeopleDailyKe

United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party yesterday unveiled its National Elections Board (NEB), setting the ball rolling for its highly anticipated nominations scheduled for April.

The board is composed of Anthony Mwaura, Salome Beacco, Aurelia Rono, Ummi Bashir, Matiko Chacha, Raphael Chimeria and Halake Dida.

Deputy President William Ruto, the Party Leader, chaired the first meeting bringing together the Board and the outfit's



National Executive Committee at the Karen residence in Nairobi.

Sources told *People Daily* the NEB members would go on a retreat in Naivasha this week to agree on who chairs it. They will also set the party's election's programme including coming

up with the date for the nominations.

The party said it has attracted over 7,000 aspirants who will be seeking the party's ticket to vie for various seats in the coming nominations.

With the nominations expected to test the strength of the party, Ruto urged the board to work closely with NEC to ensure free and fair elections to avert any disastrous fallouts.

Party Secretary General Veronica Maina recently said the NEC and the NEB will work hand in hand to ensure its nominations are credible.

Police open probe on tech guru's death

Tributes pour in for former LinkedIn Africa boss, who was found dead in her hotel room, on January 21

by Harriet James
@harriet6jim

Police have launched investigations into the death of former LinkedIn Africa boss Thogori Chege Karago, who was found dead in her hotel room in Nairobi.

Thogori's body was discovered on January 21. She was 33.

Preliminary investigations show she was suffering from diabetes and was on medication. Her room was found locked from inside. She was alone.

Kilimani police boss Muturi Mbogo said the deceased did not have any physical injuries at that time.

"There are indications she was diabetic but that is subject to further investigations. For now, we treat it as natural and sudden death," he said.

Following her death, thousands of people continued to send their condolences to the tech guru family friends and relatives.

According to her website, Thogori was the founder of SpeakEasy, a content creator accelerator and marketplace which focused on amplifying the voices of women and children creators. She was also a senior software engineer, a highly sought after start-up angel investor, product manager, advisor and sat on the advisory board of six start-ups led by minority founders.

On top of her achievements was her former role as the Senior Software Engineer & Product Manager at LinkedIn and the Head of Research and Development for the African continent.

In this role, Thogori was in charge of overseeing LinkedIn's growth on the African continent with the vision to create economic opportunity for every member of the African workforce. Prior to this, Thogori led the monetisation team on subscriptions products at LinkedIn, where her team worked on connecting job seekers with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's hiring marketplace.

"She loves building technology products that positively impact people's lives. Having grown up in Nairobi, Kenya, she is particularly passionate about doing so in developing countries," indicated the website.

Love life

She was also the co-founder and CTO of Pink Coconuts, an LGBTQIA+ travel community and platform. According to her partner in business and life, tech entrepreneur, designer and human rights advocate from Barbados, Donnya Pigott or Zi, Thogori, or T as they called her was an effervescent soul who was open and kind to every person she met.

"She wanted to give to the LGBTQ community and that's why she was drawn to the purpose of Pink Coconuts too. She wanted to improve the lives of black people across the world. She cared deeply about black women, artistes and creators and LGBTQ people," she says.

The two met at Tech Beach in Jamaica in



Former LinkedIn Africa boss Thogori Chege Karago. COURTESY

2018 and made it official in 2020. During the pandemic, Zi recalls flying all the way from Barbados to be with her in Africa.

"I proposed and she said yes and we applied to be married. We went to the US to make it official. Health complications interrupted our relationship, but we still wore rings. Our love was the most beautiful thing I've experienced," she recalls.

GO-GETTER

Content creator: Thogori was the founder of SpeakEasy, a content creator accelerator and marketplace which focused on amplifying the voices of women and children creators.

Forbes list: Amongst Thogori's achievements was being named as Forbes Magazine 30 under 30.

While Zi worked on Pink Coconuts, a startup she created before she met T, they worked on their ideas separately. Thogori was working on her startup called Speak Easy, a platform and community for Black Women creators and Children.

"She loved Tik Tok, the dances, the music, the jokes...she called herself a tik tok activist because of the joy it brought to her and to people. She was also an amazing public speaker. I loved adventure and she loved children and children loved her," she adds.

Inspired many

Thogori was recognised by Forbes as one of the women changing culture, industry and the face of tech, making the list of top 30 under 30 in 2018 which according to Zi, it was something that she was proud of.

Here in Kenya, the tech world too is mourning her death. Digital Lenders Association chairman Kevin Mutiso said Thogori's death is a big blow to the tech world. "Thogori was a pioneer in the IT field and an inspiration to many and a dear friend. Personally, she was kind to me when I was in San Francisco where she offered me a tour of the Linked in headquarters and that inspired me greatly to try and build billion dollar businesses in Africa.

In addition to that, she exposed me to her network that I will be forever grateful for. She loved my daughter too and always gave her books that would make her know that women could achieve what they set their mind to. For me, I have lost a friend and the tech ecosystem has lost a pioneer," he said.

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KWALE WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANY LTD

TENDER NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Kwale Water and Sewerage Co. Ltd invites sealed tenders for the supply of goods and services on the basis of Framework Agreements at the company Head office.

S/N	TENDER NO.	TITLE	PERIOD
i.	KWAWASCO/FWC/001/2022-2024	Framework for supply and delivery of pipes and fittings	3 years
ii.	KWAWASCO/FWC/002/2022-2024	Framework for Provision of Hotel Accommodation and Conference Services	3 years
iii.	KWAWASCO/FWC/003/2022-2024	Framework for supply and delivery of fuel and lubricants	3 years
iv.	KWAWASCO/FWC/004/2022-2024	Framework for supply and delivery of stationery	3 years
v.	KWAWASCO/FWC/005/2022-2024	Provision of Air Ticketing Services	3 years
vi.	KWAWASCO/FWC/006 2022-2024	Framework for supply and delivery of motor vehicle tyres	3 years
vii.	KWAWASCO/FWC/007/2022-2024	Supply and Delivery of Water Treatment Chemicals	3 years

2. Tendering will be conducted under open National competitive method using a standard tender document. Tendering is open to all qualified and interested Tenderers.

3. Tendering is open to all Small and Medium Enterprises registered appropriately.

4. Tenderers will be allowed to tender for one or more lots.

5. Qualified and interested Tenderers may obtain further information and inspect the Tender Documents during office hours between **0900 to 1600 hours** at the address given below.

6. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased or obtained by interested tenderers upon payment of a non-refundable fees of **Shs.2000.00 (Kenya shillings two thousand only)** in cash or Banker's Cheque and payable to the address given below.

7. Tender documents may be viewed and downloaded for free from the company website www.kwalewater.co.ke. Tenderers who download the tender document must forward their particulars immediately to the address below to facilitate any further clarification or addendum.

8. All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Securing Declaration.

9. The Tenderer shall chronologically serialise all pages of the tender documents submitted.

10. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Tuesday, 8th February 2022 at 11.00 am (EAT)**. The tenders must be clearly marked with tender name, tender number and lot number.

11. Electronic Tenders will not be permitted.

12. Tenders will be opened immediately after the deadline date and time specified above or any dead line date and time specified later. Tenders will be publicly opened in the presence of the Tenderers' designated representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

13. Late tenders will be rejected.

14. The addresses referred to above are:

Attention: Managing Director
Address: Kwale Water and Sewerage Company
P.O. Box 18, Kwale
Kwale - Likoni road - off former SIDA Offices Opposite Kwale County Assembly Building
Floor/ Room number: Procurement Office
City: Kwale Town
ZIP Code: 80403
Country: Kenya
Telephone: +254 0412014155
Electronic mail address: info@kwalewater.co.ke
Web site: www.kwalewater.co.ke

TSC to roll out virtual learning in public schools

New teaching model will involve one teacher simultaneously conducting lessons in several schools

■ by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

The teachers' employer will this morning unveil a teaching model to address the teacher shortage through the introduction of online lessons in schools.

In the new model, a single teacher will simultaneously conduct lessons in several schools via Zoom.

TSC secretary Nancy Macharia will preside over the event at Alliance Girls High School in Kiambu county.

"TSC will launch Kenya's first ever live streaming lessons through which one teacher can teach multiple classes of various schools simultaneously," the teachers' employer said in a statement.

In the statement, the commission says the teaching model will ensure prudent utilisation of human resources against the backdrop of persistent teacher shortages.

The model will see a number of schools within a certain area agree on the time to live-stream particular lessons and the learners will be logged in.

The statement did not specify when the implementation of the system will begin.

It, however, remains to be seen how TSC will implement the new system especially in parts of the country where there is no internet connectivity.

There are also challenges such as the training of teachers to effectively implement the new model.

CBC training

Macharia has maintained that teachers are required to use differentiated modes of instruction and assessment for learners to benefit individually and progress meaningfully.

She has stated that with the change in curriculum, the role of the teacher has been fundamentally altered because it ought to be aligned to the needs of the learners and the curriculum.

For teachers to meet the needs of 21st

Century learners, Macharia said, they should possess additional skills that include a learner-centered classroom, students as learners, users and producers of digital content and project-based learning.

Early this month, she said the commission would in April start the training of secondary school teachers on Competency-Based Curriculum.

"These are the skills that CBC is demanding of teachers, therefore you must enhance your pedagogical skills and content knowledge," she said in a statement.

She also said that integration of ICT in teaching and learning will help improve teachers' content delivery and classroom engagement.

TSC insists that teachers need to be techno-savvy to not only access online educational resources and diversify modes of curriculum delivery but also to access a range of automated services offered by the commission.

"I urge you to embrace remote learning methodologies as a strategy to ensure that learning continues even during pandemics such as Covid-19," she said.

The commission says it is progressively addressing the teacher shortages.

Transition policy

Macharia said the government allocates funds to employ 5,000 teachers annually while TSC replaces those who leave service through natural attrition.

Teacher shortage is compounded by mushrooming of schools and over enrolled classrooms which is as result of the government policy on attainment of 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary education. This has put pressure on the existing teaching force, which was not commensurate with the learner's enrollment," she noted.

She said the teacher shortage stood at about 114,000 as at end of last year.

Last week, TSC declared 2,945 vacancies to replace teachers exiting the service through natural attrition, with 2,053 posts for primary schools and 892 posts for secondary schools.

The teachers recruited will serve on permanent and pensionable terms and are expected to submit their online applications by February 1.



Teachers Service Commission Secretary Nancy Macharia. FILE

TEACHER SHORTAGE

- Last week, TSC declared 2,945 vacancies to replace teachers exiting the service through natural attrition, with 2,053 posts for primary schools and 892 posts for secondary schools.

- Knut secretary general Collins Oyuu last week asked the National Treasury to release sufficient funds that can employ at least 20,000 teachers annually for the next five years to address the shortage.

The recruitment exercise will take place in sub-counties for primary schools and in institutions where vacancies have been declared for secondary schools.

The new recruits will be expected to report on duty from April 25, when the 2022 school calendar will begin.

Also to mitigate inadequate teachers in the public education institutions the commission said it has continuously lobbied for funds to recruit additional teachers.

To this end, it has recruited 15,000 additional teachers for the last three years and hired a total of 28,300 teacher interns.

Teachers unions have been urging TSC to address the shortage of teachers to ease the workload.

Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut) secretary general Collins Oyuu last week asked the National Treasury to release sufficient funds that can employ at least 20,000 teachers annually for the next five years to address the shortage.

"We have for a long time had the Teachers Service Commission employ paltry number of teachers annually as they try to address shortage in our schools. We need about 100,000 teachers employed," said Oyuu.

Wajir county on spot over Sh825 million tender awards

■ by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

Auditor General Nancy Gathungu has raised audit queries about public funds amounting to Sh825 million in Wajir County.

Governor Ahmed Ali Muktar's administration is on the spot over what the auditor terms as a systemic loss of public funds through procurement.

The revelations are contained in Wajir County's financial statements tabled in the Senate for the year ended June 2020.

In the report, Gathungu accused the county government of violating procurement laws, dishing out tenders to non-prequalified bidders and exaggerating the cost of goods and services.

The county officials, the report shows, split contracts to avoid open tendering in an apparent plot to favour certain companies.

Gathungu observed that some of the companies were less than one year old, with some lacking requisite experience to do works or supply goods or services.

The auditor cited a contract worth Sh247.64 million for procurement of works, goods and services.

She said that the county, in a bid to defeat the open process, split the contract to ensure the procurement falls within the request for quotation threshold "in order to defeat competition for the contracts".

"It was not noted that works of similar nature within the same project locality were split and awarded to different contractors and in some instances to the same contractor," the report reads in part.

In yet another case, the county procured medical equipment worth Sh29.87 million through a request for quotations.

"However, contracts for the medical equipment were split to defeat the use of open tender."

"Verification of the prices charged for some of the items revealed that the prices were highly inflated compared to the prevailing market prices," the Auditor noted.

Scrap metal dealers petition President to dissolve council

■ by Alvin Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Following President Uhuru Kenyatta's ban on export and trade in scrap metal, industry players want the Scrap Metal Council dissolved for what they said was its failure to perform its role.

The stakeholders said since its inception, the council had never held any formal meeting with them.

"We are suffering today because of a council that was formed but it has failed to do its job. If these people were serious, we would not be suffering today. We are telling our President to

abolish this council and replace it with people who understand the dynamics of this industry," Kenya Iron and Scrap Metal Association the secretary-general Irshad Sumra said in Nairobi yesterday.

Sumra said the council members had confined themselves to their offices when they should be out in the field engaging with the industry stakeholders.

"We should have a council that goes out to the field sensitising scrap metal dealers on the kind of metal they should trade on," he said.

Muturi wants Mt Kenya parties to unite

■ by Clement Kamau
@PeopleDailyKe

Speaker of the National Assembly Justin Muturi has urged small political parties in Mt Kenya region to unite and form a formidable political outfit ahead of the August elections.

The Speaker, who has been endorsed by the Democratic Party as its presidential candidate, said the region should bargain for political space as a united force and not as individual entities.

He warned that the region could be shortchanged if it is not in the next government.



"It would be prudent for us to coalesce around one strong party like the DP in order for our strength to be felt," he said.

Muturi (pictured) told party delegates in Limuru that Mt.

Kenya people should not beg to be included in any coalition but should instead wait to be courted.

"We have the numerical strength and nobody should take the same for granted," he said. "Let whoever wants to court us as Mt. Kenya approach us. We shall then give our conditions and those who will accommodate them will be our partner."

He revealed that the party will hold its National Delegates Conference on February 21 during which a decision will be made on who he should enter into a coalition with.

Crisis as Parliament adjourns indefinitely

Lawmakers refuse to approve House Business team meaning nothing can be transacted

by Anthony Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Parliament was yesterday thrown into a crisis after members of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) teamed up with their ANC and Ford Kenya colleagues to shoot down a motion seeking to approve members of the House Business Committee (HBC).

Speaker Justin Muturi adjourned the House, which had reconvened yesterday after the long December recess, indefinitely after majority of members voted against the list of names to sit in the committee which is charged with formulating the business of the House.

The implication is that the National Assembly cannot transact any business in the next six months. It is the first time that Parliament is finding itself in such a crisis.

HBC sets the agenda of Parliament including prioritising the motions in order of their precedence.

It is chaired by the Speaker and comprises among others, the leaders of the two sides and the Whips and seven other members nominated by parliamentary parties.

Stalling bills

The consequences of the MPs' actions include stalling this year's budget, the Budget Policy Statement, which was to be tabled in the first week after resumption, the Finance Bill, the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, Huduma Bill, Election laws, Regulation of Political Parties, and the Petroleum Products Bill among others.

The motion, which was moved by Leader of Majority Amos Kimunya, sought to approve the appointment of members Joyce Emanikor, Shadrack Mose, Kawira Mwanga, Mohamed Abdikhaim Osman, Makali Mulu, Mishi Mboko and Godfrey Osotsi.



MPs allied to Deputy President William Ruto's UDA party celebrate adjournment of National Assembly sittings after the House rejected nominees to the House Business Committee.

PD SAMUEL KARIUKI

After the motion was moved and seconded by the Deputy Leader of Minority Robert Mbui, who was standing in for the suspended Leader of Minority John Mbadi, the Speaker called for a vote and in acclamation the Nays carried the day.

Attempts by the pro-handshake MPs led by Millie Odhiambo (Suba North) were dismissed as only less than 20 MPs stood to force a division. Standing Orders require at least 50 members for the Speaker to call for a division (or a vote).

After the vote, Muturi told members that he had no option but to adjourn the House. "My hands are tied, it is your decision, the only option you have is for the Leader of Majority and that of the Minority to meet and come up with the way forward."

"As it stands now, the House cannot sit since it has no business to transact. You will have to wait for six months before a similar motion is brought. It's your rules not mine," Muturi told the members.

"Business has to be processed by the HBC, and hence

without one, we cannot do anything. The motion cannot be moved in the next six months," Muturi told the MPs.

He warned that given the circumstances, the House stands dissolved as six months lapse in June this year when the House should be sent home. "You have done what Chebukati (IEBC chairman) should have done by issuing the notice for dissolution. You have resolved the matter for him," he told the lawmakers.

After the adjournment, UDA and its allies from ANC and Ford Kenya went into celebrations singing, "This is the earthquake" in reference to the much publicised slogan by ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi.

But speaking to *People Daily* after the drama, Justice and Legal Affairs Committee Muturi Kigano said the Leader of Majority would move a special motion under Standing Order 49 to have the names approved.

Special motion

Standing Order number 49 reads; "No motion may be moved which is the same in substance as any question which has been resolved (either in the affirmative or in the negative) during the preceding six months in the same Session."

(2) Despite paragraph (1)—(a) A Motion to rescind the decision on such a question may be moved with the permission of the Speaker."

"I do not see it as a crisis, the Leader of Majority is at liberty to move a special motion to have the names approved," he said. But this might take more time than anticipated because the names which were rejected cannot be moved again, meaning that the two leaders must go back to the drawing board and come up with a fresh list.

Sirisia MP John Waluke said the UDA team agreed to shoot down the motion during their parliamentary group on Monday.

Saboti MP Caleb Amisi, however, criticised his UDA colleagues for politicising parliamentary business saying by doing so, they were not punishing the minority side but Kenyans.

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BRIEFLY

Naivasha sub-county hospital to dispose of unclaimed bodies

Naivasha sub-county hospital has issued a 21 day notice to relatives whose kin's bodies are lying at their mortuary to collect them failure to which they will dispose them in a mass grave. In a notice signed by Ezekiel Bowen for the County Public Health Officer, the hospital management noted the 15 bodies had exceeded the set time limit thus overstretching their services. The move comes barely three months after the facility disposed of another 20 bodies that had lain unclaimed for more than four months adversely affecting their operations. According to the list of the bodies, majority of them died while undergoing treatment in the hospital while others were brought in by police.

-Kirera Mwiti



UDA to oppose Finance Bill introducing new taxes

by Anthony Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

United Democratic Alliance (UDA) now says it will vote against the Finance Bill should it introduce new taxes.

MPs of the party associated with Deputy President William Ruto said they will not support any "anti-hustler" bill in parliament.

Addressing the media after a parliamentary group meeting, Ruto said MPs resolved to resist any further attempts to burden the people of Kenya with unaccountable debt.

"Party members are, therefore, resolved to oppose the proposals in the Finance Bill to tax poor people. The UDA, as a matter of policy, is categorically opposed to anti-Hustler fiscal measures and

the sort of predatory taxation, or the use of national revenues to sponsor unconscionable profligacy," stated the MPs.

The MPs expressed grave concern over attempts by government to increase the national debt ceiling in order to extend the cover for reckless expenditures and the wanton siphoning of public resources that continue to disgust and nauseate Kenyans.

"This unprecedented profligacy has become the intolerable monument of the Handshake Era," the legislators said.

They said they will be participating vigorously in parliamentary business that will generate pro-Hustler measures and policies to address the urgent problems of the majority.

Ruto, Mudavadi to commence countrywide rallies in Nakuru

New partnership expected to test ground ahead of formalisation of an alliance ahead of August 9 elections

by Jeremiah Kiplang'at and Noah Cheploen
@PeopleDailyKe

Deputy President William Ruto, Amani National Congress (ANC) leader Musalia Mudavadi and his Ford-Kenya counterpart Moses Wetangula will use the planned rallies across the country to explain to their supporters why they have agreed to work together ahead of the August elections.

The trio, who will grace the rallies start in Nakuru today, seek to test the ground as they prepare to formalise the coalition after agreeing to form an alliance at Bomas of Kenya last Sunday.

Speaking to the *People Daily*, the parties' senior officials confirmed the three will be in Nakuru today for a symbolic commencement of their partnership before heading to Bungoma on Friday and then Kirinyaga on Saturday. Before landing in Nakuru, the bigwigs will address a meet-the-people tour in Eldama Ravine.

There is also a planned joint meeting to be held in Mombasa although a date is yet to be given.

Bungoma has been chosen as the first stop for the new alliance in Western because of Ford-Kenya's perceived popularity in the area and the inroads the DP has made in the area in recent years following frequent visits.

In Kirinyaga, Governor Anne Waiguru, whose stature has risen significantly in UDA since she rejoined the party last year, will host the leaders. Waiguru was among the leaders who spoke at Bomas.

The officials said the preliminary engagements will mostly revolve around telling their supporters why they had agreed to enter into a coalition and what agenda they are going to pursue together.

UDA Chairman Johnstone Muthama said their main interest was to unite all



Nakuru Senator Susan Kihika addressing a press conference after she led leaders in inspecting Nakuru ASK Showground, the venue of today's UDA/ANC meeting that will be attended by deputy president William Ruto and Musalia Mudavadi.

PD/RAPHAEL MUNGE

Kenyans without looking at their tribes or economic status.

"The agenda we are taking to the people is that we are pursuing unity among all Kenyans. Our message will be on unity as we prepare for the coming elections," Muthama told *People Daily*. He confirmed the three principals will be in attendance.

Ford Kenya organising secretary Chris Mandu said it will be a bonding session between the leaders and their supporters.

"These will be bonding rallies. They are to tell our supporters why we have agreed to form a coalition with our partners," said

Yesterday, Ford Kenya also held a parliamentary group meeting chaired by Wetangula to look into the proposed coalition with UDA. Party MPs who attended the meeting approved the pursuit for a working partnership with UDA.

"The MPs approved the formation of a coalition with UDA and other partners," Mandu said.

Separately, the ANC leader also chaired his party's parliamentary group meeting where they resolved to push for partnerships with UDA and other parties.

The MPs who attended the meeting said they had asked Mudavadi to make sure he was on the presidential ballot in August saying they encouraged him to find more partners to support his cause.

Emuhaya MP Omboko Milemba said

among the resolutions they reached was to continue supporting Mudavadi's bid for presidency.

"At the National Delegates meeting last weekend, our party leader was given the mandate to look for friends to partner with in his journey to the State House. Let it be known that as a party we have agreed that Mudavadi is going for nothing less than the presidency," he said.

The MP said they still believed the ANC leader had not abandoned his ambitions to support Ruto's presidential bid.

"In this course, we are looking for more friends to join and support us. Musalia Mudavadi remains our party's presidential candidate for the August elections and we have presented him to Kenyans and nothing is going to stop that," said Milemba.

In Nakuru, leaders from the three parties inspected the ASK Showground ahead of today's rally.

Led by Nakuru Senator Susan Kihika, Governor Jackson Mandago (Uasin Gishu) and MPs David Gikaria (Nakuru East), Kimani Ngunjiri (Bahati), Oscar Sudi (Kapsabet), the leaders hailed the duo's proposed economic model of Bottom Up Approach and Pesa Mkononi (wealth creation) as the best way to take the country to the next level.

"We came here to make sure everything is in order," she said.

BRIEFLY

PS summoned to testify in NYS case

A Nairobi court yesterday summoned three witnesses among them the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Permanent Secretary Jerome Ochieng. The PS is to testify in a criminal case against former Devolution Planning Principal Secretary Peter Mangiti and former National Youth Service (NYS) boss Nelson Githinji over fraudulent payment of Sh791 million. Milimani Chief Magistrate Micheni Wendy also issued summons for cyber crime officer, Chief Inspector David Mwasia and Moses Gitari after they failed to show up in court to testify in the case. According to the prosecution, the three had been listed to testify in the case but failed to do so after being bonded to attend court yesterday. The prosecutor applied for summons to be issued for the three persons to appear in court on March 7 to testify in the case. The magistrate granted the application and warned the prosecution the court will not allow further adjournments during the next hearing date.

- Alphonse Mungahu



Three mourners die, scores hurt in dawn

It was a double tragedy after three people who were going for a burial died when the vehicle they were traveling in collided head-on with a lorry. The dawn accident, which left scores injured and fighting for their lives at the AIC Kijabe Hospital happened at Kimende in Kiambu county. The Toyota Hiace van was moving towards Nakuru, when it collided head-on with a lorry transporting dry maize to Nairobi. Lari sub county Police Commander Stephen Kirui while confirming the incident said two of them died on the spot, while the third one died at AIC Kijabe Hospital owing to bleeding and injuries he had sustained. Kirui added that 10 other passengers were admitted at the hospital receiving treatment, after being involved in the 6am accident.

- Clement Kamau

Registrar of Political Parties embarks on peace mission

by Felix Yegon
@PeopleDailyKe

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is meeting election stakeholders in counties as it seeks to promote peace during this electioneering period and ensure there is a free and fair poll in August.

The body, targeting regions branded as hotspots, is sensitising the aspirants on the need to

conduct peaceful campaigns while calling on the security agencies to be alert so as to detect and avert any incidences that may lead to breach of peace.

In a consultative meeting with security heads, party officials and IEBC officials in Bomet on Monday, the body said it was determined to see the forthcoming election is conducted in a credible manner devoid of the frequent incidents that have



characterised the process.

"We want to see this coming general election being one of the most peaceful one without any form of violence, political parties have a great role to play on this and that is why we want to work closely with them so that we can address any issue that arises at ease," said John Mwaura, a representative from the body.

Kobia: 2.5m Kenyans face starvation

Public Service CS says 13 counties most affected, urges aid agencies and other well wishers to assist

by Mathew Ndung'u
@PeopleDailyKe

Some 2.5 million Kenyans from 23 counties are facing starvation after the short rains failed.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Margaret Kobia yesterday announced that 13 counties are the most affected by the food shortage. The crisis continues to claim the lives of livestock besides leaving populations grappling with starvation.

Kobia said Lamu, Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Kilifi and Taita Taveta received poor rainfall despite the fact that residents heavily rely



Public Service CS Margaret Kobia (left) flags off distribution of food stuff to vulnerable persons in Asal communities at Umma University Thika branch in Kiambu, yesterday. PD/MATHEW NDUNG'U

Shut up, Kalonzo tells Ngilu on Azimio calls

by Mutuku Mwangangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Political rivalry between Wiper party leader Kalonzo Musyoka and Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu has been reignited after the former told the latter to stop pushing him to support Orange party leader Raila Odinga presidential ambitions.

Kalonzo, who begins a three-day tour of Ukambani tomorrow, told Ngilu to refrain from pursuing him to back Raila for the third time.

The former vice president said Ngilu has been advancing her selfish political interests in campaigning for Raila instead of putting the interests of the community first.

"Others like Ngilu are telling me to join hands with Raila. Which Kamba people sent her to campaign for Raila? I have no issues with my sister but on this let her shut her mouth," said Kalonzo.

While speaking in a local Radio station on Monday,



Ngilu said she was pushing for Kalonzo to be handed a running mate post in Azimio La Amani.

"There are all indications Mt Kenya people have gone with the running mate position that belonged to Kalonzo under Cord and Nasa, but we are asking that Kalonzo be given back his position under the Azimio coalition. We must fight for our space instead of sitting back to be told stories," said Ngilu.

The former vice president maintained that he did not need political brokers who have been pocketing millions of monies on his name.

BRIEFLY

Construction of Thiba dam 90pc complete, says project engineer

Construction of Thiba dam in Rukanya, Kirinyaga county is 91 per cent done. Project Engineer Stephen Mutinda said yesterday the remaining work, which includes connection to the existing road network as well as facilities for water draw-off and safe flood-water drainage, will be complete before March. "We would have started flooding the dam but the water volume is very

- KNA

BEATING THE DROUGHT

- The government plans to buy from farmers 76,667 livestock that are considered weak and which will be slaughtered for distribution as relief food to residents.
- State has shifted from food distribution to cash transfers to help curb pilferage and ensure decency.

on crops as a source of livelihoods.

Speaking while flagging off the distribution of 340 tonnes of food donated by Kuwait government in Thika and which is expected to benefit some 6,400 of the most affected families, she maintained that the government has put in place measures to redress the issue.

She singled out initiation of programmes such as irrigation projects through drilling of boreholes and a drought fund that allows the establishment of income generating

community projects among others.

"The government is doing a lot in terms of irrigation, infrastructure among other areas to eradicate poverty," she said.

Kobia announced a plan by the government to buy from farmers 76,667 livestock that are considered weak and which will be slaughtered for distribution as relief food in a joint venture between the Ministry of Public Service, Ministry of Defence, Kenya Meat Commission and the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Cash transfers

To stimulate the economy in the drought-affected counties, she further revealed that the State has shifted from food distribution to cash transfers to help curb pilferage and ensure decency.

Kuwait's envoy to Kenya Qusai Rashed Al-Farhan said his country will continue to supply relief food to affected Kenyans lauding the Kenya-Kuwait long-standing union.

KiliMo NA BIASHARA WITH LINDAH KOSKEY

FOCUS ON

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AT 8PM



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QUOTED TODAY



Devolution is too important to be discussed through politics of deception, lies, omission, distortion, propaganda and misdirection. Devolution is on the ballot in the August polls.

LAIKIPIA GOVERNOR
NDIRITU MURIITHI



Ngilu should shut her beak. Which Kamba people sent her to campaign for Raila? I have no issues with my sister but let her shut her mouth. The Kitui Governor should be speaking the same voice with Kalonzo.

WIPER LEADER
KALONZO MUSYOKA



For teachers to meet the needs of 21st Century learners, they should possess additional skills that include a learner-centred classroom, students as learners, users, and producers of digital content.

TSC SECRETARY
NANCY MACHARIA

Place teachers at centre of CBC ideals

Centrality of the teacher in the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) cannot be overstated. It is now even more enhanced with the declaration that learners will be graded to join Junior Secondary School (JSS).

The Ministry of Education has declared that there will be a complete transformation on how placement of learners to JSS will be done, starting next year. According to the ministry, placement under the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) will be a departure from the past, which was squarely based on learners' performance in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) Examination.

Although the ministry says it is in the process of developing the guidelines to streamline placement criteria under CBC, it is now clear that it will be based on a series of assessments. The mode of assessment will entail a combination of teacher-administered formative assessment in Grades 4, 5 and 6 and a summative assessment to be administered by KneC at the end of Grade 6.

The proposed weighting is 60 per cent for formative and 40 per cent for summative assessment. The summative assessment is prompted by the need to allow learners from across the country to access schools, which have superior infrastructure and a culture of good performance, thus enhancing equity.

The Kenya National Examination Council (KneC) says it has developed the Competency Based Assessment Framework to guide education stakeholders in assessing and nurturing acquisition of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes.

KneC also states that it will not only develop new assessment tools and partner with schools to enhance access but also come up with quality controls to ensure credibility of formative assessments at the school level.

The council develops School Based Assessment tools and uploads them online for teachers' use after which schools will download, administer and score the tools. Once an assessment is done, teachers are expected to upload the classroom assessment scores on the KneC portal.

Questions of trust have, however, emerged on the teacher driven assessment and whether it will be fair since there are no external examiners but the ministry has assured that tutors are well trained to strictly adhere to guidelines to be issued by the exam body.

It is, therefore, critical that teachers who will be undertaking the classroom assessment to live the CBC dream, nurture the talent of learners and award the scores they have worked hard for. Let the CBC goal, which focuses more on the learners' individual ability, be actualised.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

CORITA KENT

Women's liberation is the liberation of the feminine in the man and the masculine in the woman.



Nurturing skills to drive inclusivity in manufacturing

With women making about half of the population, their interest in innovation and entrepreneurship is likely to lift a previously dormant half and ensure that we double productivity and economic prosperity.

The question, however, is, how we effectively achieve this? While women represent one of the significant pools of untapped talent for manufacturers, closing the skills gap is key to closing the manufacturing sector's gender gap that has limited businesses' ability to evolve and expand.

Since time immemorial, trends globally have been more men participating in labour markets at a higher rate than women. As a result, women have remained under-represented and under-utilised in all sectors of our economies, including manufacturing.

However, thanks to the current fundamental transformation in modern manufacturing, as well as the rapid technological advances and convergence of physical and digital manufacturing, there are more opportunities to build the skills of women and increase their participation.

Even with this, women still remain an untapped resource. According to the 2020 National Association of Manufacturers' (America) quarterly outlook survey, manufacturers' top concern has been the inability to attract and retain a quality workforce. But while talent at all levels is becoming a critical competitive differentiator, there exists a shortfall due to a manufacturing skills gap. Unfortunately, a critical element that can aid in closing this gap is women.

In Kenya, women are not explicitly excluded



PHYLIS WAKIAGA
Closing the skills gap is key to closing the manufacturing sector's gender gap

from the manufacturing sector, but they remain both underrepresented and under-valued. However, there is an indication of changing trends in female workforce participation over the last five decades in the country (Women in Manufacturing (WIM) Report, Kenya, 2020).

A major reason as to why this could be happening is the clear desire of more women entrepreneurs to get into the sector. So even without conformity, society is grappling with the infinite decision to now have a focus on encouraging more women to venture into industry.

But for us to see a deliberate move in increasing women in industry, there needs to be an increased uptake of women undertaking technical skills training. With adequate technological skills, women will have a level playing ground to compete for markets within the sector.

The WIM report states that success in manufacturing depends on having the necessary technical skills and expertise to carry out specific roles. Adding that, as fewer young women enroll in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses, the pipeline for their increased participation in the sector will remain limited.

Lack of technical skills limits the opportuni-

ties for women to participate in the manufacturing sector fully and results in most women falling within the sector's unskilled workforce.

We must appreciate the deliberate effort by Technical Vocational Training Authority (TVETA) and industry to encourage girls to take up STEM courses at secondary and tertiary levels. This has led to an increasing number of women involved in manufacturing. As an association, we continue to provide platforms to mentor and encourage young girls to venture into the sector, through our WIM and TVET programmes.

By encouraging women to train in areas that they have traditionally been exempted from, we will be inherently responding to the changing needs of society and the manufacturing sector. In addition to this, it is also critical that we make Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) more attractive to girls and women, through improving training course relevance and linking education and skills acquisition to sector and market demands.

It is also important to undertake STEM awareness campaigns in rural and urban settings aimed at girls and young women that encourage them to take STEM subjects. We also advocate for the Ministry of Education to provide affirmative action spaces to women in STEM courses.

By building the skills of women in the sector we directly influence their confidence and participation in manufacturing, to ensure that they level up and compete effectively.

—The writer is the CEO of Kenya Association of Manufacturers — ceo@kam.co.ke

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

Will IEBC let Kenyans down again in August polls?

Flashback to 2017. In a series of reports released by The Africa Centre for Open Governance, a number of key election preparedness challenges were identified. Two months to the election, the Public Procurement Oversight Authority had found fault with the Independent Election and Boundaries Commission's procurement of ballot printing services and there was pending litigation on the matter. A voters' register audit by KPMG had estimated that there were over one million dead voters on the register. Questions were also being asked about the reintroduction of manual processes as an alternative to electronic results transmission which had raised suspicions.

In a devastating blow, IEBC's Information, Communication and Technology manager was found dead a week to the election in a still unresolved murder. The rest is history.

The country set off on a political roller coaster that resulted in a Supreme Court election nullification, two presidential elections, and mass protests. No less a person than President Uhuru Kenyatta in his latest State of the Nation address estimated that the country lost one trillion shillings during the worst of that election season.

Fast forward to 2022. The first mass voter registration in October 2021 was a big disappointment, only



FAIBA KOMBO

■ ■ ■ The commission must communicate like our lives depend on it.

registering 25 per cent of eligible new voters, despite a court mandated extension. This prompted a second briefer round in January 2022. While the dismal numbers have been blamed on voter apathy, a deeper underlying issue is confidence in the entire political system of which the electoral process is a key cog.

IEBC has not had a substantive Chief Executive Officer since the previous office holder's exit in 2018. An advertisement for a new CEO expires in January, just over six months to the General Election. That's a big red flag. Even an entry level job has a settling in period as one learns the ropes. The job of IEBC CEO is extremely complex and should never have taken this long to fill.

The public have been informed that the election will cost at least Sh40 billion. That's a huge amount especially in a Covid-19 environment and with the country facing a cash crunch as we battle to manage our sovereign debt. There was a lot of back and forth between IEBC and the National Treasury on providing the full amount until the recently

formed National Multi-Sectoral Consultative Forum on Election Preparedness resolved to close the budget gap. Incidentally, after concerns were raised by various political players IEBC exited the forum citing independence issues.

IEBC's performance since 2017 would be laughed off as a comedy of errors if it did not involve elections that are quite literally a matter of life and death.

All is not lost though. After a long process the Commission is now fully constituted with the recruitment and swearing in of four new commissioners in September 2021.

While the National Multi-Sectoral Consultative Forum has been accused of compromising IEBC's independence and being partisan, we need to give it a chance. It goes without saying that government bodies directly involved in the election need to speak to each other. However, they must remain politically impartial otherwise they become fodder for another election nullification.

IEBC has a second roll of the dice with mass voter registration. More

could have been done to reach out to potential voters but as a compromise there should be registration teams at every polling centre for the entire period. Additionally, the process to change polling centres should be straightforward. The register verification will be a big test for the commission and hopefully its technical teams are burning the midnight oil to get the data right.

Finally, the Commission must communicate like our lives depend on it. While occasional press releases may please governance wonks, the current apathy requires a lot more. Details on polling centres, opening hours, constituency headquarters and answers to queries must be available in real time. Commissioners must raise the alarm promptly if required. The IEBC has a Twitter account that reads like a series of photo ops and press releases. There is little public engagement on daily registration challenges. The Instagram account is even less engaging with less than 7,000 followers which is very low given IEBC's mandate.

As the saying goes, like Caesar's wife, the IEBC must be above suspicion. Every person of goodwill is praying that they get it right at the first try this time. The alternative is too big a burden for us to bear.

— The writer is a policy and governance analyst

ODDLY ENOUGH



Spam mail about Sh340m win turns out to be true

The spam folder in an email inbox can be a murky place - full of messages promising untold riches that are sadly too good to be true.

But as one American woman found out, sifting through your junk messages every now and again can pay off. Unbeknown to Laura Spears, an email notifying her that she had won a lottery prize of \$3 million (Sh340.5 million) had been sent to her spam folder.

The 55-year-old — from Oakland County in Michigan — bought a Mega Millions ticket on the Michigan Lottery website for a draw on December 31. She matched five numbers to win \$1 million and managed to multiply her prize by three because she had paid for a "Megaplier".

Spears explained: "I saw an ad on Facebook that the Mega Millions jackpot was getting pretty high, so I got on my account and bought a ticket. A few days later, I was looking for a missing email from someone, so I checked the spam folder in my email account.

"That's when I saw an email from the lottery saying I had won a prize. I couldn't believe what I was reading, so I logged in to my lottery account to confirm the message in the email. It's all still so shocking to me that I really won \$3 million."

She claimed her winnings at the lottery headquarters last week, saying she plans to share the money with her family and retire early. Spears said she would make sure to check her spam folder more often.

— Agencies

How upgrade of Outering Road has transformed city

BWIRE MUGOLLA

■ ■ ■ The practicability of infrastructural projects cannot be underrated.

ends at the Eastern Bypass.

The road not only serves a large percentage of Nairobi residents in the densely populated areas of Eastlands particularly Huruma, Kariobangi, Dandora and Umoja but has also created improved traffic linkages with major highways and improved transport for the commercial and industrial activities in the area.

Before its upgrading, motorists endured serious traffic congestion and was also a major reason for flight cancellations for people heading to the airport.

The construction of the Outering Road is one major infrastructural development that has offered direct benefits to Nairobi residents both on a micro and macro-level. For passengers using public transport to the Central Business District, the

upgrading of the road has markedly reduced travel time.

Cutting across different zones of the city, it has opened up road intersections such as those at Juja Road, Manyanya Road, Industrial Area, Buruburu among other feeder roads.

Outering Road also serves as an alternate route from the busier section of Mombasa Road as it joins through the Eastern Bypass to Kenya's gateway, the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Better transport has also meant improved businesses in the vicinity benefitting both small-scale road side sellers and medium to commercial industries stretching in the area of Baba Dogo, Kariobangi and the larger industrial area.

The practicability of infrastructural projects cannot be underrated

as it is deemed to be a key solution to jumpstart a country's economy with varying intensity.

For a fact, the upgrading of Outering Road has reduced travel time and cost, eased travel safety and comfort, improved access to social services, created employment and even increased population of the general area.

It is a channel for urbanisation and creation of opportunities for both large and small-scale businesses and movement of goods and services in a fast and efficient manner.

The transformative effect of the Outering Road offers tangible proof that infrastructural development is strategic in the growth and development of a people and its nation.

As the country transitions to new leadership, the next administration should commit to pick up infrastructural development as a key transformative tool that will ensure Kenya attains its goals as outlined in Vision 2030.

— The writer is a public policy analyst — bmugolla@gmail.com



TRUTH: When we put our problems in God's hands, he puts his peace in our hearts.

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR

Hongera Angela Okutoyi

@Peter_amina: Hongera #AngelaOkutoyi may you go on to become the best in the world. Choose talent over anything - This is a God-given gift that no one will take away from you. It will feed, dress, take you around the world, give you wealth, and many more goodies. Talent is priceless!



You too John Sibi-Okumu

@hallaboutafrica: Congrats Kenya's John Sibi-Okumu: the actor and playwright wins the Life Achievement Award from the top pan-African theatrical event, the Carthage Theatre Festival, in Tunisia. Also a TV journalist and film actor, he has performed more than 40 roles on stage.

Collectively controlled

@chothep: Isn't it IRONIC that there's guys hating on Edwin Sifuna style of politics but have ALL ALONG CHEERED for Itumbi PROPAGANDA AS FACTUAL? Kweli, we shall forever be controlled COLLECTIVELY LIKE MARIONETTES for the REFUSAL to adopt UNITY OF PURPOSE.

Behold a whole new world

@SeweS_: Netflix made me realise that there is a whole world out there of well written and executed content that is free of Hollywood tropes of gratuitous sex, senseless violence, damsel in distress clichés, and unipolar view of the world.

/// PeopleDailyKe /// People Daily

Calls to stop amendment to forest laws intensifies

by Mathew Ndung'u
@PeopleDailyKe

Environmentalists have intensified calls to stop amendment to forest laws that seek to repeal the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 that would deny Kenya Forest Service (KFS) powers on the excision of forests.

The Forest Conservation and Management Amendment Bill 2021 seeks to repeal Section 34 of the Act that protects forests from activities that may endanger any rare, threat-

ened or endangered species. Should Parliament approve the proposed changes, KFS will lose powers to sanction variation of boundaries or excision of a public forest. "A petition under subsection (1) shall only be forwarded to the National Assembly on the recommendation of KFS," section 34(2) of the Act states.

As it is currently, any petition to Parliament seeking to vary boundaries of a public forest must demonstrate that the exercise will not adversely affect its value as a water

catchment area and prejudice biodiversity conservation.

Green Thinking Action Party leader Dr Isaac Kalua and Hearts of Green Organisation chairman Moses Muya say if enacted, the new Bill will expose public forests to arbitrary boundary changes and excisions, which would harm them and affect water catchment areas.

While urging Deputy National Assembly Speaker Moses Cheboi, the sponsor of the Bill, to withdraw it for the interest of Kenyans, Kalua stated that the critical ecological services

and economic activities that rely on the water will suffer heavy blows if amendments are made in the Act, adding that Kenya risks sliding back to days when public forest land was subject to political impulses.

"The 2016 Act has stopped the destruction of forests as was seen in the 90s and 2000s and repealing the section will water down the gains," Kalua said in a statement to newsrooms yesterday.

Kalua regretted that the move will jeopardise State plans to achieve 10 per cent forest cover by this year.



BRIEFLY

Kisumu to rehabilitate roads under new project

Kisumu County Government will rehabilitate 210 kilometres of roads under the newly created rural roads maintenance programme, Governor Anyang' Nyong'o has said. Nyong'o announced that the first phase of the programme will commence soon and is expected to cost Sh14 million. He said a maintenance team comprising eight workers and a supervisor has been established in each of the 35 wards to undertake the project. Speaking during the launch of roads maintenance teams

for Kisumu West and Seme sub-counties yesterday, he said the project, which formed his 2017 pre-election manifesto, will enable participation, ownership and responsibilities in road maintenance by residents. "This is an ambitious programme as it seeks to maintain 210km of roads across the county. "Specifically, it will maintain 3km of roads per village," Nyong'o said, adding that his administration seeks to rehabilitate a total of 350km roads in the 2021/22 Financial Year.

-Noven Owiti

Leaders up in arms over Sh24 billion dam project

A cross section of Kiambu leaders are up in arms over seclusion of Thika town from areas set to benefit from the Sh24 billion Karimenu II Dam project. This follows Water Cabinet Secretary Cecily Karuiki's announcement last week that the project will benefit Nairobi, Ruiru, Juja and Gatundu, leaving out Thika town, which was initially meant to be supplied with water from the facility. The CS, while on a tour to assess the project, said Thika will instead be included



in future expansion plans, a move that did not go down well with locals. Led by ex-Kiambu Governor Ferdinand Waititu and former MP Alice Ng'ang'a (pictured), the leaders criticised the CS for the abrupt change of plans.

-Oliver Musembi

Fugitive wanted in US over Sh120m fraud denied bail

A Nairobi court has ordered a Kenyan fugitive wanted in the US over claims of laundering more than Sh120 million to remain in custody until hearing and determination of extradition application. In her ruling, Milimani Chief Magistrate Micheni Wendy said prosecution has tabled compelling reasons

to warrant court to deny Abdulrahman Imran Juma bail. She also rejected a probation report, saying it cited one side. "The offence the suspect is facing is serious, which needs an extradition application to be dealt with first before making other orders," said Wendy. Case will be heard on Friday.

-Alphonse Mung'ahu

Daring under 30s plunge into murky political world

Youthful aspirants seek to inspire their colleagues that they also have what it takes to shape the country

by People Team
@PeopleDailyKe

When she stepped out of an aspirants' meeting at the Deputy President William Ruto's residence in Karen last year for a photo, no one took her seriously.

In fact, as others tried hard to have the signature pose with the DP as is common with aspirants, Linet Chepkorir, 24, was in a rush to leave.

For Chepkorir alias Toto, who hails from Chemomul in Bomet East, she was content with just being there. She did not need other endorsements to prove she had managed to go to the DP's residence.

However, someone took a picture of her in a simple outfit and indicated she was vying for Bomet Woman Representative seat.

The photo soon went viral as social media users made fun of her dress code, some saying she was too young and poor to face the political bigwigs. That single photo has since become a blessing in disguise.

Youths in Bomet have picked it up and are promoting her candidature. She is indisputably among the growing list of candidates, who are below 30 years, seeking elective seats in the August 9 General Election.

Leadership skills

A degree holder in Procurement from Chuka University, she says her interest is passion-driven.

In an interview with *People Daily*, she said she has leadership skills having served in various positions while in school.

"I have had leadership experience as a class prefect in primary, head girl in high school and later a hostel captain in university. These are some of the privileges that inspired me to run for this seat," she said.

Her greatest challenge, however, is finances. However, she is grateful that she has been getting immense support from friends and well-wishers.

Joan Cherotich, 26, who is eyeing the Bomet East MP seat on UDA, echoed her sentiments. The nascent lawyer and graduate of the University of Nairobi said although she did not have the financial muscle to put up a huge campaign just like



Joan Cherotich

Linet Chepkorir

Valentine Otieno

Gideon Toimasi

her competitors. She believes she could change the culture of 'buying' voters. "I want our people to know they do not have to be given handouts by any aspirant to influence who they vote for."

On what informed her decision to contest, Cherotich says she wants to prove to youth they have the ability to lead and the political seats were not a reserve of anyone. "Youth should understand they are qualified to vie for any seat. I want to act as inspiration that these are also jobs and opportunities for them to change the narrative and shape of politics in our country."

In Kisumu, the Women Rep seat for the first time has attracted a 23-year-old Valentine Otieno. Her story effuses courage, perseverance and hope amid profuse challenges faced by orphans.

Valentine lost her father when she was 14 and her mother died three years later.

CULTURE ELEMENT

● In the Maasai culture, elders are perceived to reserve the right of making decisions of who qualifies to be a leader with age being a major limitation. Ordinarily, middle-aged and elderly persons are considered eligible to vie for elective posts with youths considered as immature.

She says she has firsthand understanding of the suffering of mothers and youths.

She seeks to set up a Mama Mboga Market Prosperity Kitty," a loan facility for mama mbogas.

Dwindling capital

"This will supplement the dwindling capital for fishmongers of Seme, small-scale traders of Katito and mobile accessories vendors in Kisumu," she added.

In Kajiado, youthful aspirants are still grappling with cultural misconceptions and financial challenges.

However, in the forthcoming elections, two youthful aspirants have emerged to vie for the Senate seat.

Gideon Toimasi, 27, and Political Science student at UoN, said the biggest challenge was being looked down upon because of his age.

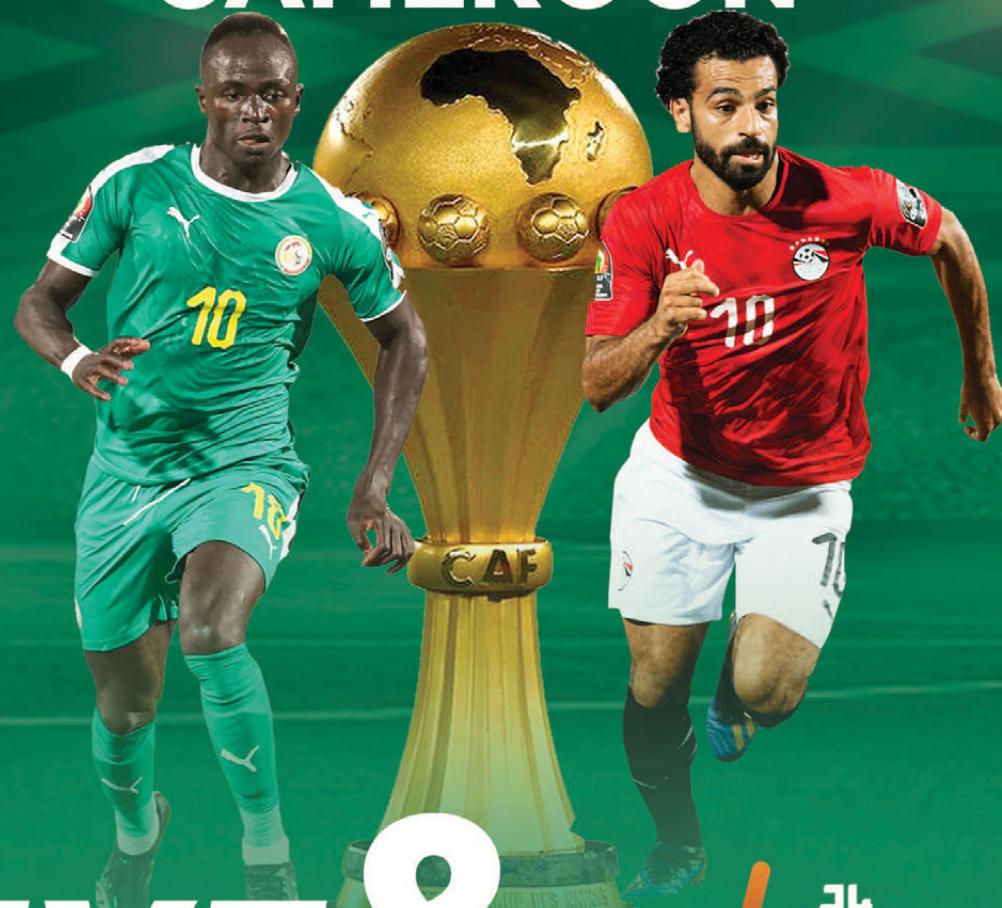
"Being a young person, it is not easy to convince some sections, especially the elderly, that one is capable of leading them. The situation is also worsened by the financial constraints that we have compared to other aspirants of advanced age and much wealth," he said.

Reporting by Felix Yegon, Kepher Otiemo and Christine Musa



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it's what's on

Radio commentary on: Milele fm, Emoo fm, Msenangu fm

Azimio team reads mischief in 35pc Ruto revenue offer to counties

by Rawlings Otieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Chairman of Raila Odinga's presidential campaign board Ndiritu Muriithi has dismissed Deputy President William Ruto's plan to increase county allocation to 35 per cent.

In a statement to newsrooms yesterday, the Laikipia Governor claimed that during a meeting of Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC), chaired by Ruto, the DP blatantly rejected the push of getting the 35 per cent.

"Devolution is too important to be discussed through politics of de-

ception, lies, omission, distortion, propaganda and misdirection," said Muriithi (*pictured*).

On Monday, during a United Democratic Alliance Parliamentary Group meeting at the DP residence in Karen, UDA lawmakers said they had resolved to amend the budget policy statement to increase county allocation to near 35 per cent of the national revenue.

Lawmakers said that was a practical measure to increase resources to finance service delivery at the real bottom of the social-economic pyramid. "At that meeting, Ruto flatly rejected the last push and plea



by governors for IBEC to adopt the position that counties be allocated 35 percent of the national revenue. I am, therefore appalled, indeed horrified by media reports that Ruto is now promising to increase allocation to counties to 35 per cent of the national revenue," said Muriithi.

Raise allocations

Interestingly, the proposal to raise allocations from the current 15 per cent to 35 per cent was among the suggestions in the Building Bridges Initiative, which Ruto vehemently opposed. Last year January, while taking a swipe at the proposal, the DP

said the government was having difficulty wiring 15 per cent to counties and argued the 35 per cent allocation would not be possible.

"They are talking about raising the amount of money sent to counties to 35 per cent of the national government's budget. How will this be possible if the current 15 per cent cannot be sent...unless they are planning to perform some magic or witchcraft," said Ruto.

However, Treasury Cabinet Secretary Uhuru Yatani dismissed Ruto's claim that the national government would not be able to allocate 35 percent of shared revenue to counties.

Raila promises Kikuyu, Maa communities major projects

Leaders' meeting also resolves to support bid by ODM supremo for State House and advance Azimio

by Eric Wainaina
@EWainaina

Orange party leader Raila Odinga has assured Mt Kenya and Maa communities that he will protect their interests and create the right environment for growth and development.

Raila, who was yesterday hosted by the Mt Kenya Foundation at Safari Park Hotel, promised to ensure that all communities, including those that have been fighting over politics and other grievances, find lasting solutions for issues that divide them.

He added that his government would introduce technology in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors as a way of creating wealth. "We want to do away with the negative ethnicity that has been a problem to this country. We want to create an environment where people will be proud as Kenyans. That you are a Maasai but you do not think that you are better than a Kikuyu, a Kamba or a Luo," he said.

He added: "We are all Kenyans and that is what we want. I want to work together with the Maa community, people from the lake, Luos and Luhya, Kisii, people in Rift Valley, Coast, North Eastern, Eastern be-



ODM leader Raila Odinga arrives at the Safari Park Hotel for a joint meeting between Mt Kenya Foundation and the Maasai community, yesterday.
PD KENNA CLAUDE

cause if we get them to rally behind Azimio La Umoja, we will unite this country."

Raise allocations

The meeting, which brought together Maasai and Samburu politicians and opinion shapers from Kajiado, Narok, Samburu, Laikipia and Baringo counties, was attended by Environment Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko, Kajiado Governor Joseph ole Lenku, Narok Senator Ledama Ole Kina and a host of MPs from the Maa community.

Also present were leaders from Mt Kenya among them Kiambu Governor James Nyoro and his Nairobi colleague Anne Kanunu, MPs Sabina Chege (Murang'a), Jude Njomo (Kiambu Town), Nominated

Senator I.G Ngugi among others.

In the meeting's resolutions that were read by Lenku, the leaders agreed to support Raila's presidential bid.

"As the Mt Kenya and Maa community, today, we declare in one accord and with finality that we shall campaign for and elect Raila Odinga as the fifth president of the Republic of Kenya. Today, as the country prepares to go to the elections, we have agreed together to ensure the continuity of President Uhuru Kenyatta which Raila has been advancing through Azimio La Umoja is realised," read the resolutions.

The foundation, through its chairman Peter Munga said the meeting between the two communities was inspired by the fact that they share a lot of political and historical aspects. "We are here inspired especially by a shared sense of common destiny. We are here inspired by the future of this country. The leaders of these communities are here inspired by the handshake. Today, we are here because we know that the destiny of our nation, our people lie in Azimio La Umoja. We are here today because the Handshake has shown the way. We are here as MKF because we believe Azimio la Umoja is the way forward for the future prosperity of the children of this nation."

Tobiko said the two communities and the country at large has an obligation to elect a president who will not erase the gains the nation has achieved over the years, warning that Deputy President William Ruto, who is among frontrunners in the race was too dangerous for the country.

BRIEFLY

Kibwana blasts his deputy's Ruto deal

Makueni Governor Kiyutha Kibwana yesterday blasted his deputy, Adelina Mwau, for joining Deputy President William Ruto's United Democratic Alliance. Duo was in 2013 elected on a joint ticket under the Muungano party. They were later re-elected in 2017 on a Wiper party. "My attention has been drawn to a clandestine dealing between Adelina Mwau (Deputy Governor Makueni) and UDA. She had even pledged to take with her a huge delegation of our common political friends to UDA, who declined her overtures," said Kibwana. Mwau, however, defended the move, saying it was her democratic right. "I have a right of association and after soul-searching I made this personal decision of joining UDA," she said.

-Mutuku Mwangangi



Anger boils over River Yala bodies

Families that had last week identified their relatives among bodies retrieved from River Yala are now stranded after DNA analysis failed to start. They had travelled to Yala Sub-County Hospital mortuary after they were informed that the forensic examination was to be conducted by the Homicide team from DCI headquarters. Mutiso Nzomo, whose brother, Peter Mutuku, had positively been identified on Thursday last week, expressed frustration that they had travelled all the way from Machakos only to be kept waiting without any proper information given to them. "We started the journey on Monday so as to catch up with the officers doing DNA test but up to now, the pathologists have not asked for or taken our samples," said Nzomo. They were flanked by human rights activists Boniface Mwangi and Haki Africa CEO Khalid Hussein. - Eric Juma

Concern over fate of sector

Kenya National Private Security Workers Union Secretary General Isaac Andabwa (centre) joined by members in singing a solidarity song yesterday after a press conference in Nairobi. They are demanding to know from presidential candidates, their agenda for the private security sector following various stalled reforms by the government. PD/Alice Mburu



Businesshub

KAMLESH SHAH

Since lifting of Covid-19 measures a number of countries have witnessed price increases

Base Titanium pursues new licence for Kwale and Lamu

by Munira Mandano
 @PeopleDailyKe

Base Titanium is seeking a new prospecting licence from the national government for Kuranz area in Lamu County as they wind up there activities at the main site.

General manager Simon Wall said they have two years remaining to end their mining activities at the

main site and are looking forward to the government issuing them a new prospecting licence for Kuranz and Lamu.

"We are through with mining activities at the main site in Maumba and rehabilitation of land has started we are mainly planting local trees and grasses," he told journalists during a mining site tour.

Wall also said that they currently

cannot know the capacity of the minerals at Kuranz until government issues them with the prospecting license.

"We are yet to know the potential of minerals in Kuranz but once we get prospecting licence we will know," he said.

Wall said that Kuranz and Lamu areas are also suspected to have the three titanium minerals, which are

ilmenite, Rutile and brookite.

He said the company already has an exploration licence from Tanzania in Moshi where they will do similar activities of titanium mining as the Kwale, Maumba mine.

"We already have an exploration licence for Tanzania and soon we will be starting work there with similar activities as we have been doing in Kwale," Wall said.



Paint makers warn of price hike as input costs shoot up

Players say prices of most of raw materials have gone up by up to 60pc, forcing them to pass about 10pc of the costs to consumers

by Jacktone Lawi
 @PeopleDailyKe

Kenya's paint and coating industry players are warning consumers of a likely jump in the prices of products on the back of a surge in the cost of raw materials.

The manufacturers say the development is now threatening to derail the growth witnessed in the sector, which has remained among the most competitive in the Kenyan market, during the pandemic.

Kamlesh Shah, Basco Products Ltd managing director said since the lifting of Covid-19 measures a number of countries have witnessed price increases.

"I think what has happened is that internationally, as the world started recovering after 2020, a lot of demand got generated from places and big consumers like China. And freight costs really shot up too," he said. Rising freight charges, weakening shilling and high demand of material overseas characterised the rise in the cost of paints post-easing of the restrictions.

Shah was speaking yesterday during the unveiling of the latest generation of water-proofing range of paint products in the Kenyan market that seeks to address the frequent leakages in the construction sector.

In the last quarter of 2021, paint makers had announced that the price of the commodity was likely to rise due to the increase in cost of the price of Titanium Dioxide, which is used to make paints.

Shah estimates that the sector has been able to increase the cost of products by about 12 per cent in the last year.

Industry

Charges

Manufacturers say the rising freight charges and cost of raw materials are now threatening to derail the growth witnessed in the sector during the pandemic



Prediction

In the last quarter of 2021, paint makers had announced that the price of the commodity was likely to rise due to the increase in cost of the price of Titanium Dioxide, which is used to make paints.



Construction

Contrary to many sectors like hospitality, the country's construction industry, remained sustainable over the pandemic period driving up business for the paint industry



for the sector players going into 2022 and elections getting on the way.

"Two things are a very important one, the supply chain of these materials internationally, I do not think it is really going to improve till the last quarter of this year, so it will be very difficult. And scarcity breeds higher costs," he said.

Secondly, Shah added that unfortunately the country is going through "a very, very difficult time in terms of politics and elections." Contrary to many sectors like hospitality, the construction industry, remained sustainable over the pandemic period driving up business for the paint industry.

"A lot of the factors of construction industry actually had a benefit during that time, whereby a lot of paint consumption happened during 2020 and 21 period," said Shah. Most of the raw materials, according

to Crown Paints CEO Rakesh Rao have gone up by up to 60 per cent forcing them to pass about 10 per cent of the costs to the consumers. However, Consumers Federation of Kenya (Cofek) Secretary General Stephen Mutoro dismissed the move, saying there is no proper justification for the increase in cost.

Rising costs

"They have margins that any rise in the price of inputs they should absorb it in the margins. The rising costs are likely to out-price consumers," he said.

"First of all, before they raise the prices we want the Competition Authority of Kenya to investigate the dominance in the sector and let the industry players improve the quality of paint in the market," Mutoro added. The industry is dominated by a handful of major players making it easy to gang up to control the trade by among others, creating an artificial shortage, and fixing discount prices and transport charges, which play a key role in the eventual price of commodities.

In the past, Competition Authority has detailed how leading paint manufacturers have been reducing the availability of paint in the market to create an artificial demand and reap from the resulting higher prices.

MUTORO

They have margins that any rise in the price of inputs they should absorb it in the margins.

Gloomy picture

"I do not think that any player in the paint industry would be able to deny what I'm saying that our margins this time last year, was still better by about 20 to 30 per cent in terms of whatever margins we were earning comparatively than what we are currently getting," he said.

Shah further painted a gloomy picture

FARMING

Three more firms seek to join Mumias Sugar legal battle

Three more companies now want to be enjoined in the Mumias Sugar lease legal battle, with West Kenya Sugar Company now claiming to have been the highest bidder.

West Kenya, Mumias Outgrowers Company Ltd and Tumaz Tumaz Enterprises have filed an application to be enjoined in the suit filed by five farmers, saying it will affect them.

The farmers are Lambert Lwanga Oogochi, Augustino Ochacha Saba, Prisca Okwango Ochacha, Robert Mudinyo Magero and Wycliffe Barasa Ng'ong'a.

They obtained orders on January 14, stopping any operations at the sugar milling plant after they challenged the lease on the basis that it was undertaken in an opaque manner.

Gakwamba Farmers Co-operative Society also filed to be enjoined last week claiming the five farmers were unknown to them and therefore did not have authority to file the suit.

The society dragged West Kenya Company in the lease saga claiming it was the one sponsoring the farmers with a purpose of interfering with the operations of Mumias Sugar.

Through lawyer Danstan Omari, the society argued that the application was an abuse of the court process and should be dismissed.

"We are the farmers to Mumias Sugar Company, we don't know anything about this suit neither do we have any minute passing any resolution to institute any suit," read court papers.

West Kenya, however, in their application to be enjoined in the case, faulted the bidding process, saying it was not fair as they were the highest bidder and the Ugandan firm Sarai Group, which was awarded the tender was the lowest bidder. "We will be seeking an explanation from the Receiver Manager and KCB on the bidding process," lawyer Paul Muite, who represents the factory, told the court yesterday.

West Kenya contends that the Receiver Manager Ponangipali Rao action of awarding the lease to the 6th defendant despite it being the lowest financial bidder, was pre-determined and said action is unconscionable.

- Bernice Mbugua





State asked to lift ban on GMO foods to save animal feeds industry

SHORTAGE: The government has been petitioned to allow importation of duty-free genetically modified (GM) yellow maize and soya beans to cushion against a nationwide shortage of major ingredients used in making animal meals.

Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers, the country's umbrella body for livestock feed producers, warned that the livestock feed-manufacturing sector faces imminent collapse with its revival pegged on lifting the long-standing ban on importation of GM foods to allow raw materials.

They urged the government to review and vacate its Cabinet memo of 2012 which banned the importation of GM foods into the country.

In the memo, the then Ministry of Public Health ordered Public Health Officials to remove all genetically modified foods in the market and to enforce a ban on GM imports.

The ban, according to the association, has led to the shortage of feed ingredients pushing production costs to the brink and negatively impacting the country's livestock feed industry.

John Gathogo, the association publicity chair noted with concern that the high cost of producing animal feeds in the country has forced farmers and feeds manufacturers to quit the business at an alarming rate. Already, 50 factories in the country and 20 per cent of farmers have closed down with another 20 per cent more on the verge of collapse

"We can only get adequate maize and Soya from GM producing countries and we are asking the government to do so because these countries produce at a lower cost which will have an end positive effect to farmers," said Gathogo.

Zachary Munyambo, a Thika-based farmer who has been in the business for over 18 years, said that rain started beating the industry in 2018 when higher importation of eggs resulted to throw away prices of locally produced eggs.

- Mathew Ndung'u

should the current situation persist.

Increase in the cost of maize and soya which are the main ingredients in the manufacture of animal feeds have been blamed for the increased production cost.

Gathogo regretted that the short-term measure by the government to allow importation of non-GMO maize, soya and other raw materials has not been fruitful as countries like Malawi, Zambia and Uganda have imposed export bans as their production levels are very low.

Sunflower seed cake

Kenya relies on the import of sunflower seed cake from Tanzania while soya bean is imported from Uganda, Malawi, and Zambia to satisfy the raw material needs of the industry. However, a recent directive by the Government of Zambia suspending the export of soybean meal and sunflower seed cake has exacerbated the feed shortage in Kenya.

This, according to KPMG, a global network of professional firms, is an additional incentive for private companies seeking to generate electricity for private use or direct sale. "It will encourage the growth

Farmers urged to embrace modern farming techniques

by Munira Mandano
@PeopleDailyKe

Kwale farmers have been asked to embrace modern farming techniques to combat hunger and improve agribusiness sector. Speaking during a farmers field day organised by Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (Kephis), Crop Development and Agricultural Research Principal Secretary, Hamadi Boga said the government is broadening agricultural services since it is among the main country's economic mainstay. "Food security is in President Uhuru Kenyatta's Big Four agenda and we can only achieve it if we

embrace the modern farming methods that will enable us have sufficient food and both for home consumption and agri-business," he said. The field day brought together experts from various government departments in the ministry who have been running a model farm in Ukunda. The model farm offers an opportunity to farmers in the area to acquire knowledge on modern farming and practice on their own. "This demonstration is to show us that we can bring back lucrative farming because if we run away from farming, we are running away from money," said Boga.

Why cheaper energy plan may remain a pipe dream

Experts say some IPPs have contracts with Kenya Power, leaving no capacity to spare until the contracts expire or at least revoked

■ by Herald Aloo
@PeopleDailyKe

Cheaper alternative energy may remain a pipe dream despite new law seeking to boost private power generation with the potential to lower bills for customers.

The law under Finance Act 2021, which removes the requirement that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) must supply to the national grid, came into effect this month in a bid to lower the cost of electricity in the country.

Kenya Power has been the sole electricity distributor, with 30 per cent of its electricity produced by IPPs as KenGen supplies the remaining 70 per cent to the utility firm. As part of government's plan to lower the cost of doing business and access to affordable power, IPPs can sell power directly to persons, without connecting to the national grid.

Generate electricity

This, according to KPMG, a global network of professional firms, is an additional incentive for private companies seeking to generate electricity for private use or direct sale. "It will encourage the growth

MINI-GRID POWER

- Finance Act 2021 has from January 1 recognised mini-grid power systems, which distribute electricity as "manufacturers".
- It gives them the same tax incentives available to large-scale generators who sell to near-monopoly Kenya Power.

of small renewable energy power plants, which is an important step towards increasing competition and reducing the cost of electricity," it said on the implication of the amendment.

However, some experts have expressed doubt on whether plans to have IPPs sell electricity without going through the national grid would be possible, considering that there are no clear plans to undertake the exercise, especially for those with existing power agreements.

George Aluru, Electricity Sector Association of Kenya chair said the directive is good but currently not viable for operating IPPs of tens to hundreds of megawatts since they are bonded by the contractual agreements with Kenya Power.

"Most IPPs today have committed their entire capacity contractually to Kenya Power and must always have that capacity available for its use," he told *Business Hub*. These contracts, some of which run for 20 years, he added, remain in force, leaving no capacity to spare until the con-

tracts expire or at least revoked to accommodate move towards private electricity companies.

Aluru said IPPs will be compelled to face market turbulences such as transmission costs and inconsistent operations by some large power consumers, a problem that Kenya Power has always shouldered. He said the move can only be viable for new IPP projects with more options contractually and where large consumers are available.

Contractual period

"However, consumers must display capacity to continue operations over the contractual period to allow IPP to dedicate the capacity to a specific consumer," Aluru said. He further notes that there will be a need to complete the framework for wheeling of power through the transmission system.

Sometimes the IPP and the prospective consumer, Aluru added, are not located closer to each other, and there will be a need for that power to be carried on the transmission system to distant locations.

"The closer IPPs can build to these consumers, the more cost-effective the trade will be," he said.

A large section of Kenyans, especially in far-flung rural areas, are not connected to the national grid, indicating that mini-grid operators and private producers will still struggle with the transmission, pushing the government's agenda of universal access to electricity far from reality.



Easing gridlock

Abel Kagumire (centre), Commissioner of Customs, Uganda Revenue Authority and East African Business Council chief executive John Bosco Kalisa, speak to reporters at Malaba One-Stop Border Post on implementation of Kenya-Uganda border decongestion directives after the two countries agreed to speed up clearance of trucks at the border.

Kenya lifts ban on flights from Dubai

The government has revoked the ban that was imposed on flights from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The move comes just days after Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo revealed that Kenya was holding talks with the Middle East country to iron out differences that saw passenger flights to and from Kenya blocked from entering UAE.

In a retaliatory move Kenya imposed a one week ban on flights from UAE over stalemate with Covid-19 vaccination certificates. Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) in a report



said that the ban which lasted seven days expired on Monday, January 24. The ban issued on January 10, did not affect cargo flights which continued with normal operations. Lifting of the ban now means passengers from Dubai can resume their normal flights to Kenya. Last week, talks elapsed between Kenya and Dubai over the ban. Kenya

maintained that Dubai must first lift its ban on flights from Kenya before effecting the same for Nairobi bound passenger flights. Omamo told the press that the talks were between her ministry, Ministry of Health and officials from Dubai. The CS was briefing the media on milestones made by the ministry in the last two years. Last year, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority suspended all inbound and transit passenger flights from Kenya, saying some passengers from Nairobi tested positive for Covid-19, yet they had certificates showing they were negative. - Jacktone Lawi



Filling skills gap

Kenya Trainee student at Severin Craftsman Training Centre Sarah Kenyanya (left) receives a certificate from centre founders Reto Casanova and Severin Schulte (middle) as head of Tourism Police Charity Mwita looks. The centre offers free training for youth to address technical skills gap. The centre received a Sh4 million boost from Skills for Africa (SIFA), an initiative of the African Union Commission and supported by the German government.

Interest rate may hold at 7pc in 2022

That is in spite of inflation tending to rise due to increased spending, pressure during an election year

by John Otini
@PeopleDailyKe

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) is among African lenders of last resort expected to stay interest rates this year due to several factors including this year's August elections, analysts at Renaissance Capital have said.

CBK has held the policy rate at 7 per cent since 2020 in a record breaking streak that has seen the currency drop to Sh113 against the dollar to spur growth and maintain money supply in the country.

As a result inflation has picked up, but remained below the statutory 7.5 per cent limit, above which rates usually tend to rise.

Weaker local currency

"Our Africa Economist Yvonne Mhangi expects no change in the monetary policy rate in 2022, partly because it is an election year," Renaissance Capital said.

Risks to this include a weakening of the local currency and rising food prices which could cause upward inflationary pressure. Renaissance expects that inflation will pick up to 6.2 per cent by end of the year.

The 91-day Treasury bill rate has been somewhat sticky ranging between 6.6 and 7.2 per cent during the period.

"We nevertheless note that upside risk to rates exist due to

the expected government borrowing during the year," said the investment bank.

With a debt already close to 70 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), the IMF estimates that Kenya will have borrowed \$12.4 billion (Sh1.4 trillion) from foreign sources by June 2022. This comes at a time when the country is at a high risk of debt distress.

Other African countries expected to hold their policy rates unchanged are Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.

There is however a risk that the US and China may start raising interest rates to battle rising inflation globally and as a result there will be capital flight from emerging markets whose low interest rates means low yields.

This could further hurt the exchange rates in these developing economies which have already suffered since 2020 from Covid-19 shocks.

However, it should be noted that policy rates can only be held constant for an entire year under extraordinary circumstances, therefore there is no guarantee that central bank rates will stay at seven per cent for 12 months.

RISKS

● During an election year, inflation tends to rise due to increased spending and may have an upward pressure on inflation and exchange rates.

● Other dynamics like global oil prices and the weather can quickly change the operating environment significantly.



NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
15.00	10.00	Eagogods Ltd Ord 1.25	1380	13.80	1,000
42.00	30.00	Kakutu Pic Ord 1.00	41800	419.00	100
101.00	80.00	BOW	95.00		
350.00	260.00	Kapchorwa Tea Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	320.00		
22.60	16.75	The Limuru Co. Pic Ord 20.00	21.00	21.10	6,700
154.75	126.00	Sasin Pic Ord 1.00	130.00		
		Williamson Tea Kenya Pic Ord 500			

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
76.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00	60.25	65.75	1,900

BANKING

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
12.00	8.60	ABSA Bank Kenya Pic Ord 0.50	11.80	11.80	82,400
4000	24.30	DK Group Pic Ord 0.80	23.75		
6900	55.00	Diamond Trust Frank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	58.00	57.50	22,600
55.00	39.25	Equity Group Holdings Pic Ord 0.50	51.75	51.50	1,223,600
5.28	3.40	HP Group Pic Ord 5.00	3.51	3.57	10,700
46.95	20.25	IBM Group Pic Ord 100	21.00	21.25	30,100
50.75	40.00	KCB Group Pic Ord 1.00	44.55	44.95	934,700
2900	23.00	NCB Group Pic Ord 5.00	25.10	25.85	57,600
9900	78.00	Stanbic Holdings Pic 0.45	78.00		
142.00	123.00	Standard Chartered Punk Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	131.25	130.75	27,400
14.00	11.50	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 100	1275	13.10	137,700

COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
5.10	0.45	Deacons East Africa Pic Ord 250	0.45		
1.37	0.80	Eversure East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.96	0.87	6,400
4.99	3.15	Express Kenya Pic Ord 500	373	4.07	1,900
0.00		Homeplay Entertainment Pic 0.50	466		
9.50	0.80	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 100			3.83
4.53	3.70	Longhorn Publishers Pic Ord 1.00	4.14	4.38	1,800
1380	4.01	Nairn Business Ventures Ltd Ord 1.50	524	520	4,800
26.50	14.35	Notion Media Group Pic Ord 2.50	1895	18.45	1,400
400	2.50	Sameer Africa Pic Ord 5.00	274	271	5,200
20.00	13.55	Standard Group Pic Ord 5.00	16.15	15.60	700
1700	13.20	TIPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00		14.00	
0.29	0.20	Uchumi Supermarket Pic Ord 0.50	022	0.22	26,400
6.24	3.50	WPP Scangroup Pic Ord 1.00	419	4.19	48,600

CONSTRUCTION & ALLIED

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Pic Ord 1.00		5.55	
41.95	33.00	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	37.90	37.85	18,800
4200	19.05	Crown Paints Kenya Pic Ord 5.00	3530	34.05	14,000
L62	1.15	E.A.Cables Ltd Ord 5.00	1.20	1.20	19,800
9.54	6.00	E.A.Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00	720	7.20	200

ENERGY & PETROLEUM

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
810	350	KenGen Co. Pic Ord 1.00	4.11	4.14	207,000
1.99	1.29	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Pic Ord 2.50	157	159	399,800
5.50	4.50	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 4% Pref 20.110	4.53		
600	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Plc 7% Pref 20.00	600		
27.50	23.15	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Pic Ord 500	23.55	23.55	3,800
720	5.44	Uenergy Ltd Ord 1.50	6.50	6.50	400

INSURANCE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
878	6.50	Britam Holdings Plc Ord 010	714	7.18	21,800
3.50	1.74	CC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	228	2.23	143,300
392.00	276.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	30550	307.25	6,200
2.80	2.10	Kenya Re insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 250	2.32	2.27	18,900
10.30	6.50	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 100	6.84	6.90	2,200
12.85	9.00	Sanlam Kenya Plc Ord 0.50		10.55	

INVESTMENT

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
18.00	14.00	Centum Investment In Plc Ord coo	1450	14.50	73,300
0.45	0.34	Home Africa Ltd Ord	038	0.38	37,800
1500.00	1500.00	Kuruvita Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00		1,50000	
2.24	1.63	Olympia Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	187	199	40,100
1.66	1.08	Trans-Century Plc Ord 0.50	133	123	20,900

INVESTMENT SERVICES

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
10.90	7.90	Nairobi Securities Exchange Plc Ord 4.00	8.20	8.30	11000

MANUFACTURING & ALLIED

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
75.00	61.25	B.O.C Kenya Plc Ord 500		70.50	
485.00	420.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Pic Ord 10.00	448.00	439.25	200
13.20	10.00	Carbaid Investments Plc Ord 1.00	18.95	18.95	2,400
19400	148.00	East African Breweries Plc Ord 2.00	15650	157.50	13,700
1.45	1.19	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825	1.34	1.34	300
14.00	10.40	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord		10.40	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 250		0.27	
33.50	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00	27.60	27.50	1,400

TELECOMMUNICATION

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
45.25	36.00	Safaricom Plc Ord 0.05	36.55	37.30	7,909400

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
748	5.90	ILAM FAHARI-REIT Ord 20.00	6.50	6.50	2,800

EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP PRICES	PREVIOUS	TOTAL SHARES
1930.00	1780.00	ABSA New Gold ETE	19821		188000

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: DOWN 2.18 points to close at 161.95
 NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 5.06 points to close at 1881.42
 NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 36.48 points to close at 3649.64

MARKET WATCH

TREASURY BONDS ISSUE



RESULTS OF 91,182 & 364 DAYS TREASURY BILLS ISSUE 24/09/21, 24/12/21 & 27/01/22 DATED 29/11/2021

	91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS	TOTAL
Due Date	28/01/2021	30/05/2021	28/11/2021	
Amount Offered (Kshs. M)	4,000.00	10,000.00	24,000.00	
Bids Received (Kshs. M)	3,936.66	2,526.43	9,034.51	15,591.61
Performance (%)	-9.04	-2.20	-0.25	-0.45
Last Amount Accepted (Kshs. M)	3,936.2			



World News

MILITARY STATEMENT

MPSR, which includes all sections of the Army, has decided to end President Kabore's post today

Armies must stop fighting for power, UN boss urges

Guterres calls for release of deposed Kabore as Macron confirms Burkina Faso president is safe

Ouagadougou, Tuesday

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday after the putsch in Burkina Faso that military coups are 'unacceptable,' calling on West African armies to defend their people rather than fight for power.

"My appeal is for the armies of these countries to assume their professional role of armies to protect their countries and re-establish the democratic institutions," Guterres told reporters before a Security Council meeting on protecting civilians in war zones.

In Monday's coup, army officers in the notoriously volatile Burkina Faso detained President Roch Marc Christian Kabore amid deepening anger over his handling of a jihadist insurgency.

The poor Sahel country now lies in the hands of a junta led by Lt-Col Paul-Henri Sandogo Damiba.

"Democratic societies are a value that must be preserved. Military coups are unacceptable," Guterres said. "The role of the military must be to defend their countries and their peoples, not to attack their governments and to fight for power."

Several hundreds of people gathered Tuesday in Nation Square in the heart of the capital Ouagadougou, waving flags and sounding vuvuzela horns in a loud show of support for the junta.

Guterres downplayed the rally.

"There are always celebrations for these kinds of situations," he said. "It's easy to orchestrate them but the values of democracy do not depend on the public opinion at one moment or another."

Burkina Faso's military takeover is unsettling but not unexpected. The ousting of Kabore is the fourth coup in West Africa



People hold the Burkina Faso national flag as they gather at Nation square to support military in Ouagadougou. - AFP

in the last 17 months. Neighbouring Mali has seen two military interventions in that time, fuelled by concerns over an inability to deal with growing militant Islamist violence.

As in Mali, Kabore's removal was triggered by growing discontent among security forces over his alleged failure to adequately support them against militants linked to al Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

On Sunday, mutinies were reported in several military camps, in Ouagadougou,

and the northern towns of Kaya and Ouahigouya. The unrest followed months of anti-government protests demanding the president's resignation.

Meanwhile, international pressure is mounting on the coup leaders to release Kabore, following claims by his party that he had survived an assassination attempt.

Guterres' spokesman said he was "particularly worried" about the whereabouts and safety of the deposed president. He called on the coup leaders to lay down their arms.

The military has not given details about Kabore, but said the coup had been staged without violence and all those detained were in a secure location.

However, France's President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday the situation in Burkina Faso appears to be calm. He condemned the coup and confirmed Kabore was in good health and not being threatened.

- AFP and BBC

ANTONIO GUTERRES

The role of military must be to defend countries and peoples, not to attack governments and to fight for power

South Sudan's internecine skirmishes claim 32 lives

As Inter-communal violence in South Sudan's Jonglei State has claimed 32 lives, local officials said on Tuesday. Tuong Majok Deng, acting governor of Jonglei State said gunmen from the neighboring Greater Pibor Administrative Area launched an attack on Monday, leading to death and maiming of civilians. Majok said in a statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, that the attackers also razed homes and businesses besides driving away a large

herd of cattle. "The state government and Jonglei communities are and still are appalled at this shocking news on this atrocity attack led to 32 innocent lives taken, 24 people wounded, one missing, 2,600 cattle raided and a number of immovable properties destroyed or burnt," Majok said. He said security forces were pursuing the gunmen even as South Sudan grappled with a spike in inter-communal violence specifically in Jonglei and Lakes states. - Xinhua

Ukraine: US troops on alert as West urges unity

Washington, Tuesday

US President Joe Biden has said there is "total unanimity" with European leaders over Russia's troop build-up on its border with Ukraine.

During crisis talks on Monday, Western powers agreed to "unprecedented" sanctions against Russia if it were to invade.

The US has also put 8,500 troops on alert, which Russia said caused it "great concern". It denies having any plans for an invasion. How-

ever some 100,000 Russian soldiers have been deployed on Ukraine's border.

Joining the US and UK in Monday's talks were the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the EU. The head of Nato, Jens Stoltenberg also dialled in.

"I had a very, very, very good meeting - total unanimity with all the European leaders," Biden said afterwards.

A Downing Street spokesperson said the leaders "agreed on the importance



of international unity in the face of growing Russian hostility". Should a further Russian incursion into Ukraine happen, they agreed that "allies must enact swift retributive responses including an unprecedented package of

sanctions".

The aim of the 80-minute video call between the allies was to agree on a common strategy against Russia's actions, after some disagreements over how Western nations were responding.

On Monday, UK PM Boris Johnson warned that "gloomy" intelligence suggests Russia is planning a lightning raid on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and the UK started withdrawing some staff from its embassy there. - BBC

41-year-old Damiba is Burkina coup leader

Ouagadougou, Tuesday

A lieutenant colonel appointed to oversee security in Burkina Faso's capital has emerged as the leader of a military coup that overthrew President Roch Kabore after heavy gunfights in Ouagadougou.

Dressed in military fatigues and a red beret, Paul-Henri Sandogo Damiba was presented as the president of the Patriotic Movement for Safeguard and Restoration (MPSR), which seized power on Monday. "MPSR, which includes all sections of the army, has decided to end President Kabore's post today," a captain standing to the left of Damiba said, as he read a statement in the lieutenant colonel's name on Radiodiffusion Television du Burkina (RTB).

The 41-year-old officer had been promoted in December by Kabore to commander of Burkina Faso's third military region in what some analysts viewed as an effort by the beleaguered president to shore up support within the army.

The appointment to the strategic position followed an attack by fighters on a gendarmerie post in the northern town of Inata that killed 49 military officers and four civilians.

Reports that the troops had gone without food rations for two weeks sparked anti-government protests and calls for Kabore to step down. In his new post, Damiba proceeded to reorganise the military ranks, appointing new officers to key roles with the declared intent of battling the uprising.

As a contrast to Kabore,



who was faulted by the army for the rising rebel violence, Damiba has sought to present himself as an expert in countering terrorism. He studied at a military academy in Paris, obtaining a master's degree in criminal sciences from the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers.

In June, he published a book titled West African Armies and Terrorism: Uncertain Responses? in which he analysed anti-terrorism strategies in the Sahel region and their limits.

From 1987 to 2011, he was part of the Regiment of Presidential Security (RPS) of former president Blaise Compaore, who was overthrown in 2014 after hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in protest at plans to extend his rule.

According to *L'Observateur* newspaper, Damiba quit the RPS in 2011 following a wave of protests and a violent mutiny. He was later posted to the northeastern town of Dori as Commander of the 11th Infantry Commando Regiment and to the northern town of Ouahigouya as Commander of the 12th RIC.

In 2015, Damiba and other officers took part in an attempted coup that briefly deposed the transitional government.

- AFP and Xinhua

Eureka ▶ Design, innovate, engineer

Solar firm's PayGo plan boosts access to smartphones

Company seeks to close the gap on financing after a survey indicating Kenyans are unable to afford the gadgets they need

by Faith Kyoumukama

@martkinel

Demand for pay-as-you-go financing for products in the East African market is set to skyrocket this year as more consumers opt for alternative payment solutions as opposed to cash first payment, according to latest data from Angaza, a solar tech firm.

This shows despite an increase in demand for sophisticated products such as smartphones and TVs, a majority of consumers are unable to pay for the items upfront.

Angaza customer director, Peter Thuo, says the pay-as-you-go (PayGo) model shows great potential to help more low- and middle-income earners access products they previously could not afford.

"PayGo financing has in the past been used to help more low-income people access basic services. We are now seeing a paradigm shift as more middle income earners are seeking this financing model in a bid to access products they cannot pay for upfront," he said.

With the financing model, consumers who cannot afford to pay for a product upfront can choose to pay distributor's small, affordable instalments over an agreed period of time.

These small payments are either made until the product is paid off and the consumer owns the product or on a continuous basis. If the consumer cannot make their payments, the product shuts down until payment is made or the product is returned to the distributor.

Angaza works directly with the distributors using a lock and unlock payment cycle.

"A customer identifies the type of product he or she wants and if that particular distributor is listed with us, they are able to pay for the items in installments. Using our hub server we are able to lock and unlock items or products purchased

In case the installment is not made," adds Thuo.

In case some customers approach Angaza directly, they direct them to their partner distributors depending on the item needed. "Durable products such as smartphones, clean cook stoves, bicycles, and motorbikes are the most sought after goods for this model, Angaza expanded beyond solar products to support distribution business in selling any product and to make traditionally higher products financially accessible to consumers" he said.

Increasing adoption

With Covid-19 pandemic, consumers are going digital and increasingly adopting smartphones. A GSMA report indicates that a third of people in Sub-Saharan Africa will be using mobile internet by 2022, rising to nearly 40 per cent by 2025.

Smartphones will account for almost two thirds of connections in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2025, fuelled by financing plans and more affordable devices. Additionally, for products such as clean cookstoves, with 2.8 billion people who continue to lack access to clean cook solutions, achieving universal access by 2030 to meet the SDGs will re-



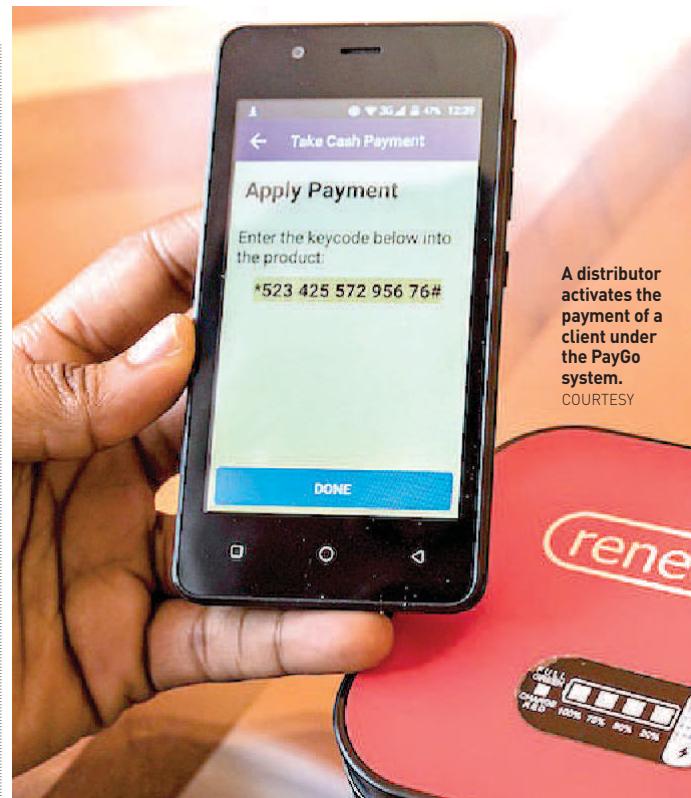
Angaza Customer Director Peter Thuo.
COURTESY

AT A GLANCE

- Angaza started off as a solar tech firm, but having seen the increasing need of low-income people looking for gadgets, they adopted other products.

- The organisation works with different distributors for products such as cookstoves and smartphones to increase accessibility to those who need these items

- Users pay for the product in instalments, failure to which the item is locked. When they complete payment, ownership of the item is handed over.



A distributor activates the payment of a client under the PayGo system.
COURTESY

quire a major acceleration in the pace of change," Thuo added.

These types of scenarios present distributors with ample opportunity and incentive to reach more consumers by expanding their product offerings.

Africa's smartphone market shipments are expected to grow 7.4 per cent in 2021, reaching 1.37 billion units, followed by 3.4 per cent growth in 2022 and 2023, according to data from the International Data Corporation.

With such opportunity to increase access to these goods, Angaza has partnered with over 25 manufacturers, including Burn Manufacturing, Samsung, and NuovoPay, to provide distributors with the opportunity to sell clean cookstoves, smartphones, and other transformative products.

Vital partnerships

It has also partnered with over 60 mobile money providers across 25 countries to ensure smooth payment and cashless distribution of products.

"The option of mobile money has led to a significant decrease in cash usage over the past few years, enabling consumers to pay at any time, from anywhere, while saving distributors the cost of physically collecting payments," explained Thuo.

The ability to make their installment pay-

ments on time creates a financial "ladder" of opportunities for consumers to increase their creditworthiness and access opportunities to finance larger, more complex products like smartphones and electronics over time.

Last year the firm received Sh1.3 billion in Series B financing to support efforts to scale customer service and commercial business teams, primarily located in Nairobi. In 2019, it partnered with MasterCard, signing a global Memorandum of Understanding to roll out an efficient digital payment solution.

In recent months, most payments on the platform were being conducted via cash or mobile money. With the integration of Mastercard's API, the solution provided new levels of payment.

"This partnership has helped in keeping accurate records of payments. In addition, the user is able to establish verifiable digital identity and trackable credit history which was previously impossible to create or maintain. This data gives companies and financial service providers the ability to put underserved populations on a new path to financial inclusion" says Thuo.

The payment data on the platform helps distributors identify whether a consumer qualifies for a product upgrade or for a new product.

BRIEF

Swallowable balloon set to enhance weight loss

With so many Kenyans seeking to find solutions to cut their weight, Avane, a Nairobi based clinic has just launched a pill sized non-invasive gastric balloon that will assist them solve this problem with no anaesthesia or endoscopy. Formerly known as the eclipse balloon, Allurion balloon is a weight loss solution in the form

of a swallowable capsule, filled with a saline like substance that is swallowed and it becomes a balloon in the stomach.

"It is a vegetarian capsule, which after four months will degrade and come out as waste. You will lose 10 to 15 per cent of your body weight," explains Dr Pranav Pancholi, a cosmetic surgeon

and the CEO of Avane Cosmetic Clinic.

Once there, the balloon takes up space in the stomach, thereby inducing early satiety in two ways; delaying gastric emptying as well as minimising the stomach capacity. After the pill has been swallowed and is confirmed to be in using X-ray, the balloon is inflated with about half a liter of water. It is then

taken to another X-ray to make sure it is resting in the correct position in the stomach. The team will then monitor the patient for an hour before allowing them to go home.

During the period the balloon stays in the stomach, the patient has to go for regular checkups at the clinic for monitor the progress.

Avane administered the first Al-lurion balloon on its patient in October 2021 and since then, more than seven

patients have received the treatment with much success. It is the only gastric balloon worldwide that involves no endoscopy and anaesthesia for placement or removal. Multiple clinical studies have shown that most people lose 10-15 per cent of their total body weight through the Allurion Balloon programme in just 16 weeks. The weight loss pill costs Sh450,000.

-Harriet James

STYLE @adalla_allan

How did you get into fashion designing? My mother was a tailor and teacher. So, she used to teach women how to make garments. I was seven years old at that time. We used to live in Bura, Tana River county. According to the setting of the place, people don't use couches in their living rooms. They use bamboo mats and that is what was in our home. The rest were tailoring machines that my mum used to teach the women how to design for free. As she taught them, I would also learn the patterns from the assignments. So, my mum was my key inspiration to design. Also, I don't have siblings that I could play around with while young. So, I could spend most of my time mingling with the older women as they went by their designing tutorials.

Is that where your passion for fashion stems from?

I'd say yes. It all started while I was young, as I liked dressing up. I actualised the passion after completing my secondary school education in 2011. I then joined campus in 2012, and I could find limited time to design, but now after completing campus in 2016, I was free to venture into design full-time before getting employed as a statistician.

So, how do you balance the two?

Well, a lot of people don't believe that it's possible to balance the two, but I give them a simple answer. We have 24 hours in a day. I do my statistics job for eight hours and then the rest of the time I give it to Caex Fashion. It is manageable.

Describe your style.

It is a bit luxurious. At Caex, we mostly do a mixture of ankara and the modern designs.

How do you keep yourself updated on the latest designs?

I do most of my research online. These days we have so many platforms that we get content from. Pinterest is a good example. YouTube tutorials are also helpful.

Which fashion designers do you look up to?

When it comes to perfection and good work, I look up to Hellen Tolbert, the founder of Ellen Designs. She designs for many local gospel artistes. When it comes to marketing, that is fashionpreneur, I look up to Kate Maye of Africa Fabric and Designs. She knows how to market her work.

What are some of the drawbacks you face in the fashion industry?

The main one is the unavailability of fabrics. We get them from Eastleigh, but it is never a guarantee that you will get the one you were looking for. We don't have good importers of fabrics in Kenya. There is a big gap there. This forces developed fashion businesses to import the fabrics themselves, which is quite costly.

How has social media influenced your business?

For the longest time, I have always depended on social media. We don't have walk-in clients here. The moment you get a client online, you do for them a good job and then they give you referral clients. That is how our business has managed to grow to where it is right now.

What are your future aspirations in fashion?

To continue building my Caex Fashion brand to go beyond the borders.

FABRIC AFFINITY

GET THE LOOK WITH NAILANTEI NORARI

Dapper on all occasions

Mike Makori, 34, is a television presenter turned fashion influencer. He is known for his dapper suits and chic off-duty looks that feature must-have accessories such as hats, military boots, and tinted shades. Here are a few looks we can steal from him to enliven our personal wardrobes.

A three-piece suit for the office is an all-time killer look.



Don't shy away from shorts while on that holiday vibe.



Some flower power to enliven a suit is top level style.



Beth Kaeke is the founder and CEO of Caex Fashion World, a couture clothing line with a special focus on women wear. Professionally a statistician with a bachelor in Statistics from Kenyatta University, she talks with **Adalla Allan** on her style, designing career, and other fashion interests



Beth Kaeke

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted



Architects and Quantity Surveyors chairman Architech Silvester Muli.

Solutions for life

■ By William Murigi

Paint maker Basco Paints held an event in a Nairobi hotel yesterday, where it launched a range of its new generation waterproofing products, AquaTech and AquaArm. The products are set to address the frequent challenges faced by homeowners and the property market when it comes to leakages, dampness and cracks on walls. Among the present were Basco Paints MD Kamlesh Shah, Architects and Quantity Surveyors chairman Silvester Muli, and Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) president Wilson Mugambi.

PD/ALEX MBURU



Basco Paints general manager Aseem Doshi.



Evelyn Ongili of Duracoat Market Support with Architects and Quantity Surveyors CEO Mwongera Rukaria.



Basco Paints MD Kamlesh Shah with AAK president Wilson Mugambi.

BOOKS FOR FUTURE

■ by Manuel Ntoyai

Honorary Consul General for the Caribbean Islands of Antigua and Barbuda to Nigeria Dr Wallace Williams was in the country to lead a book drive in Kibra Constituency, Nairobi, at the weekend. The project that was initiated by Simama Na Kibra Foundation, which is led by Yusuf Noah also known as Refigah, aims to provide learning materials for underprivileged children from the sprawling slums. Dr Williams emphasised on the importance of creating better education structures in the Pan-African countries, in order to give the children an opportunity to have a prosperous future.

PD/GERALD ITHANA



MCs Botul Kassim and Hassan Mahmud.



Honorary Consul General for the Caribbean Islands of Antigua and Barbuda to Nigeria Dr Wallace Williams with producer John Legend take part in a Nubian dance.



Yusuf Noah, founder Simama Na Kibra Foundation.



Talent Without Borders founder Simaloi Dajom with Mukiri Jeruto.



Nubian drummers entertain the guests.



Sister Club Nairobi dancers do their thing.



Artiste Gin Ideal.



Let your teenagers wash own clothes

When you have a teenager and a pre-teen in the house, the house becomes one big debating chamber. The kind of debates that come about are varied. There is a debate on almost anything on the table — from why there is no bread in the house and why we are taking Githeri for dinner on second day running. I don't know where teenagers get their urge to question anything that comes their way. I don't recall arguing with my parents. Whatever my mum or dad said, we did. No questions asked. Any questions could only be asked to your siblings or friends. Not to the parents.

When you leave in an urban area, you have a helping hand in the name of a domestic worker at home. Usually a woman, she does most if not all the cleaning of the house, utensils, and clothes for everyone residing in the house. This is all fine, especially when the children are much younger. But when you have teenagers who leave their beds unmade and leave their dirty clothes strewn all over their bedroom because they expect someone to come and clean after them, then situation calls for a different approach.

This year, we agreed with my wife that this needed to stop. We asked the help not to wash any of their clothes. She should not try to arrange any of their clothes in their wardrobe. First day, they came from school and started complaining that their uniforms have not been washed. That is when we broke the news - no more help guys, you are on your own!

It was a major change, and we were proud of it. Yes, first days we had some drama, of having to iron the shirt in the morning as it didn't dry well, but with time they have all adjusted and synchronised their laundry timetable. Initially, we wondered why we should not allow them to use a washing machine, but my wife could hear none of it. They had to put water in a basin and wash the clothes with their hands. The first few days we had arguments and debates on child labour rights and what have you, but we stuck to our guns. Things are now smooth. It was one of the best decisions we made. We did toilet training; they can also learn to wash their clothes.

Family Fusion ▶ All about kin and kith

Curbing incest in a blended family

While not related by blood, sexual intimacy between step-siblings is still improper

By Jasmine Atieno
@PeopleDailyKe

Miriam Wambui, an entrepreneur and single mother of two teenage boys was forced to discontinue her new found love and opportunity to settle down when the reality of the family set-up registered. "The man would have made a great partner and dad. We had dated for about a year or so. He had a beautiful teenage daughter too. My problem is I had noticed my boys had a lot of curiosity when it came to sex. I had actually walked into one of my sons room and caught him masturbating. Probably, the relationship would have turned out different, but the thought of how wrong things would have turned out with the two and the girl just got me worried. I was worried, this experimentation would be extended to the girl. I gave it a serious thought and decided to break up with the man. I don't mind dating someone who has children, I just would rather the children are of the same sex as mine," shares Miriam.

Just in time...

Miriam is not the only one wary of this. Having been raised in a blended family, Hussein Mohammed says it was not a walk in the park. His step-brother nearly led his sister to incest had their younger step-sister not been nosy. "I think our parents were mentally prepared. My father had my sister and I, while our step-mum joined with her two children; a boy and a girl. The boy was 15 and the girl was young,

about five years at the time. So, our sisters had to share rooms. The little sister though, had noticed his brother used to come to the room and sit next to my sister touching her inappropriately. And one of the lunch afternoons, hell broke loose when she spilled the bean. It was settled that the boys would be sent to boarding school. I agreed it was the best decision. And after that, I looked out more for my sister. The respect also settled in and we are a family nine years later," says Hussein.

Too closer home, still a family

Incest describes any sexual relations between members of a family. While the strictest definition of the term applies only to those who are closely related, incest may also refer to sexual intercourse between family members who are not blood-related, such as step-siblings or cousins by marriage. Non-consensual and coercive incest can cause severe psychological damage. Due to the stigma surrounding incest, many of those who are victims never report it, which can often prevent them from being able to process the abuse and heal from it.

But what happens if the relationship happens in a blended family where the siblings are not blood related?

Psychosocial officer, Ruth Jebet shares that while there are no laws in Kenya that prohibit marriage between blended siblings because of the fact that they do not share a DNA, it is still too close home and improper.

"African traditions prohibit intimate relationships between step-siblings, though



**Sheila Wachira,
child psychologist.**



**Ruth Jebet,
psychosocial
officer.**

AT A GLANCE

- While there are no laws in Kenya that prohibit marriage between blended siblings because of the fact that they do not share a DNA, it is still too close home and improper. The biological predisposition of shared DNA doesn't mean that they are not family

- Risks include sharing of bed-rooms among step-siblings, lack of boundaries and family values among others.

- Have a talk on sex early. Listen to your teenagers' concerns if they say 'I don't like being near so and so.'

there is a possibility of it happening because they are not related by blood, they are related through their parents' marriage. In the African culture, when remarriage includes children from previous relationships, both parents will at some point assume the responsibility of parenting. Therefore, if you both treat your partners' child or children as your own and even allow them to refer to you as 'mother' or 'father' they will eventually view themselves as siblings thus limiting the possibility of them having an intimate relationship," shares Ruth.

Ruth advises that it is important to make the children understand that the biological predisposition of shared DNA doesn't mean that they are not family. Spending more time together and bonding by doing activities together as a family will help the children feel the family connection and view each other as siblings.

"Communicate openly. When communication is clear, open, and frequent, the children will trust you and they will be open to let you know about issues they are facing. Be open when such topics come up, do not judge, try to validate their feelings and let them know you are there for them. If you feel you are not in position to give a proper guidance because your advice on the subject may be biased, you could refer them to therapist," she says.

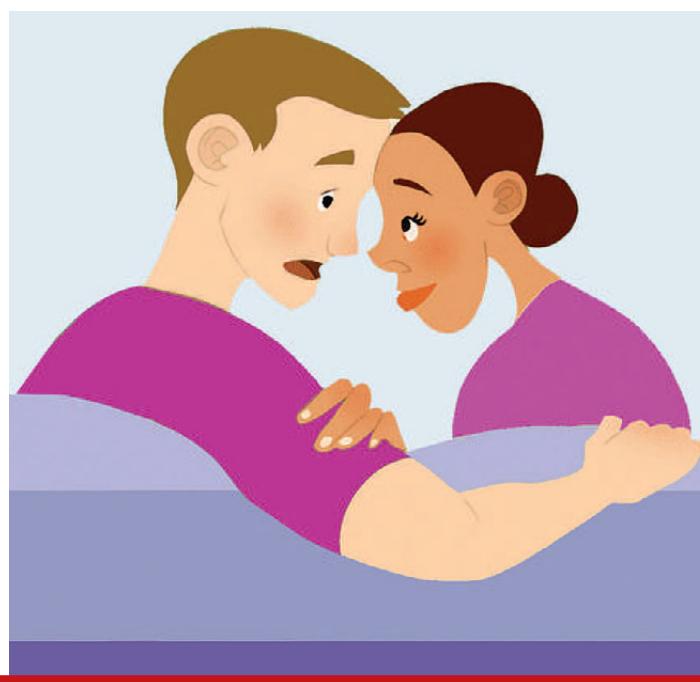
She adds, "Always remember that, while society's views on step sibling sexuality closes the door on intimate relationships, it does not lock it. Therefore, there is a possibility of it happening and when it does happen, be ready to face it and support your children," she says.

Sheila Wachira, child psychologist, Shewa Relationship Advisory intimates that the probability of incest in a blended family is majorly because teenagers are at the stage of identity and curiosity is key here. While bonding together, they create the warmth, affection and actually start missing each other's company. Again, with this generation, watching soaps operas with the same teenagers, snuggling on the couch before bed time and showing open affection makes the teenagers want to try the same.

Way forward

Other risks of exposure include sharing of bedrooms and ignorance from parents who want to treat teenagers like five-year olds, blindly hoping they are far from maturity. The best way to curb such an issue is through psycho-education on sex and attractions, which has to be done early enough. "Set healthy boundaries giving each other social space. Listen to your teenagers' concern if they say 'I don't like being near so and so.' Discourage step-siblings of the opposite sex from sharing a room or even staying in a room alone for long. If incest has already happened, then, both parents of the teenagers need to meet and listen to them without judgment and shouting out of anger. Give guidance to both of them, let them know it can happen again and put precautions in place. They need to seek professional counseling as well. Giving good psychosocial support to both teenagers, forgiveness for all parents and the teenagers is key for the healing process," advises Sheila.

Mostly, girls carry more shame when incest happens than the boy child. "Bring self-awareness such as what led to the act, how they could have prevented it, what would they do if it happened again, how do they manage vulnerability in the future. Reaffirm family values. And finally, love them and show them empathy. They need that to avoid mental illness," she says in conclusion.



PARENTING 101 BY ROSE MUTHONI  @ROSEMUTHONIN

Taking the worry out of weaning

For two mothers—**Aida Kamanyire** and **Alberta Okoth**, introducing their babies to solid food was a journey of discovery, which led them to establish online resources that would guide parents on the ever-changing feeding recommendations

Many parents look forward to the sixth month of a baby's life, which ushers introduction to solids and a reduction in the time required to breastfeed the young one or cut in formula budget. But weaning is more complicated than that. Some parents, lacking access to crucial information, might end up with a sickly baby suffering from allergies, constipation and worsening of reflux. It is no wonder that on most parenting boards online and on social media, the most asked question is what are the best foods to offer a six-month old.

When Alberta Okoth's son turned six months old, she had no idea what foods to offer him, at what intervals and how many feeds he required. "At the time, the information available was not forthcoming. I set out on a journey to document what and how I fed my son as well as the foods he liked or rejected. Seeing a huge informational gap, I decided to share my weaning journey so that mothers would not struggle with how to wean their little ones," says the 27-year-old accountant.

That is how *@baby.yum.yum*, an Instagram resource that empowers parents to give their babies a good nutritional foundation, came to be.

Another mother, Aida Kamanyire, concerned by the struggle that many mothers go through introducing solids to their babies, decided to empower them with simple, nutrient dense recipes that would take the worry out of weaning.

"Many mothers are clueless on what to offer their babies when they start weaning and as they progress into being toddlers. I wanted to make sure that I help as many mums as possible with my ebooks," says the 29-year-old mother of two.

Alberta says some parents struggle with weaning because they rely on age-old feeding methods, while others are lost in conflicting advice offered by their friends and families.

"Having limited information on food that is nutritious, locally available and the preparation methods also presents a challenge to parents. Lack of patience is another factor. When a baby starts feeding, parents expect that they will grasp eating immediately. But the reality is that some babies might refuse to eat, some may develop gas with some foods or they may become fussy," says Alberta who advises parents to slowly reduce breast or formula milk feeds.

Do's and don'ts

It is important, she says, to maintain one meal for a couple of days before introducing another depending entirely on how the baby adjusts to food.

"To make the foods easily digestible, you can mix them with breastmilk or formula. This will also help the baby easily accept the food because the taste is familiar. However, babies are different. Some may like everything while others don't," she

says.

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines on what to and what not to feed babies in the first year of life has escaped many parents with most resorting to age-old feeding methods such as giving babies below one cow's milk feeds.

Alberta says although cow's milk can be used to cook food, it should not be given as a drink.

Aida is of the same opinion, adding that cow's milk may cause digestive issues such as diarrhoea or constipation. "It may also trigger eczema. Research has also shown that it can cause anaemia and overwork a baby's kidneys," she says.

Growing up, most of us were weaned to solids through purees



AIDA KAMANYIRE

I would advise parents to offer a variety of foods to establish good feeding habits

with the texture transforming from smooth to coarse over time. However, purees are not the only method of weaning. Baby-led weaning, a method that empowers a baby to self-feed, has been gaining popularity among parents. This method skips spoon-feeding purees and lets babies feed themselves finger foods.

Baby-led weaning

"The best thing about baby-led weaning is babies get to decide how much they eat and are in control of their hunger from an early age. It may be messy in the early days of weaning, but it becomes less messy as the days go by. Babies get to learn about textures, taste and colour of food as they hold it and explore," says Alberta.

However, some parents are scared of this method, preferring the tried and tested purees. "The main concern about this method of weaning is that parents fear that their babies will eat less or choke. However, parents confuse gagging with choking. As long as food is softly cooked and is cut into age-appropriate sizes and they feed under a parent's or caretaker's supervision, then the baby will be just fine," says Alberta.

As parents navigate the first year of life, e-resources offered by these two mothers and many more, will go a long way to smoothen the transition to solids while guaranteeing a good nutritional foundation.

"I would advise parents to offer a variety of foods from the start of weaning to establish good feeding habits. Also, always offer a food several times if there is resistance before you give up because babies can take up to 20 tries to accept a food," says Alberta who also asks parents to try and have meals together so that the child can see them model and emulate how the parent eats and how they conduct themselves on the table. This will also help them learn how to chew and enhance hand-eye coordination.



ALBENTA OKOTH

When a baby starts feeding, parents expect that they will grasp eating immediately



MOMINTHEMIX
WITH FANNE MWAMBI

Take time to appreciate the little humans in your life

My youngest daughter turned four this week. A child's birthday is even more special for its mother, especially if yours was a difficult birth. Ella's almost was, and I remain in awe at my maker making this baby my little miracle. She is a fighter, this one, and if you are keen, then you will see it in her tough character too.

She is not quick to join other children in fun activities. In fact, she always wants to stay back and gauge her safety (and fun) before jumping in. This reminds me of the time she crawled, got her first set of teeth and walked. It all happened when she was between 1.2 to 1.6 years old! I remember rushing her to the hospital one day for running a high fever and found about 10 teeth all coming out! I also remember my worried mother calling nearly every day to ask if there was an improvement on her flat head, and all I could say was, "Not yet, mum."

Unique characters

It has taken me three children, nurtured in the exact same environment by the same parents, to truly understand the uniqueness every child brings. None of them is like the other. Each one brings something incredibly different to the table, something unique that I find amazing in every other child I interact with. I have come to appreciate the talents every child is born with as I realise it's all the tools that will influence who they will eventually be in the future. It may not be all-time pleasing, I mean, I have seen my children take on habits that I am ever discouraging, but I try to nurture the positive as we work on their challenges.

Longest month of the year

Meanwhile, take the little blessings in your life this week. Enjoy the rollercoaster they turned your life into and the mess they bring in your home in their livelihood. Appreciate the noise, the silence, the hyperactivity and meekness. Take time to be grateful because when you think about it, they are the reason you go above and beyond to make it in life. Happy week seven of Njaanuary!

Relatively Speaking

► Inner circle truth

Comedian found solace in parody after the loss of parents

by Jasmine Atieno
@sparkleMine

Padi Wubonn was only 12 years old when he lost both of his parents. Up until then, life had been good. He and his siblings; Eric, Lillian and Emily got the best that life had to offer and never lacked anything.

Being the last born surprisingly did not make Padi, born David Omondi Atweng'a, a softie. As Emily shares, he was a jovial child, fun to be around and interact with, he easily made friends out of strangers, but was also a mischief-maker and would land in a lot of trouble, which earned him some good beatings from their stern parents. Turning out as a comedian though was not something that any of the family members had envisioned.

"Our parents were strict. We were raised in a strict Catholic family. Padi definitely had a talent and we would all catch his hilarious side at children's birthday parties. We all just ignored it as a 'stage' you know... being a child and he would outgrow it. Our dad had it all planned out for us when he was alive. Even visions of who we would become. He made it our thing to match and salute when greeting our guests. Padi would have definitely ended up in one of the discipline forces," shares Emily.

Dark period that bore light

Their dad Bonventure Allooye Atweng'a was a government environmental officer and their mum, Lorna Atweng'a worked with a nongovernmental organisation, PLAN International before venturing into her own business. Their father's line of work though, meant they had to cope with the constant transfers from different school as early as nursery school, especially for Emily and David.

"Our father working for the Government put both me and Padi on toes. He first attended Baby Class in Garbat Tula, in Isiolo where our father had been posted to at the time. Later he was transferred to Embu county where Padi joined nursery school and early primary school. Our dad was again transferred to Kisumu county, where we again joined Ezra Gumbu Primary School. We had to move again when our dad was transferred to Kisii and we were admitted at Kisii Primary School. So, he attended quite a number of schools when he was young. Then our mum died in 1996," shares Emily.

After losing their mother, their father was once again transferred to Siaya county (their home county), where Padi Joined Siaya Township Primary School. Emily was already in secondary school by then. Two years after their mother's passing, their father died and they were left as orphans. This, as Emily shares was a dark period for all of them and while finding a way to let this pain out, comedy became a channel for Padi, and slowly the passion found a home in him.



"With our parents gone, the challenges began. We moved from one relative to another. Padi finished secondary school and was admitted at Ramba Boys High School, Siaya county. But raising school fees was hard. He was on and off school. There were times when he would spend a whole term at home. All these challenges affected his academics. Even as an average student he was a strong believer in arts. So, in secondary school he was a scout, actor, soloist, narrator and dancer. He sat his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams in 2004, but due to all the financial difficulties, he was not able to join college," shares Emily.

Friends that matter

After secondary school, he acquired skills such as carpentry, painting, masonry and small businesses such as hawking juice and selling *mitumbas*. Shortly after, the father of parody in Kenya, Peter Kaimenyi aka Kajairo started mentoring him into the comedy world as he had already seen the passion and tal-

ent he had.

"His godfather in the comedy and also a close family friend, Kajairo, has played a great role in his career; he held his hand and guided him in the craft while he made a force of himself. Kajairo introduced him to Churchill, who has had a great impact on his career," she says.

Proud sister

Being in a corporate world and with his brother as one of the best in his craft is something that Emily is proud of. Seeing him do his thing and win the heart in the masses is something she celebrates every day. "I lack words to even describe how proud I am of him. I have had an opportunity to bring him on board during one of our company events as an emcee. At first, my employer was a bit hesitant, but Padi performed well and I was beyond proud watching him do his thing. And of course, he was paid well. It's always a good feeling being introduced as his sister," she says.

Her favourite thing about her baby

David Omondi, stage name **Padi Wubonn** has made a name for himself by cracking ribs of many, especially through his comical song parodies, and succeeded while at it. His sister, **Emily Atweng'a** shares his career journey, challenges and having a breakthrough in the fun industry

EMILY

When he goes to the toilet, he comes out with a brand new idea. That place pulls some magic on him



MAIN: Comedian Padi Wubonn. RIGHT: Padi and his sister Emily Atweng'a a selfie moment. PD/ JASMINE ATIENO

brother is his limitless-persona. When he finished secondary school, he had asked his siblings to support him through computer classes and driving school and from there, he has found his way to the top of the charts. He is also fearless, a go-getter and genuinely loves all people.

"Padi is not one of those people who burn down bridges. I have never heard complaints from any of his close friends. He is always positive. He turns sadness to something positive and equally pulls people out of darkness. This has been influential even to me as his elder and how I carry myself; it makes me be stay positive," she reveals.

Banking on the future

Like all the other stars, fame is not always a smooth ride, and while she might not see everything, she definitely doesn't miss how haters sometimes try to bully her brother over one content or the other, but he just keeps going.

When he is not creating something to make people happy, Padi is a great cook! "Cooking is his happy place and he will not hesitate to pull a five star treat when his siblings visit. His other happy place is the toilet! When he goes in there, he comes out with a brand new idea. That place pulls some magic on him," he says

Well, while she might not be able to tell just how far her brother will be in the next few years, she knows for sure that it will be greater heights. "He is a superstar. Unpredictable. He keeps growing. He is full of surprises you just can never tell what's coming. It's hard to say, but I know he will be real big. For now...we are taking it one day at a time," says Emily.

AT A GLANCE

● Padi in full means Papa Di (Damian's dad) and Wubonn mean son of Bonn (his late dad Bonventure Allooye Atweng'a).

● Padi who has been in the entertainment industry for years now was inspired and mentored by Peter Kaimenyi aka Kajairo. The comical musician is popular for doing covers for music hits in hilarious manners.

● The comic is also a gym enthusiast and a great cook.

Taboo ▶ Let's talk about it



Are we ready to embrace organs from animals?

Transplant from animals has been a hot topic over the years, but even with the recent breakthroughs, are people up for this?



By Sandra Wekesa

@wekesa_sandra

There was excitement and consternation after the news that doctors transplanted the heart of a genetically modified pig into the chest of a man in Maryland, US, in a last-ditch effort to save his life.

The first-of-a-kind surgery was hailed as a major step towards a successful animal-human organ transplant. The 57-year-old, David Bennet had terminal heart disease, but most medical centres ruled him ineligible for a human transplant.

But even with the scientific interventions, are people ready to embrace animal-to-human organ transfer?

Regina Oduor says she does not have a problem embracing it wholeheartedly. "If the procedure is the only way to prolonging my life or that of my loved ones, I would never think twice about getting an organ

transplant or blood transfusion from any animal as long as it has been given a clean bill of health by doctors," she says.

Full consent

She says the procedure is ethical, under a few circumstances, but insists the range of possible side effects must be made clear from the onset and parties involved should give consent.

"I know stigma plays a major role in making this socially acceptable, people have not really come out to embrace organ transplants from pigs because of the belief it is associated with dirt," she says.

She concurs with the West, which has openly embraced this science because of information in the public domain.

However, the sentiments are different for Jennifer Wanjiku, who believes pigs are culturally and religiously classified as unclean animals that shouldn't interact with humans.

"With that mentality, I don't think I would be comfortable with either of my loved ones or someone I know receiving an animal organ," she says.

Stigma against donation isn't tied to animals alone, it extends to other humans especially those who have died. It is not strange for people to wish to donate organs upon death. In many cases, religious and cultural beliefs and superstitions keep relatives from fulfilling the wish.

Organs shortages

Dr Meshach Onguti, a reconstructive and maxillofacial surgeon, explains that transplant is necessary among humans with life-threatening conditions.

However, in some cases, there are shortages of organs to make the sick functional and that is when surgeons resort to seeking interventions from animals.

BRIEFLY

Ireland beats taboo to embrace hair transplants

Presenter and influencer James Kavanagh says the boom in demand for hair transplants in Ireland shows men are becoming more comfortable with self-care.

New figures show that there has been a 50 per cent spike in demand for transplants in recent years – with men accessing treatments at home and abroad.

Kavanagh had a hair transplant back in 2019 and on The Hard Shoul-

der recently, he said the recent spike in demand highlights the journey "we as males have been on for the last 20 years".

"I remember like 10 years ago, you were called metropolitan if you had a shower and more deodorant," he said.

"Men have three-step skin-care routines now and all that kind of thing. We are moving on and on and on and I think hair care and hair res-

toration is kind of the next thing we are tipping away at. If you want it, if you can afford it and you want to do it, do it. There's not as much shame as there was say five or six years ago," he added.

He said there was no deep thinking behind his own decision to get a hair transplant.

"I was just like; oh, I'd like to hang on to my hair and I've looked at the process of getting a transplant; it's a

lot easier than I thought so why the hell not."

"I mean, women and men get veneers done these days, they get filler, they get Botox and there is so much ease around getting all sorts of treatments – but there is a slight taboo and sort of, 'oh my God, what?' when a man gets a hair transplant for some reason. 'I'm delighted I got it.'

James was extremely open when he was going through treatment and

documented the process on social media.

"The amount of messages I still get to this day of men asking me, OK what was it actually really like and was it sore?" he said.

"I felt absolutely no shame, but it is absolutely correct to say there is a lot of taboo and there is a lot of men who would be ashamed or embarrassed to get it done."

-NewsTalk

Over the years, pigs have been the primary focus of the research because their organs are anatomically similar to those of human beings

"Since there is a shortage of organs used in a transplant, scientists have sought to solve the problem by using animal organs also known as xenotransplantation. Over the years, pigs have been the primary focus of the research because their organs are anatomically similar to those of human beings," he says.

He explains that pig's heart valves are always used because they are the same size and shape as that of humans. Other than the heart, the kidney qualifies as a suitable organ for patients who require renal transplants.

In addition, other animals such as baboon and chimpanzees are also bound to qualify as organ donors only if genetically modified.

Host rejection

Scientists are still looking at the possibilities of having animal donors genetically modified, so that their organs are not rejected by the human hosts.

Dr Onguti adds that if this happens to be successful, then it is likely to be considered as a long-term solution for patients awaiting transplant.

"This isn't the first case of xenotransplant to be done. In 1984, the procedure was abandoned after the case of Baby Fae, whose procedure was performed at Loma Linda University Medical centre in California, US. She had been born with a terminal heart condition and doctors hoped a baboon's heart could help her stay alive. However, her immune system rejected the heart and she died after one month," he says.

Baby Fae was born with hypoplastic left-heart syndrome, an almost always fatal deformity found in newborns in which parts or all of the left side of the heart is missing. Besides her, three other people had undergone heart xenotransplant, but none survived beyond three and a half days.

Dr Benson Agaya, a sociologist at the University of Nairobi, says the problem with this procedure is the stigma associated with it. When people start associating recipients of non-human organs based on what they have heard, it could cause the biggest problems, mentally.

"Issues from bad ethics arising from scientists' denial to societal ignorance of science create a climate for the proliferation of religious and other non-rational concerns such as the claim that it violates God's will, which can only be solved when public understanding of science increases," he says.

He adds that another issue might arise from the conditions in which these animals have been kept and animal welfare issues.

"Pigs have a bad reputation as a filthy animal that is associated with rolling in mud and this wouldn't be a good perception for some people to embrace them; therefore, scientific sensitisation would be important," he says.



Dr Meshach Onguti, a reconstructive and maxillofacial surgeon.



Dr Benson Agaya, a sociologist.



5.00 Inuka
5.30 Wake Up, Shape Up!
6.00 K24 This Morning
9.55 Wisdom Moments
10.05 Inuka
11.00 Daily Brief
1.00 News Cut
1.30 Jungu La Spoti
2.00 Bongo Movie
3.00 Paula & Friends
3.30 Akili & Me
4.00 Inuka
4.30 BBC Mitikasi Leo
4.50 Classic Cartoons
5.00 Beatbox
6.00 The Secretary
6.30 Pre Match Analysis
7.00 Afcon Match-Ivory Coast Vs. Egypt
9.00 K24 Evening Edition
10.00 Lotto Live
10.20 PI World
10.50 Bongo Movie
12.50 Playlist
1.50 Al Jazeera



5.00 Ime Ria Rucini
6.00 Rikiratha- Live
10.00 Riigu Mix- Rpt
10.30 Sata
11.00 Kurekereria Kodi- Live
1.00 Mohoro Gitau- Live
1.30 Thirinka
3.00 Kiengi Live- Rpt
4.00 Ririmbuwa- Live
7.00 Kameme Maturaini- Live
6.00 Maisha Bure- Rpt
6.30 Wendo Wa
Githagathago
7.30 Njungwa Ya Muthee
Khenjo
8.30 Maisha Bure
9.00 Mutamburuko Wa
Mohoro- Live
10.00 Lotto- Live
10.15 Thenema
11.30 Ririmbuwa
12.30 DW



05:00 Command Your Morning
06:00 Tech24
06:30 Wild Planet
07:00 Life And Style
09:00 Music Interlude Rnb
09:30 Afriscreen
11:00 The Promises
12:00 Labour Of Love
01:00 Newsdesk
01:30 Afriscreen
03:00 Music Interlude Rnb
03:30 Wild Planet
04:00 Sanaa Ya Watoto
05:00 Baseline
06:00 Family Jewels
07:00 Ktn Leo
07:30 My Two Wives
08:00 Foods Of Kenya
09:00 Ktn Prime News
09:45 Voa Red Carpet
10:00 Kenya Lotto
10:15 E-Curve
11:15 Andrew Wommack
11:45 CNN

TIME OUT!

3.00pm PAULA & FRIENDS



:IN THEATRES NOW:

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA
17:20, 21:00: **NIGHTMARE ALLEY**

PRESTIGE CINEMA

14:30, 17:30, 20:30: **NIGHTMARE ALLEY**

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

11:20: '83

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

14:00: **SING 23D**

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA

14:10: **THE KING'S MAN**

PRESTIGE CINEMA

17:40, 13:27: **THE KING'S MAN**



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

Sudoku

The aim is to fill the grid so that each row, column and every 3x3 shaded box contains only one of the digits 1-9. You need to reason out where to place the missing numbers by using the numbers given in the grid and a process of elimination. It is a game of logic not mathematical ability.

1	2		3	4		5	6	7
8					9			
10					11			12
					13			
14							15	
16					17		18	
20	21					19		22
23						24		

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



ACROSS

- 1. Casual (anag) (6)
- 5. A car with a separate boot (6)
- 6. Sixty minutes (4)
- 9. Dependable (8)
- 10. Game involving pointed projectiles (5)
- 11. Bewitch (7)
- 14. Worldly-wise (13)
- 16. Fugitive (7)
- 18. Established custom

(5)

- 20. Penitent (8)
- 22. Increased in size (4)
- 23. Makes fun of someone (6)
- 24. Nearly (6)

6.

- Slender freshwater fish (5)
- Nocturnal bird of prey (3)
- State of poverty (9)
- Austere people (8)
- Mercury alloy (7)
- Male singing voices above tenors (5)
- Greek cheese (4)
- Be in debt (3)

DOWN

- 2. Irregular (9)
- 3. Superficial wound (7)
- 4. Titled peer (4)
- 5. Magnificent (8)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS

- 1. Sport
- 2. Paypacket
- 4. Grains
- 5. Nobelman
- 10. Abysmal
- 11. Bathe
- 12. Swan
- 13. Reverses
- 16. Waken
- 17. Manila
- 20. Fullfill
- 21. Claw
- 23. Debug
- 25. Perfidy
- 26. Greed
- 27. Stags

DOWN

- 3. Rime
- 6. Wet
- 7. Warsaw
- 8. Clues
- 9. Webs
- 14. Shielding
- 15. Always
- 18. Steps
- 19. Fade
- 20. Brat
- 22. Bar



HOROSCOPES



ARIES (MAR. 21-APRIL 20)

You may be torn between two possibilities. This has left you in a confused and uncertain state. You may find acquaintances being duplicitous.

TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Shopping could cost more than you bargained for. Sit back and observe, regardless of how hard that might be. Changes in your home will be positive.

GEMINI (MAY 22-JUNE 22)

Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all. Include friends and family members in your redecorating plans.

CANCER (JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Your ability to be a self starter will help get things done and motivate others. Past partners are likely to reappear.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG 22)

You have been stagnating for some time now and you need a change of pace. Try not to be too harsh with your mate.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Watch your tendency to live for the day and to spend too much on entertainment and children; it could set you back.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Use some diplomacy to get your point across delicately. Partnerships could prove to be lucrative. You need some excitement in your life, and meeting new people in exotic destinations will certainly satisfy your desires.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)

Friends may not understand your situation. Your ability to come up with good solutions for problems related to work will no doubt help you in getting a promotion.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Relationships will become stronger. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

You might have a problem juggling your time. Your emotions may be hard to control if your mate is forcing you to undergo drastic alterations in your relationship.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Hassles with in-laws could put a damper on your day. Plan a nice evening for two. Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle.

PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Try to include the one you love in your plans today. Sudden romantic connections may be short lived.

Sport

► The one-stop Sport

Local sevens circuit back, six legs to play

by Alex Njue
@PeopleDailyKe

National Sevens Circuit series returns on May 7-8 with six legs on the cards.

The George Mwangi Kabereri Sevens and later the Christies Sevens kick off the proceedings before taking a week's break that will allow teams to refuel for the next tours in Kakamega, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru respectively.

After a two-year absence owing to Covid-19 challenges, Kenya Rugby Union is confident of delivering a smooth sevens circuit successfully overseeing local and international tournaments and leagues.

A feeder to the national sevens rugby team, selectors will get back to work in May to harvest new talents from the competition that has brought Shujaa dependable players, among them Jeff Oluoch, Bush Mwale, Alvin 'Buffa' Otieno, Johnstone Olindi, Vincent Onyala, Tim-

othy Mmasi, Harold Anduvate, Herman Humwa, Nelson Oyoo, and Daniel Taabu, among other speedsters.

Detailed information, including whether the season will incorporate women's sevens is pending but probability of having a women's matches running concurrently with the men's will be possible in the two legs slated for Nairobi. In the past, tournament organisers of the Kabereri and Christie in Nairobi and Prinsloo sevens in Nakuru involved the women's event.

First played in 1999, the National Sevens Circuit is an annual series of rugby sevens tournaments run by the Kenya Rugby Union in conjunction with host clubs featuring teams from across the country. Teams compete for the National Sevens Circuit title by accumulating a maximum of 22 points per leg and a maximum of 132 seasonal points based on the final placings after each tournament.

NATIONAL SEVENS CIRCUIT 2022 SCHEDULE

Leg 1	7th-8th May George Mwangi Kabereri Sevens
Leg 2	14th-15th May Christie Sevens, Nairobi
Leg 3	28th-29th May Kakamega 7s, Kakamega
Leg 4	4th-5th June Driftwood Sevens, Mombasa
Leg 5	18th-19th June Dala Sevens, Mombasa
Leg 6	25th-26th June Prinsloo Sevens, Nakuru



KCB centre Elphas Adunga bumps off Impala's Emmanuel Okeya at the Kinor Stadium in past match. PD/ALEX NJUE



Western Bulls in past KRU Championship action. PD/ALEX NJUE

Catholic Monks in control of KRU Championship as Egerton Wasps sit bottom

by Alex Njue
@PeopleDailyKe

KRU Championship leaders Catholic Monks was the only side not shaken by the Round Six wave that witnessed newbies Shamas and Kabarak University register mixed results.

The chase for the playoffs took a new shape when Shamas lost 19-17 to Eldoret RFC, while rivals Mean Machine scrapped a 5-3 away win over Egerton Wasps to climb to second place.

Kabaraki University, on the other hand, trounced Northern Suburbs 15-0 at the Impala Club to rise above University of Eldoret (UoE) on the 12-team standings that had Kisumu miss a chance to escape relegation zone following a 16-15 shocker by USIU

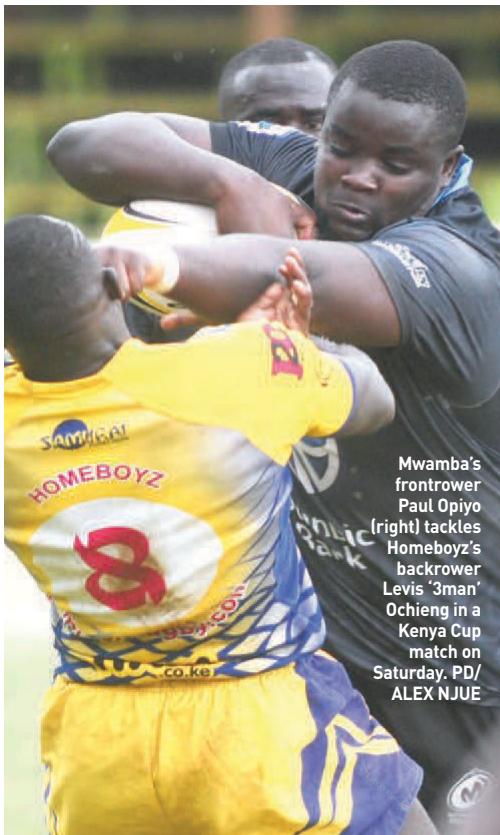
Marshalls. Western Bulls and University of Eldoret will blame their execution for failing to play to expectations. Bulls had a chance to make the top four cut but their mission for points ended without a single point off a 21-8 away loss to South Coast Pirates.

UoE also failed to convert their advantages into points to lose 9-11 to Catholic University.

Only Mean Machine, Kabarak, Pirates, Eldoret RFC and USIU Marshalls rose on the log as five teams dropped points to also fall on the standings.

Catholic Monks lead the standings by 22 points, while Pirates are now placed fifth, UoE and Eldoret RFC are sixth and seventh respectively as Kisumu and Egerton Wasps occupy relegation positions.

Mwamba on a roll



Mwamba's frontrower Paul Opiyo (right) tackles Homeboyz's backrower Lewis '3man' Ochieng in a Kenya Cup match on Saturday. PD/ALEX NJUE

KENYA CUP ROUND 7 RESULTS

Homeboyz	7-25 Mwamba
Nakuru	27-29 Impala
BlakBlad	20-10 Nondescripts
KCB	41-10 Masinde Muliro
Kabras	31-6 Kenya Harlequins
Strathmore	7-19 Menengai Oilers

The Black Shirts looking to seal playoffs slot after third straight win

by Alex Njue
@PeopleDailyKe

After hammering Homeboyz 25-7 in the Kenya Cup Round Seven action on Saturday, Mwamba head coach Kevin Wambua has set his eyes on a possible playoffs spot pending how the side will fare in their last four matches and a postponed fixture against KCB.

"After winning three games in a row, it's now possible for us to chase a playoff spot. We have a plan and we pray it works. The four points we have collected is massive for us after a very tough game."

Homeboyz were fit and really stretched us in the first half but I am glad our execution and leadership from the senior players carried the day, thanks to three tries and now we are looking very good because we are in the top six. Once we win the next match, the probability of us playing in the semis will be high," Mwamba coach Kevin Wambua told People Sport.

Students pummeled

The Black Shirts have been a seasoned playoffs side but missed out of the last season semis and will be looking to return to the platform depending on the outcome of upcoming fixtures against KCB, MMUST and the Ngong Road trio of Impala, Nondescripts and

Kenya Harlequin.

Homeboyz, on the other hand, gave away a lead head coach Simon Odongo has vowed not to forfeit next time as another tough encounter against Strathmore Leos awaits in Round Eight.

"It was another tough match and Mwamba brought the game to us despite our first half lead. We also missed crucial penalties and our execution failed in the second half," said Odongo.

Meanwhile, Menengai Oilers impressive away run continued after they scored two tries, a conversion and three penalties to shut down Strathmore Leos 19-7.

Strathmore kicked off the match on the wrong foot following two indefinite sin bins that gave the visitors an opportunity to draw first blood and went ahead to win.

Meanwhile, Kabras and KCB also maintained positions two and three respectively after big home wins. In Kakamega the defending champions KCB pummeled students MMUST 41-10, Kabras hit Harlequins 31-6 in Nairobi.

Strathmore Leos and Kenya Harlequins are now fourth and fifth with 25 and 15 points respectively and stay above Mwamba, BlakBlad, MMUST, Homeboyz, Nakuru, Impala and Nondescripts in that respect.

Okutoyi moves into third round of Australian Open Girls Singles



by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

Angela Okutoyi has made history as the first African player in the junior tennis class to enter the third round of a Grand Slam after her three-set thriller of 7-6(7)/5-7/6-1 win against home girl Zara Larke Tuesday in the ongoing Australian Open Championship.

Okutoyi had to fend off a late charge in the opening two sets but was also helped in part by a series of double faults from her opponent. The opening set was more of a ping-pong with scores exchanging hands in quick fashion.

An elated Okutoyi took to Twitter to thank her fans: "I'm super proud, I want to thank you all for the support you have been giving me. I do not take it for granted. I've just won my second round match here."

At one point the 17-year-old Kenyan sensation was leading in the second and fifth game before the Australian player came alive to force a tie-break which went Okutoyi's way (7-6).

The second set was another feisty affair with both players digging in. The match had a beautiful spectacle with good winners and shots being witnessed between the pair.

Role model

Twice though, Larke came from the back to force a 5-5 tie before taking charge after a series of forced errors let the Kenyan slip.

In the decider, Okutoyi was sensational, only dropping one game in the process.

Larke seemed out of sorts making blunders with fatigue also checking in for the home girl. Okutoyi won most points from the net.

"I want to ask that you continue having my

back so that I can be encouraged to be better. I look forward to another good match on Wednesday," added the reigning Kenya Open and Africa Junior Champion.

Tennis Kenya Secretary General Wanjiro Mbugua Karani lauded the spirit and attitude of the Kenyan sensation dubbing her a role model for many young girls in the country.

Okutoyi next faces Serbian Lola Radivojević for a place in the prestigious quarter finals berth.

Tennis great and Grand Slam legend Billie Jean King congratulated Okutoyi and Iranian debutant Meshkatolzahra Safi for their great showing.

"History was made at the Australian Open. Cheers to Meshkatolzahra Safi from Iran and Angela Okutoyi from Kenya on both becoming the first girls from their respective countries to win a Grand Slam juniors match!"

Daniel Simiu (right) competes in men's 10k race during the national cross country championships in Eldoret at the weekend. PD/ DAVID NDOL



Kimeli looking to light up world cross country tour at home

by Emmanuel Masinde
@PeopleDailyKe

course where he will be running next month.

"I used the race to gauge my endurance and test the course ahead of the World Cross Country Gold Tour and other competitions," said the former world cross country junior champion.

Just fresh from competing at another world cross country gold meeting in Elgoibar, Spain, Kimeli has also started the journey to secure an opportunity to run for Kenya in 5000m at World Athletics Championships slated for July in Oregon, Eugene, USA.

Kimeli finished fourth during the national cross country championships last weekend in Eldoret with the athlete using the race to gauge and test the

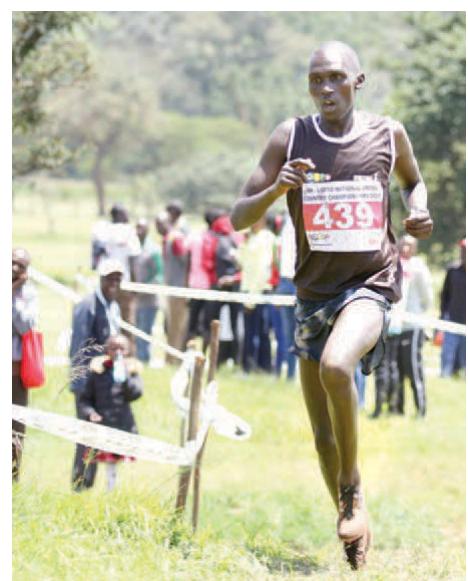
course where he will be running next month.

"I used the race to gauge my endurance and test the course ahead of the World Cross Country Gold Tour and other competitions," said the former world cross country junior champion.

Kimeli said he is going back to the camp to prepare well, as he is hoping to improve his world cross country ranking points at home.

The 23-year-old is also eyeing a slot in the 5,000m team for the World Championships or the Commonwealth Games.

The Iten-based runner says it was a huge honour for Kenya to be given one of the legs of the prestigious global event.



Nicholas Kimeli racing at the national cross country championships in Eldoret at the weekend. PD/DAVID NDOL

Simiu aims high

Athlete intending to compete in World Championships and Commonwealth Games

by Amos Abuga
@PeopleDailyKe

World Athletics Championships in Oregon, USA, and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the UK, are two major athletics events in 2022 and, understandably, that will be the focus for most athletes.

With the busy athletics calendar both local and global officially in full swing, Valencia Ibercaja 10km road race champion Daniel Simiu doesn't want to be left behind.

At the weekend, Simiu was among a sizeable number of local athletes who competed in the senior men's 10km race during the Athletics Kenya National Cross Country Championships in Eldoret.

Simiu, who did only two of the

five-lap race, said his target for the day was served. "That was really my target. Go hard on the first two laps then drop out and that went well," said Simiu.

Having recently competed abroad, Simiu reiterated the need to manage his body in a busy season.

"While I believe I can be very competitive, I don't want to overdo it. Together with my management and coach, we shall decide on the races that I will be taking part in," he added.

Forces beyond control

The 26-year-old maintains missing out on the world championships in 2019 due to forces beyond control still hurts to date and he wants to rectify this by making Team Kenya's contingent to the United States in July this year.

"I believe my time is coming, that is why I am really hungry for victory. That is what drives me every day when I wake up in the morning. Every day, I have to work hard and chase my dreams," he asserts.

The Iten-based athlete, alongside Michael Kibet, had to drop out of the Doha-bound team after they failed to meet the three mandatory anti-doping requirements in and out of competition.

"It will be a dream come true to achieve a podium place in Oregon after the disappointment of three years ago. I thank God for this far I have come and I believe more glory awaits me," he said.

The 2020 San Silvestre Vallecana 10km champion, in his own assessment, says he must improve on his time if he is to win more medals.

Part of his strategy is to compete in the men's 3,000m at next month's World Indoor Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.

"I want to work on my speed hence the reason for running in the 3,000m. Competing in the 5,000m requires you to be in best shape and to shoot off in the last lap like a bullet. I am hopeful that by the time the World Championships comes, it [speed] will no longer be an issue," he said.



Makolanders players celebrate in a past match. PD/GIBO ZACHARY

Women Div One: Oserian, Bungoma Queens run riot

■ by Gibo Zachary
@PeopleDailyKe

Former premier league side Oserian Ladies maintained their perfect run in the second-tier league, FKF Women Division One, after humiliating newcomers Rongai Eaglets 11-0 in a one-sided match played at the weekend in Carzan Grounds, Nakuru.

Noel Makokha was a thorn on Rongai fresh as she scored four goals with Leila Apio, Sylvia Shilabukha and Esther Kwamboka each scoring a brace. Margaret Omweri scored the other goal to complete the 11-0 rout over Eaglets who have now soaked in 26 goals in three matches.

At Sang'alo Institute, newly pro-

moted side Bungoma Queens had a debut to remember as they thrashed former premier league side SEP Oyugis 6-1. Centrine Waswa and Zareth Timona both grabbed a brace with Winrose Wanyama and Catherine Khaumba also on target for the debutantes.

In the meantime, hopes of Vihiga Leeds recording their first win of the season after starting the league with two consecutive draws went up in smoke after a shock 1-0 defeat to newcomers Gideon's Starlets in a match staged at Opanga Primary School, Homa Bay County, with Narcel Adhiambo scoring the all-important goal.

"We never utilised the chances we created in the match but I want to

thank our girls who never lost hope till the last minute of the game and fought so hard for the win. Our focus now is on our next match," Gideons Starlets team manager Ademba Peter told Gibo People Sport.

Other teams that won 1-0 on Saturday were Soccer Sisters and MTG United who edged out recently promoted side Uweza Women and Mukuru Talent in that order as Mombasa Olympic Ladies, playing at their backyard, shared spoils with visiting Limuru Starlets after battling to a barren draw in the match.

On Sunday, Agneta Makonjo netted a hat trick to ensure high flying Royal Starlets maintained their winning ways after beating hosts Bomet Star-

lets, while Judith Atieno and Margaret Kwamboka scored a goal apiece to inspire Mathare United Women to beat Sunderland Samba 2-0.

Elsewhere, former premier league side Makolanders' disappointing start to the season continued after going down 3-0 to Kibera Soccer Ladies all thanks to Fatuma Ramadhan and Cynthia Okwado brace for the victory while Eldoret Falcons had Shatalla Kiita and Miriam Sakana to thank for their 2-1 win over hosts Gusii Starlets, recording their first win of the season following their opening two draws in their previous encounters.

Solas Stima, meanwhile, Queens stopped another former premier league side Nyuki Starlets 1-0.



Harambee Starlets players celebrate after beating South Sudan in an Africa Women Cup of Nations qualifier last year. PD/DAVID NDOLLO

37 named in Starlets squad

Coach Alumira gets down to business, names provisional team for Africa Women Cup of Nations Qualifiers

■ by Barry Silah
@PeopleDailyKe

PAOK FC (Greece) forward Essie Akida and Logroño (Spain) midfielder Cynthia Shilwatso have made sensational returns to Harambee Starlets squad after a long stay in the cold.

The duo will look to impress the new technical bench for a start in the upcoming two-legged Africa Women Cup of Nations Qualifiers against rivals Uganda next month as a provisional squad was released yesterday.

This comes barely 24 hours after the Football Kenya Federation Caretaker Committee unveiled new coach Alex Alumira to take over the reins of the Harambee Starlets.

A total of 37 players have been called to camp ahead of the first match away on February 17 in Kampala before the return

leg in Nairobi on February 22.

At least 23 local players will complement the 14 foreigners as the women's team eye qualification for the 2022 AWCON to be held in Morocco in June.

No favourites

Akida alongside veteran Mwanahalima Adam "Dogo" of Hakkaragicu (in Turkey) and Fatih Karagümrük's (Turkey) deadly striker Jentrix Shikangwa will fight for a starting berth against the Ugandans.

The attackline also consists of deadly Vihiga Queens forward Terry Engesha, Violet Wanyonyi of Trans Nzoia FC alongside GASPO FC pair of Elizabeth Wambui and Mercy Airo.

Other star players include midfielders Shilwatso, Corazone Aquino of Gaspo Women and Marjolene Nekesa based in the US.

Some key defenders from abroad are

STARLETS PROVISIONAL SQUAD - ATTACKERS

Terry Engesha (Vihiga Queens)
Jentrix Shikangwa (Fatih Karagümrük-Turkey)
Mwanalima Adam (Hakkaragicu-Turkey)
Violet Wanyonyi (Trans Nzoia)
Essie Akida (PAOK-Greece)
Mercy Airo (GASPO)
Elizabeth Wambui (Gaspo)

Dorcas Shikobe of Lakatama FC (Cyprus) alongside Ruth Ingotsi of the same club and the diminutive Vihiga Queens right back Janet Bundi.

The goalkeeping department has the biggest competition with five star shot stoppers called. Four of them are foreign based including the recent former Vihiga Queens custodian Lilian Awuor who now plies his trade for Soyaux France in the top tier.

Other goalkeepers named include Samantha Akinyi of Tigers Queens in Tanzania and formerly with Makolanders, Carolyn Rufa of Fountain Gate FC (Tanzania) and Annette Kundu of AEL (Cyprus).

Starlets new Coach Alex Alumira warned there will be no favourites and everybody will have to fight for the position.

"As long as you perform, you will don the national colours. There will be no preference whether you are a player abroad or not. As the technical bench, we will be keen on elements like physical fitness, game sharpness and overall mentality. Soon we will know the exact travelling squad to Uganda so it is up to the girls to work hard," said Alumira.

BRIEFLY

Neymar Netflix series preview attracts more than 500,000 streaming viewers

■ Sao Paulo, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

A live preview for a Netflix documentary on Brazilian soccer star Neymar attracted more than 500,000 streaming views on Monday night in the South American nation. The first episode of the highly anticipated three-part series "Neymar: The Perfect Chaos" was broadcast on streaming service Twitch in Brazil and drew 530,000 simultaneous viewers ahead of its official premiere on Tuesday. The documentary takes a deep dive into the Brazilian number 10's personal life, moving from his childhood in São Paulo to his rise at Brazilian club Santos and eventual superstardom at European clubs Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain. Neymar, 29, has proven a highly controversial figure both on and off the field.

-AFP

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS JAN 9 - FEB 6

Barrow takes lowly Gambia to quarters

The West African Scorpions advance to face hosts Cameroon in Douala on Saturday

Bafoussam, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Star forward Musa Barrow scored on 71 minutes to take debutants Gambia, the lowest ranked team at the Africa Cup of Nations, into the quarter-finals on Monday with a 1-0 victory over Guinea in Bafoussam.

The west African Scorpions now face hosts Cameroon in the quarter-finals in Douala on Saturday.

Barrow scored with a close-range shot to end the stalemate in a cagey last-16 affair at the Stade Kouekong that was dominated by the rival defences.

Both teams finished a man short with Gambian Yusupha Njie dismissed on 88 minutes and Guinean Ibrahima Conte red-carded in added time.

Lacked talisman

"We didn't have a good feeling about today because many of us had food poisoning, including me. I didn't sleep, was up at the toilet all the time, vomiting and with diarrhoea," said Gambia coach Tom Saintfiet.

"They are my heroes. It's a real team, they're not individuals but a team which plays together, with a dream, with a strategy, and each player is very disciplined and does everything to achieve this."

Gambia were forced to change both full-backs shortly before the kick-off when Ibo Touray and Saidy Janko were ruled out by food poisoning.

Dawda Ngum and veteran Pa Modou Jagne were promoted to the starting line-up ahead of the biggest match in the history of Gambian football. Guinea lacked

talisman and captain Naby Keita, the Liverpool midfielder, who was serving a one-match suspension after being yellow-carded in two group matches.

There was a huge gap in the experience of the two coaches with Saintfiet in charge of his 10th national team while Kaba Diawara of Guinea was recently appointed a head coach for the first time.

- Cautious start -

After a cautious start, Gambia were first to threaten when Musa Barrow stung the fingers of Guinea goalkeeper Aly Keita with a long-range shot that was parried to safety.

Mohamed Bayo had two chances to put Guinea ahead after 38 minutes, but his attempts to score were blocked by defender James Gomez and then goalkeeper Baboucarr Gaye.

In added time at the end of the opening half Ebrima Darboe unleashed a cross-cum-shot that flew across the goalmouth and out of play.

Although Guinea are ranked 69 places higher than Gambia in the world, there was nothing to choose between the sides after the opening half in the western Cameroonian highlands.

- AFP



Gambia's midfielder Musa Barrow (right) celebrates with a team-mate during a Group F Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2021 football match. AFP



Cameroonian players celebrate after scoring their second goal during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2021 round of 16 football match between Cameroon and Comoros at Stade d'Olembé in Yaoundé on January 24, 2022. AFP

Cameroon into last eight despite opponents' heroics

Yaoundé, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

the end thanks to Youssouf M'Changama's stunning late free-kick.

"I don't think I am the only hero. I did what I could. I think I gave hope to the team and they all tried to help me," Alhadhur, usually a back-up left-back for French Ligue 2 side Ajaccio, told broadcaster Canal Plus.

He had to use tape to mark out his number three on the back of his goalkeeper's jersey.

Of being chosen to go in goal he added: "It was something that at first we spoke a bit about and laughed about, but then it became serious. I was chosen but I didn't believe it until I put on the gloves and the top. Then I realised it was serious. There were lots of emotions going through my head but then I just got on with it."

Despite that it was a heroic performance from the Comoros, who kept the last-16 tie alive until

The tiny Indian Ocean island nation qualified for the last 16 in their first ever Afcon appearance. - AFP

Comoros fans disappointed, though proud

Moroni, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Cameroon ended the Comoros' fairytale run at the Africa Cup of Nations on Monday, but their strong performance sparked fierce pride in the island nation.

Comoros lost 2-1, but held their own against powerhouses Cameroon after 12 players and staff members were sidelined with positive Covid tests and injuries, including all three goalkeepers.

Many supporters gathered to watch

the match on a giant screen set up in the centre of the capital, Moroni.

Fifteen minutes before the end of the game, many had started to leave -- missing the goal on 81 minutes by Youssouf M'Changama that revived the hopes of the nation. Zainabu Chanfi stayed glued to the screen until the final whistle.

"Even though we lost today, it's like we won because we gave it our all and we only lost 2-1," she said smiling.

Nearby, the national team fan club president Hachim Said Hassan said the

team's fortunes could have been different had all their players been allowed on the field.

"CAF should be ashamed of their cheating and shenanigans. CAF pulls out their rule book at the last minute to take out our players, but we still held our heads high," he said.

"We're proud of our players."

Despite their pride at making it so far, there was no party in Moroni. The crowd slipped away, with a heavy silence on the streets.

- AFP



Supporters of the Comoros national soccer team celebrate their team goal during the match Cameroon vs Comoros in Moroni on Jan 24, 2022. AFP



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Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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Afcon quarter-final moved to another stadium after crush

YAOUNDÉ: The Africa Cup of Nations quarter-final due to be played at the Olembe Stadium in Yaoundé will be switched to another stadium after Monday's tragedy left eight people dead, African football supremo Patrice Motsepe said.

Sunday's quarter-final will instead be played at the Ahmadou Ahidjo stadium, also in Yaoundé, which was already being used for the tournament.

"The game that is scheduled for

Olembe Stadium on Sunday...is going to take place at Ahmadou Ahidjo," said Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Motsepe at a press conference in Yaoundé.

Eight people died and 38 were injured as fans attempted to enter the Olembe Stadium where hosts Cameroon were playing the Comoros according to the country's health ministry.

"I need a report into what happened, what should have happened, and the circumstances that

led to people being injured," added Motsepe, who called for "urgent measures to make sure that doesn't happen again."

Motsepe also paid tribute to those who lost their lives. "I ask that we all observe a moment of silence and prayer for the eight people who lost their lives," he said. "Let me start by expressing our deep condolences to the families of the spectators who came to Olembe Stadium and have passed on."

- AFP



AFCN RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Burkina Faso	1 - 1 Gabon
Burkina Faso	win 7-6 on penalties
Tunisia	1 - 0 Nigeria 0
Guinea	0-1 Gambia
Cameroon	2-1 Comoros

Playing Wednesday

Ivory Coast	v Egypt (7pm)
Mali	v Equatorial Guinea (10pm)



Cameroonian President orders investigation into the tragedy that occurred Monday as crowds attempted to enter Olembe Stadium ahead of an Africa Cup of Nations match

■ Yaoundé, Tuesday
@PeopleDailyKe

Eight people were killed and dozens more injured in a crush outside a Cameroonian football stadium ahead of an Africa Cup of Nations match, officials said Tuesday.

Cameroonian President Paul Biya or-

dered an investigation into the tragedy that occurred Monday as crowds attempted to enter the Olembe Stadium in the capital Yaoundé to watch the host nation play the Comoros.

Although crowds at the 60,000-seat stadium had been limited to 60 percent of capacity for the tournament because of the coronavirus pandemic, the cap is raised to 80 percent when Cameroon's Indomitable Lions play.

"Eight deaths were recorded, two women in their 30s, four men in their 30s, one child, one body taken away by the family," said a preliminary health ministry report obtained by AFP.

The ministry said victims were "immediately transported" in ambulances, but "heavy road traffic slowed down the transport".

Communications Minister Rene Emmanuel Sadi said 38 people were injured,

including seven seriously, according to a statement. The health ministry reported earlier that around 50 were hurt, including two people with multiple injuries and two more with serious head wounds.

A baby was also reportedly trampled by the crowd, the ministry added.

The infant was "immediately extracted and taken to Yaoundé General Hospital" and is in a "medically stable" condition, it added.

Crisis meeting

The tragedy happened at gates where final ticket checks are supposed to take place.

One man in his 30s who was caught up in the crush told AFP that it was "complete chaos" at the entrance to the stadium as supporters without tickets tried to force their way in.

"I arrived a quarter of an hour before

kick-off. I had my ticket, but all of a sudden a group of people without tickets arrived and tried to force their way through and we found ourselves pushed up against the fences," said the supporter, who gave his name as Stephane.

"I was crushed up against a woman who said she couldn't breathe. Eventually the gate gave in and I was able to get through, but it was complete chaos."

President Biya has "ordered the opening of an investigation so that all light is shed on this tragic incident," the communications minister said.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF), which runs the continent's flagship competition, said it was "investigating the situation and trying to get more details on what transpired". It added it was in "constant communication with Cameroon government and the Local Organising Committee".

The entrance of Olembe stadium in Yaoundé shows barriers on the ground at the scene of the stampede on January 25, 2022. AFP