

Judiciary on trial: Attacks to intensify

Page 8 Judges, court officials could be singled out for removal in next wave of co-ordinated onslaught with control of JSC part of plot

Keter arrest stirs up storm in Jubilee

P. 2 Moi and Kuttuny criticise Uhuru over MP's arrest in Sh633m fraud drama as he remains in police custody

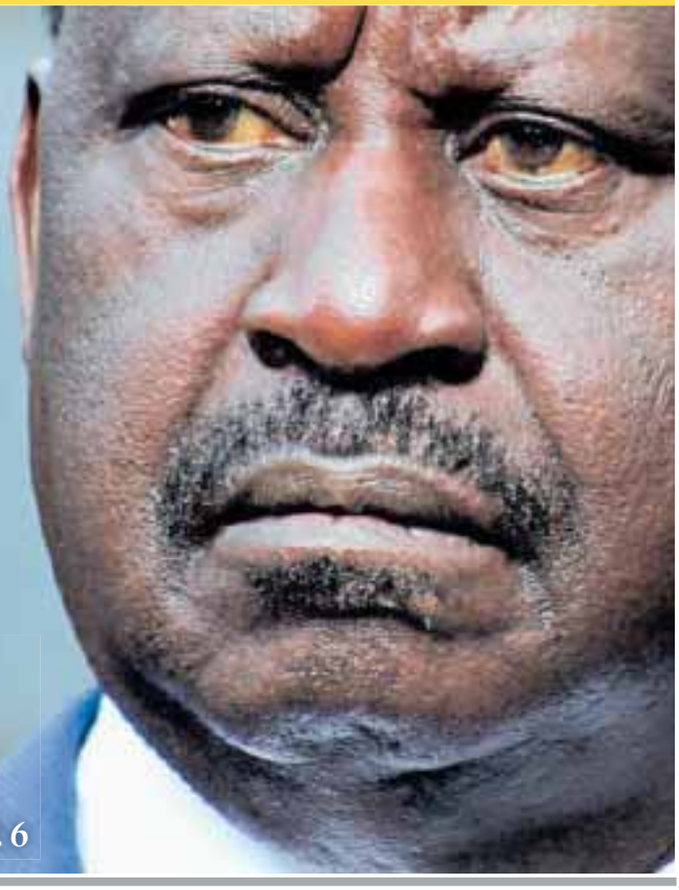


SUNDAY NATION

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Politics > Options after 'swearing-in', fate of alliance and 2022 headache top the agenda

Raila's tough choices



Nasa chief leads party in crucial talks on coalition future as supporters wait for next move after 'oath' P. 6

lifestyle



Medics who restored boy's severed hand

Doctors speak of six hours of anxiety, joy and breakthrough in recent delicate surgery

EDUCATION PUZZLE

High student numbers choke schools

Figures

99
The number of students in one classroom at Itete Secondary School in Kakamega. Free day secondary schooling saw numbers shoot up without corresponding resources

Sh25M
The amount of money a principal of a national school says will need to be injected annually for four years to keep pace with the high number of Form Ones joining his school

BY SUNDAY NATION TEAM
newsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Secondary schools across the country are grappling with overstretched facilities and a shortage of teachers in the wake of soaring admission of Form One students.

Runaway congestion, which has seen some students learning in tents, while some schools create extra classrooms in dining halls, labs and dispensaries, has brought a logistical nightmare to institutions' managers and put to question the quality of education offered. On Wednesday, headteachers called for urgent government intervention.

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Intrigues > Legislator says he had visited CBK governor several times over issue



From left: Arthur Sakwa, Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter and Madat Chatur after they were arrested at the Central Bank of Kenya on Friday.

KANYIRI WAHITO | NATION

Intrigues emerge in Keter's Sh633m fraud arrest drama

MP says he was approached to help resolve matter of unpaid Treasury Bills

BY PATRICK LANG'AT
palangat@ke.nationmedia.com

Details of the intrigues that led to the arrest of Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter and two other people on Friday have emerged even as the vocal legislator remained in police custody yesterday.

Mr Keter was arrested alongside Mr Arthur Ingolo Sakwa and Mr Madat Suburali Chatur for what the Central Bank of Kenya and the Banking Fraud Investigations Unit said was presenting forged 90-day Treasury Bills dated 1990.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr Keter reportedly received a call from CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge asking to see the vocal MP urgently. He told the Governor he was heading to a funeral and they agreed to meet at the CBK on Friday.

To Mr Keter, the call was a signal that a longstanding matter on Treasury Bills had finally been sorted and he wanted Mr Chatur and Mr Sakwa to see the governor on their own — a suggestion Dr Njoroge apparently turned down as he wanted the three of them together.

Yesterday, Mr Keter told the *Sunday Nation* in an exclusive interview at Muthaiga Police Station he had not recorded a statement and there were no indications that he would be released on cash bail. Some MPs from the Rift Valley led by Baringo Senator Gideon Moi were at the police station demanding that Mr Keter be released even as investigations went on. Cherangany MP Joshua Kuttuny held a press conference at the police station and warned against intimidation of leaders using the police.

"Good roads, electricity connection, and water in every home will not earn you a name. It is the respect of the rule of law that will earn you a legacy. Rift Valley is watching and I want to tell, Mr President, stop this. Stop intimidating leaders," said Mr Kutuny.

Mr Keter said he had gone to the governor's office on several previous visits but, on the fateful day, he noticed the sitting arrangement had been changed. The MP and the two men accompanying him were given seats at a corner in the office and not near the governor as was the usual arrangement.

"*Mheshimiwa*, you will be sorted, let the secretariat look at it," Mr Keter recalls Dr Njoroge telling them as he stepped out, leaving them in the room.

The three were then asked to sign a document detailing their interactions with the CBK, and this, too, Mr Keter says, caught him by surprise. He claims he agreed to sign as a "witness" and was not expecting any money — something investigators will be establishing as they prepare a case against the three.

Minutes later, plainclothes police officers from the Banking Fraud Investigations Unit walked in with handcuffs and whisked them away in front of rolling TV cameras.

At Muthaiga Police Station where the *Sunday Nation* met him yesterday, the controversial Nandi Hills MP briefed his lawyer Kimutai Bosek on his case. Wearing the same shirt and pair of trousers he had on Friday, the vocal MP looked jovial, and had, in the midday interview, removed his coat and replaced it with a brown sweater.

In the interview at the police station, Mr Keter claimed he had met Dr Njoroge several times since November 2017 to seek payments for the T-Bills that he says had gone unpaid even after back and forth communication between Mr Sakwa, Mr Chatur and their lawyers.

In a series of correspondence seen by the *Sunday Nation*, the Sh633 million demanded by Desai Industries under Messrs Sakwa and Mr Chatur was from T-Bills 1138 (Sh286 million) and 1148 (Sh347 million).

While the two maintained they had not been paid the Sh633 million bought on July 7, 1990 after a February 5, 1990 application to trade in T-Bills was approved, the CBK said that the bills had been cashed in, hence the involvement of Mr Keter with the hope the two individuals could get their payment faster.

"The above have not been cashed due to turbulence in commercial banking industry then, and unavailability of our chief executive who was out of Kenya," Mr Chatur and Mr Sakwa, who sign off as executive director and director of Desai Industries Limited, respectively, said in a letter to the CBK dated July 4, 2017.

The letter was promptly replied to by the CBK on July 10 and signed by a Mr Jeremiah Tomno and Mr John Njau who sign off as "authorised signatory."

"Kindly be advised that after checking our records, we ascertain that the Treasury Bills were indeed redeemed and proceeds therefrom paid in full," the CBK said in the letter. "In view of this, kindly be advised that the Central Bank of Kenya is not holding any funds for Desai Industries (K) Ltd."

Dissatisfied with the answer, the two engaged Lusweti and Nabutola Company Advocates, who wrote to the CBK governor in a letter dated August 18, 2017.

"Our client could not redeem the Treasury Bills after the expiry of the 90 days, as the practice then was the bearer of the Treasury Bill certificate was to surrender payment to be made by cheque," lawyer Nabutola Wanjala said in the letter.

"Our client's chief executive officer had been out of the country and with him, the possession of the Treasury Bill certificates."

In the letter, Mr Nabutola warns of legal proceedings within seven days of failure to pay the money.

"Our client firmly states that they have never received any payment, whether the principal amount nor the interest thereof, neither did they surrender its original Treasury Bill certificates for purposes of payment," the lawyer states in the letter copied to Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich.

> As a Kenyan MP, under Article 95 (2), I am elected to deliberate on and resolve issues of concern to the people, not of my constituency alone, but any Kenyan. I just wanted to help,"
>
> **Mr Alfred Keter**

The Goldenberg scandal of the early 1990s featured cases where unscrupulous individuals and well-connected banks redeemed volumes of the certificates issued for foreign exchange.

It would later be discovered that 18 sacks of these certificates had been stolen from the Central Bank. It was not known where the stolen certificates, which were suspected to have been recycled several times, went.

Mr Kwame Owino, the chief executive of the Institute of Economic Affairs, said in a Twitter post that if true there has been fraud in the payments for Treasury Bills, then someone has found unauthorised ways to add to the public debt.

"Given this background, IEA Kenya will propose for Parliament to demand a forensic and management audit of the debt register," said Mr Owino.

He also challenged the Central Bank to assure Kenyans that its register of government paper is secure.

In reply to Desai Industries' August 18 letter, the CBK, in an August 22 letter signed by K.K Abuga, the director of Legal Services, the bank regulator refers to its July 10 letter saying payment had been made.

A day later, Mr Nabutola wrote back to the CBK stating that they had not been paid and made one more request.

"To be specific, our client needs records to show the year, date, month, the bank account name, bank account number, and the amount allegedly paid for our kind attention," Mr Nabutola, the lawyer, said in the letter.

After seeing that they had hit the wall, Mr Keter explained, the two approached him for intervention.

"As a Kenyan MP, under Article 95 (2), I am elected to deliberate on and resolve issues of concern to the people, not of my constituency alone, but any Kenyan. And these people are Kenyan. I just wanted to help," he said.

Police foil major terror attack, arrest al-Shabaab agents

BY FRED MUKINDA
fmukinda@ke.nationmedia.com

Police have foiled a major terrorist attack after fighting off gunmen, killing one and arresting two others, after which they found a cache of arms including 36 grenades and five automatic rifles.

The officers also detained the terrorists' car which was loaded with explosives.

Initial investigations showed the car was headed to Nairobi where the terrorists planned to use it as a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), simply a bomb on wheels.

Further investigations showed the car was assembled by al-Shabaab experts in El-Adde, Somalia.

Following the Thursday evening gunfight in Merti, Isiolo County, a big police operation is under way in the town as police seek to arrest the terrorists' accomplices.

Initial reports shared among security agencies and seen by the *Sunday Nation* say the terrorists had probably booked a hotel room because they were carrying a key, which indicated the name of the hotel and room number.

According to the report, there were five terrorists in the car when police officers spotted it.

"Our officers spotted a Mitsubishi sports car registration number KBM 200D hidden in a thicket. The team alighted from their vehicles and approached it. One of the occupants came out while shooting at the officers. The officers returned fire killing the unidentified gunman instantly. Four of the occupants tried to escape," said the report.

It added: "Two (terrorists) were apprehended while two are at large, among them one armed with an AK-47 rifle."

Police also identified those in custody as Kenyans, going by the national identity cards they were carrying.

They are Abdimajit Hassan Adan, 24, and Mohammed Nane Kenyan, 23.

Another ID card belonging to Jirma Huka Galgalo was also found.

Photographs of the terrorists' vehicle after it was dismantled showed it was rigged up with 18 IEDs.

If detonated, the impact would have been devastating, because the explosion would be powerful enough to bring down a storey building, according to a security official who spoke to the *Sunday Nation* on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to divulge details of an ongoing investigation.

Also found in the car were the five AK-47 rifles with 36 fully loaded magazines – each magazine carrying 30 bullets.

Also there were "36 unprimed hand grenades, 18 IEDs and three military knives."

A black flag similar to that used by extremist jihadists and other paraphernalia associated with al-Shabaab were also found.

A motor cycle registration number plate KME 180R and ignition keys were also taken by the police.

The operation was led by Merti Deputy County Commissioner Maiyo Julius, the area Kenya police commander Gifinalis Barasa and his Administration Police counterpart Hussein Ibrahim.

On Wednesday, an al-Shabaab terrorist was blown up after an explosive went off while he planted it on a road in Lamu County.

The 3.25 am incident happened between Sarira and Kolbio, a stretch regularly used by security units patrolling Boni enclave.

Bullet injuries

Three other terrorists were killed by military personnel who were patrolling the route six hours later.

KDF spokesman David Obonyo said the patrol unit "found the body of the militant approximately three kilometres from Sarira following suspected premature explosion of an improvised explosive device he was trying to place on the road."

"KDF appeals for any information on any individuals seeking medical assistance in the area and also thanks the locals for their continued co-operation with the security forces," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the government has named three people believed to have masterminded the attack at Qarsa Primary School in Wajir County on Friday morning that claimed the lives of two teachers and the wife of one of them.

One teacher escaped with serious bullet injuries.

North Eastern Regional Coordinator Mohamud Swaleh (right) named Maalim Yusuf Abdullahi as the commander of the gang that carried out the attack.

Mr Swaleh gave Abdullahi's national identity card number as 6391151, adding that the suspect was from Bojigaras area.

"He is married with three children," the administrator told journalists.

He added that the other members of the killer gang were Daud Ahmed Mohamed from Kutulo and Abdirashid Ibrahim Osman, a cousin of Daud. Kenya National Union of Teachers condemned the killing of the teachers.

Knut executive member Dan Aloo named Lamu, Baringo, West Pokot, Garissa, Mandera and Wajir as the areas worst hit by insecurity.

Additional reporting by Bruham Makong and Winnie Atieno.

Festival gala > Presentation was broadcasted on CCTV as part of four-hour show on Thursday evening

China blackface skit on Kenya railway raises racism storm

Some scenes in it did not augur well with a number of viewers especially from Africa who felt it was a racist show

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI
@OndiekiMogere
eondieki@ke.nationmedia.com

Kenyan officials and the Chinese embassy remained tight-lipped yesterday as a racism controversy brewed over a skit aired by China's State broadcaster on Thursday.

The presentation, broadcasted on *China Central Television (CCTV)* for the Chinese audience as part of a four-hour show to celebrate China's Lunar New Year, had a scene about Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) that some observers found racist.

It was meant to make people laugh and, in the process, fit into the theme of China's strengthening relationship with Africa. That was the theme CCTV had chosen for this year's Spring Festival Gala — an event viewed on TV by an estimated 700 million people every year, making it the most watched entertainment programme in the world.

However, the presence of a black man dressed as a monkey and a Chinese actress who had painted herself black then stuffed some material to make her behinds look big did not augur well with some viewers.

"Blackface" — the using of make-up to lampoon black people is largely considered offensive and has deep racist roots in America and Europe. Those critical of the show shared their views with mainstream and social media outlets.

"Whatever the intention, it's not acceptable," Ms Lina Benabdallah, an Africa specialist at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, told the *New York Times*.

"*CCTV's* racist show during Spring Gala shook me and made me so ashamed of China and my people," stated one Twitter user.

"It was cringe-worthy at best, completely racist at worst. It's Africa, so bring out tribal dancers and animals? And was that a Chinese woman in black face with a fake posterior?" tweeted another.

The *Sunday Nation* contacted the Foreign Affairs ministry for Kenya's response on the matter but none was forthcoming.

"Let it wait probably till Monday," the ministry's communications facilitator Edwin Limo said.

A communications officer at the Chinese Embassy had not responded to our message by the time of going to press.

The skit's plot was simple: have a Chinese man to act as if he is somewhere in Kenya with a Kenyan woman. The woman has convinced the Chinese man to pretend to be her boyfriend because she does not want to meet a man her mother wants her to date.

The mother soon comes and the Chinese man and the Kenyan woman act as if they are in a relationship until the Chinese girlfriend shows up.

The mother, rather than being furious that her daughter is being taken for a ride by this Chinese man, declares that she cannot lose her cool "because China has doneso much for Africa" according to a whatsonweibo.com report on the performance.

"I love Chinese people! I love China!" she says.

The problem arose mostly from the actress who played the role of a mother of a Kenyan woman in the show that started on Thursday at 8pm Beijing time (3pm Nairobi time).

She was a famous Chinese actress called Lou Naiming. She had used black makeup to make herself look like an African and had fixed fake behinds. She entered the stage carrying a basketful of fruits and walking in an exaggerated manner.

To make matters worse, she entered the stage with an African man dressed up as a monkey walking beside her.

Besides the "Kenyan mother" scene, the skit had more actors mimicking the launch of the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR. In the cast were Africans from Gabon, Kenya, and Ivory Coast, said whatsonweibo.com. Some actors dressed up as gazelles, zebras among other animals.

Kenyans' reactions to the skit were varied.

"I'm waiting for our new Minister for Foreign Affairs to summon the Chinese ambassador," tweeted vocal lawyer Donald Kipkorir.

Cartoonist Patrick Gathara tweeted: "Did you know that the Chinese blackface skit was actually portraying you and yours? I'm sure that the same GoK which declared it had no problems with Donald Trump's 's**hole' comment won't be raising a fuss over this."

Lawyer Gitobu Imanyara told *NYT*: "What is disgusting is that we won't hear any official complaint from African governments who are complicit in the recolonisation of Africa by China,"

The Chinese who watched the show took to social networking platform Weibo to air their concerns.

"Is it really hard to find an African actor? I've never been more embarrassed in my life as a Chinese person," one wrote.

Another posted: "How narcissistic must they be to think it was a good idea to have an actor in blackface praise China?"

But not everyone thought the depiction is stereotypical, if comments on the BBC World Facebook are anything to go by.

"What is acceptable to laugh at now? Everything offends somebody, so comedy is no longer funny," wrote Aydi.

"Why isn't bleaching hair and wearing coloured contacts to imitate white people a demeaning gesture, but imitating a black curvy woman is considered rude?" posed Nancy.

"That is what humans have done for ever and it is not racism unless it is done to degrade or humiliate others. What is wrong with dressing up like others? Is it bad to be 'black'?" Jimmy asked.

For a show to be beamed on *CCTV, NYT* reported, it has to be rehearsed many times before senior propaganda officials.

The theme of *CCTV's* show, which was focusing on the good relations between China and African states and its "One Belt, One Road initiative," can be viewed as part of the Asian country's cultural diplomacy move to depict itself as a friend of African nations.

In Kenya, there are four Confucius Institutes in local public universities teaching the Chinese language and culture to students and any willing Kenyans.

There is also a sizeable number of Chinese restaurants across Kenyan towns, which could further entrench the Chinese culture among Kenyans.



PHOTO | COURTESY

Screen shot of a scene from the skit aired on China's CCTV on Thursday.

More

SOFT-POWER WORK IN PROGRESS

China's TV gala has become as much a part of the spring festival tradition as dumplings and lanterns.

In recent years though there have been grumblings that the gala is taking on a more political tone and this year was no exception. But what's particularly striking about the whole toe-curling spectacle is that it is also strangely at odds with China's own message.

The sight then, of a Chinese actress in blackface, leading an African man dressed as a monkey around a stage as a way of celebrating a vital trading relationship, seems particularly ill-judged.

Simply naive and clumsy? Or a sign of something deeper? Either way it suggests China's soft-power project is still a work in progress.

—John Sudworth, BBC



Enrolment > A total of 794,366 candidates out of the 993,718 who sat KCPE exam have joined Form One

Schools in crisis as number of

Most secondary schools have now converted labs, stores and health units into dorms due to a huge intake of Form One students

BY SUNDAY NATION TEAM
newsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Learning in secondary schools across the country is headed for a crisis as the institutions grapple with overstretched facilities and shortage of teachers in the wake of increased admission of Form One students.

The runaway congestion, which has seen some students learning in tents while some schools create extra classrooms in dining halls and dispensaries, has brought a logistical nightmare to institution managers and put to the test the quality of education.

On Wednesday, headteachers raised the alarm, warning the situation was "getting desperate" and called for urgent government intervention before the crisis "disrupts learning". A taskforce report on school unrest released last year recommended that congestion in schools needed to be addressed.

And that was before the onset of free day secondary school implemented last month as a fulfilment of President Uhuru Kenyatta's campaign promises.

Already, 794,366 candidates out of the 993,718 who sat the KCPE examination last year have taken up their slots in secondary schools.

A nationwide survey conducted by the *Sunday Nation* established that some secondary schools had as many as 90 students in one classroom, double the recommended class size of 45 students.

The survey also found that some of secondary schools had resorted to makeshift classrooms and dormitories to accommodate the huge number of students.

St Peter's High School, an extra county school in Kakamega County, had, for instance, converted the dispensary into a dormitory while at Meru School, the administration was struggling to raise funds to build 80 more latrines and bathrooms to cater for the huge number of students.

At Chavakali High School in Vihiga County, teachers are forced to serve students' meals in time-consuming shifts because the dining hall cannot accommodate the entire student population of 1,825. The hall had been designed to accommodate 600 students, according to the principal John Kiura.

"Some schools have streams with up to 60 students against the recommended 45, hampering effective teaching in an expanded classroom," Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (Kessha) chairman Kahi Indimuli told the lobby's governing council meeting in Nairobi on Wednesday. Mr Indimuli said some schools' move to create extra streams to accommodate the learners was not solving the whole problem as it only made the teacher shortage more acute.

Mr Indimuli welcomed the Teachers Service Commission's assurance that it had written to the National Treasury to release funds for employment of more teachers to ease the burden caused by increased enrolment, but warned more needed to be done.

"The Ministry of Education has started sending money to schools to construct more classrooms. Already, some have received between Sh1 million and Sh2 million to start construction," he said.

Mr Indimuli warned that schools without land will be forced to raise funds to acquire it, a move that is likely to put the managers on a collision course with the government which has asked parents not pay extra levies.

Education Principal Secretary Dr Belio Kipsang said the ministry was awaiting a report on the Form One admission next week before deciding on the measures to take.

"I will comment on the issue once I get the report," he said in response to our enquiries.

Principals in Kakamega and Vihiga counties, who spoke to the *Sunday Nation,* complained that teachers were being overworked while resources had been overstretched as a result of the congestion crisis.

Mr Cosmas Nabungolo, the Principal of St Peter's High School in Mumias, said they had admitted 466 students in Form One, well above the school's capacity of 380.

"We were allocated 380 slots by the government but the demand is overwhelming. We cannot send away students because they all have a right to access education," said Mr Nabungolo, highlighting the dilemma headteachers across the country face.

At Stake

SET SCHOOL FEES FOR LEARNERS

The government scrapped the Sh9,374 school fees, which each student in public day secondary schools was paying per year.

Each learner in public schools now receives Sh22,224 from the government with effect from January.

Parents with students in boarding schools category A (national and county schools) now pay Sh53,554 a year.



He said the board of management had been forced to convert the dispensary into a dormitory to accommodate the new admissions.

The situation was not different at Mwira Secondary School in neighbouring Matungu where the principal, Mr Constantine Wanyonyi, said they had admitted 211 Form One students, well above the school's capacity of 135.

Itete secondary is the worst hit by the congestion. The school in Kakamega County has three streams for every class, with each Form One stream holding 99 students.

The principal, Mr Silvester Ashoya, said the school's student population is 946 against 12 teachers.

"We have been forced to divert money that would have been used on other needs to hire teachers to address the shortage. Infrastructure is a major challenge too," said Mr Ashoya.

Kakamega School admitted 500 Form One students this year against a capacity of 420.

At Butere Girls, a national school, the principal, Ms Janet Omondi, said the high enrolment will affect performance owing to overstretched facilities and shortage of teachers.

"We admitted 470 students in Form One against the capacity of 420 but we are doing our best to cope with the situation," she said.

In Mombasa, Shimo La Tewa School has admitted 450 Form One students, but was allocated 380 slots. Principal Mathew Mutiso said the number had been increased due to government policy to ensure 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary.

Mr Mutiso told parents during a Form One meeting on Friday that some laboratories had been converted into classrooms to cater for the increased numbers.

At Kisii School, classes and dormitories are overstretched to the limits.

At Sameta High School, also in Kisii County, the administration has converted the agriculture laboratory into a dormitory. A workshop at the school also gave way to an office as the school sought space for expansion.

Many dormitories at the school, which ordinarily accommodate 45 students each, are now congested with an average of 66 students.

Admissions at Sironga, Nyabururu and Ichuni Girls secondary schools in Kisii and Nyamira counties have also doubled, straining the school facilities.

In some schools, students queue for long to take a bath or relieve themselves in the few toilets available at the schools, teachers said.

At Nyabisase Mixed Secondary School in Kisii, for instance, the enrolment jumped from 600 students to 1,200 in less than six months. Mr David Ogega, the school principal, said the tuition blocks are bursting at the seams.

And at Nyamagwa Girls' secondary school, also in Kisii County, some students are forced to learn under tents. At Gionseri Girls, Form One students are studying in makeshift structures purposely set up to meet the needs of increased admissions.

The school's principal, Ms Debra Osoro, said they had to set up three more makeshift dormitories to accommodate the new students.

In Meru School, the principal, Mr Silas Mwirigi, said they have been forced to squeeze in more beds into dormitories to accommodate the high number of students.

The school has also been forced to create space for classrooms in the multipurpose hall, dining hall and science laboratory.

Population explosion

This was going on even as a dormitory that was under construction to ease congestion stalled following the government's directive that parents should not pay extra levies.

"We need about Sh10 million to complete the storeyed dormitory and ease congestion," Mr Mwirigi said.

Mr Mwirigi estimated that the school will require a development allocation of at least Sh25 million every year for four years to ensure adequate facilities. This was supported by South Imenti MP Kathuri Murungi who added that the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) couldn't cope with the population explosion in schools.

"St Mary's Girls' High School needs four new classrooms to cater for the growing population of students. The CDF cannot manage to support the school to put up more classrooms and dormitories. The national government needs to release development funds to the schools," Mr Murungi said.

Kagumo Boys' High School in Nyeri County has been forced to increase its streams from six to seven to accommodate an additional 50 students admitted to the school this year.

The principal, Lawrence Kiwara, said the school was forced to convert a store into a dormitory.

"The boys are so far comfortable given that we have two dining halls but as we admit more students, we may be forced to switch to the cafeteria system," he noted.

Some schools in Makueni County have recorded more than 300 per



Lack of land for expansion worsens overcrowding

BY DERICK LUVEGA AND WINNIE ATIENO

Congestion in secondary schools has been compounded by lack of land for expansion, Kenya Secondary School Heads Association (Kessha) chairman Kahi Indimuli says.

"When most of these schools were being built many years ago, they did not foresee the problem of congestion. If they had, they would have put up storeyed buildings but this did not happen. Today, many of them lack land for expansion," he told the *Sunday Nation*.

He warned that schools which intend to expand their infrastructure will be forced to raise funds to cater for expansion.

One such school is Mama Ngina Girls' High School, a national school in Mombasa County.

Last month, the government issued Sh100 million for the relocation and construction of Mama Ngina Girls' High School on 20 acres at Shimo La Tewa in Shanzu, Mombasa County.

The prestigious national school, which was established in 1988 as a public double-streamed boarding school, is housed on less than an acre at Kizingo in Mombasa town. It also lacks a playground.

Speaking at Moi Girls' High School in Eldoret during the handing over of the formal property rights to headteachers, then Lands Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi said lack of the vital document exposed schools to grabbers. He said at least 4,000 schools had reported attempted grabbing of their land.

"To be honest, there is no way our schools can develop when out of 40,577 public schools in Kenya, 24,405 schools (83 per cent) lack lease certificates while another 55 per cent (16,172) are not surveyed," Prof Kaimenyi said.

He said that 41 per cent of public schools are at risk of encroachment and grabbing while 14 per cent have reported land grabbing cases.

Form One admissions increase



BENSON MOMANYI | NATION

Nyabisase Mixed Secondary School students in Bobasi, Kisii County, have their lunch outside yesterday. The school currently has a population of 1,100 students, up from 600, and does not have a dining hall.

Some parents withdraw their children after reporting but others fail to take places altogether

BY FAITH NYAMAI
fnyamai@ke.nationmedia.com

The government's plan to introduce day wings in 19 national and extra-county schools in Nairobi appears to have failed due to a poor response from students. The *Sunday Nation* has established that nearly half of the students who were invited to join the day wings failed to report, and the few who reported later transferred to other schools after they did not get admission to the boarding sections of their respective schools.

Lenana School principal William Kimei said the school has been left with only 14 day scholars after 11 left a few weeks after reporting. A total of 25 students had reported as day scholars out of the 45 that had been invited to take places.

"After reporting, 11 of them left the school and have never come back. Most of the parents wanted us to move them to the boarding wing which was not possible," he said.

The education policy under which the students were admitted as day scholars was categorical that once admitted under the day wing programme, they cannot be converted into boarders, Mr Kimei told the *Sunday Nation*.

State House Girls' High School principal Joan Muoti said the school had sent out invitation letters to 90 students to join the day wing out of the over 120 applications that it received.

However, only 60 students reported as day scholars.

"Most of the students that applied for day schooling vacancies had been admitted in other schools as boarders, so we do not know if they opted to join those schools or not," said Mrs Muoti.

The 19 schools that were selected by the national government to undertake the day scholars programme included Kenya High, Starehe Boys' Centre, Moi Forces Academy, Nairobi School, Lenana School, Pangani Girls and Moi Girls, Nairobi.

Others were Ngara Girls, Buruburu Girls, Embakasi Girls, Arya Parklands, Nembu Girls, Dagoretti High, Langata Secondary, Upper Hill, St George's Girls, State House Girls, Hospital Hill and Ofafa Jericho.

Some schools such as Starehe Boys' Centre, Kenya High and Moi Forces Academy refused to admit the day scholars citing unpreparedness.

Starehe Boys' Centre director Charles Musheti had earlier said the Ministry of Education had given them a short notice.

Moi Forces Academy, on its part, expressed fears that indiscipline may creep in as teachers may not be able to control the students.

A majority of those that had joined the schools as day scholars had hoped that they would be admitted as boarders after reporting.

However, due to the strict guidelines for schools, they could not be offered an opportunity to be boarders.

The *Sunday Nation* established that the schools are facing a major challenge to sustain the programme as most parents preferred their children to board.

Parents have also found it expensive to sustain the students' transport to and from the schools on a daily basis.

According to the Education ministry, the programme was intended to boost capacity and delink admission to bed space under the Free Secondary Education to increase Form One enrolment to above a million.

About 993,718 candidates sat their examination last year and were expected to join Form One this year.

The government has already released approximately Sh30 billion for the free secondary school education programme for the next six months.



JARED NYATAYA | NATION

A student reports to school at the beginning of the term in January.

cent increase in Form One enrolment.

The opening up of the school to girls, and the introduction of a day wing at Johanna Chase Secondary School in Mtito Andei town, has seen the school enrolment shoot up from 45 last year to 160 this term.

The introduction of a day wing at Kivuthini Secondary School has also seen the enrolment shoot up from 22 Form One students last year to 156 this year. At Makueni Boys' High School, the biggest school in the county, teachers are struggling to teach the 290 Form One students spread in five streams, each holding an average of 55 students.

According to the principal, Mr Raphael Diwani, the school expected to enrol 240 Form Ones, but was forced to admit 50 more.

"We are working on a sixth stream and a library to ease pressure on available classrooms," Mr Diwani told the *Sunday Nation*.

The situation is not different at Mukaa Boys' High School that saw its population rise to 1,300 this year following the admission of 360 Form One students last month.

The school head, Mr Francis Mutua, said accommodation was the school's biggest problem.

At Nakuru Girls' High School, a classroom holds an average of 58 students instead of the recommended 45.

The school principal, Ms Christine Chumba, said the national school admitted 284 Form One students against a capacity of 220. Many other institutions, including Naivasha Girls, Molo Academy, Njoro Boys and Jomo Kenyatta High, have also increased streams.

On Thursday, the Parliamentary Education Committee chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly also put the government to task over free day secondary education.

Reporting by Ouma Wanzala, Eric Matara, Pius Maundu, Mumbi Gitau, David Muchui, Mwangi Ndirangu, Charles Wanyoro, David Muchui, Magati Obebo, Derick Luvega, Shaban Makokha, Eunice Murathe and Benson Amadala.

Congestion fears after rule on 100pc uptake

BY OUMA WANZALA
owanzala@ke.nationmedia.com



The admission of more students in secondary schools to meet the 100 per cent transition is set to complicate the implementation of a task force report released last year which cautioned against congested classes.

Last May, the investigation team on unrest in schools, which was led by former provincial administrator Claire Omollo (right), gave the government six months to address congestion in schools.

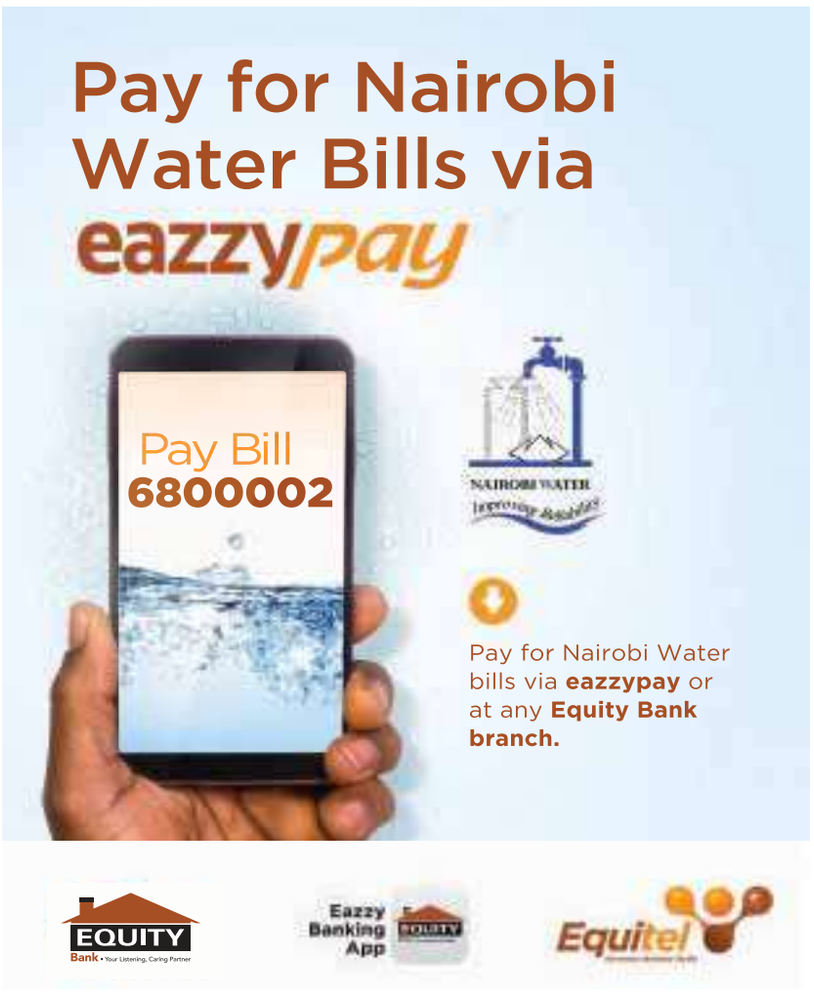
"Various guidelines on class size should be reviewed and harmonised, taking into consideration the safety standards regulations and teacher pupil-ratio," said the team set up by then Education Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i following a wave of strikes in schools in 2016.

The task force observed that schools were rushing to admit boarders without ensuring they had adequate facilities. "Most of the schools visited had overcrowded and congested dormitories, with some students sleeping on triple decker beds," it said.

According to the safety standards manual, dormitories should have double doors, opening outwards and windows must be without grills. Dormitories must also be clean and well ventilated, while the spaces between beds must be wide enough to allow for manoeuvre and quick exit during emergencies.

The team recommended that all boarding schools should be re-inspected. Those that do not meet the basic standards should be deregistered or converted to day schools, it said.

A stream in a school is supposed to have a minimum of 45 students and a maximum of 55, but some have more students than the recommended number. "Most of the schools visited had filthy dormitories, as evidenced by the presence of bedbugs and foul smell," the report said. Other issues yet to be implemented include erection of secure fences with manned gates and adoption of security measures such as CCTV surveillance, sniffer dog checks, metal detector checks, random security patrols and adequate security lighting.



The future> Opposition chief could begin plans for 2022 run, play as kingmaker or retire

Raila's tough options after 'oath'

ODM goes into crucial meetings to chart the way forward for party and its leader

BY JUSTUS WANGA
jwanga@ke.nationmedia.com

Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) will this week hold two crucial meetings which could give the clearest signs of the opposition leader's immediate political options and in the 2022 succession.

The two meetings, starting with the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting on Thursday, followed by the National Governing Council (NGC) the following day, will be used ostensibly to revamp the party, fill vacant offices and give Mr Odinga the go-ahead to chart his political future after his controversial "swearing-in" on January 30 that triggered a government crackdown.

Sources within Mr Odinga's camp reveal that the two meetings have been necessitated by the simmering disquiet within the National Super Alliance (Nasa) arising from the January 30 event at Uhuru Park, which was not attended by the three other co-principals Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper), Musalia Mudavadi (ANC) and Moses Wetang'ula (Ford Kenya).

"We are having the meetings back-to-back in Nairobi," party chairman John Mbadi said yesterday, underlining the need to strengthen one of the most dominant parties in the country's political architecture for more than a decade now.

The two crucial meetings come at a time Mr Odinga is facing intense pressure both from within the opposition coalition and outside.

Away from the simmering differences within Nasa over the absence of Mr Odinga's co-principals from the Uhuru Park event, there is also tension between the coalition's affiliate parties over the sharing of seats in the National Assembly, the Senate and the Parliamentary Service Commission. On Friday, the coalition issued a statement reaffirming it remained united despite media reports of a split.

Mr Odinga is also under pressure from at least 11 foreign diplomatic missions in Nairobi led by American Ambassador Robert Godec and British High Commissioner Nic Hailey to recognise President Uhuru Kenyatta's leadership. Mr Odinga told off the envoys but the *Sunday Nation* has learnt that some countries were considering sanctions against Mr Odinga and top Nasa leaders that could include a visa ban.

The meeting also comes when scores of Mr Odinga's close allies are literally on the run from State security over their alleged role in the "swearing-in". For example, Mr Miguna Miguna, a prominent ally in Nasa's National Resistance Movement, was arrested and eventually deported to Canada – a move he has challenged in court.

While ODM members are expected to pick new officials in key slots like secretary-general, the general feeling within the Orange party is that Mr Odinga needs to pay more attention to his political outfit in preparation for any possible realignments in Nasa.

ODM secretary for political affairs and Public Accounts Committee chairman Opiyo Wandayi said Mr Odinga will stick around.

"Baba's (Mr Odinga) opinion rating has never been higher than it is currently. Indeed, his popularity continues to soar by the day. The kind of confidence Kenyans have shown in him can only mean that they want him to be their leader now and in the foreseeable future. The question of his retirement, therefore, does not arise," he said.



DENNIS KAVISU | NATION

Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka condoles with Cecilia Mbaga, widow of Prof Lenno Mbaga Mwambura, at Bodoi in Kikambala, Kilifi County, yesterday. Mr Musyoka was Mr Odinga's running mate.

> Baba's opinion rating has never been higher than it is currently. Indeed, his popularity continues to soar by the day,"
>
> **ODM Secretary for Political Affairs Opiyo Wandayi**

Some of Mr Odinga's strategists and handlers say the country is yet to see the last of him in the political arena despite earlier indication that the botched August 8 elections last year were his last attempt. This could complicate matters for Nasa.

Mr Musyoka has, for instance, supported Mr Odinga's presidential bids in the last two elections and it would be hard to have him do it again.

By taking the "oath", Mr Odinga is believed to have settled his debts with his supporters, after two previous postponements, who are now likely to endorse any deal he may wish to cut or any political direction he may choose to take. But "what next?" after the "swearing-in" remains an unanswered question with some expecting him to name a parallel Cabinet to pile pressure on President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Within Nasa, it is believed that as things stand now, the ODM party leader would face stiff opposition convincing his supporters to back any of the three principals who avoided the "swearing-in" – and only appeared later to explain their absence.

But there is also a feeling that there is still time for temperatures to cool down and have the supporters forgive the other principals who "betrayed" Mr Odinga.

In spite of the glaring rifts in Nasa largely triggered by the sharing of slots in Parliament among affiliate parties, Mr Musyoka yesterday put on a brave face, saying the coalition was intact and that there is no cause for alarm. He said that Nasa will soon hold a national convention to give direction to their supporters.

"Politics has just started, there is no turning back, we must make sure that not again will elections be stolen and people ruled by force," he said at a burial in Kilifi.

Wiper Secretary-General Peter Mathuki claimed there was a plot by the opponents of the coalition to scuttle the chances of Mr Musyoka and Mr Mudavadi in 2022 by arresting them for treason after the "oath".

Now that they did not succeed, he argues, Nasa should put its house in order and carry out reforms ahead of the battle with Jubilee's Deputy President William Ruto, the presumed ruling party candidate.

"They knew Raila (Mr Odinga) will not be a candidate in 2022. So, they had set a trap to target potential candidates. That they were not caught in the trap is not cowardice, it is wisdom and divine intervention," said Mr Mathuki.

On Nasa's future and what should happen next, Mr Mathuki was categorical that the coalition needed to pick their 2022 candidate early enough.

"It needs to be crystal clear now who will face Jubilee in 2022. Obviously, in this particular case, it was foreseen to be Kalonzo and Mudavadi," he said.

"If it is clear now, then we will be starting on a clear point."

Another route Mr Odinga can pursue according to a close ally, is to strengthen the party and use it to push for the reforms he has been talking about after realising that he is "largely on his own and that when things come to a head, he cannot count on his colleagues".

Another viable option Mr Odinga's handlers are looking at is choosing to be kingmaker like he did with his "Kibaki Tosha" call in 2002, either by supporting Deputy President William Ruto or whoever runs against the DP in Jubilee.

"Given his countrywide following, whoever he supports is almost sure of winning the presidency," Mr Tom Mboya, a political commentator from Maseno University, reckons.

Within ODM, some say he might pass the baton to one of his deputies, particularly the youthful and energetic Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho. Yet within the coalition, Mr Odinga was perceived to have a soft spot for Mr Mudavadi.

But his decision to miss the "swearing-in" may have put paid to that relationship, although the two remain close, consult regularly and are often seen together at social joints.

There is also talk of him taking the father figure or statesman role that some Jubilee leaders have long pushed him to take. This would require an agreement with President Kenyatta particularly on terms and conditions especially with regard to his role in national and party politics.

There is also a belief that even as they tussle in public, Mr Odinga and Mr Kenyatta may be in some kind of private talks and Kenyans have not seen the last of the ties between the two.

"And even as the swearing-in brought the international community solidly against him, it is said that the US remains keen to work with Raila (Mr Odinga) and to see him play a bigger and more structured role in Kenya's national and global politics," one of his allies said.

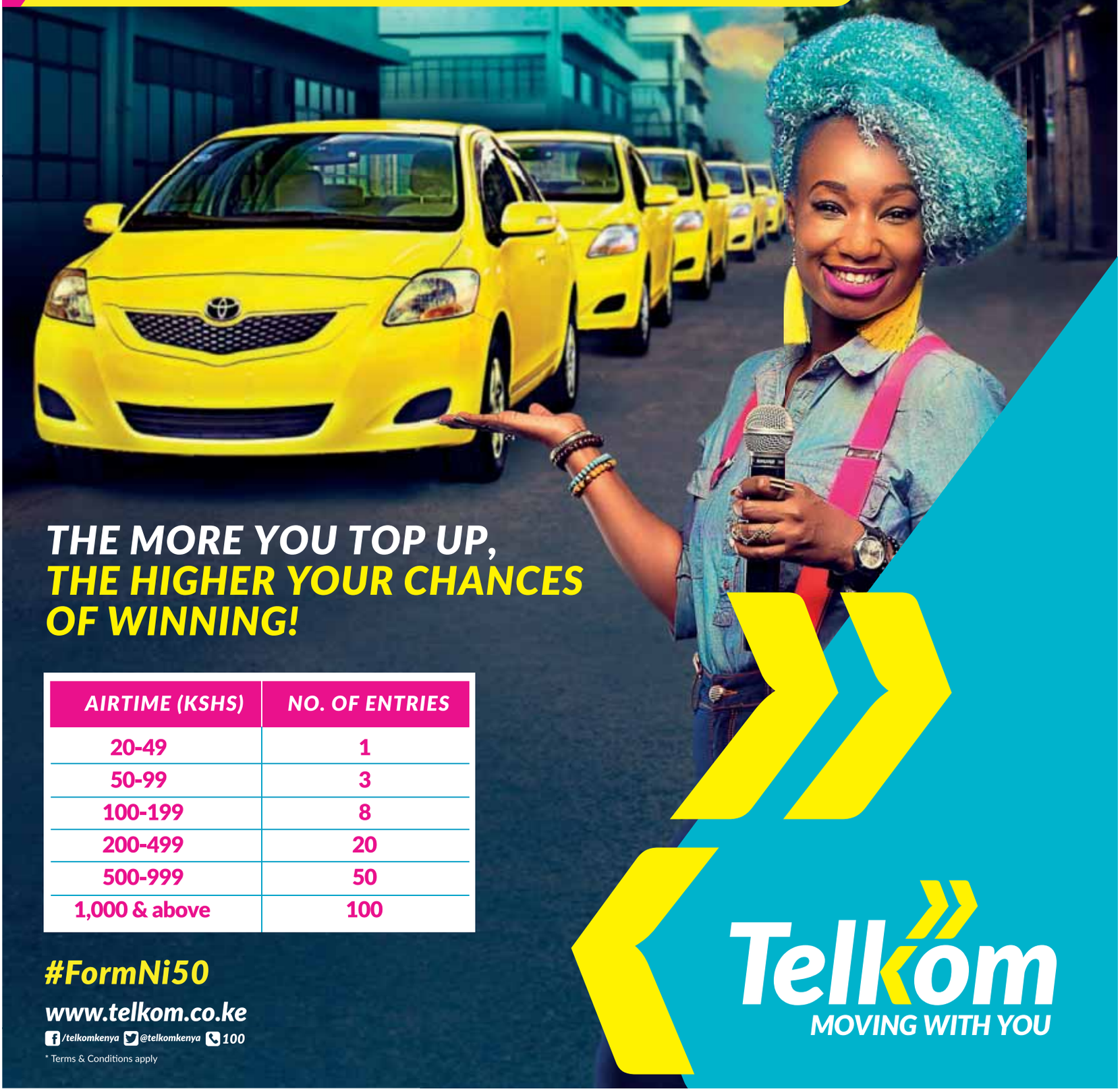
A source at the Embassy said that the US ambassador thinks that Mr Odinga should be prepared to take up that role and continue serving the country.

Both President Kenyatta and Mr Odinga are said to be keen to heal the rift created by their fathers, a development that is viewed to have potential to heal the country. But the two leaders, almost always held captive by their handlers, are never clear where to begin.



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Jubilee onslaught on the Judiciary set to intensify

Still smarting from nullification of his August 8 poll win, Uhuru keen to control justice system

BY SUNDAY NATION TEAM

The wave of attacks by the Jubilee administration on the Judiciary could intensify this week with individual judges and court officials likely to be singled out in petitions to remove them, the *Sunday Nation* has learnt.

Judiciary has had little space to breathe since the Supreme Court nullified the August 8 presidential election and the rough ride has continued in recent weeks following a series of High Court rulings that some government officials and Jubilee politicians perceive as "favouring" the opposition.

Yesterday, Jubilee Secretary-General Raphael Tuju stood by a hard-hitting letter he sent to Chief Justice David Maraga, saying it was time for the Supreme Court to come clean on the judgment that overturned President Uhuru Kenyatta's win.

"If you examine the judgments that have been rendered by High Court judges regarding election petitions, there is a clear pattern: High Court judges have shelved the Supreme Court judgment of September 1 as a precedence. The Supreme Court judges should examine their conscience and do an internal audit on how they ended with such a decision," he said.

He said the Supreme Court judges should admit that their judgment was wrong "and Kenyans will forgive them."

"The judges made a political decision that allowed the opposition to play politics with that decision by refusing to contest the subsequent presidential election. Had they envisaged the way things turned out they probably would not have entered the political arena," said Mr Tuju.

But on Friday, the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association said attacks on the Judiciary were unwarranted and it was important to obey court orders.

"The membership of Kenya Judges and Magistrates Association is resolute that we shall uphold the rule of law, steadfastly defend the Constitution and diligently dispense justice without fear or favour," said secretary-general Derrick Kuto.

The association warned the country could plunge into chaos "when there is disregard of court orders".

But at the end of a week in which Nyeri Town MP Ngunjiri Wambugu has asked for an explanation from the Judicial Service Commission on why his petition to remove Chief Justice Maraga last year was thrown out, similar moves appear to be in the works in the coming days targeting judges who are seen to be independent minded.



FILE | NATION

President Uhuru Kenyatta confers with Chief Justice David Maraga (right) during the presentation of the State of the Judiciary and Administration of Justice Report at the Supreme Court on December 15, 2017.

The attacks have also continued at political functions. Jubilee leaders in Tharaka Nithi led by Governor Muthomi Njuki have, for example, accused the Judiciary of being indifferent to the opposition's illegal activities.

Mr Njuki, together with MPs Kareke Mbiuki (Maara) and Patrick Munene (Chuka/Igambang'ombe), said courts have been reversing all the decisions made by government.

The onslaught on the Judiciary started soon after the Supreme Court nullified the presidential election when an agitated President Uhuru Kenyatta promised to deal with the Judiciary.

"We shall revisit this thing. We clearly have a problem. Who even elected you? Were you? We have a problem and we must fix it," the President said.

True to that, there have been systematic attacks with Jubilee and its surrogates going all out to humiliate individual officers and the institution, as the ruling party tries all within its power to weaken the Judiciary, the only institution that so far has relatively managed to insulate itself from external interference.

When Mr Tuju fired a personal letter at the Chief Justice accusing him of "open bias", it was not an innocent or isolated case but one in a series.

It started soon after the nullification of the presidential election on September 1 when surrogates of the ruling party started flooding the Judicial Service Commission with petitions against the Supreme Court judges led by Chief Justice David Maraga, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu and Justice Isaac Lenaola.

Other than the petitions filed last year, there was mudslinging of the individual judges, branding them *wakora* (crooks), direct threats to the lives of judges, and with support from some Judiciary insiders, erecting barriers to ensure that the Supreme Court does not sit on the eve of the repeat of the presidential election on October 26.

The latest onslaught has taken the form of recent personnel changes at the 11-member JSC as Jubilee moves to have a grip on the commission and influence its decision-making process.

JSC has the final say on who becomes Chief Justice and all other judges and magistrates and with a looming retirement of several judges, President Kenyatta's recent appointments to the commission reveal a well calculated move to have it firmly under Executive control.

The current membership of JSC has Mr Maraga as the chairperson, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu representing the Supreme Court judges, Justices Mohamed Warsame and Aggrey Muchelule representing Court of Appeal and High Court respectively, and Prof Tom Ojienda and Mercy Deche as representatives of the Law Society of Kenya.

President Kenyatta has also nominated former Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor Olive Mugenda, former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Felix Koskei and Public Service Commissioner Patrick Gichohi, who previously served as a clerk of the National Assembly to the JSC as the ruling party expands its control of the commission. Once formally appointed, nominee for position of Attorney-General Justice Kihara Kariuki will also join the ranks of those who will be doing the Executive's bidding in the JSC.

Among the tasks of the commission is the recruitment of judges and magistrates as well as investigations into the conduct of judicial officers and recommending those found unfit.

Apart from CJ Maraga, Supreme Court Judge Jackton Ojwang' is set to retire before the 2022 General Election. With the current configuration of the JSC, Jubilee could have cast its sights into the future with the aim of getting a compliant Supreme Court just before the elections. Further, the Court of Appeal has about 10 positions to be filled after several judges retired last year.

Court of Appeal judges John Mwera, Anyara Emukule, Festus Azangalala and GBM Kariuki retired leaving the court with only 20 judges while five others are between 65 and 69 years, meaning that more judges are set to retire in the next three years.

Sept 1, 2017

Day Supreme Court nullified Uhuru Kenyatta's presidential election win, setting the stage for a clash with Jubilee.

As well as the recent changes to the JSC composition, Mr Tuju's letter, according to some, was condescending if not threatening the Chief Justice.

"Raphael Tuju. Your letter to CJ Maraga reflects the arrogance of political power and utter disrespect for the institution of the CJ as head of the judiciary, and the institutions he heads, namely, the JSC, NCAJ (National Council on Administration of Justice), and NCLR (National Council for Law Reporting). Your complaint should have been addressed to OJO (Office of Judiciary Ombudsperson)," former Chief Justice Dr Willy Mutunga tweeted.

In the letter, Mr Tuju had accused the CJ of "bias, double standards, impunity and poor leadership on the part of the Judiciary" and proceeded to cite eight instances he claimed the Judiciary has been biased.

"Independence of the Judiciary, Executive and Parliament must be put in context. Independence cannot exclude another definition of relations that is referred to as inter-dependence. It will require mature leadership of all the players and most importantly from you too, Mr Chief Justice," Mr Tuju had stated in the letter.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i last week said that there is a need for a "national conversation about the state of the Judiciary."

The Executive has repeatedly said that the Judiciary has been giving rulings detrimental to the Executive's agenda while turning a blind eye to excesses by the opposition coalition, Nasa.

By Walter Menya, Wanjohi Githae, Sam Kiplagat and Alex Njeru



Conduct of judge named to replace Githu questioned

BY WALTER MENYA
wmenya@ke.nationmedia.com

Justice Kihara Kariuki (above), the man President Uhuru Kenyatta has tapped to be his chief legal adviser, has a pending case of alleged misconduct which is being actively investigated by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

Two weeks before President Kenyatta nominated Justice Kariuki for the job of Attorney-General to take over from Prof Githu Muigai, JSC had formed a special committee to look into the misconduct and insubordination allegations against the Court of Appeal judge and three of his colleagues Erastus Githinji, Martha Koome and Fatuma Sichale.

This followed the manner they handled the matter on the appointment of returning officers by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission hours before the repeat presidential election on October 26.

Interestingly, Justice Kariuki will become an automatic member of the JSC by virtue of his position once he is formally appointed Attorney-General after going through vetting by Parliament, the same body currently seized of the allegations against him.

Since Justice Kariuki would have resigned as a judge, lawyer Nelson Havi says JSC would not be in a position to pursue the matter further.

The allegations against Justice Kariuki are likely to come up during his vetting by the National Assembly's Committee on Appointments.

"Those are very serious integrity queries but with our Parliament having forfeited its oversight role and instead become an extension of the executive, we do not foresee anything that would stop the judge from being confirmed for appointment," said Mr Havi.

The allegations against Justice Kihara are contained in the petition that was filed by former Law Society of Kenya (LSK) CEO Apollo Mboya dated December 21, 2017 relating to the appointment of returning officers by the IEBC to oversee the repeat poll.

In the petition, Mr Mboya accused Justice Kariuki and his colleagues of "insubordination, gross misconduct and/or misbehaviour incompatible with the status of judge of Court of Appeal for breach of constitution, the oath of office and statutory provisions."

The petition, among others, questions how Justice Kariuki was able to empanel a three-judge bench of justices Githinji, Koome and Sichale on a public holiday and without the authorisation from the Chief Justice David Maraga.

"Justice Kihara Kariuki, without authorisation by the Chief Justice, empanelled a bench of the Court of Appeal composed of Githinji, Koome and Sichale ... and issued a court order (which) undermined the authority of the Chief Justice as the head of Judiciary (and) was discriminatory to other litigants who have other urgent matters before the same court but has not been allocated a hearing date," the petition reads.

> Those are very serious integrity queries but Parliament has forfeited its oversight role and has become an extension of the Executive," **lawyer Nelson Havi.**

Mr Mboya also wants the judge to explain why he left out the Court of Appeal judges stationed in Nairobi and went for justices Githinji, Koome and Sichale who are based in Kisumu, Malindi and Nyeri respectively.

The petitioner had also questioned how the appeal was expedited and final *ex-parte* orders given within minutes. President Kenyatta on Tuesday nominated Justice Kariuki to succeed Prof Muigai.

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Failure to execute > Kenya was aware of two orders to arrest him but it did not do so in 2010

Court lifts al-Bashir arrest warrant

Appelate judges are of the view there was no jurisdiction for such orders

ABIUD OCHIENG
aawiti@ke.nationmedia.com

The provisional warrants of arrest issued six years ago directing the Internal Security Minister to arrest Sudanese President Hassan Omar al-Bashir have been lifted by the appellate court, removing a heavy yoke on Kenya's shoulders.

Court of Appeal Judges David Musinga, William Ouko, and Agnes Murgor held that the provisional warrants issued in November, 2011, should not have been issued by the High Court when it was clear that al-Bashir was not coming to Kenya, with the meeting he was scheduled to attend having been moved from Kenya to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

They said that in so far as the orders granting provisional arrest and the one directing the Interior Minister to effect the warrant are concerned, they were in agreement that the appeal by the Attorney-General must succeed as there was no jurisdiction upon which to issue them.

"True, after President al-Bashir left Kenya, no present effect could be given to the order that the government takes steps to arrest him upon coming to Kenya for the summit that was cancelled. And President al-Bashir is not in Kenya today," ruled the judges.aOn March, 2009, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) had issued the first warrant for the arrest of President Al Bashir on five counts of crimes against humanity committed in Darfur. A second warrant based on three counts of genocide was subsequently issued on July 12, 2010.



FILE | NATION

President al-Bashir was among regional leaders who attended 2010 promulgation of the Constitution. There was a warrant in place to arrest him.

Matters of law

NO VALID GROUND NOW FOR ARREST

Appeal judges declared that the government's failure to effect the arrest of President al-Bashir, when he came to Kenya, breached relevant international instruments, the Constitution and legislation.

No present effect could be given to the order that the government takes steps to arrest him upon coming to Kenya for the summit that was cancelled.

In both instances, the Registrar of the ICC sent requests for cooperation to all States Parties to the Rome Statute, including Kenya, asking them to arrest and surrender al-Bashir if and when he travelled to those countries.

However, as Kenya celebrated the promulgation of a new Constitution on August 27, 2010, President al-Bashir was among the leaders from the region who were invited and indeed he did attend the historic occasion.

Although Kenya was aware of the two warrants to arrest him, it did not do so.

When the Kenya section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya Chapter) learnt that President al-Bashir was planning another visit to Kenya in October 2010 to attend an Inter-Governmental Authority on Development summit meeting in Nairobi, it filed an application in the High Court seeking that the court grants a provisional warrant of arrest against him. The planned visit did not take place as the Summit was moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The orders sought were finally granted by the High Court on November 28, 2011.

In their decision on Friday, the Court of Appeal judges while lifting the provisional warrant of arrest against President al-l Bashir, however stated that Kenya was and is still bound by its international obligations to cooperate with the ICC to execute the original warrant for the arrest of President al-Bashir when he visited Kenya on August 27, 2010 and in future should he return to Kenya if the warrants are still in force.

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Cash crisis at the top of EAC agenda

BY ZEPHANIA UBWANI
In Arusha

With the cash woes still haunting the East African Community (EAC), will the regional leaders finally agree on a mechanism to end the perennial cash crisis?

This is one of the issues that will come up during the forthcoming Heads of State summit and allied high level meetings in Kampala, Uganda, on Friday.

A senior official, who spoke in confidence, told *Sunday Nation* in Arusha that alternative options to fund EAC activities will once again be tabled during the summit. "One mechanism will be to raise the money through tax revenues," he said.

Another option, already discussed at the technical level by senior officials of the partner States, was that some countries should contribute more than others for the EAC expenditure. "Here, we will be talking of equity," he said, however, noting that the option can pose some difficulties as this will give some countries more powers than others in key decisions.

The other option, once recommended by experts, was to use various parameters for each country so long as it would promote equity and fairness.

A statement issued by the Arusha-based secretariat said Kampala will from tomorrow host a series of EAC meetings, culminating in the Heads of State and Joint Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development.

The summit will also be updated on the stalled Economic Partnership Agreement between the EAC and European Union.

Grey areas > Nasa pact 'does not obligate Orange party to share monies with its coalition partners'

Jubilee to get lion's share of Parties' Fund

Only two parties qualify, with second placed ODM angry over past allocations

BY WANJOHI GITHAE
wgithae@ke.nationmedia.com

Jubilee will get the lion's share of the Political Parties Fund cash, amid protests from the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) that the monies have not been distributed in accordance with the law in the past five years.

In the 2017/2018 financial year, political parties were allocated Sh371.2 million by Parliament.

According to the Political Parties Act, qualifying political parties should be given 0.3 per cent of the national revenue to share so as to entrench democracy.

According to the Act, 80 per cent of the Fund is to be distributed proportionately, considering the total number of votes garnered by each political party in the preceding General Election;

Parties that do not qualify are those that "do not secure at least three per cent of the total number of votes at the preceding General Election; or if more than two-thirds of its registered office bearers are of the same gender and the party does not have, in its governing body, representation of special interest groups."

In addition, any party that does not have at least 20 elected members of the National Assembly, three elected members of the Senate, three elected members who are governors and 40 members of county assemblies, also stand to miss out on the cash.

Therefore, as per the law, only Jubilee and ODM qualify to deep their fingers into the Fund's coffers. ODM maintains that it is still owed at least Sh5 billion by the Fund in unpaid monies since 2013.

The party's Director of Elections and Suna East MP Junet Mohamed says the Fund must adhere to the High Court ruling issued in October last year on distribution of the money.

Went to court

"Parliament and National Treasury must now implement what they ignored for the past five years," he says. In 2016, ODM went to court seeking orders to compel the National Treasury to adhere to the 0.3 per cent rule.

Justice Roselyne Aburili directed that the National Assembly adheres to the established formula. "The Cabinet Secretary of the National Treasury is hereby ordered to ensure that in each financial year, the National Treasury shall make budgetary proposals and estimates that reflect the allocation of not less than 0.3 per cent of the national revenue collected to be due to the Political Parties Fund."

She ordered that the orders issued in October 2017 take effect from the 2018/2019 financial year.

In court, ODM had argued that following the 2013 General Election, it was entitled to at least 40 per cent of the Fund.

The party argued that the total revenue collected by the national government for the years 2012/2013; 2013/2014; 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years was approximately Sh4,284,478,321. Hence, in accordance with the Act, at least Sh12,853,436,185.00, being 0.3 per cent of the national revenue, ought to have been disbursed to the Political Parties Fund for distribution to political parties, of which it would have been entitled to receive 40 per cent for the said period.

ODM alleged that contrary to the Act, it had received only Sh501,575,919 as of 2016, leaving an outstanding amount of Sh4,135,903,545 based on the total national revenue collected.

The National Treasury, through the Attorney General, opposed the suit, stating that the prayers "sought were based on contradictory allegations which border on mere belief, suspicion and speculations, and hence incapable of any Judicial Review determination."

The Registrar of Political Parties did not dispute ODM's case, only stating that the office does not have statutory or constitutional duty to allocate and appropriate funds to the Political Parties Fund.

No information yet

Jubilee Secretary General Raphael Tuju said the party is yet to get information on how the current allocation will be shared.

"Any question can only be answered by the Registrar of Political Parties," he said.

Mr Junet, however, states that the Nasa coalition agreement does not obligate ODM to share monies drawn from the fund with its coalition partners, including Wiper, ANC and Ford Kenya, which do not qualify for the funds.

"We did not agree on how to share the Fund during our pre-election agreement. That was to be done as part of post-election agreements," he said.



> We are yet to get information on how the current allocation will be shared. Any question can only be answered by the Registrar of Political Parties,"
>
> **Jubilee Secretary General Raphael Tuju**

UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
[UNDER STATUTORY MANAGEMENT]
Kenya Re Towers, Ragati Road, Behind Britam Center.
P.O. Box 30961-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 254-2-2728624, Fax:254-2-2728625 E-Mail: info@unitedinsurance.co.ke

PUBLIC NOTICE

Further to and in line with the directions by the Honourable Justice Ochieng in court on 30th January 2018, the Statutory Manager of United Insurance Company Limited (Under Statutory Management) wishes to notify the General public as follows:

1. There will be a meeting for all stakeholders including policyholders, insurance claimants and/or their legal representatives, staff, service providers, any other creditors and interested parties of United Insurance Company Limited (Under Statutory Management) on **Tuesday 20th February, 2018 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Amphitheatre Hall at 9.00 a.m.**
2. **The agenda**, which relates to the Statutory Management of the insurer, **shall be circulated** prior to the commencement of the meeting.

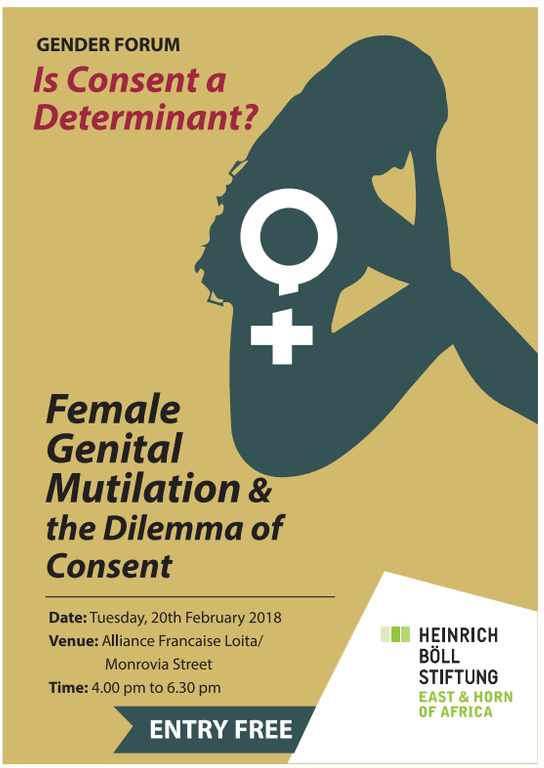
Please note:

- The Statutory Manager may require proof of identity/interest as a precondition for admission into the venue.
- All interested Parties are requested to keep time to avoid inconveniencing long distance travelers.
- For further inquiries, you may contact the United Insurance Company Limited (Under Statutory Management) offices on the following contacts:

Telephone: 020 2728624
Email: info@unitedinsurance.co.ke
Postal Address: 30961 – 00100 NAIROBI

THE STATUTORY MANAGER
POLICYHOLDERS COMPENSATION FUND

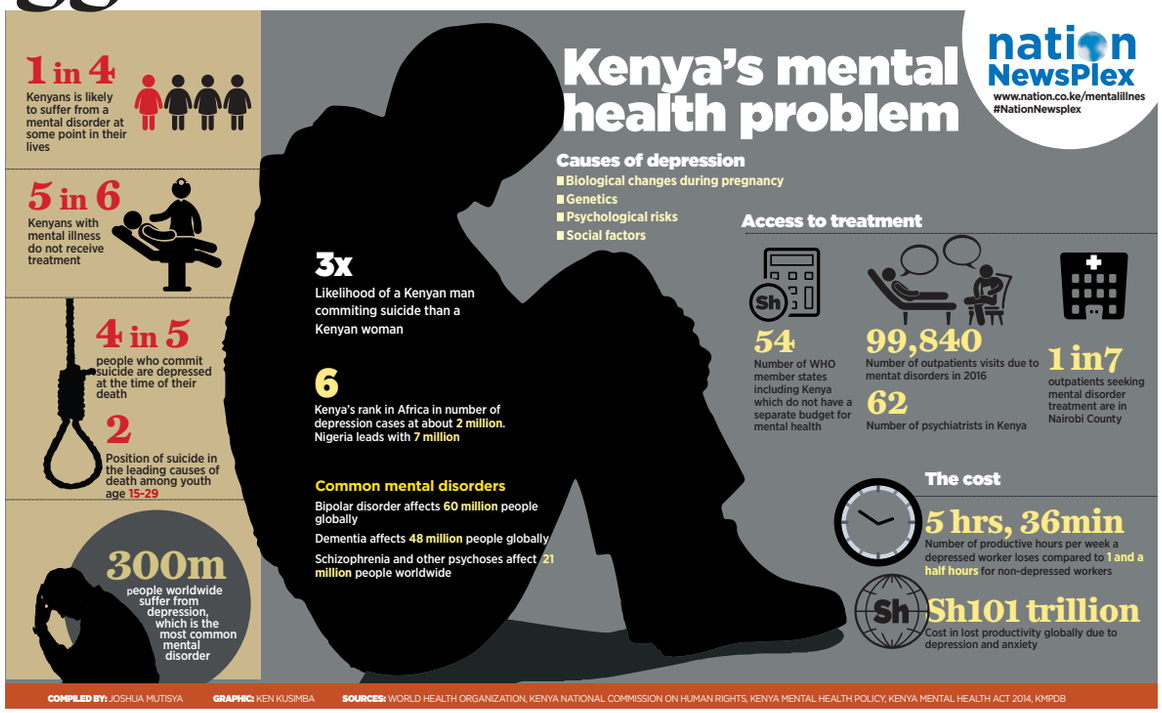




Numbers > About 40 per cent of in-patients in health facilities suffer from mental disorders

People with mental illnesses struggle to find treatment

The suicide rate for men is three times higher than the rate for women



BY JOSHUA MUTISYA
jmmutisya@ke.nationmedia.com

One in four Kenyans is likely to suffer from a mental illness at some point in their life and they will find it difficult to get the healthcare they need, reveals a Nation Newsplex investigation.

The review of mental health data also finds that the suicide rate for men is three times higher than the rate for women. Figures from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that the suicide rate per 100,000 people in Kenya is seven, with the rate for men being 11 and women three.

Kenya's rate is below Africa's average of nine deaths per 100,000.

Psychiatrist Lukoye Atwoli says men die by suicide more often than women because men use more lethal methods compared with women when attempting suicide.

Psychologist Job Watene also attributes the difference between male and female suicide rates to the many support systems and relationships women have among themselves and their willingness to seek help from friends and medical experts.

"Women talk more between themselves about health and other issues than men. They are also more willing to seek medical assistance as compared to men. A great number of the patients we have are women," he says.

In 2016 there were 99,840 outpatient hospital visits for mental disorders, an eight per cent increase over the previous year, according to the Statistical Abstracts 2017. Nairobi recorded the most outpatient visits for mental illness. Of these, one in seven or 15,223 visits occurred in Nairobi County, which has a population of 4.5 million. It was followed by Muranga (5,575), Nyeri (4,881), Kiambu (4,371) and Mombasa (3,915). Each of the top five counties has a population of more than one million people. Sparsely populated Isiolo and Samburu (each with a population of less than 300,000) had the least number of suicides, at 189 and 336 respectively.

About 40 per cent of in-patients in health facilities suffer from mental disorders, according to the Kenya Mental Health Policy (2015-2030).

Though mental disorders are common and widespread, a majority of Kenyans who suffer from these illnesses do not get the care and treatment they need. A Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) audit of the mental health system in Kenya estimates that out of six people with a mental illness, five do not receive any treatment.

Anne (not her real name) is one of the few Kenyans who got the help they needed when they suffered from a mental illness, even though for her it took several attempts. She became depressed after she got vitiligo, a skin condition that causes loss of skin colour in patches.

"I was a teenager then, seeking love and approval from my peers. I would cut myself in any part of the skin that a patch appeared. As it spread all over my body, I stayed indoors for days, and when outside, people would throw at me all manner of insults."

Her condition even affected her studies. "I was selected to go to Moi University but I opted out because I was afraid of the attention I'd receive there. So I enrolled for a bachelor's degree in business administration at Kenya Methodist University and chose evening classes because I didn't want people to see me during the day. I graduated, though I performed very poorly due to lack of focus. It was very stressful," she recalls.

Her family was supportive and took her to hospital, where a doctor prescribed antidepressants, which only made things worse for her. "I would get terrible nightmares every time I took the drugs."

She later visited a psychologist and started to recover after several therapy sessions.

Depression is the most common mental illness, affecting more than 300 million people worldwide, according to WHO. It is also the leading cause of disability. When not attended to, it can lead to suicidal thoughts.

WHO estimates that about 800,000 people commit suicide every year and it is the second leading cause of death among youth age 15 – 29 globally.

There are more than 200 classified forms of mental illness and many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time, states the American Psychological Association. Besides depression, some of the more common disorders are bipolar disorder, dementia and schizophrenia, which globally affect about 60 million, 48 million and 21 million people respectively.

Dr Atwoli rejects the notion that the political and economic environment are to blame for the high number of people battling depression, saying there is no one specific cause of depression.

"The causes are many and they range from biological factors such as genetic makeup, pregnancy complications and certain illnesses in childhood. The psychological issues include the personality of the person and other risk factors such as how they behave and think. Finally, there are social factors such as how you are brought up, where you live and the state of your environment."

These factors combine to determine whether a person will get mental illness or not. Biological factors give you the risk of getting the illness while psychological and social issues determine when it will appear. Environmental and social stressors such as unemployment and bereavement can trigger depression.

With about two million cases of depression annually, Kenya ranks second in East Africa after Tanzania (2.1 million cases), according to WHO data. There are concerns that the number could be higher since there are people who are depressed yet do not seek treatment.

Nigeria, the most populous country in the continent, leads with seven million cases, followed by Ethiopia (four million) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (three million). Seychelles recorded the lowest number of cases in the world at 3,722.

The Workplace

Annually, depression costs Sh101 trillion in lost productivity globally. A US study of the cost of lost productive work time among US workers by epidemiologist Walter Stewart reveals that depressed people lose five hours and 36 minutes of productive work every week compared with one and a half hours for the non-depressed.

Psychologist Watene urges employers to factor in the mental welfare of their employees by providing them with mental treatment services.

Study: Nerve diseases killing HIV patients

BY ANGELA OKETCH
AOketch@ke.nationmedia.com

Most HIV patients are dying of neurological diseases, a study has shown.

The study done at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital revealed that in resource limited settings, the mortality rate of HIV induced neurological diseases is very high and that opportunistic infections are largely the biggest cause of these diseases.

From the study, the mortality rate of the diseases stood at an all-time high of 64 per cent.

Neurological diseases are diseases of the brain, spine and the nerves that connect them. There are more than 600 diseases of the nervous system, such as brain tumors, epilepsy and stroke.

The study revealed that the diseases are still prevalent even in the era of anti-retroviral therapy.

The study presented yesterday at the Kenya Medical Research Institute 8th Annual Scientific and Health Conference further reported that 39 to 70 per cent of all patients with Aids developed neurological disorders.

> More HIV positive women were getting the disorders than men. We need to do another research explaining why women are more prone to the diseases."
>
> **Dr Adams Odera, author of the study.**

Dr Adams Odera, author of the study, said that in resource limited settings, there is limited human resource, diagonostic and access to medications.

"This limits the use of evidence based medicines since clinicians rely so much on clinical acumen and previous disease patterns to initiate treatment," revealed the study.

The study aimed at establishing the magnitude of HIV associated neurological diseases with a view to informing the management of patients.

The study was done between January 2015 and December 2016.

The retrospective cross sectional study obtained data from patients' records retrieved from the hospital registry.

It included adults aged 18 years HIV positive patients who were diagonised.

From the findings, 33 per cent of the patients admitted with neurologic disease were HIV positive. Of the patients admitted with the condition, 57 per cent were female and 42 per cent male. The mean age was 36 years.

"More HIV positive women were getting the disorders than men. We need to do another research explaining why women are more prone to the diseases," he said.

Treatment > Cancer is preventable and curable if detected early

Start of cervical cancer vaccine pushed to 2019

Producer of the vaccine asks for more time due to requests from other nations

BY ANGELA OKETCH
AOketch@ke.nationmedia.com

A national rollout of free cervical cancer vaccine that was to kick off this year has been pushed to 2019, the *Sunday Nation* has learnt.

The rollout was initially scheduled for this year after two successful pilot projects conducted in Kitui County schools in four years demonstrated acceptability and effectiveness.

Dr Collins Tabu, the head of the National Vaccines and Immunisation Programme, confirmed that the change of the programme was due to high demand from countries across the globe for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and the need for the manufacturer to accommodate more requests from interested countries.

Dr Tabu said that the postponement of the rollout was a decision taken by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Gavi) that requested for more time to manufacture the vaccine.

"We are very ready for the programme and it is in the final stages of ensuring that everything is in place but at the same time, we have to ensure that we have enough vaccines so that when the rollout is here, we are not interrupted," said Dr Tabu.

"Many countries are now doing national rollout. The demand has gone very high in a short span. It is not that the company cannot meet the demand, it is how quickly they can produce as everybody now wants the vaccine," said a researcher at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) working on the vaccine.

Dr Nelly Mugo (right), the Head of Sexual Reproductive Adolescent Child Health Research Programme at Kemri and a member of the HPV committee, said that the vaccine will be rolled out in the health facilities and not in schools as earlier planned.

Currently, Gavi helps Kenya procure its vaccines through a co-financing model, where Kenya pays for 10 per cent of its entire vaccine budget, about Sh400 million, while Gavi pays the other 90 per cent, around Sh3.97 billion, every year.

The money is used to purchase pentavalent vaccine for influenza, pneumococcal for pneumonia and rotavirus for diarrhoea and yellow fever.

The free cervical cancer vaccine (HPV vaccine) programme was first piloted among 20,000 school girls in Kitui four years ago and the uptake was 90 per cent. The acceptance was so high that other areas not covered demanded it hence the second pilot.

> Improvements in screening can lead to a decrease in the incidence of invasive cervical cancer. We are good to go as a country," **Head of Sexual Reproductive Adolescent Child Health Research, Kemri.**



"Regardless of the time, I know very well that by next year we will be able to protect 2.4 million of our girls aged 9 to 14 countrywide at no cost," said Dr Tabu.

In the first year, the programme will concentrate on vaccinating between 11 and 14 years ages, he said.

In the second year, the programme will cover 10-year-old girls and below to ensure that no one is left behind.

Unlike the pilots which were school-based, the vaccine is going to be given in public health facilities only to girls. The girls will be vaccinated twice, with the second dose administered after six months.

HPV is spread sexually and women tend to be infected with it at one time or another in their lives, especially during their sexual debut.

Whereas in the majority of women the immune system clears away HPV naturally, for a small percentage, the virus persists in the cervix, leading to cellular changes in the cervical cells that progress over five to 15 years to become cancerous, and eventually manifesting as cervical cancer.

According to Dr Mugo, the virus is the primary cause of cervical cancer at 99.7 per cent worldwide. The 13 to 15 years' girls that the government is targeting are classified as high-risk population.

Currently, pap smear and visual inspection are used to screen cervical cancer, but according to Dr Mugo, they are all important but with the vaccine, more girls are going to be protected.

"Improvements in screening can lead to a decrease in the incidence of invasive cervical cancer. We are good to go as a country," said Dr Mugo.

Cervical cancer is preventable and curable if detected early. However, the World Health Organisation says in sub-Saharan Africa, lack of effective screening and treatment policy, contribute to the high cervical cancer cases and deaths.





Talk of the TOWN

CONFUSED CABINET ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

What exactly is the role of the chief administrative secretaries? That is the question on the lips of several lawmakers who sit in one of the parliamentary committees. This is after a CAS nominee left them baffled when he could not answer a single question during a session between the ministry's top bureaucrats and members of the committee last week. While ministry officials attempted to give satisfactory answers, the nominee seemed out of his depth, and was only useful in passing handwritten notes between the principal secretary and the cabinet secretary. So irritated was one lawmaker that he loudly wondered whether activist Okiya Omtatah had a point when he moved to court to challenge the appointment of cabinet administrative secretaries.

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WOMAN DRIVES COUNTY BOSS FROM OFFICE

A governor from western Kenya has for the last couple of days avoided his office and chosen to operate from his house. Reason? A mentally handicapped woman breached security at the governor's office in broad daylight, accessed it and sat on the big man's chair. When the county boss reported to the office on the fateful day, he was shocked to find the woman relaxed in his seat. Upon interrogation, the woman told the governor that she was only resting and was up to no harm. Not convinced, the governor has kept off the office and at the same time ordered the suspension of the security officers who were on duty.

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KRFU FEELS SPORTPESA EFFECT

The withdrawal of betting company Sportpesa from sponsoring sporting activities must have hit the Kenya Rugby Football Union very hard. Last week, the organisation sent out a passionate appeal to well-wishers to donate playing boots to the Kenya Under-19 rugby team, which is preparing for an international assignment. As if that was not desperate enough, KRFU is now asking managers who have been invited to a coaching clinic in the next few days to carry packed lunch as no food will be provided. Talk of tough times calling for tough measures. May be, the new leadership at the Sports ministry will be kind enough to spare some funds.

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WHEN ACADEMIC PAPERS COUNT LITTLE

A nominee who is not amused by a "lower position" offered must be cursing the day he turned down a suggestion to lobby for a cabinet secretary's post through a central Kenya governor. The man could not understand why a person of his intellectual standing could stoop so low as to seek help for such a senior position from a lowly character as the governor, known for his dubious academic credentials and thuggish ways. He ignored the advice altogether. Come the big announcement and the man's name was missing, leaving him wondering if his low regard for the county boss could have cost him the job.

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CHAOTIC PROGRAMME LEAVES LEADERS ANGRY

A breach of protocol during a recent commemorative event attended by First Lady Margaret Kenyatta and Nairobi governor's wife Primrose Mbuvi has left organisers blaming one another for the chaotic programme. The host church conducted so many rituals and allowed too many speakers that the guests were reduced to mere bystanders. It is not a surprise that politicians were upset for not getting their moment of fame. Not even the governor's wife, area MP or ward representatives could address the huge gathering despite featuring in the programme. The First Lady was not spared either as she was kept standing on the pulpit for long while the organisers consulted, with her impatience clearly showing.

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COMMUNITY-BASED TRANSPORT MINISTRY

The appointment of three people from one community by Transport CS James Macharia as members of a new board has been the talk of the town this week. The minister picked Ms Mary Waithiegeni Chege, Mr Zachariah Karenge Mungai and Mr Ronald Ndirangu Ndegwa to the three-member Nairobi Metropolitan Transport Authority Board, stirring debate on skewed appointments to public positions. But the scrutiny has also extended to the PS in the ministry, especially after the nomination of Mr Charles Hinga Mwaura to head Housing and Urban Development. The other PSs are Paul Maringa Mwangi (Transport) and Mr Nancy Karigithu (Shipping and Maritime), leaving Mr Julius Korir (Infrastructure) as the odd one out.

What is the Talk of the Town where you are? Please send us an email: *sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com*

SUNDAY NATION

Need to support schools to manage student numbers

The goal of achieving universal basic education remains noble and must be pursued at all costs. However, it must be done judiciously. When the government announced in January it would admit all Form One qualifiers, it was a noble statement of intent. Secondary education has become the minimum threshold for schooling in the new global order, hence governments have an obligation to offer it to all eligible children.

A few weeks after admitting arguably the largest number of Form Ones in history – about 800,000 – secondary schools are left staring at a crisis. As our special report elsewhere in this edition indicates, many secondary schools are suffering from serious congestion and inability to cope with inordinately large student populations. Given the caveat on fees chargeable, schools have few options to raise funds to meet their expanded expenditures. It is, therefore, important that funding promised by the government should be released in full and urgently.

To accommodate the increased numbers, schools have established new streams and expanded class size which, on average, has 55-60 students, way above the standard 45. Facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, dining halls and hostels are stretched and, more worrying, teachers are overwhelmed. Although student enrolment has consistently risen in the past five years, the teacher establishment has not increased in commensurate ratios. What this means is that teachers now have to contend with a heavy workload amidst inadequate teaching and learning resources.

To be sure, way back in 2014, a government commissioned taskforce headed by former Education Minister Kilemi Mwiria established that 37 per cent of teachers in schools were employed by boards of management. In other words, the government had only supplied 63 per cent of the teachers required in schools. If that was the statistics then, when total enrolment was two million, now that the figure has reached 2.5 million, the deficit is far greater given the freeze on teacher recruitment other than replacing those who exit from the profession.

Clearly, the obtaining situation illustrates the general challenge facing secondary education that has been neglected for years. Until recently when the government introduced subsidies to secondary schools, the sector suffered from inadequate funding; relying on fees collected from parents and which, in many instances, was mismanaged and unaccounted for. Most established secondary schools are ageing, having been put up in colonial times but since left to waste away without renovation and expansion. The Education ministry needs to move in haste to support secondary schools and secure funds for capital development to expand facilities and provide more teachers.

Flush out killer terrorists

The northeastern and parts of the Coast regions continue to face deadly attacks by Somalia-based al-Shabaab terrorists and their local allies. The increasing involvement of locals in attacks is a major source of concern. The raid at a primary school in Wajir County, in which three Kenyans, two schoolteachers and the wife of one of them were killed, is a pointer to a homegrown threat that needs to be seriously fought. Indeed, this was also quite evident in the raid at Garissa University College in 2015, in which more than 150 students were killed. The masterminds, it turned out, were Kenyans.

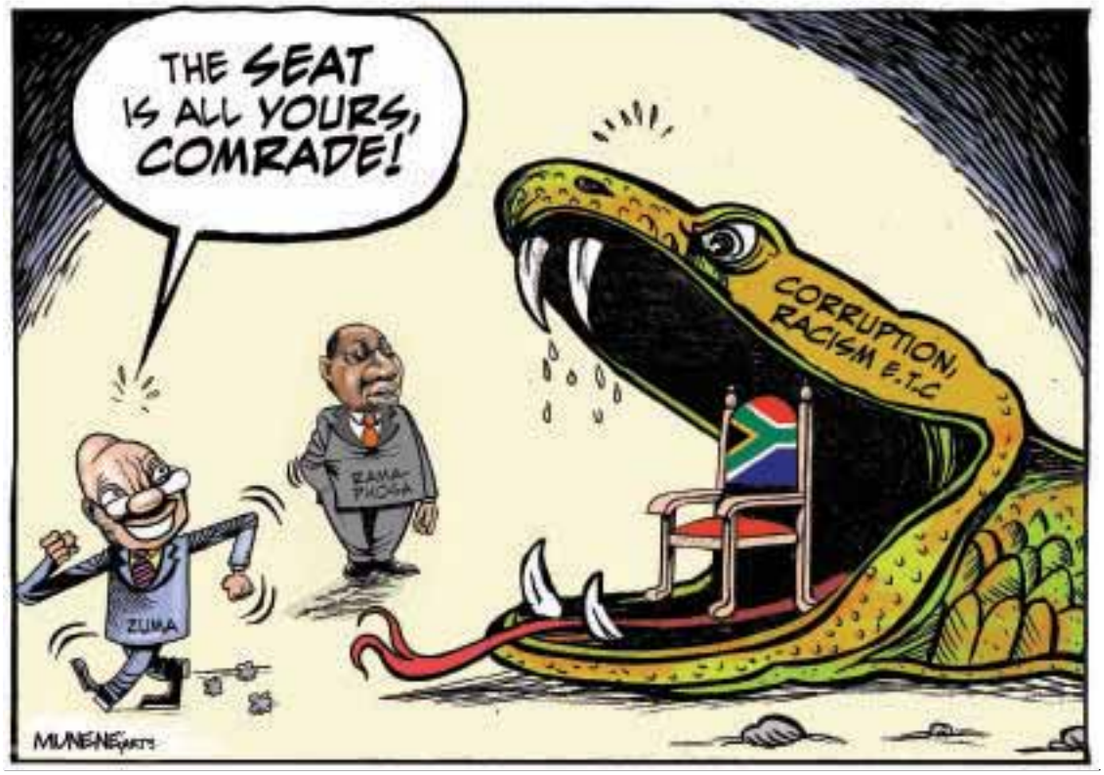
Education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed says that some guidelines have been formulated to ensure the safety of teachers and learners. This is laudable and long overdue. Three suspects believed to have led the attack in Wajir on Friday that claimed three lives are all Kenyans. The entire region bordering Somalia, including Lamu County, has seen intensified terror incidents. The insurgents have also knocked down mobile phone masts, cutting off communication between these parts and the rest of the country.

In Isiolo County, quick action by police might just have foiled a terrorist attack following a gunfight in which one suspect was killed and two others arrested with a cache of arms, including 36 grenades and five automatic rifles. Police believe they were headed for targets in Nairobi. The rampant insecurity in this region calls for firm, robust and stern action by the security forces. There is a need for intensified vigilance.

QUOTED

All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



OPINION

Time is now for Kenya to re-boot its foreign policy to focus on bringing the money home



KIPRONO CHESANG

> One part of the game is an efficient PR machinery, which is exactly the proper job description for Foreign Ministry."

Kenya's national interest today has substantially evolved from what it was in 1990. This is both the result of domestic changes that create new imperatives for survival as a nation, but also in the changes in the very nature of global politics. Our foreign policy has barely changed.

Historically, Kenya has taken a conservative and even reticent foreign policy stance, playing it safe on some of the most important issues of the day. Generally, we have mostly played it safe in the most important global issues, often deferring to the West's official position. We have paid lip-service to our professed commitment to pan-Africanism. Only in our immediate neighbourhood have we taken a hard-nosed interest-driven approach to diplomacy.

At a glance, that is the logical thing to do for a lower middle-income country with few existential threats, relative stability, limited regional ambitions and modest military power. Despite internal ethnic divisions, Kenyan politics is light on ideology, and our political fights are really a banal struggle for resources. Our politics might be noisy and boisterous, but few Kenyans have the stomach for violent political action. That is who we are.

But we are something else too. We are captives of ambition, entranced by the hope for wealth, and beholden to our little secular god – money – through who we believe that everything is possible. Our desire for success has had a discernible impact on our collective behaviour on the international plane. We have migrated en masse to foreign lands where we believe we have a better chance at personal achievement and economic success. At the same time, we have consistently courted foreign wealth, whether this is in the form of aid or investment. Both instances mean that we see the outside world in terms of opportunity rather than threat.

Kenya's conservative non-confrontational don't-break-no-shells way of massaging the back of the world resonates with such a mild national personality. We are ok being "average" and have grown used to punching way below our weight in matters of foreign policy.

It is time we changed the game, and thankfully, we do not have to look far for inspiration. Rwanda, a nation that only 25 years ago would justifiably fall into Trump's unsavoury category of black nations. Today, a country with a land mass of about 26,000 kilometres square puts to shame the daunting foreign policy machines of regional hegemons such as Nigeria, Morocco and even South Africa. Rwanda's land mass is 4 pc of Kenya's.

Mauritius is the other compelling example. Mauritius is a tiny country which, with a land mass of 1,865 kilometres, is about 0.3 pc of Kenya's landmass of roughly 580,000 square kilometres. That is smaller than Kiambu County. Its foreign policy game has been simple – promote the country as an investment destination.

The two countries' visibility has got little do with their natural resources. For example, Mauritius is known as a top global tourist destination, yet its coastline is 330 kilometres, which is about a third of Kenya's 1, 420 kilometres, and whose beaches are as good. Rwanda has been extremely successful in positioning itself as a tourist destination, yet the entire country would fit into Amboseli national park with enough space to also fit in Burundi and Mauritius.

There is a simple logic that underlies the foreign policy game in either country – bring the money home. One part of the game is an efficient PR machinery, which is exactly the proper job description of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other part is a severe investment promotion machine, whose job is less about pageantry, and more about getting investors to commit investments into the main sectors of its economies. The reality is that our domestic bureaucracy is nothing close to being as efficient as Rwanda's or Mauritius, but it has the resources to outclass them. Perhaps the solution is calling it as it is. That means abandoning rhetorical pretenses and focusing foreign missions to serve the most important economic sectors at home. It also means customising our missions according to the opportunities in the specific countries.

Of course there are major political issues to resolve in Kenya, but Rwanda and Mauritius hardly exist in political vacuums. The difference is that their investment promotion games overshadow domestic shenanigans. Kenya is today best-known abroad for its political drama. Google it! That is not to say that our diplomats are not doing a sterling job abroad. The point is that the old model of having an ambassador and a few diplomatic attaches is to expect our diplomats to do the impossible against the fact of severe competition among states. Our diplomats could well remain suave, charming and as civilized as the queen, but they should be backed with crack units of technocrats in foreign missions and at home, whose clear mission is to make Kenya rich.

Dr Kiprono Chesang is a public affairs consultant.

SUNDAY VIEW

Zuma exits, but South Africa's rooted governance problems won't go away



GITAU WARIGI

> South Africa's overriding problem is inequality, where Ramaphosa's voice is much weaker than – yes – Zuma's."

Watching the drama of Jacob Zuma's last days in office was to watch a power struggle within an all-powerful political party that reduced the State to a by-stander. In some respects, this was a good and bad thing. On the good side, the institutional strength of the African National Congress shone through as a model for all of Africa's proto-parties. Zuma could have taken off in a huff with his supporters in tow, form a new outfit, with his parting shot to the split ANC being that it had become "undemocratic and dictatorial". He did not do that.

His departure was nonetheless anything but graceful. Zuma behaved like a spouse you have decided to kick out but she refuses to go. She has brought disrepute to the family with her scandalous ways. She has also messed up the family finances through her shoddy management and uncontrolled expenditures. You try everything, even calling together a full family council. Yet she is adamant, demanding a three-to-six-month grace period before the divorce is settled. She relents only when she is sternly read the riot act.

Yet South Africa's problems are not just those of a wayward spouse. The distinction between the State president and ANC party leader must never remain ambiguous, even as the sheer electoral heft of the party means the levers of government are necessarily in the hands of the ANC. Furthermore, the party's habit of giving marching orders to sitting State presidents whenever it has its own change of leadership is unhealthy. It also needlessly humiliates incumbents. Zuma himself is guilty of having started this trend with respect to Thabo Mbeki. Constitutional timelines set for such transitions should be respected. Next year when national elections are due was not too far off to wait before seeing Zuma off. Constitutionally, he was not going to run again anyway.

There is a cautionary tale to all this. The omnipotence of a political party in a democratic setting can be self-defeating. The ANC is nowhere like the Communist Party of China, which operates on very different rules. The general secretary of that party is indisputably the most powerful official in that country, to whom even the presidency and the army is subordinate.

The party oversees the government, in practice and in law. In most other countries it is the reverse. (President Xi Jinping draws his supreme power in China as general secretary of the Communist Party). In South Africa, the constitution gives primacy to the State ahead of the ruling party, a point Zuma correctly alluded to in his resignation speech.

The transition from a liberation movement to a political party in a multi-party space has not been easy for the ANC. The situations and the way decisions are arrived at are different. Worse, South Africa has to navigate a complicated constitution – which Kenya virtually copy-pasted – whose demands can overwhelm a country where understanding of this kind of free-wheeling democratic practice is superficial.

That is why there is so much turbulence across the body politic in both South Africa and Kenya. Institution-building and overall governance becomes problematic when the government, the judiciary and the Opposition revert to working at cross-purposes from their simplistic reading of the constitution.

Zuma, to some extent, was a victim of snobbery. He was seen as a bit of an oaf with little formal education yet with a feisty drive that got him to the top. He charms the ladies alright, but failed to do so with the rest of the country as the media turned him into a caricature.

There was even a savage rumour started by the South African Communist Party which claimed Zuma would fire his successor-in-waiting, Cyril Ramaphosa, as deputy president of State and replace him with Nkosazana Dlamini, Zuma's ex-wife. His enemies stopped at nothing.

The expectations on Ramphosa to turn things around are impossibly high. Personally, my fear is that his talents are overrated. South Africa's overriding problem is inequality, where his voice is much weaker than – yes – Zuma's.

Warigi is a socio-political commentator
gitauwarigi@yahoo.com

WHAT THEY SAID | OPINION MAKERS OF THE WEEK



"Having reviewed the draft legislations establishing the Ward Development Fund which were forwarded to our office by several counties, we have observed that a majority do not meet the conditions prescribed in Regulation 197. Most of the projects to be funded are similar to those that would be delivered through normal structure of the budget appropriations. The kitty should be initiated through the County Executive Committee Member, under whose management it falls and should provide justification as to why the fund in necessary"

— Controller of Budget Agnes Odhiambo



"Our focus is on geothermal energy which is an eco-friendly, renewable and reliable source that can reduce consumers' utility costs by up to 50 per cent. The Olkaria geothermal project is part of KenGen's green energy agenda which is aimed at ensuring a steady supply of energy at an affordable cost in line with Vision 2030. Manufacturing of the new plant's hot well and vacuum pumps, switch gear and steam pipes in Japan and Germany is going on as planned, with trial tests ongoing in readiness for shipment to Kenya"

— KenGen chief executive Rebecca Miano



"The 50 per cent increase in tax at the end of 2015 has continued to have an impact on our consumers. On the back of that tax increase we obviously have to significantly increase the price of cigarettes. The reaction from the consumer is either to choose to spend their money elsewhere or to downgrade to cheaper cigarettes. That has a direct impact on the industry. We are still feeling the effects of that. We encourage the government to look forward to having a more predictable operating environment"

— BAT Kenya managing director Beverly Spencer-Obatoyinbo



"The Ministry of Education is buying time instead of giving an offer. We started these talks in December and they were to be concluded by January 31; now we are in February and they are still asking for more time. We won't allow it any more. We will issue a seven-day strike notice any time now. Lecturers are supposed to negotiate with their employer – the universities – and not the Ministry of Education. The ministry should remain a facilitator. There are top-level consultations over the 2017-2021 CBA among government departments,"

— Uasu secretary-general Constantine Wasonga

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FIFTH COLUMNIST

Of differences in our skin colour, hair texture and lip size



PHILIP OCHIENG

> If any Caucasian still thinks that his/her skin colour and hair texture are "more developed" than those of an Asiatic or of a Negro, the Caucasian merely reveals how backward his or her mind is."

As official Britain and other Western European countries may by now have learned, when you rule the world, the world will powerfully tend to copy you in certain important aspects of social and cultural life. That is among the important reasons that such a large section of humankind's world – including Kenya and other Third World countries – has long ago been reduced to copying England in terms of language, culture and form of governance.

That is why I have absolutely no problem with the fact that, at independence, Kenya adopted English as its medium of academic instruction, of government and of national and international commercial and political dialogue. What is appalling is only that – despite the enthusiasm with which, at independence, we adopted English as our official medium of upbringing, of training and of government – the fortunes of that language have dwindled with breathtaking speed ever since.

In Kenya – as much as in Tanzania and in Uganda – the standard of communication through that language has taken a nosedive ever since the mid-196Os, when the three East African countries snatched their independence after many long decades of appalling race-based inhumanity perpetrated on us by a class of men from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. I do not mean to say that such crimes can only be inter-racial. No, they can also be inter-ethnic. One great lesson that I learn from my reading of human history is that, if my own ethnic people – the Luo – had been in a position to colonise another people, a class of the Luo themselves would have treated their captives every bit as brutally as a class of Western Europeans has done throughout the world in recent times.

It is important to emphasise that the racial brutality with which Caucasian Europeans have treated their captives all over the world is not a monopoly property of the Caucasians. No, it is potential in human beings of all races and all tribes. My reading of human history tells me that, if my own Luo people had colonised, say, the English, the Luo elite would have conducted itself in England with ethno-racial conceit every bit as nasty. Nay, the continuing conceit of the Luo elite suggests to me that Luo rule over any ethnic or racial captives would probably have been characterised by intolerable conceit and tyranny. In my reading of human history, I have yet to meet any group that has treated its ethnic or racial captives with any commendable humanness.

But the fact that, today, the general European would not condone inter-racial brutality and injustice of the kind that a certain class of Europeans has recently perpetrated all over the world – especially against black human beings – is the proof that such conduct is not a tightly ingrained nature of human beings. Human beings are so amply brained that they can eventually learn their essential specific oneness, so that, even the Scandinavian Europeans – among those who once put such a premium on their skin colour and their hair texture, now know why the equatorial human being just had to evolve, among other properties, a different colour of skin and a different texture of hair. If, in the 21st century, any Caucasian still thinks that his or her skin colour and hair texture are "more developed" than those of an Asiatic or of a Negro, the Caucasian merely reveals how backward his or her mind is, how appallingly ignorant he or she remains with regard to the history of anthropoid evolution and human biology.

Any human being anywhere on our planet who still does not know the environmental importance of such differences as skin colour, hair texture, lip size and other aspects of primate evolution can only amaze you by his or her lack of education,

sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com

To the editor

The editor welcomes brief letters on topical issues. Write on e-mail to: sundaynation@ke.nationmedia.com You can also mail to: The Editor, Sunday Nation, POB 49010, Nairobi 00100.

Limuru Road contractor doing very shoddy work

The upgrading of the Nairobi-Limuru Road, though welcome, is very shoddy, especially at the stretch between Kianjogu and Red Hill. The contractor is digging huge trenches near the entrances to institutions and homes and even demolishing well-erected culverts. Yet a similar project on the Ruaka-Banana Road had culverts constructed at the entrances to institutions and homes, besides levelling the feeder roads. Worse, huge mounds of soil are being left on the roadside, just as the rains beckon.

Patrick Wagachebo, via email

More resources needed to run day-wing schools

The move by the Education Ministry to allow the establishment of day wings in selected schools is well thought out. It is helping to absorb the large number of students transiting from primary schools. Education is key to positive transformation of society. The gains made will outweighed the challenges posed. A big teaching force is required for success of this programme. This will call for more resources, especially to monitor day scholars interacting with boarders.

Eric Kipkemoi, Bomet County

Be wary of these seven days of African politics

Many significant events have happened in February. They include the beating to death of Tanzanian opposition figure Daniel John (February 14), reshuffling of the Kenyan Judiciary (February 14), brutal crackdown on opposition politicians and deportation of acerbic lawyer Miguna Miguna to Canada. Others are the death of Zimbabwe opposition leader Morgan Tsavangirai (Feb 14), and the resignations of South African leader Jacob Zuma and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

Alexander Opicho, via email

Marriage on the rocks?

Last week's column by Mutuma Mathiu painted a gloom picture of marriage. But there are a number of couples that live harmoniously. For instance, Mutuma said some wives pound glass and mix it with food meant for the husband. Kiambu County was once said to be the centre of glass pounding. The fine glass accumulates in the stomach and, over time, become lethal.

Githuku Mungai, via email

TALKING POINT

Kudos Ellen Sirleaf for winning coveted Mo Ibrahim 2017 Prize

Congratulations go to former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for winning the coveted African Governance Mo Ibrahim Prize for 2017. The prize is awarded for great achievement in African political governance and leadership.

Ms Sirleaf was chosen for her excellent leadership during her time in office and for peaceful transition of power to successor George Weah. She is the fifth recipient of the $5 million award that is paid over 10 years and $200,000 annually for life thereafter.

Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, chairman of the prize committee, on Monday said: "Sirleaf took the helm of Liberia after it was destroyed by civil war and led a process of reconciliation that focused on building a nation and its democratic institutions. Liberia continues to face many challenges. Nevertheless, during her 12 years in office, she laid the foundations on which Liberia can now build."

There are many other qualities that made Sirleaf become the first woman and fifth African leader to win the award — after three years



during which there were no worthy winners.

Sirleaf had a proactive approach to social matters of national cohesion, discrimination of women and children, regional diplomacy, poverty, gender mainstreaming, rule of law, respect of the constitution, universal basic education, national and regional security, restoring youths from child-soldiers to school pupils and focusing on voices of reason.

Above all was her capacity to manage the electoral process and to work towards maturation of electoral democracy, as well as a willingness to observe peace and hand over power to her successor without tinkering with the law and security organs to make herself a dictatorial president.

The social and governance virtues that Sirleaf promoted are the key categories of the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

Other leaders who have won the prize in the past include Namibian Hifikepunye Pohamba (2014), Pedro Pires of Cape Verde (2011), Festus Mogae of Botswana (2008), and Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique (2007), the same year Nelson Mandela was made the inaugural honorary laureate of the prize.

The Mo Ibrahim Prize is faulted for ignoring African leaders who excel in arts, science, corporate world, environment, music, human rights activism, medicine and literature.

Indeed, African countries need more than political governance to achieve their social and economic goals. The prize is also too small and insignificant compared with what a dictator can get if he loots and remains in power.

Alexander Opicho, via email

Lessons from KNH's limb surgery marvel

Last week, doctors at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) conducted the first ever successful re-implantation of a limb in Kenya and East Africa. This was a high point for the hospital after weeks of castigation over alleged rape cases and criminal activities.

The surgery was done on Joseph Theuri (17) after his hand was severed by a chaff cutter in Kiambu County a fortnight ago. The intricate surgery took approximately seven hours and was conducted by a team of devoted nurses and surgeons from the University of Nairobi and KNH. By good fortune, the teenager will be discharged in about two weeks, and could recover fully in six months. Hearty thanks to the team and our medics in Kenya.

What lessons can we learn from this? The achievement punctures the false perception that Kenya lacks skilled medical professionals who are locally available. This is not the first milestone that our accomplished medical practitioners have made.

Memories of the separation of siamese twins — Blessing Kathure and Favour Karimi — and the skilful removal of a bullet lodged in Satrin Osinya's body are still fresh in the mind.

From last year's doctor's strike, we learnt that Kenya's health sector was suffering from a defectively distributed doctor-patient ratio, poor wages, ill-equipped facilities and understaffing.

The government should invest in retaining doctors and improving healthcare.

This will not only benefit the majority of the average citizens but also medical students. Such outstanding surgeries offer good learning opportunities to students

When well mentored, these students can get a unique opportunity to augment our doctors.

Abook Brian, Nairobi

Thirty Years Ago

February 18, 1988

Candidates contesting parliamentary seats in Nairobi are expected to present their papers to the Provincial Commissioner before noon today.

They will then get certificates to enable them enter the February 22 preliminary elections. Provincial Commissioner Fred Waiganjo (right), who will be the returning offer in Nairobi, said candidates should present their identity cards, voters registration cards and Sh3,000. The PC would then give them the presentation certificates.

Candidates who do not meet the mid-dav deadline will be disqualified. The candidates are also expected to go with a list of the agents who will represent them in various polling stations.

Each candidate will be allowed only four agents at any one polling station. Mr Waiganjo was briefing officials who will man the 64 polling



stations where people will queue to vote during the preliminary elections. Nairobi has eight constituencies.

The PC explained to the officials the election procedures that would be followed but told presiding officers that, in case of any query, the benefit of doubt should go to the voter.

"All voters present at a polling station should be allowed to vote, regardless of the time."

Compiled by DELVIN OMWODO

THE CUTTING EDGE

BY THE WATCHMAN

COSTLY SPAT: The law, and especially the principle of separation of powers, should be respected, says Patrick W Ndege. He is particularly concerned about the ongoing spat between the Executive and the Judiciary, with accusations and counter accusations flying left, right and centre. Disobedience of court orders by State officials in recent days, Patrick warns, does not augur well for the country. "In the new constitutional dispensation, all the organs of government are equal and must work to complement one another. They should work in tandem for the good of the law and for the benefit of the people."

His contact is patrickndege52@gmail.com.

BLIGHTED STREETS: As Nairobi Governor Mike Sonko and his teams go about tackling the numerous serious challenges facing the capital city, Pallavi Shah would like him to also address the wanton wastage of public resources and ensure utmost efficiency in the delivery of public services. She is particularly concerned that the street lights on one side of the road from Sarit Centre to the Village Market are left on day and night. The county authorities, he adds, should find out whether the system or the timer of the street lights could be faulty and quickly rectify it. Her contact is pallavi19shah@hotmail.com.

HAWKING TROUBLE: The shame of hawkers and other petty traders encroaching on the Nairobi-Naivasha highway at Kangemi has gone on for too long, moans Susan Nyakio. And lately, she adds, the open-air market has become even more deadly, with traders almost taking over the entire road. As a result, she reports, matatus now pick up and drop off passengers right in the middle of the road. "A journey of 25 minutes (from Westlands to Kikuyu) ends up taking an hour. Were it not for traffic police, it could easily take two hours. Why have KeNHA and the city county allowed this to happen?" Her contact is suwanyakio@gmail.com

LIQUOR CRACKDOWN: The heaps of broken alcohol bottles strewn all over the place on the outskirts of Londiani township in Kericho County, Bonny Mutai says, "is clear evidence that the fight against illicit drinks is not yielding any results". The broken pieces are thrown on the footpaths, endangering schoolchildren. Squarely to blame, he adds, are the liquor selling stalls, many of which are dingy, unlicensed dens. Bonny is urging the National Campaign Against Drugs Abuse to crack down on the illicit liquor joints. His contact is bonnymutai@gmail.com?

FOOTBRIDGE PROMISE: Some time last year, Ruth Wangui recalls, the Kenya National Highways Authority announced that contacts had been awarded to two firms to construct more footbridges on the Thika Superhighways. The work to erect the footbridges at Witeithie trading centre, Njomoko, Survey and Garden City, KeNHA added, would begin in January this year. But to date, nothing of the sort has happened. "Could the tenders have been cancelled or was the work quietly rescheduled?" asks Ruth, whose contact is waterry.ruth@gmail.com.

SONKO APPEAL: The worst road in Nairobi, Sam Mureithi declares, must be the stretch of Njathini Road that connects Kamiti Road to the Northern Bypass. For the past five years, Sam claims, the local residents' pleas for its repair have fallen on the deaf ears of county roads officials. "To avoid further damage to our cars and the frequent carjackings, I urge Governor Mike Sonko to personally intervene urgently before the situation becomes even more tragic. You are our last hope, Governor Sonko." His contact is sammureithi8@gmail.com.

BEARDED YOUTH: The age of the beard is back, notes university don X.N. Iraki, rather curious that the number of young men wearing thick beards has gone up lately. He wonders why this hairy style is catching on and "yet such long beards used to be the preserve of elderly university dons". He poses: "Why have these young men suddenly fallen in love with beards? Is it to save on the shaving cost or what? Could it be that women are now impressed by such beards?" And his parting shot: "Can we hear from some of the bearded young men?" His contact is xniraki@gmail.com.

Have a trendy day, won't you!

E-mail: watchman@ke.nationmedia.com
or write to Watchman,
POB 49010, Nairobi 00100.
Fax 2213946.

SUNDAY REVIEW

SUNDAY NATION

COMPLEX FACTORS TO FURTHER DELAY SETTING UP OF THE PSC

Power struggle within the Opposition, and plans by the Jubilee Party to exact revenge on Nasa could further delay setting up of the commission that runs Parliament. P.18



POLITICS

Target > Ministry targets to built a million low cost houses by 2023

Uhuru swaps departments as focus shifts to Big Four agenda



Land CS Farida Karoney during vetting. In the interview, she answered questions on how she will improve housing but the docket was moved to Transport.

FILE | NATION

Several State departments and parastatals shifted in ministries, with President's trusted allies entrusted with those that fall in his agenda

BY WANJOHI GITHAE
wgithae@ke.nationmedia.com
AND PATRICK LANG'AT
palangat@ke.nationmedia.com

An analysis of various key ministries reveals that there has been swapping of State departments and parastatals that have said to have attracted considerable lobbying even as the President's Executive order is awaited to provide clarity.

In 2013, the order was issued five days after the Cabinet was sworn-in, spelling out the full ministry name, dockets and parastatals under each cabinet secretary.

State House Spokesman Manoah Esipisu was non-committal on when the crucial document will be released to the cabinet.

"There is no time frame," he said in response to *Sunday Nation* enquiries.

The most notable is the housing and urban development department, one that Land CS Farida Karoney was vetted on, only for a Principal Secretary to be named as under James Macharia's Transport and Infrastructure docket.

"We can do it. We just need to enable Kenyans to buy a house for the same amount that they are paying rent, and have the National Housing Corporation resume loaning people in rural areas to build homes," Ms Karoney told the National Assembly when she was vetted, revealing that she had been briefed as having to manage the crucial housing docket.

Housing is one of the Big Four President Kenyatta's delivery pillars that also has food security, affordable healthcare, and manufacturing.

Under the housing pillar, and which will become a critical pillar in President Kenyatta's second term, the government has proposed to build 200,000 social housing units and 800,000 affordable units by 2023.

The Sh2.6 trillion project is as ambitious as it is lucrative in terms of contracts, and the interests it will generate.

Also at the centre of a storm is President Kenyatta's second pillar of food security after he moved the irrigation docket from water to Agriculture now under Mwangi Kiunjuri.

After the re-organisation, it is still unclear who between Water and Sanitation Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui or Mr Kiunjuri will oversee the completion of the 57 multi-billion dams running into billions of shillings.

The Sh19 billion Thiba Dam project in Kirinyaga County, Sh6.8 billion Northern Water Collector Tunnel in Murang'a, Sh35 billion Mwache Dam in Kwale, and the Sh63 billion Thwake Dam in Eastern are among the projects launched under the Ministry of Water, which now appears to have been moved to Mr Kiunjuri's control.

Some of the dams have been source of political tensions in the areas they are being constructed.

President Kenyatta has priorities for his second term.

The irrigation docket also oversees the controversial Galana Kulalu one-million acre project whose modest results in the last four years have not convinced Kenyans.

"The President is not taking chances with the Big Four. That is why he wanted to have Agriculture and Irrigation together to achieve a wholesome food security plan, and housing under infrastructure so as to tap into the expertise to get affordable housing," a source aware of the president's thinking told the Sunday Nation.

> We can do it. We just need to enable Kenyans to buy a house for the same amount that they are paying rent," **New Land CS Farida Karoney during vetting.**

Under Mr Kiunjuri will be Livestock (Andrew Tuimur), Crop Development (Richard Lesiyampe), Agriculture Research (Hamadi Boga), with fisheries and irrigation PSs to be named soon to make the biggest number of departments under one ministry. Interestingly, newspaper advertisements from the "Water and Irrigation ministry" were still being published last week.

A move in 2016 to change the international trade docket from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to that of Industrialisation and Trade brought friction on who was to control the diplomatic aspect of international trade.

It took State House through Head of Public Service Joseph Kinyua to write to the two Cabinet secretaries, Amina Mohamed and Adan Mohamed of Foreign Affairs and industrialization, respectively, to resolve the simmering issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

BITS & PIECES | Gakiha Weru

BODA BODAS MUST FOLLOW LAW

The other day, we were told that the boda boda transport business has evolved into an industry that is now raking in billions of dollars every year. Obviously, these guys have found a niche in the market. However, the average boda boda rider has a death wish. This is precisely why most hospitals in the counties have special wards where people can mend broken bones after that boda boda ride turns into a painful misadventure. Even as they spin the billions, they need to be called to order. To allow them to continue dancing around the law is to invite death and grievous injuries.

RIDER SCARED ME WITLESS

One good thing about boda boda guys is that they know every corner and cranny of any town. So when I landed in Garissa town on Tuesday evening, I sought the services of a boda boda. Frankly, they scare me witless and I always strive to pick out a guy whose demeanor suggests a sane head on his shoulders. In this case I was wrong. The guy turned out to be a stunts man, cutting in front of cars and making U-turns anywhere and everywhere. By the time he dropped me at the Government Guest House, I had run out of prayers. As he dropped me off, he hoped he'd see me the following morning. I didn't tell him that I had no wish of ever meeting him again.

MY DESERT STORM BOOTS

It is Wednesday morning and I'm walking around to get a feel of the town. Here and there, I notice young chaps looking at me with interest though it doesn't bother me — there is nothing you can do about it if you come across as a freak. Then the penny drops. A couple of them approach me and politely ask me where I got my desert storm boots. They think they are fabulous. Makes me feel good and I spend the rest of the week walking around with an elaborate bounce.

WHAT THE HELL WAS IT ABOUT?

They have a rigorous security check on top of the bridge over the River Tana as you exit Garissa town. The cop checks my ID and spends time checking out the prints on my left hand thumb. He beckons to his colleague who is dressed in fatigues. He swaggers over and he too takes his time examining my fat finger. "Hii iko sawa," he tells his colleague and gestures to me to get back into the bus. What the hell was that about? I have been looking at my thumb with suspicion ever since.

gakihaweru@gmail.com

Allies handed crucial dockets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

In his letter, Mr Kinyua rescinded an earlier transfer of functions related to economic co-operation and commercial diplomacy to the Ministry of Trade and Industrialisation and returned them to Foreign Affairs. Careful not to have the same mistake, President Kenyatta has now placed the international trade docket firmly under Foreign Affairs ministry headed by Dr Monica Juma.

Petroleum docket was domiciled under Energy but now it has been merged with that of Mining. The new CS John Munyes was appointed probably to cool down his kinsmen should they protest the passage of the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill.

The Bill was shelved in early 2017 but was republished late last year and it provides that the local community will only be entitled to five per cent of the crude oil revenue, the county government 20 per cent and the national government 75 per cent.

But perhaps the biggest loser will be Charles Keter, a close confident of both the president and deputy president William Ruto.

Having joined Parliament alongside Mr Kenyatta as elected MPs in 2003 where they teamed up with Mr Ruto who had joined in 1997, Mr Keter has been party to the duo's big political moments.

> Planning department will oversee the national population census expected to take place in August 2019. Even after he lost the planning docket, CS Wamalwa got another."

It therefore came as a surprise when he was left only with Energy docket that deals with production and distribution of electricity and denied the crucial petroleum docket.

The wildlife docket which was previously under the Environment ministry has been moved to Tourism. That means Najib Balala will now oversee the critical Kenya Wildlife Service parastatal.

Former Meru Governor Peter Munya will now oversee the Northern Corridor development, the trillion shillings development project that was under ministry of Infrastructure.Mr Munya will also oversee the East African Affairs docket.

When he was named Devolution Cabinet secretary, Eugene Wamalwa joined the ministry that has now lost the Planning department to Henry Rotich's Treasury.

Long battle > Voting on the same stalled last year after disagreements arose

Complex factors at play to further delay setting up PSC

Power struggles within Nasa and Jubilee seen as major hurdles to having the PSC in place

BY JOHN NGIRACHU
jngirachu@ke.nationmedia.com
AND IBRAHIM ORUKO
ioruko@ke.nationmedia.com

A vicious power struggle within the Opposition, political intrigue and plans by the Jubilee Party to exact revenge on Nasa could further delay the setting up of the commission that runs Parliament.

While the National Assembly's House Business Committee had indicated that approval of the nominees would take place on Tuesday, the Order Paper for the next sitting on that day does not contain the names of the MPs nominated to the commission.

The fight over the positions in the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) is the story of politicians fighting over the spoils after the elections.

This is because positions on the commission that runs Parliament are considered plum as commissioners influence employment, watch over a large budget, enjoy a sitting allowance of Sh40,000, official cars, an office and staff.

The voting stalled last year after disagreements arose. Those on the list from the Jubilee side last year were Dr Naomi Shaaban (Taveta), Adan Keynan (Eldas), Aaron Cheruiyot (Kericho) and Beth Mugo (Nominated Senator) while Nasa had Gladys Wanga (Homa Bay Woman Rep, ODM), Aisha Jumwa (Malindi, ODM) and George Khaniri (Vihiga Senator, ANC).

Yesterday, National Assembly Minority Whip John Mbadi told the *Sunday Nation* he is yet to receive communication from the heads of Nasa on who the Opposition's three nominees would be.

"The principals were supposed to meet. I don't know whether they have met as the Summit," said Mr Mbadi.

While he expressed hope that there would be consensus and he would write a letter with the three names, the Suba South MP was also pragmatic.

"In the event it is not practical, we will do whatever is possible, which is vote for the Jubilee nominees as we wait for ours," he said.



FILE | NATION

Suba South MP John Mbadi (centre, seated) flanked by some Nasa leaders address the media at Parliament on Thursday last week.

The Opposition's plans on the nominations were thrown into disarray on Tuesday last week when it was discovered that Wiper Democratic Movement had sent to Speaker Justin Muturi the nomination of Borabu MP Ben Momanyi, with minutes of the National Executive Committee to back the decision.

After a hastily-convened Parliamentary Group meeting of ODM, MPs from the largest Opposition party issued a warning to Wiper. Mr Momanyi has however refused to back down.

"Raila Odinga should stop meddling in Wiper's affairs," Mr Momanyi said the following day.

"As far as we are concerned, we have finished as a party. We did our meeting, we have our minutes and we have submitted the same to the Speaker," he added.

Mr Momanyi said the communication to the Speaker was in line with his instructions on December 14, 2017, when he postponed voting on the PSC list until Nasa gets its house in order.

Justin Muturi, the Speaker, at the time said the House would need to get a proper communication from Nasa as well as Wiper, because Wiper has the number of MPs required to be called a parliamentary party.

"You are a parliamentary party and you are, therefore, entitled to a slot," Mr Muturi told Wiper MPs.

"However, you are also a member of the Nasa. Do you want to have your cake on this side and still eat it? You are either in the coalition or not. If you want to be recognised as a political party in terms of the Standing Orders, then you cannot be yet you are actually a coalition. So, you must go and discuss that matter and write to the House and let the House debate the matter in full knowledge of our understanding," said Mr Muturi.

The Speaker would also introduce the catch that the nominees would be voted on individually, giving MPs the opportunity to reject those they do not want.

It is a decision Mr Mbadi does not agree with, and he told the *Sunday Nation* he had raised the matter at a meeting of the House Business Committee.

"There is nobody who can communicate Nasa's names except me. That we have agreed with the Speaker in the House Business Committee," he said.

To him, allowing Wiper to nominate its representative directly would amount to second-guessing the leadership of the House.

"You cannot have any Tom, Dick and Harry writing to the Speaker," he said.

Among the resolutions at the ODM meeting on Tuesday was that the list from Nasa should remain as it is. If it stays that way, the Nasa nominees would almost certainly fall as Jubilee Party MPs have instructions to do away with Ms Wanga, Mr Khaniri and Ms Jumwa.

They have never forgiven Ms Wanga for pouring water on then Deputy Speaker Joyce Laboso during the violence that marked debate on the Security Laws (Amendment) Act in 2014. Along with Ms Wanga, Mr Khaniri has also been vocal in supporting Nasa leader Mr Odinga during last year's political contest. Ms Jumwa's call to Coast Opposition supporters to stop the October 26 election using witchcraft also irked Jubilee.

"We cannot assist radicals whose idea is to destroy us," said Jubilee deputy Majority Whip in the Senate, Irungu Kang'ata.

"As a Whip, I will work day and night to ensure they lose," he said.

Mr Khaniri told the *Sunday Nation* he was aware the Jubilee legislators had at their meeting at State House on Tuesday been briefed into rejecting his name, but vowed to soldier on without fear.

"The two sides, the Executive and the Legislature, are independent of each other and the President should have the presence of mind to allow this independence to fester without undue influence. MPs are competent to handle this matter and they should be given free hand to run their affairs," Mr Khaniri said.

Asked why he was in the crosshairs of the President over the nomination, Mr Khaniri could only speculate: "I don't know really. I think it is just politics. The President is unhappy with my political stand; that I am one of those vehement opponents of his government."

He also confirmed there had been an attempt to have him swap positions with his Makueni counterpart, Mutula Kilonzo Jnr, but he had rejected.

According to the details of the swap, Mr Kilonzo Jnr was supposed to step down as Minority Whip in the Senate and be appointed to PSC. Under the arrangement, Mr Khaniri would have taken over as the Minority Whip.

"I politely rejected the offer and I have decided that my name should be on the list and let members reject it. I am not afraid," Mr Khaniri said.



President finds way around rules

BY KIPCHUMBA SOME
ksome@ke.nationmedia.com

President Uhuru Kenyatta seems to have found a way around stringent laws that restrict him from freely making appointments to certain high profile positions in the country.

The President has in recent days made several appointments to the Cabinet, State Law Office and to the National Police Service Commission without advertising the nominees first as required by the law.

This week, the President overhauled the government's legal team by appointing Court of Appeal President Paul Kihara as Attorney General to replace Githu Muigai.

At the same time he tapped experienced city lawyer Ken Ogeto as solicitor-general replacing Njee Muturi (left) who was named State House Deputy Chief of Staff. He also named his legal adviser Abdikadir Mohammed ambassador to South Korea.

A legal quirk allows the President to nominate the AG and forward his name directly to Parliament for vetting, but is restrictive when it comes to the appointment of the solicitor-general.

The Public Service Commission is supposed to advertise for the position and submit a shortlist to the President who will pick one name and forward it to Parliament for vetting.

"The President shall nominate a person for appointment as a Solicitor-General from among persons recommended by the Public Service Commission," reads Section 9 of the Office of the Attorney General Act, 2012.

In 2013, Mr Muturi beat 15 other applicants for the job after being vetted by PSC. It is the failure to follow this process that made civil rights activist Okiya Omtata to file a case on Friday challenging the President's nomination of Mr Ogeto.

However what initially appeared to be an oversight by the President when he made the appointment, is in fact deliberate, according to a top

Key position > DP is said to be torn between picking from Mt Kenya and pairing up with politician from Western, Coast

Plot for Ruto running mate takes shape

Universal suffrage or direct nomination? This is key question Jubilee Party is dealing with ahead of 2022 General Election

BY JUSTUS WANGA
jwanga@ke.nationmedia.com

Jubilee is toying with the option of picking its presidential running mate in the 2022 General Election via universal suffrage to tame fallouts that may be occasioned by boardroom negotiated arrangements.

President Uhuru Kenyatta's party, by virtue of being in power, may not have as many challenges as the Opposition but observers reckon that the choice of a running mate will greatly determine whether they win the polls or lose.

Owing to the fact that it is a vote basket, Mt Kenya region – the President's backyard – will be hoping to at least get the deputy president slot as a way of boosting voter turnout.

Deputy President William Ruto, who has been assured of the party's support as the flagbearer, has more than a dozen politicians lining up to team up with him to succeed Mr Kenyatta.

At least six politicians have either publicly or in private expressed interest in the coveted seat, posing a headache to Mr Ruto on who to settle on.

Tharaka-Nithi Senator and Deputy Speaker Kithure Kindiki, East African Community Cabinet Secretary nominee Peter Munya, Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria and his Kirinyaga counterpart Anne Waiguru are some of those being touted for the slot. Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui and Agriculture CS nominee Mwangi Kiunjuri are also said to harbouring ambitions of being the DP.



FILE | NATION

Senate Speaker Kenneth Lusaka in a past event. Mr Lusaka is said to be a possible pick to be Deputy President William Ruto's running mate.

Party insiders who spoke to the *Nation* believe that direct nominations would be one of the best ways of handling the matter that if not handled with utmost care may cause an implosion in the ruling party.

Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria agrees, "While DP is our man come 2022, the decision on who deputises him should be left to the people."

According to the outspoken lawmaker, central Kenya voters rarely pay attention to caucusing by a few politicians to chart their political path.

But even as Central jostles for the seat hardly six months after an election boycotted by the Opposition, Mr Ruto's handlers intimate he is juggling how he can appease the central Kenya support base while at the same time pairing up with a politician from outside the community to win the elections.

Western Kenya and Coast are said to be on his radar with those familiar with his thinking saying he was keen to discard the belief that power can only rotate between two communities. All the four presidents Kenya has had in its 54 years of independence have been either from Central or Rift Valley. The two are populous.

From Western, Senate Speaker Ken Lusaka and Majority Whip Ben Washiali are being mentioned as possible picks.

Mr Munya's coming into the Cabinet has sent reverberations across central Kenya with politicians who have been lining themselves as possible kingpins in the post-Kenyatta era digesting the ramifications it may have on their career trajectory.

Mr Munya, a firebrand politician who took on the Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi almost successfully in the last polls, has in the past declared that he would run for president in the next elections.

Prof Kindiki and Mr Munya, from the Meru community, will be hoping to ride on a profound feeling among the two "cousins" – the Agikuyu and Ameru – that it should be their turn following 20 years of unwavering support to the Kikuyu community in the years of retired presidents Mwai Kibaki and Uhuru Kenyatta without mentioning the founding leader Jomo Kenyatta.

The stiff competition for the deputy's slot is said to have seen politicians like Prof Kindiki entertain the option of either defending their seats or running for governor.

Faced with the accusation of being domineering in the Gema family, the Agikuyu have always thrown down the gauntlet at the Ameru and Embu charging that they had failed to groom a strong leader around whom they can rally for a national position.

The desire for "appropriate recognition" has in the past seen the emergence of parties in Mt Kenya East such as the defunct Alliance Party of Kenya (APK) alias the 'Mbus' led by Mr Murungi and recently PNU which was revived by Mr Munya in the run-up to the August General Election.

But Prof Kindiki, while noting that time was not ripe to make political moves, said he was sure that he would vie for a national position in 2022.

He said more leaders from the region were welcome to express interest in the presidency.

"I have a duty to serve the people of Tharaka-Nithi for the next five years. I also have to serve the party for the role given in the Senate. My focus now is to perform my duties and support the President in achieving his agenda," he said.

Prof Kindiki added: "However, I can give assurance that I will be running for a national political office. But that will be announced at the right time. If there are others interested in the national office from the region, we will sort ourselves out then. We will look for ways of agreeing on a person who can reach out to the rest of Kenyans and get support."

Mr Iria, who is the only governor who retained his seat in the former Central province, said he could not be drawn into succession politics of the region at this time, but was unsuccessful in concealing his ambition. "Our focus now is service delivery. Of course a politician without ambition is not fit to be one, and we are looking to be in the national government in 2022," he said.

Nyeri Senator Ephraim Maina said central Kenya's political future could not be discussed without political unity in the region and also nationally. "Central Kenya is part of Kenya and any political talk must be held in the context of national unity. President Uhuru Kenyatta will play a key role in the regional politics even after his retirement from the presidency," he said.

He said the political direction of the region should be led by the President with elders and other opinion shapers offering advice.

Of the counties that were part of the former Central province, there are strong murmurs that Kiambu and Nyeri, the two that have produced presidents in the past, the two Kenyattas and Mr Kibaki, should let this one pass in the spirit of brotherhood.

Those from Meru such as South Imenti MP Kathuri Murungi said it was their turn to lead the region.

"In order for us to get a kingpin, we must unite the people from Meru to Tharaka-Nithi," he said.

He added that the appointment of Mr Munya to the Cabinet put to rest wrangling among the leaders. "However, we would like the President to intervene on the grumbling in Tharaka-Nithi County and consider them for the remaining positions," said the MP.

He said there was need for the region to be strategically placed to front a leader who can serve as deputy president in 2022.

"We are behind Deputy President William Ruto but we must have our conditions. We must negotiate for every government position. There is no shortage of leaders to take up this responsibility in the region," said Mr Murungi.

Ahead of his appointment to the Cabinet, Mr Munya had said he would reconsider his 2022 presidential ambitions if he joined the public service.

Additional reporting by David Muchui and Wanjohi Githae



> Central Kenya is part of Kenya and any political talk must be held in the context of national unity"
>
> **Ephraim Maina, Nyeri senator**

that restrict him from making top public appointments

government official who is familiar with the President's move.

"Of course, the President gets the best legal advice on such issues," said the source who requested not to be named since he is not authorised to speak publicly on behalf of the President.

"We knew someone was going to challenge the appointment and it will eventually be advertised by the PSC. But even then, the President has already made his preference known to PSC and to Parliament. We don't expect them to let him down," said the source.

He explained that while advertising for such high profile positions often attracts a pool of talented and qualified applicants, some of the people appointed through the process do not share the President's vision.

> We have documented instances where we think that the law is barring the President from doing his work effectively and we have amended those laws,"
>
> **National Assembly Majority Leader Aden Duale.**

"Ideally the President should be able to appoint people he has worked with and trusts to deliver for him, but sometimes you cannot get these people through this process with ulterior aims," he said.

He added: "Some of them have exemplary resumes but then you realise that they are not cut out for the job or that they have been ensnared by graft cartels in a short while. They become saboteurs."

President Kenyatta is in the process of crafting a government team that will shape his legacy before he exits the political stage in 2022 and is said to want people who are not only well known to him, but also who can deliver.

"I look forward to a Cabinet that shall be selfless in service, (have) unimpeachable integrity, dedication to duty and unmatched excellence," he said on Friday during the swearing-in of the nine new CSs at State House, Nairobi.

The President's new move is generally in keeping with Jubilee's general disillusionment with the legal processes which they argue unnecessarily ties the President's hands from effectively organizing his government.

In particular, the President has taken issue with the Judiciary, accusing it of actively undermining his government by making seemingly unfavorable rulings. "I cannot hire or sack a judge," he lamented in October 2016 as he came under pressure for allegedly not doing enough to tame runaway corruption.

Leader of Majority in the National Assembly Aden Duale said the President and his administration feels that some of the laws that passed in the 2010 constitution are too restrictive.

"We have documented instances where we think that the law is barring the President from doing his work effectively and we have amended those laws," said Mr Duale yesterday. "However more reforms are required," he added. The President seems to have adopted the same strategy when appointing PSs and two positions of Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Kenya Police and Administration Police) and head of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

Dark days > Arrests, passport cancellation, media shutdown and contempt of court orders

Uhuru ruthlessness in silencing critics a replica of Jomo's style

Younger Kenyatta's tough stance has gotten some pundits pondering

BY OSCAR OBONYO

When the Supreme Court voided last year's presidential poll of August 8, a furious President Uhuru Kenyatta pointedly stated "we shall revisit," as his key ally and Vice Chairman of his Jubilee Party, Mr David Murathe, affirmed that Kenya needed a "benevolent dictator" for a President. Indeed actions by government agents over the last couple of days seem to reflect this stance.

Following last month's "swearing in" of Mr Kenyatta's main political rival Mr Raila Odinga as the People's President at Nairobi's Uhuru Park, security agents have moved with speed never witnessed in recent times in cracking down on the opposition.

They have stormed houses of politicians and lawyers sympathetic to the Opposition, arrested and prosecuted them, held others incommunicado and deported the self-styled General of National Resistance Movement (NRM) Miguna Miguna to Canada for administering the oath to Mr Odinga.

Other Nasa politicians have had their passports revoked, guns repossessed, bodyguards and official cars withdrawn and literally terrorised, forcing them to seek anticipatory bail and even spend nights cowering in Parliament buildings for fear of arrest.

During these operations, there was a media shutdown of main television stations, with government agents disregarding the Constitution and court orders. The trend prompted Chief Justice David Maraga's stern warning that compliance with court orders was not an option for any individual or institution.

Many would have expected Mr Kenyatta to be more magnanimous and reconciliatory during his second and final term by reaching out to his political foes with a view to uniting the country. Instead Mr Kenyatta has taken a hard-line stand.

Mr Kenyatta's hard tackle is a replica of how his father and founding President of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta, handled his Vice President Jaramogi Oginga Odinga when the two fell out in 1967. During that period, the senior Kenyatta placed Jaramogi under house arrest and vanquished him politically by hounding him and his allies out of Parliament and banning his Kenya People's Union outfit altogether in 1969.

The younger Kenyatta's tough stance has gotten some pundits pondering whether the Jomo in Uhuru has woken up – or rather whether the President has opted to adopt his father's ruthless ways of dealing with opponents.



AYUB MUIYURO | NATION

President Uhuru Kenyatta during the National Youth Service pass-out parade at NYS College in Gilgil on Thursday.

In a recent interview with one of the local TV stations, Mr Odinga himself acknowledged that the Kenyatta administration may be testing the waters and that he was the eventual target of the ongoing crackdown.

"I am very much aware and very ready for them," vowed the former Premier.

This is probably Mr Odinga's lowest political moment over the last two decades. He is – rightly or wrongly – out of power yet again, his Nasa coalition is seriously outnumbered in both houses of Parliament, his lieutenants are being pursued by the security agents and he is separately expected to exit from elective politics in the next four years amid intense succession battles in Nasa and his Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) outfit.

Political commentator Mutahi Ngunyi, opines that Jubilee may well have embraced Sun Tzu's tactics in handling Mr Odinga and Nasa. The political scientist observes that when one inflicts an injury on an opponent, one must fix him completely: "It is like a cobra snake and if you do not unleash a fatal blow, it will hit back in a more venomous way."

1967 The year when Mzee Jomo started mishandling Jaramogi when they fell out.

The import of Ngunyi's sentiments is that Mr Kenyatta considers his political rivals to be in a most weakened position this time around. And because this is his second and last term in office, Ngunyi says the President is more determined to execute his plot since he has nothing to lose.

Independent investigations by *Sunday Nation* reveal that indeed Mr Kenyatta is destined to be a much more ruthless president in this second phase of his leadership. According to one source who spoke to us on condition of anonymity, Kenyans are going to witness a firmer and more resolute President.

"Unlike previously when he has sought explanations as to why some things did not happen as envisaged, the President is now demanding action and not excuses for his directives," divulged our source.

A look at the reorganised team of the President's handlers and advisors indeed confirms this narrative. Following his re-election, Mr Kenyatta has changed a number of aides at both State House and Harambee House Office, bringing in political advisors with relevant experience and handlers with military and public administration background.

At State House for instance, his diary is now being handled by former Administration Police Commandant Kinuthia Mbugua, who served as Nakuru County Governor until last year. Mbugua is said to be more forceful than his civilian predecessor, Lawrence Lenayapa. The *Sunday Nation* has also learnt that Deputy Head of Public Service Mr Wanyama Musiambo has taken charge of administrative engagements at Harambee House, with his boss Joseph Kinyua taking the backseat. The former Rift Valley Regional Coordinator is said to be a firmer executor of presidential directives as compared to career civil servant, Mr Kinyua.

And together with his "so-called super Cabinet Secretary, Dr Fred Matiang'i, whom he has appointed to the all-important Interior docket, all signs are clear that the President has assembled a no-nonsense team he trusts can deliver to his satisfaction.

On the judiciary front, Mr Kenyatta has equally tightened the loose ends following the exit of Prof Githu Muigai as Attorney General.

Reacting to the ongoing crackdown, Mr Murathe says the President has a development agenda to execute, and accordingly seeks a peaceful and stable environment to roll out the same: "There has to be stability in the country for us to execute the four plan development and the President cannot be expected to sit back and see the country degenerate."

Apparently, part of Mr Murathe and other Jubilee officials' beef with Nasa is their perceived disrespect for the President.

Former political detainee, Koigi wa Wamwere, attributes Mr Kenyatta's apparent change of tack to the "democracy versus dictatorship" discourse that emerged lately among the President's supporters.

"While dictatorship has succeeded, although minimally, in some places including Singapore and closer home in Rwanda, it greatly stifles democracy and the people's freedoms. In the worst scenarios, it degenerates into individuals framing innocent people and sending them to exile," regrets the former Subukia MP.

Nasa steering committee co-chairman, Johnstone Muthama separately believes Jubilee's hard tackle will backfire as "it will only give us the excuse and much required motivation to fight back." Muthama, whose passport has been revoked by the Immigration department, says this is a terrain too familiar to the Opposition.

"All the constitutional gains made in this country, including the Bill of Rights and various freedoms now enjoyed by Kenyans, have not come easy. They have been achieved through demonstrations and battles with the State," says Muthama.

On the flipside, the President's newfound tough image is inconsistent. While he has come down heavy on the Opposition, he has exhibited a softer side on individuals allied to his government and Jubilee party. Although in private he has reportedly expressed displeasure over the performance of some of his Cabinet Secretaries and other senior government officials, he has sacked none.

Instead the President chose to give them a soft landing as ambassadors. This is in contrast to his dealings in his first term, where he directed CSs mentioned in corruption cases to step aside. And even in instances where some, like Charity Ngilu were exonerated, he did not reinstate them.

All about the work of Solicitor General and new appointee

BY KIPCHUMBA SOME
ksome@ke.nationmedia.com

The post of the Solicitor General is little understood by the public yet it is a very powerful one. The Solicitor General signs deals and international treaties and agreements on behalf of government.

The Solicitor General is the accounting officer at the Office of Attorney-General. It is equivalent to the post of a PS. The office holder duties include organising, co-coordinating and managing the administrative and as the case may be, the legal functions of the office.

The SG also supervises all court cases, including appeals or petitions on behalf of the Attorney-General and subject to Article 234 of the Constitution, is responsible for the discipline of state counsels and other members of staff of the office.

A candidate should qualify to hold the office of judge of a superior court and meet the requirements of Chapter Six of the Constitution on ethics and integrity.

If he gets the job, Mr Ken Ogeto will be Kenya's ninth Solicitor General. The lawyer did not pick our calls or respond to our text messages for comment on his appointment.

Other Solicitors General before him are Justice Benna Lutta, Kitili Mwendwa, S.T Aswani, Justice Benjamin Patrick Kubo, Justice Aaron Ringera, Julius Kandie, Wanjuki Muchemi and Njee Muturi.

> Mr Ogeto has acted in high profile public interest litigation including a case in which he successfully defended the NHIF"

Mr Ogeto has acted in high profile public interest litigation including a case in which he successfully defended the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) in Sh2.5 billion claim lodged by a contractor in a failed construction project.

In the case, Justice Fred Ochieng noted that the award of Sh2.5 billion to the Claimant, Baseline Architects Limited "shocked" his conscience because the proposed project had not even started.

Recently, Mr Ogeto has appeared for the Kenya Revenue Authority in a Sh2.5 billion tax dispute between the tax agency and a local sugar importer, Darasa Investments Limited.

Currently, he is the managing partner of the law firm Ogetto, Otachi and Company Advocates and an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya with 26 years legal experience since admission to the Bar in 1991.

He holds Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) and Master of Laws (LL.M) degrees from the University of Nairobi and a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from The Kenya School of Law.

He is admitted to practice law in various jurisdictions regionally and internationally, and also admitted as Counsel at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, The Netherlands.

In the public service, has previously served as State Counsel II, Attorney General's Chambers (Law Reform Commission 1991-1992).

Has served as Chairman of the Anti-Money Laundering Advisory Board (2015).

He currently serves as Member of the Board of Directors of the Kenya Ports Authority and Ecobank Kenya Limited.



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Mr Ken Ogeto has been nominated for the powerful position of Solicitor General.

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P. O. Box 40668
Nairobi - 00100

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

PRESS STATEMENT

NOTICE ON THE CHANGE OF RECRUITMENT CENTRE FOR SOY SUB-COUNTY, UASIN GISHU COUNTY

The recruitment of Servicemen and women, Constables and Tradesmen and women into the Kenya Defence Forces is currently ongoing.

This is to notify the public that, the recruitment exercise for **SOY SUB-COUNTY** in Uasin Gishu County is scheduled for **07 March 2018** at **CHEPKIGEN PRIMARY SCHOOL** in **ZIWA SIRIKWA** and **NOT** at the 64 Stadium.

All other recruitment details remain the same as earlier communicated in the press.

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES (PERSONNEL AND LOGISTICS)

New sheriff > Sonko's friend accused of running county affairs after resignation of deputy governor Igathe

Meddler or helper? The controversial antics of Eala MP

From claims of interfering with City Hall affairs to Kamukunji theatrics to property fights, diminutive Mbugua pulls no punches

BY KIPCHUMBA SOME
ksome@ke.nationmedia.com

Former Kamukunji MP and current East African Assembly legislator Simon Mbugua takes to controversy like fish to water. This week the legislator was in the eye of a storm at City Hall after a section of Nairobi Members of County Assembly (MCAs) accused him of meddling in City Hall affairs and running the show since the resignation of deputy governor Polycarp Igathe last month.

On Tuesday, the MCAs adjourned their normal business to discuss the conduct of Mr Mbugua whom they claimed has been insulting, intimidating and threatening county employees and leaders.

The MCAs alleged that Mr Mbugua has been attending Executive Committee meetings, county workshops and is frequently seen in City Hall corridors, besides ordering "illegal" impounding of vehicles and ordering county staff, including CECs, on what to do, and influencing key decisions, especially on tender awards.

Waithaka MCA Anthony Kiragu told the assembly on Tuesday that his Roysambu counterpart Peter Warutere was recently threatened by goons sent by Mr Mbugua.

However, in his characteristic bombastic style, Mr Mbugua told off the MCAs.

"It should not be lost upon observers that I was a candidate for Kamukunji MP during the party nominations which I won fairly," he fired back.

He went on: "However, I had to shelve my ambition at the request of party leaders in the spirit of ethnic balancing in the party. Based on this, and a resident of Nairobi and citizen of this country, I am firmly at the heart of Nairobi politics."

The diminutive politician burst into national limelight when he was involved in a scuffle atop a dais in Kamukunji constituency in 2007. The video clip was later used by satire news capturing Mr Mbugua falling down after the altercation with another politician.



The politician with a surprisingly loud voice for his height would win the seat in the 2007 General Election but lost it in 2011 after a successful petition against his victory.

He went on to lose the subsequent by-election to Mr Yusuf Hassan.

But he did not give up and he has been a constant figure in Nairobi politics as he stated in his response to the claims by the MCAs.

His attempts to make a comeback in the run up to the 2013 General Election were thwarted after then deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, eager to attract support from the Somali community, supported Mr Hassan for the Kamukunji seat.

Mr Mbugua lost to Mr Hassan in the Jubilee 2013 primaries but later claimed that he had been prevailed upon by Mr Kenyatta to step down.

After this loss, he closely allied himself with then Nairobi County Senator Mike Sonko (now governor) and became like a personal assistant or errand boy to him.

He was then appointed NGO Coordination Board member, a post he held until February last year when he resigned to contest the Kamukunji seat again.

He won the Jubilee primaries for Kamukunji last May, but was persuaded to step down for Mr Mr Hassan owing to the party's fear of losing the Somali vote in the city.

"After detailed consultations, I am persuaded that the best interests of our country and our city are more important than the win of an individual," he said at a press conference personally managed by President Kenyatta's private secretary, Mr Jomo Gecaga.

He was later nominated by Jubilee to Eala.

In 2009, Mr Mbugua physically assaulted *NTV* reporter Robert Nagila at a hotel in Nairobi for allegedly investigating dubious car deals handled by his company.

In 2015, he was mentioned in connection to a violent attempt to take over Caxton House in Nairobi's central business district, which left one person dead. The property's lease had allegedly expired.

Nairobi County Speaker Beatrice Elachi distanced herself from the fight between the legislator and MCAs. "The motion to debate him was brought to the floor of the House in a legal manner," said Mrs Elachi.

"There was no way I could have prevented that because I would be interfering with the work of MCAs. I want to tell him to stop dragging my name to his fights," he said.

Nairobi County Governor Mike Sonko defended the legislator over allegations of meddling in the county affair. He said the Ward Reps were being used by cartels at City Hall to fight him.





Conservation versus trade > Police say they intend to make more arrests to protect people's property from rogue youths

Blame game after youths burn truck in charcoal ban row

Governor Ngilu vows to stand firm to stop tree cutting, says police should have stopped arsonists

BY KITAVI MUTUA
@KitaviM
kmutua@ke.nationmedia.com

Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu returned from a weeklong trip to India yesterday to deal with accusations of fanning ethnic animosity with her crackdown on illegal charcoal trade.

The governor has been summoned for questioning by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission over allegations that her remarks against charcoal burning incited youths to burn lorries transporting the commodity.

Mrs Ngilu is expected to appear before the commission next week for interrogation after the crackdown turned ugly when a charcoal truck was burnt by youths at Kanyonyoo along the Mwingi-Thika-Nairobi highway.

The governor, who left the country last Sunday to attend the International Pulses Conclave in New Delhi, has been in a campaign to end illegal charcoal business in Kitui since mid January. However, her efforts against illegal sand and charcoal business seem to take a new turn every day as residents continue taking the law into their hands.

The wave of citizen arrest and impounding of trucks by youths began on January 17, after the governor held a lengthy meeting with the county security committee chaired by county commissioner Boaz Cherutich where the ban was announced. She gazetted the ban the following day, and embarked on a campaign especially in areas where the business is rampant.

A few days later, the governor, accompanied by her Environment executive John Makau and Kenya Forest Service county director John Njoroge, made an inspection tour to assess the extent of destruction of trees in the affected areas.

That day, Mrs Ngilu, who was also accompanied by MCAs, addressed marathon public rallies at Kyusyani, Kamutei, Ikutha, Kanziko, Mutha, Endau and Nuu market centres to sensitise residents on the ban.

The message at the rallies was a passionate appeal to the residents. She told them they had a duty to protect the environment and that they should stop being enticed to cut down trees by charcoal merchants because the county was fast becoming bare and dry.

She said the residents must first discontinue charcoal supply to put an end to the trade.

Overzealous youths picked up Mrs Ngilu's tough message and started enforcing the ban, saying the police could not be entrusted to fully implement the radical policy shift.

The following day, residents of Kyusyani in Kitui Rural impounded a truck ferrying charcoal and commandeered it to the police station as the crackdown on the illegal trade intensified.

The youths flagged down the lorry along Kanyangi-Kwavonza road, demanded to see its permit to transport charcoal and threatened to torch it unless the driver agreed to take it to Kyusyani police station.

The truck – registration number KAR 314B – ferrying 142 bags of charcoal is said to have lacked the necessary permits, which the county government had stopped issuing after Mrs Ngilu's ban. Upon reaching the police station, the youths demanded that the driver, identified as Joseph Mwai, be arrested and charged with engaging in illegal business.

Police locked up the driver, detained the lorry after which they presented him before Kitui principal magistrate Johnson Munguti. He was charged with transporting charcoal without the relevant permits. He denied the charges and was released on a Sh100,000 cash bail, pending the hearing of the case.

However, the incident that triggered protests in Kiambu happened two weeks ago when a truck impounded by police was destroyed after being torched at night.

The truck had been impounded by county enforcement officers at Kanyonyoo road block along the Mwingi-Thika-Nairobi highway, alongside three others but it stalled while being towed to Kitui police station.

The incident triggered protests by transporters in Kiambu County who demanded the arrest of Mrs Ngilu for allegedly inciting youths to burn lorries ferrying charcoal in Kitui.

They lit bonfires at Kwambira area along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway and blocked the road with logs alleging that the governor was preaching negative ethnicity.

Mr Makau, and the community liaison officer, Mr David Mbisi, were arrested and questioned by detectives over the incident. The two were arraigned at the Embu Law Courts on Wednesday to face arson charges but were not formally charged as the Director of Public Prosecutions objected to the charges. They were released on a free bond pending conclusion of investigations.

> The county can continue with the ban but we won't allow trucks passing through Kitui town from other counties to be attacked,"
>
> **Prosper Bosire, DCI boss**

Directorate of Criminal Investigations boss in the county Prosper Bosire said detectives had established more people may have been involved in the incident and that police were going to make more arrests.

Mr Bosire said the crackdown on people suspected of setting the truck ablaze was not aimed at frustrating the county government's ban on charcoal trade but only maintaining law and order and protecting people's property.

"The county government can continue enforcing their ban but we won't allow trucks passing through Kitui from other counties, where charcoal trade is allowed and legalised, to be attacked by people taking the law into their own hands," he said.

The governor has denied claims that the ban targeted a particular community. She said it was aimed at protecting the county's ecosystem and improving the environment by increasing tree cover.

Mrs Ngilu said the truck was torched while in police custody after being impounded by the county enforcement officers. She said it was the police who should be held responsible.

She said the truck was detained at Kanyonyoo police road block after the owners disabled its ignition system frustrating efforts to tow it to the station and that the officers should have prevented the arson.

"Much as suspects have been charged in court, the police will need to explain how they lost the truck to arsonists. Was there a fight? Were the officers sleeping on the job or were they simply overpowered?" she asked.

The governor said four trucks were impounded that day but the one that was later razed stalled after the owner used its vehicle tracking device to immobilise it so as to avoid being taken to court.

"This is the kind of misinformation and propaganda that criminal cartels use in order to discredit leaders and institutions that dare to stand up to them," she said, adding that charcoal trade is done by traders from all communities in Kenya.

Mrs Ngilu maintained that she will continue enforcing the charcoal and sand harvesting ban as passed by the county assembly, following a public outcry over the environmental ruin caused.

"I have a duty as a leader to take decisive measures to protect our environment in order to mitigate perennial droughts and erratic rainfall experienced in this region," she said.

Kitui leaders including MPs Makali Mulu (Kitui Central), Boni Mwalika (Kitui Rural) and Gideon Mulyungi (Mwingi Central) and county assembly Speakers George Ndotto (Kitui) and Douglas Mbilu (Makueni) urged Mrs Ngilu to remain firm and implement the ban.

The leaders argued that charcoal burning was a concern to all people even those who did not vote for Mrs Ngilu because the bad consequences of environmental degradation, including erratic rainfall, affected all residents.

"We cannot sit and watch while rogue people continue ruining our environment. We must put an end to illegal charcoal burning and sand harvesting," said Mr Mwalika.

The MPs said Mrs Ngilu should not bow to pressure from business cartels from other counties to lift the ban on charcoal and sand harvesting in Kitui.

They dismissed claims the ban targeted certain communities, saying Kitui was home to people from all ethnic communities doing legitimate business and living peacefully.



FILE| NATION

Limuru MP Peter Mwathi addresses demonstrators at Kwambira in Limuru. The group was protesting the burning of a lorry ferrying charcoal in Kitui County. Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu has denied claims a charcoal ban in her county targets a particular community.

Jkuat kicks off search for new VC as Prof Imbuga retires

BY OUMA WANZALA
owanzala@ke.nationmedia.com

The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture (Jkuat) has kicked off the recruitment process for a new vice-chancellor to replace Prof Mabel Imbuga who is set to retire in August after serving for 10 years.

This is also the start of a process that will see more than 10 universities get new vice chancellors or those holding the position re-appointed to serve for a second term by June this year.

Jkuat Council chaired by Prof Paul Kanyari has invited qualified candidates to submit their applications by March 7.

"For appointment to the position of the vice chancellor, a person shall; be a full professor and holder of earned doctorate degree from a university recognised in Kenya, have thorough knowledge in the structural, legislative and regulatory framework for administering university education in Kenya," reads the advert in local dailies.

Applicants must also have at least 14 years hands-on experience at a senior level in managing a large and complex university or equivalent institution with demonstrable leadership and management capacity including knowledge of public financial management and strategic people management.

"As per universities Act of 2012, Jkuat charter and statutes, the vice chancellor shall hold office for a duration of five years with the possibility of one term renewal for a further five years subject to performance and positive appraisal by council," adds the advert.

Prof Imbuga was first appointed as vice-chancellor in 2008 and re-appointed in 2013.

However, the renewal of her term was challenged at the High Court but the case was dismissed.

The university has a staff and student population of 2,850 and 45,000 respectively, spread between the main campus at Juja and other strategic campuses across the country. During her tenure, the university opened campuses in Rwanda and Tanzania and which were closed down by the government last year.

> For appointment to the position of the Vice Chancellor, a person shall; be a full professor and holder of earned doctorate degree from a university recognised in Kenya."
>
> **Job advert**

Prof Imbuga told the Parliamentary Investment Committee in 2016 that the institution used Sh10 million to start the Arusha centre and Sh21 million on the Kigali campus.

At the same time, Prof Ndirangu Kioni has been re-appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

Prof Kioni was the first vice-chancellor of the institution after it was awarded a charter in in December 2012.

Ask your Question

How will you handle street vendors who have taken over our key roads?

In this interactive series, we invite our readers to send in questions to prominent public figures. This week, **Murang'a Governor Mwangi wa Iria** responds to your questions

1 There has been a raging battle between the governor and the board and management of Murang'a Water and Sewerage Company. What is the genesis of this conflict between yourself and the service company?
Paul Mwangi, Kangema, Murang'a
The conflict borders mainly on failure by water service providing companies to appreciate that the provision of water is a fully devolved function and that it's the role of the county government to manage the provision of water through reasonable tariffs and efficient supply.

2 Your second and final term as governor ends after the 2022 General Election and there have been suggestions you could be a possible running mate of Deputy President William Ruto. What are your plans?
Joseph Mwangi Maina, Kahuro, Murang'a
My legacy will determine my political future. My focus for the next five years is delivering on all my promises to the great people of Murang'a . I am also keen on supporting President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto to deliver Jubilee's Big Four agenda.

3 Education statistics indicate that Murang'a has a high number of secondary schools categorised as extra county. These schools were built not by the government but through harambee for the local children. Their classification opens doors to children from all over the country, which is a disadvantage to local students. What is your government doing to address this skewed classification and to ensure that slots in such schools are actually reserved for locals?
Gikonyo Cheche, Kiharu

The county government is working with stakeholders in the education sector to improve infrastructure to expand capacity in extra-county schools. This will ensure that the schools admit a significant number of qualified local students and adhere to national policies on taking in students from other counties. Further, the county government bursary scheme aids pupils admitted to extra-county schools from needy backgrounds. However, in doing all this we must appreciate that education is a tool of integration and cohesion thus the need to admit pupils from other counties.

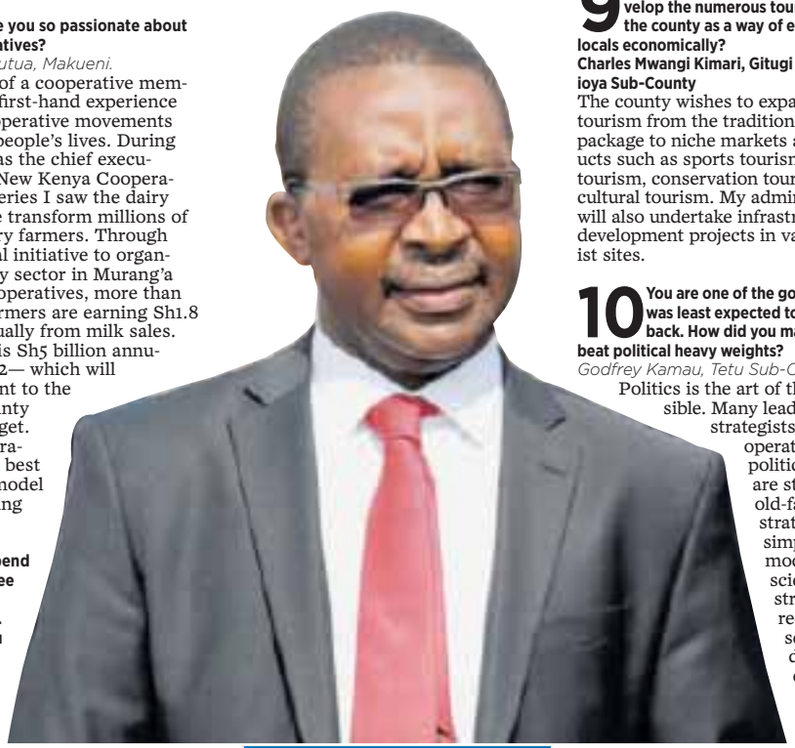
4 Back in 2015 your government released Sh70 million for bursaries. Out of that noble idea, about 7,000 students benefited. Since then your administration has never set aside money for bursary schemes and as a result there is an increased number of university students discontinuing their studies due to lack of fees and other related financial issues. When are we likely to see the full implementation of Murang'a County Scholarship Bill?
Joe Lewis Gathara, Kigumo Constituency
The correct position is that the bursary scheme has been ongoing since inception. In fact, we have increased funding to the programme to cater for more students annually. By the end of the last financial year, nearly 40,000 students had benefited from it.

5 Why are you so passionate about cooperatives?
Alex Mutua, Makueni.
I am a son of a cooperative member. I have first-hand experience on how cooperative movements transform people's lives. During my tenure as the chief executive of the New Kenya Cooperative Creameries I saw the dairy cooperative transform millions of lives of dairy farmers. Through my personal initiative to organise the dairy sector in Murang'a through cooperatives, more than 100,000 farmers are earning Sh1.8 billion annually from milk sales. Our target is Sh5 billion annually by 2022— which will be equivalent to the current county annual budget. I see cooperatives as the best economic model of eliminating poverty.

6 We depend on coffee tea and milk farming. What are you doing to ensure farmers get better prices for their produce and eliminate brokers?
Reagan Mwangi, Mathioya, Gitugi Ward
The county has organised farmers into cooperatives as it has done in the dairy industry and then connects them directly to reputable buyers of their produce. In this approach, the county negotiates a minimum price with the said buyers in addition to securing a guaranteed market. This process automatically eliminates brokers in the value chain.

7 How and when will you remove the street vendors who came back to the streets of Kenol during the campaign period? They have literary occupied the roads causing unnecessary traffic jams.
Patrick Maina, Kenol Town
We have no intention of removing any vendor or hawker from the streets. It should actually be criminal for anybody to evict a hawker from their place of work without providing an alternative. In fact, the bulk of the people of my county are small traders. Therefore, we value what they do in developing our local economy. And the same is true of the national economy where the informal sector contributes 70 per cent to the GDP. We value small traders and that is why my government's legal department is drafting a Hawkers Bill that I will sponsor through our MPs in the National Assembly.

8 I first congratulate you on winning the trust of the people of Murang'a to allow you to serve them a second term. Sir, how do you rate the success of counties in the country in terms of impact to mwananchi? What is the major problem facing devolution?
Peter Kiraithe
In rating the success of devolution and as a pioneer governor of the devolved administration in Murang'a, I would give them a 6/10 grade despite the myriad challenges of transition, adaptation and lack of public awareness. The biggest challenge is the devolution of functions without the commensurate resources.



9 Sir, what plans do you have to develop the numerous tourist sites in the county as a way of empowering locals economically?
Charles Mwangi Kimari, Gitugi Ward, Mathioya Sub-County
The county wishes to expand its tourism from the traditional safari package to niche markets and products such as sports tourism, agro-tourism, conservation tourism and cultural tourism. My administration will also undertake infrastructural development projects in various tourist sites.

10 You are one of the governors who was least expected to bounce back. How did you manage to beat political heavy weights?
Godfrey Kamau, Tetu Sub-County.
Politics is the art of the possible. Many leaders, strategists and operatives in the political arena are still stuck in old-fashioned strategies. I simply applied modern and scientific strategies to recapture the seat. You don't need experience or patronage to succeed in politics. What you need most is knowledge and its application. The wheels of history have turned. The earlier people understand this the better.

11 How have you incorporated youths in your government?
Jeff Chepkwony, Sigor, Chepalungu
I have ensured that 37 per cent of the County workforce is composed of officers within the youth cohort. I have also rolled out robust programmes such as "Ufundi Kwa Vijana" in rendering skills necessary for gainful ventures.

12 Last month there were wrangles between your administration and Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company, which actually revolves around increased tariffs. Eventually you promised residents of Murang'a that they will not pay more than Sh200. How is this promise going to be fulfilled?
Eric Mugo, Murang'a
The promise is being fulfilled as MUWASCO has already written to Water services Regulatory Board requesting the approval of reduction of water tariffs minimum charge to Sh200 with effect from March 1, 2018.

13 Small scale horticulture farming has become a major occupation among non-skilled, jobless and pensioners in Murang'a. When will your government include them in fertiliser, herbicides, seeds and pesticide subsidised programmes like you do with maize, dairy and coffee farmers?
Mwangi Lincoln, Kahumbu, Murang'a
The county has initiated subsidised programmes for horticultural farming mainly in avocado. However, the programme is being expanded to cover other horticultural crops. The programme also entails connecting farmers to stable and rewarding markets. It is worth noting that this intervention has enabled avocado farmers to earn as high as Sh35 for a single fruit in addition to the annual bonus.

14 When will your government roll out a water supply action plan to benefit horticultural farmers **since most of them rely on seasonal streams and temporary boreholes?**
Mwangi Lincoln, Kahumbu, Murang'a
My government's plan for water action plan is having 350,000 homes connected to piped water by 2020 through a wide range of programmes such as pipes laying, boreholes drilling and boosting intake capacity for water service providers.

15 As you start your final term as governor, what legacy would you like to leave?
Jeff Chepkwony, Sigor, Chepalungu
My legacy is based on socio-economic transformation for all the households in Murang'a through a wide range of programmes that I have steered and continue to strengthen since I assumed office in sectors such as agriculture, cooperative movement, health, youth empowerment, education and training among others.

16 Having been born and raised in Murang'a, I would like to know how you have incorporated people from outside the county into your administration. Could you quantify this in terms of percentage of how many people from minority communities have been employed?
Ali Buke, Wempa, Maragwa
I am a firm believer in inclusivity in governance. For example, the County Executive Committee member for Lands is a Kisii, the CEC for Health is a Kamba, the Chief Officer for livestock is a Luhya, the Director for Economic Planning is a Kamba, while a Luo is a senior Human Resource Manager. In short, our government reflects the true face of Kenya. This is not just for compliance with the Constitution but because of my firm belief that all Kenyans are equal.

17 While we appreciate and commend you for giving us manure, we request that the distribution be done in the villages. This will eliminate the cost of ferrying it to our farms from the coffee factory. Please change the directive as farmers are broke due to the ongoing drought.
Justus Rukungu Kabuu, Gaturi, Murang'a County
I promise to look into that.

18 What is the county government doing to preserve and manage the Mukurwe-wa-Nyagathanga cultural site that has been mismanaged and left to deteriorate for several decades?
Celia Nyamweru, Nairobi
The county government is partnering with Kenyatta University and Agikuyu Elder Groups in developing the site to protect its cultural relevance and attract tourists. Alongside this, I am also initiating the development of the Agikuyu Information and Cultural Centre.

For more questions and answers go to www.nation.co.ke

NEXT WEEK

Kenya Tourism Board CEO Betty Radier will answer your questions



Send your questions to:
myquestion@ke.nationmedia.com

By Wednesday midday. Please provide your full name and where you are writing from

Tough duel > Some 37 candidates will battle for 16 positions in the council and the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal

Days to crucial LSK polls, new political war unfolds

Society is highly attractive to politicians because whatever it says influences public policy, such as appointment of judges, magistrates and Chief Justice

BY WALTER MENYA
@menyawalter
wmenya@ke.nationmedia.com

With just 9,000 electors, Wednesday's Law Society of Kenya (LSK) elections would have passed largely unnoticed if not for the role the society plays in the administration of justice.

For this key role, LSK hardly escapes the attention of politicians interested in influencing the outcome of its elections so that they can have individuals who will serve their interests.

"You cannot separate LSK elections from the national politics because LSK is a statutory body and it discharges public functions, one of which is oversight," lawyer George Kithi says.

According to Mr Kithi, the society becomes attractive to politicians because whatever it says influences public policy, one of which is the appointment of judges including the Chief Justice and magistrates.

LSK has two representatives in the JSC, namely Prof Tom Ojienda and Mercy Deche, and has membership in Parliament and other places of influence.

"Therefore the position it takes goes a long way to influence how people behave. The government would want to have someone who is friendly, and the same for the opposition," said Mr Kithi.

Cleared 37 candidates

LSK has cleared 37 candidates who will be battling for the available 16 positions in the council, the society's governing body, and the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal.

The positions of president and vice president have attracted two candidates each, with Kisumu-based lawyer and former president of East African Law Society James Mwamu facing off with city-based lawyer Allen Waiyaki Gichuhi for president. Lawyers Harriette Chiggai and Joy Brenda Masinde will square it out for vice president slot.

"The register of members eligible to vote contains the names of 9,009 members with 2017 Practising Certificate as at December 31, 2017," states the guidelines and polling for the LSK Council and Disciplinary Tribunal elections sent out to members.

In the elections that will be overseen by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), LSK has also adopted an electronic register, the LSK Voter Centralised Identification System, for identification of voters.

LSK has designated 28 court buildings across the country as polling centres and "electors can vote from any of [the] centres regardless of where they are based."

"At the close of the polling station, the presiding officer (PO) will scan the image of the results declaration form and electronically transmit the same to the tallying centre at the Law Society of Kenya Secretariat in Lavington, opposite Valley Arcade, Gitanga Road, Nairobi, and subsequently deliver to the returning officer (RO) the original form," the guidelines state.

But the Wednesday February 22 polls will have an added flavour to it. For the position of president, it will be a rematch from two years ago when both Mr Mwamu and Mr Gichuhi were the losing candidates for president.

Then, Mr Mwamu garnered 1,378 votes, just seven more than Mr Gichuhi who was ranked third. Current president Isaac Okero obtained 1,581 votes. The LSK Act, however, bars him from seeking a second term.

"Both candidates are very good. Having served with both of them in the LSK Council when I was president of the Society, I can say each of them brings on board peculiar strengths. Any of them can be a very good president of the law society," said Mr Eric Mutua of Mr Mwamu and Mr Gichuhi.

Mr Mwamu and Mr Gichuhi found themselves in a two-horse race after lawyer Nelson Havi was locked out by the LSK Council and subsequently by the High Court because he did not have the required 15 years' experience. He has since appealed the High Court ruling and the matter is still pending for determination.

Former nominated MP Judith Sijeny, who was also eyeing the president's position, also withdrew.

For Mr Mwamu, this will be his third attempt at the presidency of LSK, having run and lost to former LSK president Kenneth Akide in 2010 and again lost to Mr Okero in 2016. Mr Gichuhi, meanwhile, will be making a second attempt.

But that is as far as the fun part of the race goes because LSK has lately become captive to national and ethnic politics that have permeated to the top levels of the society.

The current council has been beleaguered by constant squabbles among members as the Nasa-Jubilee politics eats into the premier bar association.

The latest of such political disharmony has seen what was billed as a "multi-pronged strategy" to protest the Executive's growing disregard of court orders and rule of law peter out, leaving only yellow ribbons as the visible component of the strategy.

LSK had last week announced a week-long court boycott, except for matters related to election petitions.

Multiple conversations with lawyers have revealed that as soon as the notification went out, a section of lawyers started scheming to scuttle the proposed boycotts and accused some council members of using the LSK to propagate Nasa's agenda.

Eventually, LSK sent out another e-mail to members on Sunday evening communicating the cancellation of the planned court boycotts.

Meanwhile, last year's presidential election petition left a deeply divided council, with some supporting the Jubilee wing and others the Nasa side.

Council member Alex Gatundu swore an affidavit in support of President Uhuru Kenyatta opposing LSK's application to be admitted as an amicus curiae (friend of the court) in the petition that was filed by Nasa leaders Raila Odinga and Kalonzo Musyoka.

Soon after that, LSK vice chairperson Faith Waigwa on October 5 penned a letter to EACC chairman Eliud Wabukala contradicting an earlier one by Mr Okero in which the president had faulted EACC's intended probe on Supreme Court Registrar Esther Nyaiyaki.

As the political and ethnic divisions played out in the public, two separate motions for removal of the council have been filed. The filing of the petitions was partly blamed for the cancellation of the society's special general meeting (SGM) that had been scheduled to take place on November 11, 2017, at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, to adopt the regulations in line with the new LSK Act.

"I will be very frank. The current LSK Council has a problem and that has to do with a lot of partiality and ethnic-biased approach. Some of them have even taken party positions and have been campaigning for political parties. Because of that, the president speaks one language and the deputy speaks a different language. As a result, the oversight role of LSK has seriously been compromised. It is a total failure and antithetical to the public's expectations. It is basically a see-saw between the president and vice president, which is very disappointing. I think this is the worst legal term that we have had in LSK so far. The fact that one belongs to a tribe, when you get to such a position you must completely be neutral and beholden to fidelity of law, which unfortunately has not been there. It has been more of the ethnic inclination," said Mr Kithi.

The intrusion of national politics into LSK affairs is not something the society can run away from. Some lawyers told *Sunday Nation* that only a minority of the members will not be swayed by their ethnic and political affiliations as they vote on Wednesday.

> Both candidates (Mr Mwamu and Mr Gichuhi) are very good. Each of them brings on board peculiar strengths,"
>
> **Mr Eric Mutua, former president of LSK**

With constitutional commissions and independent offices which would have offered the necessary checks and balances being progressively silenced, and a similar crackdown on the civil society and the media, LSK would have remained the only alternative voice. This makes the Society's Wednesday election the more important to the Executive to ensure people who will play ball carry the day.

The campaign period has not been short of such manoeuvres as individuals linked to senior Jubilee figures have been sponsoring campaign meetings for some of the candidates.

"The problem is that there are those seats that are more attractive than others, especially the president and the deputy. Because of that, they are highly competitive. The temptation to put out a well-oiled machinery is always there and people, therefore, apart from their own resources source for funds inevitably from politicians who would want to derive a benefit after their preferred candidates have won," said Mr Kithi.

The lawyer said that a person would ordinarily be supported first, because of one's tribe and second, because of what one represents politically.

"In our current set up, it would basically be an ODM and Jubilee affair and it will become more pronounced as we get nearer to the voting day," said Mr Kithi.



James Aggrey Mwamu

Admitted to the bar in 1994. This will be his third attempt at winning the presidency of LSK, having lost in 2010 and 2016 races.

Why he feels he is the most suitable candidate

- Counts on experience having previously served as LSK vice chairman and also president of the East African Law Society (EALS).
- Claims a wide network built over a period of time when he served at EALS and LSK and which he says he will tap to connect the society to other regions
- Says he is a bold leader who can stand and defend the Constitution and the members of the society.
- Intends to use his broad professional training to break ground on uncharted areas like extractive industry, investment opportunities and big infrastructural projects, rebuilding the society and the professional development of members.
- Says he is able to reach across the aisle and heal the political and ethnic divisions in the country at present
- Says he represents the progressive forces.

"Such divisions sometimes arise because there is lack of consultations and there is no proper communication. I intend to have a proper consultative council. I also intend to have open communication lines. I will consult members more and more to find out which is the correct way. But at the end of the day, members must recognise that since I am the president I am the only spokesperson of the society and after I have consulted with them the buck stops with the president to do what is right. I will do what is right."



Allen Gichuhi

Admitted to the bar in 1994. This will be his second attempt, having been in the 2016 race and emerging third after Isaac Okero and James Mwamu.

Why he feels he is the most suitable candidate

- Cites his past contributions to the society, including petitioning the branches to appeal the High Court decision that barred magistrates from handling land and employment disputes, participating in the drafting of the 2006 and 2014 Advocates Remuneration Orders and being an adjunct lecturer at the Kenya School of Law.
- Wants to create a devolution fund for LSK branches.
- Says he will refine the draft LSK Regulations by taking concerns from members and ensure the regulations are passed within four months of the new council taking office.
- Claims deep commitment to the rule of law and seeks to actively engage Parliament on law reform.
- Says he is committed to the welfare of members, in particular young lawyers for whom he intends to introduce mentorship and address their salary terms.
- Says he is a progressive leader.

"LSK must be apolitical and avoid being drawn into partisan politics rocking the country. We must uphold the Constitution and rule of law without fear or favour.
We shall jealousy guard the spirit of the Constitution. In addition, LSK will assist the government and the Judiciary in legislation, improve the practice of law and administration of justice.
We shall have stakeholder meetings to seek solutions and improve the social economic rights of Kenyans."

MEMORIES FROM THE BEAT

Cabinet minister who showed Moi how to invest and acquire property

For Moi-era Cabinet minister Kenneth Matiba there were no half measures. He went the whole hog. While last year we cheered Cabinet Minister Najib Balala for climbing Mount Kenya, for Matiba getting to the top of Kenya's highest mountain was a weekend pastime. His achievement in that area was climbing the Everest. When a newspaper declined to run his paid-up advert, he launched his own newspaper. And once, when an airline delayed in importing his cargo, he sought to launch his own airline but authorities weren't keen on it



KAMAU NGOTHO

> No employer will ever make you rich. They only pay you enough to make sure you come back to work in the morning!"

When in high school, colleagues in the Journalism Club and I had a contest as to who was the most colourful member of the Cabinet. I won the contest. My pick was Mr Kenneth Matiba. My winning exhibits were a picture of the Cabinet minister atop Mount Everest and another picture where he had joined a school choir for a jig and taken over the role of the lead dancer. The *Daily Nation* published pictures of Mr Matiba in different motions of the dance with a short caption: "Beat that if you can!"

I didn't know that six years later I would be working for Matiba.

My first encounter with him was in October 1992. He was on a high profile campaign to be President of Kenya in the first multi-party elections held that year. I was working for a public relations company that had been contracted to do campaign media work for the former minister.

Nyayo Bus cash in a gunny-bag

One day, Matiba called us to his offices at College House on Koinange Street and instructed us to do a story on the scandal of the collapsed Nyayo Bus Services. The latter was a government owned public transport company operated by the National Youth Services (NYS) in the 1980s.

The company had started off well with a fleet of buses operating within the city, Mombasa and Kisumu and a fleet for major upcountry routes.

But just like with Ms Anne Waiguru's NYS, one day some "hair-dresser" crawled from the woodwork, stashed all Nyayo Bus money in a gunny-bag and disappeared into thin air. Police weren't able to trace even the empty gunny-bag presumably after she offloaded its contents. *Kweli Kenya ni nchi ya maajabu!*

We gathered as much information as we could on the Nyayo Bus scandal and moved to the next step which was to get a comment from a government source. We called the Office of the President and were directed to the office of the head of the Civil Service, Prof Philip Mbithi.

His personal assistant asked that we put our questions in writing and send them to him. It was a Friday and he promised to get back to us on Monday morning.

But his answer came earlier than scheduled. On Saturday morning, a squad from the CID headquarters descended on our offices and combed it clean, taking away anything that had words "Nyayo Bus" on it.

When we hesitated to open one cabinet that contained confidential office files, they threatened to load it into their vehicle and have it opened in their office. We had to back off. My boss, Haron Wachira, had dashed to the office in sandals when he heard police were there. Come to think of it, if it were today perhaps Dr Fred Matiang'i would have ordered him "deported" to his home in Kirinyaga County while still in sandals.

Rejected advert

The next episode involving Matiba had to do with a campaign advert he wanted to appear in a local newspaper. We took the advert to the concerned media house which was accepted and we paid for it in full. But just as the advertising pages were leaving for the printing press, one of the media house top executives saw Matiba's advert and ordered it removed on excuse that it could bring reprisals from the government.

When we told Matiba what had transpired, he was uncharacteristically calm and said: "Leave them alone, after this campaign we are launching our own newspaper and where we will carry adverts from everybody, including President Moi."

Sure enough, two months after the December 1992 election, Matiba launched the *People Weekly* newspaper which is now the *People Daily*.

Moi portrait

Something I came to admire in Mr Matiba those days was his respect for constitutionalism. Despite being a bitter critic of President Moi, in his office hang a huge portrait of the President. One day he gave us an explanation for it. "Look, everybody knows Mr Moi stole my election victory. But since he was declared and sworn in as the President, so be it. I just have to live with that much as I disagree with it."

He proceeded to tell us a story of his relationship with President Moi.

They first met in the early 1960s when they served as minister and PS in the ministry of Education, respectively, in the short-lived coalition that preceded Kenya's independence. At the time Matiba was aged 30, and Moi 38. He told us he is the person who interested Moi and helped him invest and acquire property he could call his own.

Moi, the beer seller

When Matiba bought a 40-acre farm and built a family home in Limuru, Kiambu, in 1960s, Moi was among the few friends he took to see the property and encourage him to get similar property. The two became family friends and their children would talk of uncle Dan and Uncle Ken.

Later when Matiba was appointed chief executive of the beer-maker, the East African Breweries Limited (EABL), he helped Moi set up his first-ever business, a beer distributorship firm called Rift Valley Distributors.

When Matiba realised Moi was not particularly good in matters business, Matiba released his personal assistant, one Sammy Lui, to camp in Nakuru and not leave until Moi's business stood on its feet.

As he told us that, I remember Matiba laughing loudly saying: "It is too sad that in later years Moi would discard all the good business practices we taught him those days."

Despite being pushy on things he wanted, I must say in all the years I worked for his newspaper, never once did Matiba interfere with our work. He hardly ever came to our offices. The only one occasion I remember him showing up was when he heard we were launching a staff savings co-operative (Sacco) and he came to congratulate and encourage us. "Even if it is my daughter asking for a loan, only give her the equivalent of her savings and make sure she pays," I remember him telling us. At the time, his daughter, a gracious lady called Ms Ivy Wambui, was chief executive at the *People* weekly

Don't be employed forever

In my last encounter with Mr Matiba, I was working for *Nation* newspapers and had flown to the south coast to interview him.

His first question was: "I am told you used to work with us, why did you leave?"

"I was given a better offer by your competitor," I replied. He laughed and asked:" Suppose I make you an even better counter-offer, would you come back?" "Yes, I would," I said, which made him very happy.

We talked about his life, politics, and all that. But what I remember most is a personal advice he gave me that I either start my own newspaper or any other business but not forever be employed by other people.

"Young man," he told me, "don't aspire to work for other people the whole of your life. Working for other people is only good to give you experience. After that, be on your own. Otherwise no employer will ever make you rich. They only pay you enough to make sure you come back to work in the morning!"

I couldn't believe it was my former boss talking. But what he said made a lot of sense, or what do you think?

kamngotho@yahoo.com



Organisers of Kimathi Day invite peace groups, call for harmony

BY MUCHEMI WACHIRA
muchemiwachira2015@gmail.com

Commemorations for the execution of freedom hero Dedan Kimathi will address ethnic rivalry that threatens to tear Kenya apart.

For the last 14 years, the day, which will be marked in Nyeri County today, has always been an affair of the Kimathi family and few State officials. The family joins hands with former freedom fighters and demands official recognition of the Mau Mau War icon executed by the British on February 18, 1957.

This time, peace groups from different parts of the country have been invited to the event that is being organised by the Kimathi Foundation.

"We have invited all counties to join us in launching a peace programme," Foundation CEO Daniel Wangenye, who was accompanied by Ms Wanjugu Kimathi, one of the daughters of the freedom fighter, told the *Sunday Nation*.

The two earlier paid a courtesy call on Nyeri Governor Mutahi Kahiga.

Among the invited groups are Kenya Peace and Reconciliation of Turbo and One Nation Under God. The chairman of the latter, Arthur Wasonga said, it was a movement for peace volunteers based in Nairobi. Since 2015, it has been mobilising youth and women in peace building.

Kenya Peace and Reconciliation comprises people displaced from their homes during the 2007/8 poll chaos in the Rift Valley.

"We are from different ethnic groups and want to team up with Kimathi Foundation and use its forum in telling Kenyans the many problems we have passed through due to tribal hatred. We do not want a repeat of the post-election violence," Ms Grace Wakoli, the chairperson of the group said in a phone interview.

The theme for this year's Kimathi Day, Mr Wangenye said, is "Our father fought for us, let's maintain peace."

He added that the foundation was striving to bring different communities together for the sake of peace.

The opposition, under Mr Raila Odinga, refuses to recognise Mr Uhuru Kenyatta as president of the republic.

"We want to use Kimathi to unite Kenya. He never fought for independence for any particular ethnic group," said Mr Wangenye who is also the coordinator of Mt Kenya Teachers' Forum.

Kimathi was captured in 1956 at Kahiga-ini village, which is at the foot of the Aberdare Forest in Muhoyas location, Tetu West Sub-County.

He was found guilty of illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition and sentenced to death. His remains were buried at Kamiti Prison.

Justice > Event was held at Strathmore Law School

Hot debate on sexual harassment menace

Power dynamics among other issues featured prominently in the discussions

DOROTHY KWEYU

When two sides take stage on a subject as emotive as sexual harassment, expect fireworks.

The mood was set when law students from local universities jampacked the Microsoft Auditorium of their host Strathmore Law School (SLS) to listen to a passionate debate on what constitutes sexual harassment.

Strathmore Law School Dean Luis Franceschi set the ball rolling. He said the forum was inspired by a feisty local WhatsApp group chat in the wake of USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar's scandal involving sexual abuse of hundreds of minors under his care. Nassar has since earned his just deserts: a 40 to 125 year-jail sentence.

Nassar's jailing happened barely two months after *The New York Times* and The New Yorker's ran exposés of film producer Harvey Weinstein's decades-long sexual harassment and assault of his staff. Mass protests under the #MeToo and #Time's Up followed.

When forum moderator Patricia Kameri-Mbote took the podium, she challenged her audience to see how they might address the sexual harassment menace.

The University of Nairobi(UoN) don had a difficult time controlling the charged panellists.

The hush-hush surrounding the sex topic only complicates the matter further. Both Dr Franceschi and Prof Kameri-Mbote noted that proper sexual behaviour is often learnt from wrong sources as those supposed to inform the young ones abdicate their responsibility.

Power dynamics featured prominently in the debate. "Who has power over you and how do you feel when you relate to them?" Prof Kameri-Mbote posed. She listed legal, social, economic and "even political" dimensions of sexual harassment, which might explain why so few women venture into politics. "They don't want to get into that space and be thrown to the dogs."

Prof Kameri-Mbote threw the spanner in the works when she asked how a man is supposed to react when a woman proposes to him. She had been in a situation where she asked young men whether any woman—a lecturer—had asked them for favours. "The boys just burst out laughing!"

The professor alluded to Sexually Transmitted Grades and Sexually Transmitted Degrees in academic circles—a phenomenon that is rife among students of both sexes.

The pervasiveness of sexual harassment could explain the complexity of implementing sexual harassment laws and policies with accusers sometimes becoming the accused as has often happened with rape cases.

> Some organisations structural or cultural setups created a level of tolerance that made it uncomfortable for women to say: "I'm leaving this organisation; the jokes are vile, the bosses are used to tapping our backsides."
> —**Lawyer Charles Kanjama**



Strathmore University, Kenyatta University and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology are among academic institutions with sexual harassment policies, it emerged. The UoN covers sexual harassment under its gender policy.

Contextualising the #MeToo campaign that *Saturday Nation* columnist Gabrielle Lynch recently featured, the don asked how it affected Kenya. Aware that the #MeToo campaign could have been eclipsed by Kenya's prolonged electioneering period last year, Lynch highlighted the pervasiveness of sexual harassment "especially in highly unequal and patriarchal countries such as Kenya."

The debate sought to address what constitutes sexual harassment and its linkages to violence. It was hinged on the premise that human rights guarantee dignity and respect of the individual, are universal.

"They are protected and enjoyed within a social, cultural, political and economic context," the professor said.

The panellists were Dr Agnes Meroka—an advocate of the High Court of Kenya, who lecturers at the UoN School of Law and Dr Emma Wabuke, a human rights expert and lecturer at Strathmore Law school.

Their counterparts were advocate Charles Kanjama and Dr Duncan Ojwang', a Dean at the Africa Nazarene University School of Law. The women argued on the Universalist human rights platform, while the men took the culturalist stance.

Mr Kanjama noted that while each relevant Act has specific nuances based on its purpose, they all zero in on "unwanted sexual solicitation." Dr Ojwang' said sexual harassment happens in an environment of inequality.

Dr Meroka faulted the gender-neutral-gender-blind culturalist/relativist view. Women's viewpoint has to be factored since statistics show that they form the majority of sexual harassment victims. To her, sexual harassment is violence, period! The behaviour is "unwanted, unsolicited, unwarranted, wrong, perverted and damaging to the victim.

She took issue with the laws' emphasis on 'authority' over the victim.

"What about a woman who is walking, minding her own business on the street and somebody decides to start whistling and catcalling and saying all manner of things to her?"

Mr Kanjama differed. He noted that gender is secondary to power relationship and gave the example of a female lecturer, a female police officer, and a female boss. Dr Ojwang' concurred. He visualised a situation where touts are grabbing potential passengers. They tend to grab women more, regarding them as powerless.

"They don't grab them to sexually harass them, but to put them on the bus. We should be clear when we draw the line between annoying things and serious things like sexual harassment," he insisted, causing Prof Kameri-Mbote to raise the highly emotive issue of date rape.

According to Dr Meroka, all the girl wanted was a date. "...a nice meal, some good conversation, maybe some good music. Sexual harassment must, therefore, include behaviour that diminishes, dehumanises, and has the effect of disadvantaging the victim."

Hitting at Mr Kanjama's insinuations that sexual harassment was an imported alien concept, Dr Meroka said: "Whether it started in Hollywood, #MeToo, is relevant even to that girl in the village."

Her argument caused the moderator to ask if sexual harassment is a women's right issue. Dr Wabuke noted that 85 per cent of women suffer sexual harassment at least once in their lifetime, making it a women's right issue.

Dr Ojwang's view was that the village woman cares little about sexual harassment. Her concern is getting clean drinking water, firewood and food for her family. Sexual harassment, he insisted, was more of a class than a human rights issue.

So, what about the many househelps, most of them women, who report sexual harassment by their bosses? "Are they middle-class?"

Mr Kanjama said that some organisations structural or cultural setups created a level of tolerance that made it uncomfortable for women to say: "I'm leaving this organisation; the jokes are vile, the bosses are used to tapping our backsides...."

He insinuated that women set themselves up for harassment through "aggressive sexy dressing". Modestly-dressed women tend to be pressured by fellow women to conform to their standard.

In spite of spirited arguments on both sides, the Universalists won on vote-count.

Ms Kweyu is a freelance writer and consulting editor. dorothy@editorialcentre.com



PHOTO | COURTESY

Kibaki attends nephew's burial

Retired President Mwai Kibaki is received by Agriculture Cabinet Secretary nominee Mwangi Kiunjuri (centre) and other leaders on arrival for the burial of his nephew David Muriithi in Nyahururu, Laikipia County, yesterday.

Wamatangi's bill seeks to end county power vacuum

BY ERIC WAINAINA
ewainaina@ke.nationmedia.com

It will not be automatic for a deputy-governor-elect to become governor if his boss dies after winning an election or is unable to assume office, according to a bill at the Senate.

The bill also seeks to provide the procedure for replacing a governor or a deputy county boss in case of death or resignation.

The 2018 Assumption of the Office of the Governor's Office Bill has been drafted by Kiambu Senator Kimani Wamatangi (below).

According to the bill, if a person elected governor dies before assuming office, his or her deputy takes over in acting capacity.

The deputy will be sworn into office on the day the governor should have taken the oath, and an election held 60 days after the death.

The swearing-in of a governor, the bill says, should be conducted on the first Tuesday following the twenty-first day after the results of the election are announced. The ceremony, which should not be earlier than 10am and not later than 2pm, is to be conducted in public and should be presided over by a High Court judge or chief magistrate.

If the deputy governor-elect dies before assuming office or cannot be sworn in for whatever reason, the position is to be declared vacant by the governor upon being sworn in.

The deputy governor's office, Mr Wamatangi proposes, is to be declared vacant if he or she dies, is removed from office, resigns, ceases to be eligible for the position or takes over the governor's seat.

To fill the position, a governor, should within 14 days, nominate the deputy governor and forward the name to the county assembly, which would approve or disapprove the appointment in two weeks.

The nominee should be supported by a majority of the ward representatives.

If 14 days lapse without MCAs having made any resolution, the motion would be deemed to have been approved.

The new deputy governor shall then be deemed to have served a full term if, on the date he is appointed, more than two and a half years remain before the next election.

If approved, the proposed law is expected to provide answers in cases such as those witnessed in Nyeri and Nairobi counties, which do not have deputy governors.

In Nyeri, deputy governor Mutahi Kahiga became county boss upon the death of Governor Wahome Gakuru in a road accident in November.

Nairobi Deputy Governor Polycarp Igathe resigned in January.

Mr Wamatangi's bill, is an amendment of the one he introduced in the House in 2016.

It also seeks to define the roles and duties of deputy governors.

A deputy county boss, according to Senator Wamatangi's bill, would deputise a governor, who may assign him or her any other responsibilities or portfolio as a member of the executive committee.



People, power and politics > The men, women and events that shaped society

Chat with former AG who quit office for farming after one year



JOHN KAMAU

As Kenyans prepare for yet another AG after the exit of Prof Githu Muigai, the story of Mr Karugu, the man who reintroduced the publication of the Kenya Law Reports and banned the manufacture and sale of chang'aa, is yet to be told."

The lawns by the pink-coloured Indian-inspired flat-roof villa are immaculate, green and splendid. While the coffee farm that rings the homestead —located on the outskirts of Kiambu town — is perhaps one of the best in Kenya.

Ever since Kenya's second Attorney-General, James Boro Karugu, retreated here some 37 years ago, the media seems to have forgotten a man touted as the best AG in Kenya. When I recently traced him to his farm, Mr Karugu was welcoming.

"This is where I decided to hide," Mr Karugu, 82, tells me in his first-ever media interview since he left his job, albeit in a huff, on the morning of June 2, 1981. His voice is a bit raspy and I edge closer to him. The entire family is here and they keep close to their father, who, interestingly, does not play golf — the solace of his age-mates.

"I have never played that boring game," he says.

Mr Karugu was a familiar name in the 1970s, when he was the deputy public prosecutor, until April 1980, when he was appointed by President Moi as the new Attorney-General to take over from Charles Njonjo, independent Kenya's first AG who had resigned to join politics. It was a well-calculated move by Mr Njonjo, who had ostensibly paid then Kikuyu MP Amos Ng'ang'a to resign to give him a chance to enter Parliament. Two months after he was elected unopposed, Mr Njonjo rejoined the Cabinet as a minister for Constitutional Affairs.

But hardly 15 months after his appointment, Mr Karugu surprised everyone by resigning. Nobody knows what transpired at State House and Karugu, 37 years later, is still unwilling to go into the fine details. "Let us put it this way — there were frustrations and issues that I could not push forward," he says as I press him. He then promises me that he will tell me at an opportune time.

What we know is that unlike other parrots of the Nyayo era, the now gray-haired Mr Karugu was fiercely independent and he respected the rule of law.

And when he decided that he couldn't work with President Moi, Mr Karugu hardly told anyone that he was throwing in the towel.

"I did not consult anybody, I just wrote the resignation letter," he tells me. Was he pushed or did he jump? We still don't know.

"But you didn't look for another job?" I ask him.

"I didn't. I did not want to be told what to do. I could not stand being ordered, 'Do this, do that'..." he says while almost dropping a hint about his departure.

Mr Karugu, his wife, Margaret (now late), and four children — Vicky, Mwaura, Rose and Githara — retreated into his coffee farm from his former residence in Loresho, away from the hustle and bustle of Nairobi. He started farming.

Kiamara Farm is historical and expansive. It was in a nearby Kathini Estate during the pioneer days of coffee that leaf thrust disease was identified first in East Africa and this saw the founder of Kiamara, John Walter Lennon, sell what was regarded as Kenya's finest coffee farm. That Mr Lennon sold the farm sent shockwaves through the coffee industry, since Kiamara was thought to be cushioned against any attack.

Many years later, it became the turn of Mr Karugu to buy the farm when most of the colonial farmers were leaving after independence. "I was forced to buy this farm by Jeremiah Kiereini. I knew nothing about coffee and he forced me to take a bank loan. Had he not got me interested, I certainly would not have bought it," he says. It was the best decision he made.

Mr Kiereini and Mr Karugu were good friends and were some of the post-independence pioneers in the civil service. As Mr Karugu tells me, and Mr Kiereini says as much in his autobiography, he (Kiereini) had a long interest in coffee farming. By the time he was coaxing Mr Karugu to buy Kiamara Farm, Mr Kiereini was already an established coffee farmer with 250 acres.

"I relied on him to turn around this farm. I also relied on my good friends Dr Njoroge Mungai and Mr D.G. Njoroge," he says. While Dr Mungai was a powerful Kenyatta Cabinet minister and Mr Kenyatta's physician, Mr Njoroge was the auditor-general for many years.

So close were Mr Karugu and Mr Kiereini that the latter says in his book that every week, they would all have lunch at either Red Bull or Bacchus Restaurant at The New Stanley. As many civil servants later found out, working with President Moi was arduous. On the day that Mr Kiereini was to be appointed the Head of Civil Service, President Moi had not even told Mr Geoffrey Kariithi, the incumbent, that he would be dropped. Only Mr Kiereini and President Moi knew and as he joined Mr Karugu for lunch at the Red Bull, Mr Kariithi appeared. He was the last man Mr Kiereini wanted to see on the day President Moi was to make the changes normally announced during the 1 o'clock KBC news.

"He normally did not have lunch with us so it was purely coincidental that he changed his routine that day and came to the restaurant instead," says Mr Kiereini. "He looked quite happy and relaxed as he joined us."

It was only after Mr Karugu, Mr Kiereini and Mr Kariithi stepped out of the restaurant that acquaintances started to congratulate Mr Kiereini. "Haven't you heard? You have been appointed Head of Civil Service!" one of them said in front of Mr Kariithi, who was jolted by the news.

"The news seemed to stun Kariithi, who stood more than a foot away, and I knew how he must have felt. Having served diligently for all those years, he had not even been made aware that he was about to be retrenched and replaced by his former deputy," Mr Kiereini recounts in his book.

And that was the classic Moi who had perhaps forgotten the role that Mr Kariithi had played for the smooth transition after the death of Jomo Kenyatta.

When he left the Moi administration, Mr Karugu — perhaps ever cautious — tells me that he built his new house in Kiamara for a reason: "I wanted to make a statement that I did not want to return to Nairobi."

Mr Karugu had graduated as a student of history and political science from Bowling Green State University in Ohio before proceeding to London for a law degree.

As we sip some tea, he fetches some pictures from his album: "In the US, I became a baby-sitter for Scott Hamilton, the one who later became an Olympic champion. This is the boy here and me," he says.

Hamilton, now a retired American figure skater, won four consecutive US championships (1981–84), four consecutive World Championships (1981–84) and a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics. His father, Dr Earnest Hamilton, was a lecturer at the Bowling Green campus, where Mr Karugu was a student.

"It was a tough job. I didn't know how to cook anything...," he says with a chuckle.

Mr Karugu's father had sold their four-acre farm in Chura, Kiambu, to send his son to the US to follow the dream of the likes of Mr Mugo Gatheru, later a professor (emeritus) of African and Middle-Eastern history at the State University of California-Sacramento from 1969 until his retirement in 2002.

"It was Mugo who advised me to study law after I graduated from Bowling Green," he recalls. "To me political science was just a simple subject."

Mr Karugu seemed to admire lawyers and the legal jargon and he diligently followed the Kapenguria trial of Jomo Kenyatta and the legal arguments. "I came to admire the likes of D.N. Pritt and A.R. Kapila who I later worked with."

In London, he met the likes of Kihara Muttu, a soft-spoken lawyer from Nyeri who later became a Principal State Counsel. But on returning home, Mr Karugu was penniless and could not start his own law firm. He was advised by friends to look for a job at the AG's chambers.

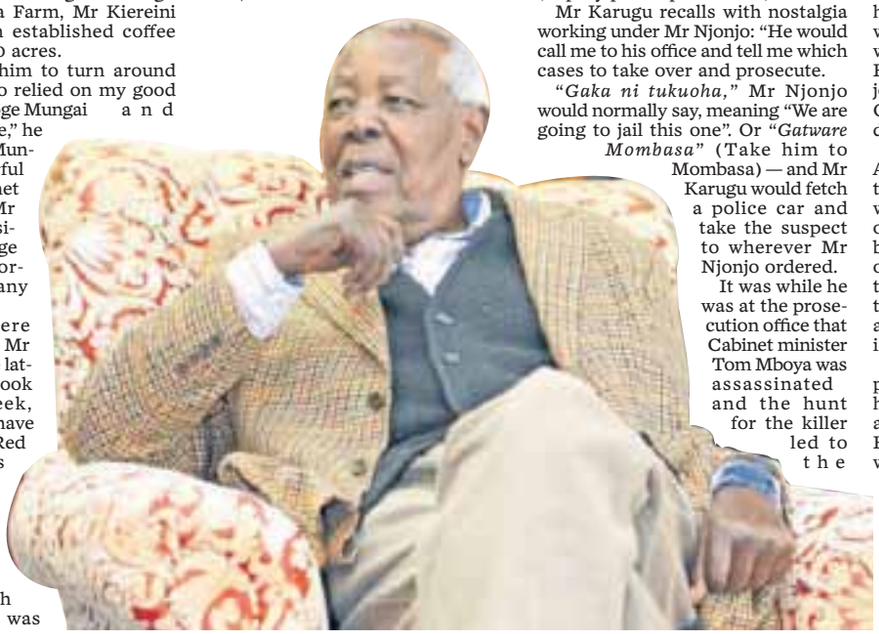
"So you worked under John Hobbs?" I ask him and he stares at me, stunned by my knowledge of John Hobbs. "Who are you?...and how come you know John Hobbs," he asks me.

In archival documents, Mr Hobbs is the one who appended signatures on most of the official documents apart from Mr Njonjo. "He was a pleasant person. I replaced John as the DPP (deputy public prosecutor)."

Mr Karugu recalls with nostalgia working under Mr Njonjo: "He would call me to his office and tell me which cases to take over and prosecute.

"*Gaka ni tukuoha,*" Mr Njonjo would normally say, meaning "We are going to jail this one". Or "*Gatware Mombasa*" (Take him to Mombasa) — and Mr Karugu would fetch a police car and take the suspect to wherever Mr Njonjo ordered.

It was while he was at the prosecution office that Cabinet minister Tom Mboya was assassinated and the hunt for the killer led to the arrest of Nahashon Isaac Njenga Njoroge, who was charged on July 21, 1969.



Mr Karugu wanted to prosecute this case but his senior, Mr Clive Brookes, decided not yet. "I wish I had the Mboya case," Mr Karugu thinks of how it would have built his image. "There was no way we were going to lose this case."

Winning epic cases always called for celebrations. "We would always go for drinks with Brookes and John Hobbs after winning classic cases."

"We had this attempted coup on Kenyatta in 1970 and you were the DPP? You were 33 and these were very senior men in the military," I ask him about the coup plotted by Army Commander Brigadier Joseph Ndolo and that implicated first African Chief Justice Kitili Mwendwa and several Kamba personalities, including Yatta MP Gideon Mutiso and Makerere don Prof Ouma Muga.

"This was a very big case, and focus turned to me. Had I lost that case, Mzee (Kenyatta) would not have forgiven me," he says. "I used to report to him on the progress of various cases. He would also call me to discuss cases."

Mr Karugu's appointment as Attorney General after Mr Njonjo left did not surprise him. He had not canvassed for the appointment. "I would have been surprised if I had been by-passed," he says.

But the appointment also came with the challenge of the famous Frank Sandstrom case, where an American marine had been accused of killing a Mombasa woman named Monica Njeri. The case had turned emotional after Justice Leslie Harris fined Mr Sandstrom Sh500 for killing the girl.

In Parliament, Mr Karugu surprised everyone when he said that he was not satisfied with the ruling. But by that time, the marine had paid the fine and left. "It was not the first time I had done it. I don't know why people were surprised."

His main worry when he became the AG was that corruption was taking root in the Judiciary. "Although it was not as rampant, it was there..."

And when he quit he had one philosophy that has guided him: "I don't have to be corrupt and I can earn money by farming."And that is why he took his wife and children to the farm in Kiambu to make what he calls an honest living. "I am lucky my children grew up knowing the joy of hard work." Interestingly, Mr Karugu's wife used to pick coffee on this farm when she was a young girl attending Kiambaa Primary School. She later joined Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, for a bachelor of arts degree in history.

As Kenyans prepare for yet another AG after the exit of Prof Githu Muigai, the story of Mr Karugu — the man who reintroduced the publication of Kenya Law Reports and also banned the manufacture and sale of chang'aa — is yet to be told. We then start admiring his mementos: the colonial passbooks, the passports and various other documents filed immaculately.

Pundits say that given his independence, there was no way he could have survived the Moi regime. He is a man who left with his head high to Kiamara Farm. As we stand outside, we could see the Two Rivers Mall standing out in the horizon.

"When you see Chris Kirubi, tell him he has blocked my view of Nairobi," he says as we shake hands.

jkamau@ke.nationmedia.com
@johnkamau1

Case > Co-accused, however, walks away scot-free after evidence fails to link him to heinous act

After five years, phone earns man conviction for landlord's murder

Son of former tenant found guilty of elderly woman's killing after failing to convince court phone was a gift

BY BENSON WAMBUGU
benwambugu62@gmail.com

Her dismembered body was found on the floor of her bedroom by one of her tenants on the morning of June 11, 2013.

There was a power outage that fateful night and Ms Grace Leposo's tenants went to her house to find out what might have been the cause.

But when her locked door was forced open, the body of the 72-year-old widow was found lying beside her bed chopped into six pieces. The shocking incident took place at Siranga in Upper Matasia, Kajiado County five years ago.

She had been decapitated; her upper limbs had been chopped off at the shoulders and her legs cut off at the hips. "A sharp object was used to perform this sickening act akin to a satanic ritual," said High Court judge Stella Mutuku.

This was murder most foul, the judge observed as she delivered her verdict against two men charged with the horrendous act.

"Grace ought not to have died the way she did. Indeed, no human being should meet such a fate. It would even be termed by animal lovers as cruelty to an animal if one were to be killed in this manner," said the judge.

She added: "Grace is a victim of a macabre murder committed by a very sick person or persons. Her murder can only be described as gruesome, horrific, horrendous and shocking."

In her verdict delivered on January 25, the judge found Mr Wilson Mwangi Githinji guilty of murder but acquitted Mr Simon Ndambari for lack of evidence linking him to Ms Leposo's death.

When the two men were charged on July 3, 2013, they both denied committing the offence. The prosecution lined up 16 witnesses.

Ms Leposo lived alone in her house a few metres from those of her eight tenants who were mostly casual workers in the area.

Her tenants and neighbours referred to her fondly as "*cucu*", Kikuyu for grandmother. Her children were all grown up and were either married or had moved away to start their lives.

Evidence adduced in court showed that Mr Ndambari, the second suspect who was acquitted, was cohabiting with Mr Githinji's mother Margaret Wanjiru who had rented one of Ms Leposo's houses.

Mr Githinji lived away. But, according to the evidence in court, the situation changed some time before Ms Leposo was killed.

The court heard that Mr Ndambari was found with a bag of maize which he had spread to dry outside and suspicious, Ms Leposo had sought to know where he got the maize from.

This resulted in a problematic relationship although it was not clear from the evidence whether this was the reason behind a notice to vacate Ms Leposo's house.

The two lovebirds, however, did not move far away and instead rented a house nearby.

In the meantime, Mr Githinji used to visit his mother and would occasionally be given odd jobs by Ms Leposo, according to the prosecution witnesses.

After the murder, Mr Githinji was arrested 10 days later in Karatina, Nyeri County, and Ms Leposo's mobile phone recovered from him.

"The recovery of the phone is the only credible evidence connecting Mr Githinji with this offence. This evidence brings into focus what is referred to as the 'doctrine of recent possession'," said Justice Mutuku.



FILE | NATION

Justice Stella Mutuku said the court was satisfied with evidence against Mr Wilson Githinji.

She explained: "The essence of the doctrine is that when an accused person is found in possession of recently stolen property and is unable to offer any reasonable explanation how he came to be in possession of that property, a presumption of fact arises that he is either the thief or receiver."

The judge said she had considered the evidence of Ms Leposo's son, Mr David Ng'ang'a, who accompanied police officers from Ngong to Karatina. She further said three other witnesses, who were police officers, were subjected to a detailed cross-examination and they maintained that Ms Leposo's phone was recovered from Mr Githinji.

A suggestion by Mr Githinji's lawyer that the phone was given to him by the widow as a present was rebutted by the prosecution. Mr Ng'ang'a told the trial court that his mother had only one phone and, therefore, could not have gifted Mr Githinji.

Mr Ndambari was let off the hook because a voluntary confession by Mr Githinji linking him to the murder could not be admitted in court as it was opposed by a lawyer as improperly procured.

Justice Mutuku said the evidence had satisfied the court that the phone was stolen in the course of Ms Leposo's attack.

But the judge faulted the investigator, police constable Bernard Marete, saying he might have been blinded by the confession by Mr Githinji and failed to thoroughly follow up all the leads that would have implicated or exonerated Mr Ndambari. "He may have participated in the murder but without tangible evidence to prove that he took part, this court cannot hold him to account," she said.

However, the judge said the manner in which Ms Leposo was killed pointed to the involvement of more than one person.

Thirty ward reps to face EACC probe

BY MOHAMED AHMED

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has summoned 30 members of the Taita Taveta County Assembly over unethical conduct.

The MCAs, who were involved in a brawl at the County Assembly over the formation of People's Assembly on January 12, will be interrogated from tomorrow at EACC offices in Mombasa.

The fight broke out after MCAs allied to Nasa passed the People's Assembly motion, amid spirited attempts by their Jubilee counterparts to paralyse the session by taking away the mace.

Jubilee MCAs argued that the motion had been sneaked in illegally. The ward representatives will be grilled by the anti-corruption agency investigators from the headquarters.

"They will come to record statements and for interrogations. This will be from Monday to Friday," said the commission's senior corporate communications officer, Ms Pamela Jepkemei in a statement.

The MCAs are among those that EACC had promised to deal with after they were involved in unethical incidents.

Those who will be found culpable of the offences risk losing their seats.

Other MCAs who were involved in fights are from Murang'a, Nyeri, Makueni, Kericho, Wajir and Nairobi.

Last week, the anti-corruption vice chair Sophia Lepuchirit said the commission will deal with public servants who behave unethically.

"Unless you change the Constitution, enforcement of chapter six is serious and will be done," she warned.

Court told ex-police boss killed man and framed 'criminal'

BY SAM KIPLAGAT

A former police boss accused of torturing a suspect in the cell leading to his death four years ago has called four witnesses in his defence.

But as the witnesses testified, it emerged that Nahashon Mutua, the former Ruaraka Police Station commander, ordered the release of some suspected criminals held in the cell at the time of the incident after they agreed to record statements implicating a fellow suspect in the death of Martin Koome.

The evidence emerged during the cross-examination of the witnesses who said they recorded statements implicating Kelvin Odhiambo in the death of Koome. The cellmates claimed that Koome was drunk and fought with Mr Odhiambo inside the cells.

The former cop was accused of torturing Koome to death inside police cells on the night of December 19, 2013. Koome had been arrested over a domestic brawl at his home in Baba Dogo, Nairobi.



FILE | NATION

Nahashon Mutua has been charged with the murder of Martin Koome on the night of December 19, 2013 at Ruaraka Police Station.

Koome died as a result of torture and severe beating. Evidence showed that he was assaulted using a metal pipe and his head immersed in water.

When the police took him to Kenyatta National Hospital 20 hours later, he had a swollen face, deep cuts, and his wife could barely recognise him, the court heard. The police lied that he had been assaulted by a mob when booking him at the hospital.

Soon after the incident, Mr Mutua was transferred to Machakos County as the Staffing Officer Personnel.

The court also heard that a plan was hatched to incriminate Mr Odhiambo with the death. He was later arrested and charged with murder but the case was terminated after the Independent Policing Oversight Authority investigated the matter and found that the culprit was Mr Mutua.

Justice Stella Mutuku placed the former OCS on his defence, saying an eyewitness saw him beating up the suspect.

Mr Mutua called Gilbert Kapule, Ms Doreen Karuthi Kagiri, a bar maid in the area, and Mr Emmanuel Shikuku Sumba, a bouncer.

In his testimony, Mr Mutua admitted ordering Koome to be placed in the cells though he was drunk. Asked why he sent a drunk person in a cell with other suspects, Mr Mutua said Ruaraka Police Station had only one cell. The accused person denied that he violated the Police Service Standing Orders.

He also admitted that he directed a police inspector identified as Chea to record statements from persons who had been locked up together with Koome. In the statements, the suspects implicated Mr Odhiambo for the murder.

According to Mr Mutua, Mr Koome was brought to the station injured with bruises on his hands and blood stains on his vest. Two of his teeth had also been knocked out, he said.

He, however, admitted this was not recorded in the occurrence book.

Mr Kapule told the court that he was in remand together with Mr Odhiambo and he allegedly confided in him that he was the one who killed Koome but framed the OCS to escape murder charges.

On cross examination, it emerged that Mr Kapule was arrested for killing his girlfriend in Kariobangi and was arrested in Malaba town eight months later.

Mr Mutua was accused of interfering with the investigations by intimidating and coercing witnesses who had recorded statements with IPOA and he was also the one who gave a misleading report, implicating Mr Odhiambo with the murder of Koome. The case was later terminated after it emerged that the report was false.

The case was adjourned to March 19 when three police officers are expected to testify.

Change> Ramaphosa came to Kenya as a mediator in 2008 but was rejected by the Party of National Unity, which was then

Fall of African leaders not a guarantee to people power

Corruption is common in Sub-Sahara, with four out of five East African countries scoring high marks

BY AGGREY MUTAMBO
amutambo@ke.nationmedia.com

South Africa, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia will be having new leaders this year in an unexpected turn of events where office holders have either resigned or forced from office.

They joined the Gambia and Burkina Faso, two countries that chased their leaders out of town recently.

In South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma the scandal monger was forced out this week, just hours before MPs could begin proceedings on his impeachment.

Ethiopian PM Hailemariam Desalegn handed in his resignation after conceding that a solution to continued protests in some regions could only be found with him out of power.

Should Africa celebrate these events or just consider them ordinary occurrences?

Mr Zuma's replacement, Cyril Ramaphosa, promised to fight corruption, something that identified with his predecessor's tenure.

"This is not yet uhuru. We have never said it is uhuru. We are going to seek to improve the lives of our people on an ongoing basis, and since 1994, we have done precisely that," said Mr Ramaphosa after he took the oath of office.

"Issues to do with corruption, issues of how we can straighten out our state-owned enterprises and how we deal with 'state capture' are on our radar."

Corruption is common in Sub-Sahara. According to the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, Pretoria is 64th out of 176 countries.

Kenya is 145th, just a rank above the failed state of South Sudan. Ethiopia is ranked at 108, closely followed by Tanzania at 116. In east and southern Africa, only Namibia, Rwanda and Botswana scored above 50 points.

Some observers feel Mr Ramaphosa could help cure corruption in South Africa and essentially affect dealings with the countries Pretoria trades with.

"Ramaphosa knows how to tap into the global community for partnerships. He is a businessman and only wants efficiency," Prof Maurice Amutabi, a historian and Vice-Chancellor of Lukenya University, said.

President Uhuru Kenyatta met the new South African leader last month when he attended ANC celebrations where diplomats said the two urged for better business relations.

The event seemed to be the first step in ironing out differences with Mr Ramaphosa, whose closeness to National Super Alliance leader Raila Odinga is an open secret.

Mr Ramaphosa was rejected by the Party of National Unity as mediator during Kenya's 2008 chaos.



PHOTO | AFP

President Ramaphosa (second right) reviews a guard of honour just before delivering the State of the Nation address in Cape Town yesterday.

At Stake

THE POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS

Few know if the change in the Ethiopian Government will pacify the Oromo and Amhara. Some have suggested senior Oromo politicians like Workneh Gebeyehu (foreign Minister) and Lema Megersa (Oromio region president) or Demeke Mekonen (Amhara, deputy prime minister) could take over from Mr Hailemariam.

In Zimbabwe, the opposition MDC has chosen an acting president but there are fears of a power struggle.

> We can look up to Ethiopia because the prime minister's resignation was because of continued protests. We should not celebrate yet for it may not bring change,"
> **Tom Mboya, Maseno University lecturer**

Some experts think it will not be obvious for Mr Ramaphosa to fit this expectation yet, especially given that his ascension was engineered by the ANC top brass.

"There may not be much impact in the cases of South Africa or Zimbabwe on African politics," said Mr Tom Mboya who teaches political science at Maseno University.

"This is because senior leaders in the Zimbabwe military and the party started the change. In South Africa, ANC even rejected a motion of no confidence by the opposition, a move they had planned to pull on Zuma last week. It says something."

Mr Mboya added that influential political happenings should normally follow the pattern of the Arab Spring or the clamour for political plurality in Africa in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"At that time, it was a bottom-up approach. Fed up with their governments, citizens and civil society demanded change," he said.

"We can look up to Ethiopia since the prime minister's resignation was because of protests. We should not celebrate yet for it may not bring the desired democratic change on the continent."

During the clamour for democracy, some countries got better at elections. Ghana, Zambia and Malawi are examples. Others like Somalia, the Central Africa Republic, the DR Congo and Burundi plunged into chaos.

However, Ethiopia's case is complicated. Diplomatic sources told the *Sunday Nation* that some key political players had been meeting quietly in Nairobi to try and steer restive Oromia and Amhara regions into the national fold.

The diplomats added said dominant figures in the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, a member of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, suggested direct talks with the Oromo Democratic Front, an organisation that is not in the ruling coalition and some of whose leaders had been jailed.

The ruling coalition controls all seats in the 547-parliament but is dominated by TPLF.

Others are the Oromo Peoples' Democratic Organisation, the ANDM based in the Amhara region and the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement.

The PM's resignation will await a formal acceptance by his party.

African political parties can learn a lot from Jacob Zuma's exit

BY BOB WEKESA

The dramatic finale of the Jacob Zuma years and the dawn of the Cyril Ramaphosa era provide fodder for reflection on the state of African political parties.

In principle, parties are equal parts but weak structurally and bankrupt ideologically. The totem poles around which party rank-and-file dance are dominant figures oftentimes party-cum-government presidents or acclaimed opposition leaders.

We know of Denis Sassou Nguesso of Republic of Congo, in power since 1979, not the Congolese Party of Labour. President Paul Biya, 36 years in power, registers when we think of his country rather than the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement.

Yoweri Museveni squares with our knowledge of Uganda rather than the National Resistance Movement.

In essence, personality cults trump strong, institutionalised party structures and processes. An exception is South Africa as evidenced by the unfolding events in the African National Congress. ANC held elections in December which saw Ramaphosa take the helm as party president, replacing Jacob Zuma.

The conundrum is that Zuma relinquished the party presidency but retained the position of head of state and government with Ramaphosa as his deputy – that is, until Wednesday.

Ramaphosa's ascendency touched off clamour for Zuma's resignation of state presidency, failing which his hand would be forced by the party.

Constitutionally, Zuma had more than a year to continue as state president. In the end, ANC was constrained to recall him, catalysing his reluctant resignation.

The leadership transition saga in ANC is nuanced and intricate. To cut to the chase the fluid dynamics leading to Zuma's exit speak to the exceptionalism of ANC and the rainbow nation *vis a vis* party politics practice and norms elsewhere in Africa.

In most African countries, a president would go to great lengths to retain power. In South Africa, fell on his sword when ANC pulled the rug under his feet.

It boils down to a strong ANC constitution backed by traditions and conventions where personalities are secondary to party interests.

How do political parties in other countries fare in terms of keeping faith with constitutions? This is a pertinent question because 2018 will witness presidential elections in Cameroon, DR Congo, Egypt, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Save for Mauritius, these are fragile democracies where missteps during polls can touch off civil strife. And, the missteps often begin at party level.

It does not inspire confidence that parties in these countries are beholden to personalities. In South Sudan, which goes to the polls in July, the clash between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement triggered a civil war.

For DR Congo, analysts warn the slow-punctured conflict could escalate into an all-out war as the country heads to the polls in December. How many parties are there in DR Congo? Well, close to 500 — a commentary on failures of party management.

In Kenya, the dizzying fragmentation and turnover of parties since the 1990s is down to the banal patronage system of political organisations.

Observers would have noticed that ANC structures were fully seized of the transition, especially the apex National Executive and the National Working committees. In other words, it is not just that ANC supersedes individuals but that the party operates a predictable *modus operandi*.

A glance at parties in the forementioned countries indicates structures and processes do not matter as authority is vested in the "big man".

However, ANC is not pitch-perfect as the rancorous Zuma-to-Ramaphosa changeover demonstrated.

The kernel for Africa in the ANC and national leadership change is that party ideals hold sway. Cautiously, we can argue that Ramaphosa, ANC and South Africa have risen again as moral exemplars for African political parties in terms of good practice in transitional governance.

The writer is a lecturer at University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, bobwekesa@gmail.com

supported by Mr Uhuru Kenyatta



Trump favours military might over 'soft power'

KEVIN J KELLEY
New York

Donald Trump's Africa-related budget for next year proposes greater reliance on military might and reduced funding for diplomacy and US "soft power" initiatives such as promoting democracy and providing health care.

For Kenya, which the US regards as an important strategic ally, the president is seeking generally steady funding for development programmes. Mr Trump's policies, however, are causing some Kenyan non-governmental organisations to shed staff and curtail women's health services. And the president appears to be signaling that the US will advocate less forcefully on behalf of human rights and democratic freedoms in Kenya and elsewhere on the continent.

Overall, the State Department and the US Agency for International Development are slated in Mr Trump's budget to receive a total of about $42 billion, a 30 percent cut from current levels of funding. US military spending, on the other hand, would rise to $716 billion, a roughly 10 percent increase.

Mr Trump's budget requests for the 2019 fiscal year beginning this October show that the White House views Africa primarily through the lens of US national security. Emphasis is placed on combating Islamist insurgencies, partly through the direct deployment of 6000 US soldiers in Africa, while economies are sought in non-military aid programmes.

But the US Congress is unlikely to endorse this radical refocusing of Africa policy. A similarly stringent approach toward the sub-Saharan region outlined in Mr Trump's 2018 spending plan was largely rejected on Capitol Hill last year, with many budget items restored to amounts appropriated in the final year of Barack Obama's presidency.

"A strong bipartisan coalition in Congress has already acted once to stop deep cuts to the State Department and Agency for International Development that would have undermined our national security," Ed Royce, an influential Republican member of Congress, said last week. "This year, we will act again."

The National Endowment for Democracy, which committed about $3 million to democratic governance efforts in Kenya in 2017, is targeted for an 80 per cent slash in funding. Trump administration officials say, however, that this steep reduction would be partly offset by a proposed 50 percent increase in State Department and USAid activities related to democracy-building.

US global health programmes would meanwhile be scaled back sharply, with funding for Kenya set to fall from $86 million to $55 million. Mr Trump wants to cut international family planning aid by half, while also decreasing US assistance to the United Nations' fight against Aids, tuberculosis and malaria by 30 percent.

The African Development Foundation, which spent $1.4 million on food security and agricultural development in Turkana County in 2017, would see its overall budget plummet from $30 million to $4.6 million. That proposed sum would be used "to conduct an orderly close-out" of the fund's operations starting next year, White House budget documents state. The fund's activities would be partly merged into USAid's Africa bureau, the Trump team says.

716bn Amount in dollars that Trump has allocated for US military in his government's budget

The State Department unit focused specifically on Africa is slated for a $40 million chop in funding — from $225 million at present to an envisioned $185 million. That scale-down can be seen as reflecting President Trump's inattention to Africa. Mr Trump clearly wants Africa and the rest of the world to view him as a tough-minded leader unafraid to break with traditional norms of US foreign policy.

Establishment > It was established in gazette notice in March last year

Kenya yet to up its rich space agenda

The agency was given a list of activities but it still cannot move without the chairman of the board

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI
eondieki@ke.nationmedia.com
AND SILAS APOLLO
sapollo@ke.nationmedia.com

President Uhuru Kenyatta's March 2017 gazette notice establishing the Kenya Space Agency appeared to usher in a new era for Kenyan scientists, but little has happened since.

The agency was given an array of responsibilities that included co-ordinating space-related activities, recommending national space policies and establishing centres of excellence in space science. But almost a year later, the President has not appointed a chairman of the board, meaning it cannot start operations.

And so when scientists from about 40 countries met in Nairobi for the International Space Forum on Tuesday, Defence Cabinet Secretary (CS) Rachelle Omamo could only enumerate the benefits the inchoate space centre will bring.

According to Dr John Kimani, the Kenya Space Agency lead scientist, there will be an operational body by June.

"Last year was a very busy year for the country. Most of the year was spent on electioneering. So, we were waiting for the political dust to settle down," said Dr Kimani, who was in charge of the National Space Secretariat that was disbanded to give way for the Kenya Space Agency.

He added that after Mr Kenyatta's team of Cabinet Secretaries and Principal Secretaries is complete, there will be more focus on State corporations.

"After that, the Defence CS will also appoint three independent members of the board, in consultation with the Executive. Once we have that in place, then we will be ready to constitute and inaugurate the board. I can see that happening before June this year," said Dr Kimani at his office at the Department of Defence headquarters.

Dr Kimani, a trainer at the Kenya Defence Forces Technical College, foresees a transformed Kenya once the space agency is in place. He noted that Kenya will focus on having satellites in the orbit that will help Kenyan authorities perform various applications. The most immediate application to be launched, he said, will relate to agriculture.

"Using space technology, we will be able to advise farmers about their soils: what needs to be added to their soils. Instead of doing the manual soil analysis, using space you can tell the type of soils that we have, what needs to be added, what can best grow in such soil," said the 59-year-old PhD holder.

2017 President Uhuru Kenyatta in March this year established the Kenya Space Agency.

He added that the same technology can be used in helping meteorologists predict the weather, assist scientists to find underground and surface water, help in treating patients using technological innovations, assist in urban planning among other functions.

Ms Omamo, speaking at Tuesday's event, was of the same opinion: "Space technologies can provide effective solutions to the many problems of food security, provision of water and health care as well as job creation that African countries need."

On matters space, there are few Kenyan specialists ready to further opportunities the government will provide, among them Dr Kimani, Prof Paul Baki of Technical University of Kenya (TUK) and Prof Hunja Waithaka.

Prof Baki told the *Sunday Nation* that Kenya is a "sleeping giant" on matters space.

"We have not made use of our geographic location on the Equator; because this is the best place to launch satellites into space. You need minimum energy to send it there. If you're off the equator, you must spend tonnes of fuel to put something into orbit," he said.

"This is an area where the government needs to find a partner to work with. Launch of satellites is big business and that alone can help us rake in billions of shillings," added Prof Baki, 52.

The scientist said Kenya can take advantage of the Italy-owned Luigi Broglio Space Centre in Malindi. The centre was built in the 1960s but has not been used to launch missiles for almost three decades.

He said last year's gazetting of the Kenya Space Agency was the finalisation of years of brainstorming on how Kenya would handle issues relating to space.

The same view is held by Dr Kimani.

"We tabled the Kenya Space Policy documents to the Cabinet for approval. We realised that if we went the route of the Bill in Parliament it would have taken longer. So, we converted the Bill into an executive order," he said.

Prof Baki said if Kenya steps up its space programme, it stands to clinch various deals.

"Already, there are many interest groups wanting to do things with us as Kenyans. But without a properly functional agency, there is very little room for engagement," said Prof Baki.



FILE | NATION

Defence CS Raychelle Omamo with other delegates during 2nd international space forum.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

What will Nasa do now that it has not already done to change the status quo?



KWENDO OPANGA

> The future of Nasa and of Kenya's democracy at the moment is predicated on civil disobedience or mass action, dialogue and presidential poll."

Last October, as National Super Alliance (Nasa) announced its disastrous boycott of the court-ordered repeat presidential poll, it declared: "We won the battle for multi-party democracy. We won the battle for a new Constitution. We shall win the battle for a free election."

Last week came an identical war cry from the National Assembly's Majority Leader Aden Duale: "We vetted the nominees (for Cabinet Secretaries) without them; we will present the report without them; debate the report without them; and pass or reject the nominees without them." These are the two visions of Kenya in 2018. The latter belongs to Jubilee Party and boasts "we call the shots here because we are an elected government. Take it or leave it." The former belongs to the opposition and it says the presidential election was not won fairly and so *aluta continua*.

Nasa sat out the presidential poll claiming that because the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) remained intact, the fix was in. It subsequently rejected the election of President Uhuru Kenyatta and the government as illegitimate and shunned business of parliamentary committees. Mr Duale's remarks reinforced the Jubilee's position that Nasa's boycott of parliamentary committees shall not hamper the work of government. It was, of course, preceded by Nasa's threat of mass action, demands for dialogue with government and a new presidential election in August.

Some background information is in order here. When Nasa boycotted the October 26 repeat poll, it followed up with a demand for a new election within 90 days before calling for an interim government to run the country for six months in preparation for a new election. None happened. This demand for a fresh poll next August is significant because the month will mark a year since last year's General Election in which Nasa was comprehensively beaten, but whose presidential poll result Mr Raila Odinga challenged in the Supreme Court and hence the re-run. Now, rewind to Saturday, May 31, 2014. Mr Odinga has just returned from a three-month visit to the US and, at a well-attended reception at Uhuru Park, he says: "All that has gone wrong cannot be rectified until both the government and opposition hold a national dialogue on July 7." His running mate in their failed 2013 presidential bid, Mr Kalonzo Musyoka, chimed in: "It is impossible for 60 per cent of the population to be left out of government. We are talking about an all-inclusive government. The countries that have developed are those that practise true democracy."

Mr Moses Wetang'ula was a co-principal in the then Coalition for Reforms and Democracy (CORD) which, in 2017, mutated into Nasa. He minced no words: "Kenyans are tired and they are ready to climb every hill to make sure freedom is not an abstract read in books, but is lived and practised."

CORD's push for dialogue and an inclusive government came to naught as July 7 (Saba Saba), an anniversary for the crusade for political pluralism, came and went uneventfully. That forced CORD to embark on the impactful two-year-long campaign of exposing grand corruption in government.

Pushed to a corner in 2015, government moved to quieten the anti-graft campaign by sacking five cabinet ministers. But it remained and remains in place. So, what will Nasa do that it has not already done or that CORD did not do to change the status quo?

The future of Nasa and of Kenya's democracy at the moment is predicated on civil disobedience or mass action, dialogue and a presidential election. The only one of the three that is sure to happen is mass action. But will it bring about dialogue and a presidential poll?

The answer is that because the government has ruled out dialogue on elections with Nasa and refused to listen to any calls for talks no matter how well-intentioned, Nasa is emboldened to go for mass action to force government's hand.

Mass action could assume its own life and lead to loss of lives and livelihoods and serious disruption of household, regional and national economies. There is absolutely no reason why Kenyans should burn their house because they have a quarrel with a pesky residential rat.

Because protagonists cannot agree on anything a third party, preferably local, should be invited to arbitrate and prepare the way forward for Kenya. However, its point of departure must be to ascertain who won the August presidential poll without invalidating the October repeat. August 8 produced one winner, not two.

Opanga is a commentator with a bias for politics
wkopanga@gmail.com

GUEST COLUMN

Each one of us must respect separation of powers

DEMAS KIPRONO

> During those dark times, the Judiciary was in sync with the Executive and thus directly or indirectly facilitated these atrocities."

The Executive and Judiciary seem to be on a collision course, especially after Cabinet Secretary Raphael Tuju wrote a strongly worded letter to the Chief Justice complaining of alleged judicial bias. Then there was Justice Luka Kimaru's ruling that indicted the police and Immigration leadership for contempt of court and his pronouncements faulting and quashing Miguna Miguna's deportation to Canada.

This comes a week after the Inspector-General of Police, Director of Criminal Investigations, Cabinet Secretary for Interior, Cabinet Secretary ICT and the Communications Authority of Kenya collectively ignored or failed to honour several court orders relating to Mr Miguna's arrest and the shutdown of the main TV stations.

Any historian or legal practitioner will tell you that the rule of law is paramount in any civilised society. It is the principle that law, guided by the constitution, should govern a nation, as opposed to being governed by decisions or whims of government officials. In Kenya, the 2010 Constitution spells out the roles to be played by different creatures of government.

It is noteworthy that Article 27 provides that every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit. This means that every citizen – regardless of class, sex, gender, religion, tribe and race – is subject to the law, including government officials who wield executive power on our behalf.

Separation of powers refers to the division of government duties and responsibilities into separate branches to prevent any one from exercising the functions of another. The intent is to provide for checks and balances because of the innately corrupting nature of power.

In this arrangement, Parliament, made up of the Senate and the National Assembly, is responsible for enacting laws and allocating monies; the Executive is responsible for implementing public policy and protecting life and property; and, the Judiciary is responsible for interpreting the constitution and laws and administering justice.

Other important cogs in our unique system of checks and balances are Constitutional Commissions and independent offices that play various roles. These include the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the National Land Commission, the Judicial Service Commission, the National Police Service Commission, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, the National Gender and Equality Commission, the Commission on Administrative Justice, the Auditor-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Kenya's history is replete with stories of Executive excesses that caused unimaginable pain and suffering to citizens through marginalisation and discrimination, torture, killings, malicious prosecutions and holding suspects incommunicado merely because they held divergent views from those in government.

During those dark times, the Judiciary was in sync with the Executive and thus directly or indirectly facilitated these atrocities. Our current constitutional design seeks to buttress and protect the Judiciary from State capture for this very reason.

Over the past six years, both the government and the opposition have openly criticised the Judiciary, depending on whether or not they agreed with court decisions in cases they considered vital. After the 2013 presidential petition, Mr Raila Odinga termed the Supreme Court as *bandia* (fake) while President Uhuru Kenyatta is on record calling the Supreme Court *wakora* (frauds) in 2017. It is natural to be in disagreement with some court decisions. However, what you do after that makes all the difference.

No matter how much someone feels aggrieved with a judicial decision or court order, the civilised thing to do is to comply and appeal.

Our leaders, especially those who draw their authority from the Constitution, should be careful not to appear to encourage disrespect or apathy towards the courts because the Judiciary is the only organ charged with administering justice in criminal, civil or constitutional matters.

In fact, many believe that the 2007-2008 post-election violence happened because a section of the country did not have faith in the courts. Let us not take Kenya back to this frame of things especially when the ethnic and political divide is palpable.

Additionally, our laws have provisions that allow parties to lodge formal complaints to JSC regarding the conduct of judges. These channels should be used as opposed to public pronouncements and disregarding court orders that a party does not feel are proper.

Demas Kiprono is Senior Legal Officer - ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa
demaslaw@gmail.com Twitter:

MY THOUGHTS

Lessons for Kenyans in Zuma's exit



DOMINIC WAMUGUNDA

> Many of us behave as if respect and commitment to the national constitution is the preserve of those in government."

I happened to be awake when it was announced that Jacob Zuma of South Africa was going to address a press conference. Given the events that had taken place in the preceding few weeks and the fact that their parliament was due to pass a vote of no confidence in him the following day at the instigation of his own ANC party, there was no doubt on anybody's mind what the press conference was all about. Sure enough he did not disappoint. He gave a well articulated speech at the end of which he offered to resign with immediate effect.

Zuma is no longer the president of the biggest economy in Africa and Cyril Ramaphosa, who in any case had been elected president of the ANC not so long ago, is the new leader. Jacob Zuma should have seen the writing on the wall for, indeed, that is more or less the manner in which he had become national president after he was elected president of ANC when Thabo Mbeki was the sitting president.

Final speech

In spite of all the dust he had generated trying to resist resignation, his final speech redeemed him a little bit. The bottom line of the speech was that he would respect the constitution of the party he had served for all his life and that of his nation.

The reasons he was being ousted were several but he chose not to respond to any of them. Rather, he focused on two reasons why he was resigning. That he was committed to his party which is over a hundred years old and to the constitution of his nation. That, to me, is a mark of a civilised society.

Aware of our political situation, I had no choice but to ask myself a few questions. How many of our political "leaders" or the rest of us Kenyans can talk about consistent commitment to any one political party? How many of our leaders can claim to know what party they will belong to in the next elections? How many of them – including those who claim they fought hard for its establishment - can claim to be totally and sincerely committed to our national constitution?

The main reason we find ourselves in the political problems we get ourselves into is our inability to answer the questions above. Many of us simply have no commitment to any political party that has a specific guiding philosophy leave alone any respect or knowledge of such a party's constitution.

Many of us behave as if respect and commitment to the national constitution is the preserve of those in government. On the contrary, every citizen must respect the rule of law.

The writer is dean of students at the University of Nairobi wamugundaw@uonbi.ac.ke

OPINION

Foreign diplomats chose the path of least resistance

Last week, the opposition coalition, Nasa, termed as interference with the internal affairs of Kenya a statement by 11 Western missions represented in Nairobi, which had called on the opposition to accept the judgment of the Supreme Court upholding the election of Uhuru Kenyatta as President of Kenya.

This is not the first time that diplomats have spoken on internal affairs of the country.

In the course of the country's long elections season last year, there were important developments to which the diplomatic community felt a need to react publicly, like when Chris Msando was killed in July, or when the Supreme Court annulled the first presidential election in September.

Expectation that the diplomatic community will take an interest in Kenya's domestic affairs is historical. In the 1980s and 1990s, when Kenya faced governance challenges similar to those experiences more recently, the diplomatic community played a very public role in the search for solutions. Smith Hempstone, US ambassador from 1989 to 1993, became the most outspoken diplomat of the time. Later, William Bellamy (2003-2006) was also outspoken. It was not just the United States that played a public role in Kenya's domestic issues. Scandinavian diplomacy, distinctly different from the style employed by the US and the United Kingdom, was also very prominent in the country.

At the time, Western diplomats



GEORGE KEGORO

> Dialogue on the terms proposed by the diplomats would be impossible to organise."

usually spoke individually, rather than collectively as they now do, and some of them established a strong connection with the larger public, rather than with just the country's top leadership. Speaking individually tended to have an equalising effect among the diplomats, away from the current practice where European diplomats are happy to take cover under the European Union ambassador, and the US ambassador feels a need to carry the voice of the entire diplomatic corps. However, taking individual positions also came with individual risks, like when Kenya broke relations with Norway in 1990, a consequence of that country's lone position in criticising Kenya's leadership at the time. Through the Moi years, different US ambassadors found themselves at odds with the Kenya government.

Subsequent political difficulties have made the period after the 2002 elections seem like a season of bliss for Kenya, even though it was during this time that then British High Commissioner Edward Clay emerged as a fierce critic, accusing leaders in the new government of "gluttony" and "vomiting on our shoes".

A level of polarisation followed the 2007/8 violence, and has had a profound effect on what is regarded as acceptable political posture. In the face of the polarisation, and with common ground becoming ever more elusive, moral equivalence became evident in public debates, with the effect that diplomats are increasingly struggling to find positions which will not expose them to accusations of siding with one or other of the political sides. In an attempt to demonstrate "balance", taking positions on the basis of conviction has become rare, and there has been a decline in amount of risk that individual diplomats are prepared to take.

Speaking collectively is now a way of avoiding risk. However, taking collective positions projects weakness, not strength, and signifies a perfunctory engagement with the issues at hand. Speaking collectively must also mean that the position taken is the product of compromise, maybe the preference of the least courageous among them.

Even with the precaution to speak in groups, diplomats have not avoided accusations of bias, with a number of missions facing accusations that they prefer one or other of the dominant political formations in the country. The United States and the United Kingdom are good examples.

Up until the two presidential elections last year, the diplomats could find common ground on the country's polarised situation. However, the intractable political situation now unfolding has come with a further erosion of common ground and, with it, the lack of a safe place where the diplomatic community can pitch. At the same time, the situation is now more demanding of their voices than was the case before.

Last week's statement by the diplomatic community was profound and will go a long way in shaping the country's immediate future. The statement was a final position on the rival acts of brinksmanship which the protagonists in the country's crisis have employed, in order to consolidate their entrenched positions. The envoys rejected Nasa's mock swearing-in of Raila Odinga as the "people's president", but chose to see Jubilee's excesses as isolated illegalities, rather than the onset of authoritarian nationalism in Kenya, of which there is abundant and ever-growing evidence.

Faced with this stark situation, the diplomatic community has cast its lot with Jubilee, whose brinkmanship will only increase, pronouncing that any dialogue can only be held on a basis that recognises Uhuru Kenyatta as the validly elected President of Kenya, even though dialogue on such terms would leave the opposition with no guarantees that any agreement reached could ever be honoured. An important countervailing force against one-party excesses was the role of foreign governments, which promoted human rights even in the worst of times. Last week's position takes Kenya to a place where, in addition to the power it derives from controlling the state machinery, the group in power also enjoys the support of influential foreign governments which are prepared to minimise concerns over what could end up as the next Mugabe-like regime on the African continent.

While it was open for the foreign envoys to confront Jubilee, and insist that they organise a national dialogue, the diplomats have chosen appeasement, the path of least resistance. In addition to its control of the state machinery and the fortuitous backing from the diplomatic community, Kenyatta enjoys the support of a sector that always opposed Moi: The business sector. Dialogue on the terms proposed by the diplomats would be impossible to organise.

In the absence of dialogue, there will be no place for a formal opposition in Kenyan politics, since political power will be privatised in Jubilee.

gkegoro@gmail.com

OPINION

Strong parties needed to entrench development and democracy

Development and democracy in Africa are on a collision course – and at a crossroads. Recent events in Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and South Africa demand a relook into the role of political parties in ensuring that democracy promotes, not undermines, development. Ever since Deng Xiaoping spearheaded a new brand of thinking that combined socialist ideology with pragmatic market economy over 25 years ago — opening China to foreign investment and the global market and transforming it into one of the fastest-growing economies and pulling over 600 million people out of abject poverty — debate has revolved around the causal link between development and democracy.

Hitherto, this debate revolved around two intellectual planks. One view, associated with Bruce Mesquita and George Downs, is that economic liberalisation does not lead to liberal democracy (Foreign Affairs, September/October 2005). Simply put, development can proceed without democracy.

The second view, articulated by Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, is that economic development inevitably leads to the deepening of democracy (Foreign Affairs (March/April 2009). In a word, economic growth creates an entrepreneurial middle class that inexorably begins to demand control over its own destiny, ultimately forcing even repressive governments to give in to democracy. However, election-related uncertainties in Africa, as elsewhere, show that the link between economic development and what is generally referred to as liberal democracy is actually quite weak and getting increasingly weaker. The single lesson learnt from Kenya's "double elections" in 2017 is that liberal democracy has eroded gains made in development and imperiled future efforts to eradicate poverty. It is estimated that the country lost nearly Sh1 trillion by the end of December.

In recent months, African political thinkers have been rethinking the plight of the beleaguered Anglo-Saxon model of liberal democracy. They have turned attention to political parties as an alternative framework of anchoring development and democracy based on the idea of "democratic centralism" in which political decisions reached by a strong party formation (through its democratically elected bodies) are binding upon all members of the party.

While still "looking West" for models of economic development, Africa is looking East for models to safeguard development, eliminate poverty and implement long-term vision of development such as Kenya's Vision 2030. They are inspired by China's meteoric rise from a poverty-stricken Third World country to a superpower! China's model of democratic centrism is increasingly studied as a possible option to ensure that uncertainties relating to elections and liberal democracy do not undermine the gains made in development and in fighting poverty and underdevelopment.

On February 16, President Uhuru Kenyatta's nine Cabinet Secretary nominees were sworn in to complete a 22-strong Cabinet expected to spearhead his Big Four agenda — manufacturing, universal healthcare, affordable housing, and food security — to underpin his development legacy. His Jubilee Party plans to create 1.3 million manufacturing jobs by 2022 and achieve a 100 per cent health coverage for every Kenyan. To finish the war that Africa's founding fathers declared on the "three enemies" after independence (ignorance, poverty and disease), Africa will need strong democratic and inclusive parties.

In September 2016, Kenyatta launched the Jubilee Party of Kenya as a merger of 11 political parties as the largest political formation in Kenya since the defeat of KANU in 2002. This followed long study tours of the Communist Party of China and South Africa's Africa National Congress (ANC) as parties based on the doctrine of democratic centralism.

On January 13, Kenyatta led



PETER KAGWANJA

> Recent events demand a relook into the role of political parties in ensuring democracy promotes development."

a powerful delegation of his Jubilee Party to South Africa during the ANC's 106th anniversary celebrations in East London. The delegation carried back home vital lessons from the ANC, Africa's oldest party, which has ably managed two acrimonious transitions in 2008 and 2018 without endangering the security and stability of the continent's most industrialised nation.

On February 14, the ANC proved its mettle as a guarantor of stability when Jacob Zuma resigned after the party told him to step down or face a vote of no-confidence in Parliament, paving the way for South Africa's 4th President, Cyril Ramaphosa (65). The new President has a weighty task healing the nation, uniting and strengthening the ruling party to reverse Zuma's legacy of scandals relating to corruption and state capture and reviving South Africa's battered economy.

Similarly, the surprise resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn on February 15 as Ethiopian prime minister and head of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) is testing the strength and resilience of the ruling coalition in one of Africa's fastest-growing economies. Desalegn's resignation was seen as "vital in the bid to carry out reforms that would lead to sustainable peace and democracy" in a country rocked by months of ethnic-based violent unrest and political instability.

As in Zimbabwe, where the military linked to the powerful ruling party ZANU-PF ousted Robert Mugabe as party leader and replaced him with his former Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa in November, the removal of Zuma and resignation of Desalegn reveal the evolving role of party politburos and parliamentary caucuses in stabilising democracies.

In Zimbabwe, Mugabe's resignation on November 21 2017, prior to impeachment proceedings in Parliament, has enabled the ruling Zanu-PF to re-engineer itself ahead of the April 2018 election and deepened its democratic centralism. As in Ethiopia, Zanu-PF has been responding to nationwide protests in July 2016 regarding economic collapse in the country.

Finally, Africa's fragile and anarchic opposition parties pose a major threat to democracy and development. The death of Zimbabwe's opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai (65) on February 14 has thrown a shroud of uncertainty over his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) less than three months after the army ousted Mugabe from power and ahead of a major election this year. In another sense, Zimbabwe signifies the failure of Western sponsored "opposition strategy" based on massive infusion of resources to the opposition. There is a need to strengthen opposition parties, increasingly in disarray.

In Kenya, the decision by the main opposition leader, Raila Odinga, to swear himself in as "people's president" — parodied in his native Dholuo language as "kalongolongo (make believe) president"— has sounded the death knell for the NASA coalition.

Prof Kagwanja is former Government Adviser and currently Chief Executive of Africa Policy Institute

Walking tight rope > If I quit, it may not make a difference as few will notice, but staying may also raise ethical questions

To write or not to write: Columnist at a crossroads



NIC CHEESEMAN

My hope is that the reasonable reader, looking across everything I have written, will conclude that at times I may have been wrong, but that I was rarely unfair

Being able to write regularly for a newspaper that reaches thousands of people is a great privilege and a dream come true. I have never wanted to be the kind of academic whose work can only be accessed in long books found in a small number of libraries. If knowledge is worth acquiring, it is worth sharing, and so I was thrilled when this newspaper offered me the opportunity to communicate ideas and arguments beyond the walls of the academic ivory tower back in 2014.

But in the last few months, and especially in the days following the publication of the fake obituary for businessman and Nasa financier Jimi Wanjigi, I have been thinking hard about whether I should be writing this column.

Underpinning this doubt is a pair of ethical questions. First, is a British academic writing a column in a Kenyan newspaper not contributing to the global inequality in the knowledge economy, in which too many column inches are produced in the North and not enough in the South? Second, does writing in the Kenyan press risk conferring a veneer of legitimacy on a media that is increasingly being censored and bullied into submission?

Over the last few years, I have worked out what I think about a lot of issues by writing this column. It is often by putting words on paper and trying to make them consistent and persuasive, that I have clarified what I think about an issue. Given this, I hope that readers will forgive me if I use this column to determine whether or not I should be writing columns at all.

The morality of knowledge

I usually get a positive response to my pieces. This might just be because people who enjoy them are more likely to get in touch, but it is what has encouraged me to keep going during the difficult periods when I didn't really have the time.

Indeed, the feedback from readers has easily been the best thing about doing this column – I now have hundreds of correspondents and quite a few friends that I would never have met otherwise.

Complaints are much less common, and tend to take one of two forms. On the one hand, people sometimes get in touch to argue that I have been too hard on one party or too kind to another – especially around elections.

It is hard to avoid the accusation of bias when you write about Kenyan politics. Partisans on both sides of the political divide want you to support their point of view completely and if you don't, you risk being branded a traitor.

In a polarised political environment such as Kenya's, the prevailing logic is often "if you are not with us, you are against us".

Although I always think through whether these accusations have any merit, these complaints do not bother me too much because deep down I know they are not true. I have tried to be politically neutral in these pages and to simply say it like I see it. Over the years, I have criticised the government for human rights abuses and criticised the Opposition for not carrying out its own primaries more democratically. I have also pointed out the limitations of the international community.

As a result, I often receive email one week claiming that I am "so Jubilee", only to get even more the week after asking why I "love Nasa" so much. My hope is that the reasonable reader, looking across everything that I have written, will conclude that at times I may have been wrong, but that I was rarely unfair.

The second kind of complaint is that "someone like" me should not be writing about Kenya at all. This comes in a variety of forms, but is usually abusive. A sample from a few weeks ago: "Why don't you keep your opinions to yourself and go save your own ******* democracy from Trump you American ****".

> If you think I should keep writing, please let me know. If you don't, tell me that also – but, I'd be grateful if you could say it without swear words and insults."

Leaving aside the fact that I am not American, and that I reject the inherent racism contained in this kind of comment, I take it seriously when Kenyans ask me why a foreigner is writing about their politics.

Of all the inequalities between the global North and South, the geographical divide in the knowledge economy is one of the worst. Whether we talk about books, academic journal articles or Internet hits, countries such as the UK and US are over-represented, while voices from countries like Kenya often find it hard to be heard.

For example, a recent article on the academic study of Africa found that while the proportion of articles published in the two most highly cited journals that were written by women increased over the last 20 years, the proportion of articles by those based in Africa declined.

The reasons for this are well known and include inherited colonial inequalities, differential government expenditure on education, the financial power of Western publishing and media houses and the interests and prejudices of Northern consumers, who seem to be increasingly uninterested in what is happening beyond the borders of their own bedrooms.

By writing in the *Nation*, I am contributing to this problem – another Westerner taking up column inches that could go to a Kenyan. Can this be justified? I am not sure. I believe that it is important to share ideas across national boundaries, and that while I know much less about Kenya than those born and raised in the country, sometimes an outside perspective can be useful.

I have also been able to use the column to engage with hundreds of students across Kenya. In a number of cases, I have been able to help the people who write to me by giving advice on their essays and articles, publishing them on my website (www.democracyinafrica.org), and helping them to apply to university. In a very small way, I hope that this has helped to deepen and broaden the next generation of Kenyan academics and journalists.

But is this enough? As I read my own words back, they sound more like an excuse than a justification.

Protecting media freedom

The second ethical question is whether those of us who believe in democracy and civil liberties should resign our positions in protest against the censorship of the media. Since I have been writing in the Kenyan press, some of my best friends in the media, and the journalists that I respect the most, have lost their jobs.

Their main "crime" seems to be that they had offended figures in the government. In every case, I thought about quitting myself, but those who had been pushed out encouraged me not to. Their logic was fairly straightforward and persuasive – if all the independent minded people quit, the quality of media coverage will get worse and the bullies will win.

A second and related reason to keep writing is that I have never felt that I could not express myself. So far, touch wood, I have never had a column "spiked". That includes a piece in which I listed the failures of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission in the August election last year, and one that argued that the "fresh" election on October 26 had no real winners.

Instead, I have always felt well supported by my own editors, who are smart and hard working people of integrity. On this basis, I was fairly happy to keep writing. But that changed following the publication of the fake obituary. The mocked up note with his photograph was, effectively, a death threat.

I have received one death threat and one "warning" while working on Kenya. The first was designed to stop me discussing in the international media why the 2007 election was not credible. The second came more recently and was intended to dissuade me from discussing the limitations of the 2017 election.

Neither was pleasant, but neither worried me in the way that the fake obituary would have worried Mr Wanjigi's family. I am painfully aware that as a white British citizen, my skin colour and nationality protects me. When the going gets tough, I can go home. Many Kenyans, including Mr Wanjigi, have no such luxury and so – whatever your political persuasion – they deserve our support.

Frustrated and dismayed, I responded by tweeting that I would have to resign unless a thorough investigation exonerated the newspaper.

How to take a stand

The best thing to come out of this episode was that everyone I know who works for the *Nation* was as upset and angry as me. The paper also took a number of positive steps, releasing the CCTV footage of the individual that placed the obituary, turning the matter over to the police, and explaining that obituaries are not checked in the same way as news coverage.

But that still leaves a number of questions unanswered. Is it really plausible that the person who took the order did not recognise the picture? How did it slip through the net?

I have been pondering these, and other questions, for the last week. My gut feeling is those of us who write in the media need to respond, but this leaves open the question of how. In my tweet I talked about resigning, but it now strikes me that this would be futile. Put simply, I am not well known enough for it to make any difference. Chances are, few people would notice.

The other approach is to stay and use my 1,500 or so words every two weeks to highlight and resist the abuse of media freedom. There will be plenty to write about, given the way that the government is going and I can increasingly test what can and cannot be said – starting with this column.

But again, is this enough?

The acid test

As usual, the act of writing has helped me to come to a conclusion. Drafting my *Nation* column is the highlight of my fortnight, and I would hate to give it up. The more sentences I type, the more I find my fingers resisting certain ideas and racing to put others down on the page. Which means that I am probably not the best person to make the decision.

As a committed democrat who has spent his career arguing the case for democracy and human rights in Africa, I should also listen to the people. I can't exactly hold a vote – and I think we have all had enough of those for now – but you can tell me what you think on Twitter *(@fromagehomme)*, and if you want to communicate something longer than 280 characters, I'll follow you so that you can send me a direct message.

So, if you think I should keep writing, please let me know. If you don't, tell me that also – but, I'd be grateful if you could say it without swear words and insults. I'm an academic not an activist and I'm more likely to leave if you make a reasoned argument than if you send hate mail. Of course, most people will be indifferent, but I won't take it too badly if no one gets in touch either way – after all, academics are used to being ignored.

Should the well-reasoned "stays" outweigh the well-reasoned "goes", you'll see me (or rather some words of mine) next week. If not, thanks for reading – it has been an honour to write for you.

Nic Cheeseman (@fromage-homme) is professor of democracy at the University of Birmingham and the author of *Democracy in Africa: Successes, failures, and the struggle for political reform.*



A man who booked space for the publication of a fake obituary on Mr Jimi Wanjigi at Nation Centre. FILE | NATION

COUNTY BY COUNTY

Kwale >

More farmers join cooperative society

Membership of the Pamba and Viazi Cooperative Society (Pavi) has significantly increased from 202 farmers in 2015 to 2,400 currently. Speaking during an open day in Kombani to discuss issues affecting farmers in Kwale County, Base Titanium Community Programmes Superintendent Mwanarusi Khamisi said the growing membership showed that Base Titanium and other stakeholders were investing in the community. Pavi helps farmers to improve their livelihoods and benefit from economies of scale.

– Fadhili Fredrick

Machakos >

MP calls for audit of coffee societies

Kangundo MP Fabian Kyule has asked the commissioner of cooperatives to move in and audit all the coffee societies in the sub-county. The call came barely days after a forensic audit report unearthed embezzlement of over Sh39 million at Muisuni Farmers Cooperative Society. Mr Kyule said corruption and mismanagement of coffee societies were responsible for the collapse of the sector.

— Gastone Valusi

Murang'a >

Aipca bishops to start church unity talks

Bishops allied to one faction of the African Independent Pentecostal Church (Aipca) have resolved to reach out to their rival camps to end leadership wrangles that have been in the church for long. The bishops who support Archbishop Julius Njoroge vowed to reach out to other factions in the unity talks. In a meeting attended by community leaders and government officials, 32 bishops drawn from across the country expressed confidence that the process will yield desired results.

—Ndungu Gachane

Kiambu >

Mama Ngina holds prayers for Uhuru

Former First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta (below), together with women from different Catholic churches across the country, held a thanksgiving Mass for her son, President Uhuru Kenyatta, following a prolonged political season last year. "Even if the noise continues, God will quell it," she said at Mutomo Catholic Church.

— Mary Wambui



Uasin Gishu >

Ababu resigns as Labour Party head

Labour Party of Kenya leader Ababu Namwamba has relinquished his position after earning a slot in government. The former Budalangi lawmaker was last month rewarded with a presidential appointment as the Chief Administrative Secretary in Foreign Affairs ministry. Mr Namwamba said he wants to focus on his new role to ensure Jubilee delivers on its development agenda.

– Dennis Lubanga

Makueni >

Ex-Speaker: We had hand in top projects

Former Makueni County assembly Speaker Stephen Ngelu has asked the current assembly to give the last House credit for its role in initiating solid social and economic projects. The county has been praised for offering free healthcare to residents and setting up a fruits factory and a mini creamery. "The new MCAs should be honest enough to say that the projects were undertaken by their predecessors," he said.

– Pius Maundu

Kakamega >

Imams' council lauds Uhuru for Muslim CSs

The Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya has lauded President Uhuru Kenyatta for appointing four Muslims to the new Cabinet. Led by its national chairman Abdallah Ateka, CIPK said the President's appointments reflected the face of the people of Kenya. In the new Cabinet line-up Amina Mohammed heads the Education ministry, Najib Balala (Tourism), Adan Mohammed (Industrialisation) and Rashid Achesa (Sports and Heritage).

– Shaban Makokha

Kilifi >

Residents protest grabbing of cemetry

Hundreds of Muslim faithful in Malindi town on Friday held a peaceful demonstration to protest against the grabbing of a cemetery land. Together with Haki Africa activists, the faithful marched to the deputy county commissioner Karung'o Kamau's office where they demanded action to be taken against two tycoons reportedly behind the grabbing and shooting two people who were guarding the over 16 acres piece of land.

– Charles Lwanga

Rotarians' Sunshine Rally in city

Rotarians from different Rotary clubs in Kenya take a selfie during the Sunshine Rally held at Jamhuri Park in Nairobi yesterday. The rally brought together over 6,000 children with various disabilities for a day of food, fun and gifts.

JEFF ANGOTE | NATION



Wajir >

Leaders urge locals to share resources

A section of Wajir leaders have called on residents to maintain peace while sharing limited resources in the county due to recurrent drought. The leaders who included Wajir East MP Rashid Kassim and former Wajir East MP Abbass Sheikh, visited victims who were hurt in a fight over water. Many people were injured in Bojigaras as they clashed over water for livestock.

— Bruhan Makong

Narok >

Nine vultures found dead in Maasai Mara

Nine endangered white-backed vultures have been found dead in parts of Maasai Mara game reserve. They are suspected to have feasted on poisoned carcasses. "We took samples of the carcasses to Kenya Wildlife Services headquarters' laboratories for analysis," said Nature Kenya programme Manager Paul Gicheru. This week, six lions and 74 vultures were found dead near a national park in southern Tanzania after they were allegedly poisoned.

— George Sayagie

Nyeri >

State releases Sh35m to pay maize farmers

The government has released Sh3.5billion to pay maize farmers who supplied the produce to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB). Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Mwangi Kiunjuri said farmers will be paid soon. "The Treasury has released all the money owed to maize farmers who supplied the produce to NCPB," he said at a burial ceremony at Kwa Mwea village in Nyeri County.

— Mwangi Ndirangu

Kisii >

Arati to be crowned Gusii spokesperson

A group of residents from Kisii and Nyamira counties are planning to crown Dagoretti North MP Simba Arati the Gusii community spokesperson. However, their plans have been met with resistance from the Gusii Council of Elders who said there are more senior leaders deserving of the post. Addressing journalists yesterday at Mwalimu hotel in Kisii town, the about 100 residents said Mr Arati had proved his ability to unite the community without prejudice and the ceremony will go ahead.

– Ruth Mbula

Kiambu >

Foreign teachers told to learn local culture

Teachers from abroad should familiarise themselves with the local culture to become more effective instructors, a top educationist has said. Mr Christopher Khaemba who heads Nova Pioneer schools said this on Friday after taking five new Nova teachers on a tour of Alliance High School where he worked for 23 years. Nova Pioneer schools have hired some of their teachers from abroad in an effort to help initiate and deepen innovation.

– Anthony Njagi

Mombasa >

Maiden reconstructive surgery on fire victims

The Aga Khan Hospital in Mombasa is to conduct first reconstructive surgery for fire accident survivors. Speaking yesterday during a free screening camp, head of outreach services, Dr Sultana Sherman said women and girls with deformities from fire accidents will undergo reconstructive surgery on March 30 to April 12. This is the first reconstructive surgery for fire accident victims in Kenya. It will be conducted by surgeons from the hospital and surgeons from "Women for women Plastic Surgeons."

—Correspondent

Nyandarua >

Trader commits suicide after business trip

A 28-year-old trader has committed suicide at Kasuku market, Ol Joro Orok constituency. Peter Mwanu's body, was on Friday evening found hanging from the roof of his house shortly after arrival from Gilgil town where he had gone on a business mission. The father of one is said to have informed his wife at her work station that he wasn't well and needed to rest; only to take away his life moments later. Area OCPD Joseph Cheruiyot confirmed the incident.

— Waikwa Maina

Taita Taveta >

Samboja sacking us, say administrators

The fate of four sub-county administrators and their deputies in Taita Taveta County hangs in the balance after their contracts were terminated. They say the County Public Service Board had renewed their contracts in November for six months but they received a letter from the Department of Devolution asking them to leave work by end of December. The administrators from Voi, Taveta, Mwatate and Wundanyi claim this is a plot to sack them to create opportunities for Governor Granton Samboja's cronies.

– Lucy Mkanyika

LETTER FROM LONDON

Council officials go all bureaucratic, handing out penalties for 'non' offences



GERRY LOUGHRAN

Britain seems to have been seized with a bout of political correctness, officiousness and pettifogging bureaucracy.

Take the case of Lee Williamson. This 43-year-old ex-soldier had several times noticed a homeless man sleeping rough on a pavement in Leicester. The weather was freezing and it got so bad that Lee could not sleep at night for thinking of him.

So on Christmas Day he drove to where the man was huddled on the sidewalk and gave him a hat, gloves, scarves and food. To do that, however, Lee had pulled into a bus lane, which is a traffic offence for ordinary cars, although being Christmas Day, there were no buses.

To his astonishment, he received a £70 penalty charge from the Council.

Then there was the happy lollipop man, Colin Spencer, 83, who has guided children safely across the road at St George's Primary School in Heaviley, Stockport, for 14 years. One thing Mr Spencer did which the kids loved was to give them all high-fives.

Not anymore. In a peerless example of humourless, po-faced officialdom, a spokesperson for Stockport Council said, "School crossing patrols (i.e. lollipop men and ladies) are required to continually observe the road and traffic conditions." Mr Spencer, the person said, "has been asked to stop high-fiving and concentrate on his core duty."

Most parents were furious and some children were in tears when Mr Spencer didn't high-five them anymore.

> In a peerless example of humourless, po-faced officialdom, a spokesperson for Stockport Council said, 'School crossing patrols are required to continually observe the road and traffic conditions. Mr Spencer has been asked to stop high-fiving and concentrate on his core duty.'"

Case number 3: Oliver Claxton from Derby had been working away in London for several months and when he returned, he was surprised to discover that he had been fined £70 for not displaying a parking permit for his car.

Mr Claxton knew he had left the permit on the windscreen in his locked car and so he accessed the council website which contains photographs of "offending" vehicles.

He said: "The reason the permit wasn't visible was because it had snowed overnight and the windscreen was covered in snow. If they had swept the snow away, they would have seen the permit. It was ridiculous."

Mr Claxton challenged the fine and Derby City Council said it was looking into the case.

As for Lee Williamson, after a public outcry, the mayor rescinded the penalty charge, saying, "To punish him for doing a good deed on Christmas Day is crazy."

With regard to the lollipop man, the council relented to the extent of declaring that high-fiving was OK on the pavement but not on the road.

* * *

When George Farrell and his girlfriend broke up, Farrell took his revenge with actions which a judge described as "heartless and cruel".

Breaking into the girl's flat, he cut up some of her clothes, smeared ice cream and mint sauce on others, covered her bed in ketchup, filled her games console with shower gel, smashed a Sky box and opened a bath tap and left it running.

In her kitchen he damaged a slow cooker, a microwave, a kettle and a toaster and he bent a pan out of shape.

He then sent text messages boasting about what he had done and bombarded the girl with telephone calls saying he was going to wait for her and slit her throat.

Police went to the flat and found the water running. Damage was assessed at more than £1,500.

Judge Anthony Kelbrick, said, "It is hard to imagine the distress that must have been caused to somebody who goes into their home and finds this has been done in their absence."

Farrell, aged 23, of Sunderland, had 14 previous convictions for such offences as harassment, arson and assault and battery.

The judge told him, "You pose a significant risk to the public and in particular to women who become your partner."

He sentenced Farrell to four years in jail with an extended licence period of two years.

* * *

Talking to an elderly friend on the telephone, I wanted to mention a particular health condition but could not remember its name. She knew what I meant but could not remember the name either. Eventually, we got it: senile dementia.

* * *

A teacher wrote the following on the blackboard, "woman without her man is nothing," and asked the class to punctuate it.

The male students wrote, "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The females wrote, "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

A guy walks into a bar, orders 10 whiskies and starts drinking them in rapid succession. When the bar tender remarked that he was drinking very fast, he replied, "So would you if you had what I have." "What have you got?" the barman asked. "He replied, "Only 75 cents."

Gerryo69@hotmail.com

BAROMETER

Development at all costs just misses the point



LUKOYE ATWOLI

There is an emerging clarity on the Jubilee Administration's philosophy of governance, which can be summarised as one of "development at all costs". The argument is that we are poor and under-developed due to our noisy politics and free expression. The solution, according to the government, is to cut out procedures and go straight to the point, effectively eliminating the so-called middle-man, in this case more aptly renamed the "meddle-man".

Indeed, the refrain over the past five years has been that there is "too much democracy" in Kenya, and it is holding us back from achieving our full potential. The political opposition is considered a dreadful inconvenience that needs to shut up and "allow the government to pursue its development agenda". Civil society has been christened "evil society", demonised and made out to be a serious threat to our progress as a nation. The Academy has been dismissed as largely useless purveyors of "Kizungu mingi na catwalk" (lots of English and cat walking), and its role in national development relegated to that of glorified diploma mills.

The final bulwark against totalitarianism, the Judiciary, has suffered the most ignominious fate of being totally ignored. Judges have been dismissed as conmen and enemies of development for trying to uphold laws seen as inconvenient by the State. In recent days the State has blatantly refused to obey several court orders, and the Judiciary can only look on ineffectually since it lacks the machinery to implement its own edicts.

The Judiciary has been fingered as the ultimate "meddle-man", and has been given a clear message by the State – toe the line or be ignored. The State controls the tools needed to implement court rulings, and will choose which orders to obey and which to ignore. The premise of this stance is that the Judiciary is an impediment to the rapid development we so desire, and appears to have sided with the political opposition to frustrate government initiatives.

There is, therefore, an ideological contest between those that agree with the government stance that development trumps all, and those that believe that development is meaningless if the citizen does not have the liberty to enjoy it.

The first group believes that forces that slow down development, and those that outrightly oppose it for whatever reason, must be silenced in the interests of the majority that is expected to enjoy its fruits. The second group believes that fundamental rights

> We must develop, yes, but not at the price of dismantling the system of checks and balances that guarantees certain minimum rights and freedoms."

are sacrosanct, and any initiative must take them into consideration. Development must, therefore, be viewed through this rights-focused prism, and anything threatening the rights of the people must be changed or discarded outright.

In my opinion, one needs to reflect deeply on certain age-old but very basic principles when faced with a struggle such as the one we face today. First, why do we need a government? Second, (why) do we want to develop?

It is my considered view that in theory, we establish governments in order to make our interactions with fellow citizens more predictable. The underlying thinking behind this is that we yearn to be free and happy, and we need a mechanism to maximise our freedom and happiness without interfering with our neighbour's quantum of freedom and happiness. We, therefore, form government and establish a system of laws in order to deal with this problem.

On the second question, we often agree that in order to maximise our freedom and happiness, we need to create certain conveniences such as communications infrastructure, health systems, education, and security. These conveniences come at a price that we all agree to pay only because we believe we will all benefit when they are developed. In this basic framework "development at all costs" is unacceptable, seeing as some costs might interfere so greatly with our freedom and happiness as to make development meaningless to those it was meant to benefit. We must develop, yes, but not at the price of dismantling the system of checks and balances that guarantees certain minimum rights and freedoms, and ensures a certain measure of happiness for all.

Atwoli is Associate Professor and Dean, Moi University School of Medicine Lukoye@gmail.com

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Sore Jubilee has smelled blood, Chief Justice Maraga beware



OTIENO OTIENO

If you want to hang a dog you first give it a bad name. That is what Chief Justice David Maraga should read in the rude letter from the Jubilee attack dog Raphael Tuju last week, accusing the top judge of all manner of sins.

After the social media smear campaign last year linking the Supreme Court judges who nullified President Uhuru Kenyatta's election to a crooks network, the Tuju letter marks a new low for the Uhuru administration.

Just how much lower can it sink?

Well, that is most likely to be the point at which the last of the country's democratic institutions is either dismantled or made to bend to its will.

> It is an open secret that the Maraga Judiciary has been on the radar ever since the Supreme Court made that landmark decision to annul the President's election win."

It is an open secret that the Maraga Judiciary has been on the administration's radar ever since the Supreme Court made that landmark decision to annul the President's election on September 1, 2017.

Indeed Mr Kenyatta, freshly sore from losing the election petition, immediately came out to make the battle cry in his infamous "we shall revisit" address to a crowd of supporters in Nairobi the same day.

What hasn't been quite clear, until now, is the actual battle plan.

The President appeared to show his hand earlier last week with the shake-up of his team of legal advisers that saw Attorney-General Githu Muigai resign, Solicitor-General Njee Muturi move to State House as Deputy Chief of Staff and Abdikadir Mohamed, the constitutional affairs adviser, sent to South Korea as ambassador.

The shake-up lends credence to speculation of concerns within the inner power circle that the Supreme Court judges in the majority decision weren't swayed to hold a contrary view.

It begins to make even more sense when you consider the fact that a Judiciary insider – a Court of Appeal judge no less – has been picked to replace Prof Muigai at the State Law Office.

A more ominous sign for the Judiciary has to be the recent appointments to the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

Will the apparent shift in the balance of power at the judges' employer in favour of the ruling elite embolden Jubilee to go after Justice Maraga personally?

Is Mr Tuju's rude letter a raw draft of a petition that some faceless Nairobi businessman is about to turn up with at the JSC offices seeking the CJ's ouster?

Of course, time will tell if there is such a plan or if it gets to be executed successfully.

What is less doubtful is that the Jubilee piranhas have smelled blood.

The same week that the President played his first cards, the CJ did a shuffle of his own.

Notably, Justice George Odunga was moved from Judicial Review Division in Nairobi where his gate-keeping role had made him a hate figure for Jubilee. It may well have been routine transfer. But if the power elite interpret it as a sign of the CJ balking under pressure, they will swiftly move for the kill.

jkotieno@ke.nationmedia.com @otienootieno

BUSINESS



SUNNY DAY

Do you think the tenderpreneur who cheated on the pitch, cheated in the examinations hall, cheated in the workplace, cheated in the corridors of ministries, and cheated in the courts will play by the rules at home? Who's next to be cheated? The spouse... PAGE 40

Claim > The taxman has been accused of focusing on big players

Taxman targets distributors in renewed illicit drinks war

Move comes after major firms cried foul saying rivals who escape the tax net are selling their spirits at below market rates

BY CONSTANT MUNDA
cmunda@ke.nationmedia.com

The taxman is seeking tighter controls over operations of distributors of alcoholic beverages in the wake of concerns about rising sale of illicit liquor, denying the country billions of shillings in potential tax revenue.

The Kenya Revenue Authority says it has finalised draft amendments to the Alcoholic Drinks Control Ac,t which will give it some powers in the process of licensing distributors – a function currently in the hands of 47 regional governments.

"Inter-government agencies consultations have been concluded on draft miscellaneous amendment on Control of Alcohol. The law is due for presentation to the Cabinet and the National Assembly," Commissioner of Domestic Taxes Benson Korongo told the *Sunday Nation*.

Insiders say cartels have infiltrated the high-end alcohol market with counterfeit liquor that comes disguised as foreign brands.

The cabals, which largely target the spirits segment, have also penetrated some of licenced liquor manufacturing factories where they process substandard drinks and distribute them using own fake excise stamps, undercutting genuine distillers.

Production of spirits outside Electronic Goods Management System (EGMS), even at the KRA-licensed plants, has been on the rise since mid-last year, according to a section of distillers.

Mr Korongo said one of the licensed companies was "undergoing prosecution for offences relating to illicit spirit", without disclosing its identity.

"In order to eliminate the use of licensed facilities in the production of illicit alcohol, KRA has put in place a stringent control and monitoring system," he said.

KRA in September 2016 introduced new generation excise stamps for wines, spirits, tobacco, and beer whose features allows distributors to verify genuine products using smartphones through an app dubbed "Soma Label".

The taxman has, however, been accused of concentrating on big players, while smaller firms allegedly continue to engage in undeclared production of spirits at their licensed plants, thus evading the hefty on alcohol industry.

One of the leading spirits distillers on January 16 this year provided a list of 18 firms, 14 of which have been cleared by KRA in the latest notice, alleged to be selling 205 and 250 millilitres of some of their gin, vodka and brandy products to distributors at between Sh70 and Sh75.

We could not, however, disclose the companies since we could not independently establish the distributor prices for the brands alleged to be sold at undercut prices.

The firm's official, who did not want to go public due to sensitivity of the matter and referred us to Alcoholic Beverages Association of Kenya (ABAK), said it was impossible to sell at those prices.

He cited the Sh200 excise duty per litre, the standard 16 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT), Sh2.80 stamp duty and other overheads such as packaging, branding and labour.

"They (KRA) go to a few big companies like ourselves. They don't check other smaller firms and that's why these (illicit) brands are coming back," the official said.

"The trend has been downwards since September last year. Our sales, for example, have gone down by about 45 per cent, and we only have about 200 staff right now out of about 500 employees that we usually have – that's both permanent and casuals. We have been forced to send some away."

ABAK – which represents Kenya Breweries Ltd, UDV Kenya Ltd, Africa Spirits Ltd, Wine of the World (WOW) Beverages, London Distillers Kenya, Kenya Wines Agencies, Moonwalk Investments and Distell Winemasters – maintained that half of alcohol consumed in the country is illicit or informally processed.

The lobby insisted the KRA may be losing about Sh30 billion annually to illicit trade in alcohol and counterfeited excise stamps.

The taxman last week Monday reported excise taxes fell by nine per cent, or Sh7.35 billion, in six months through December 2017 compared to Sh81.644 billion in the same period a year earlier, partly blamed on illicit spirits and fake stamps.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



MARTIN MWAURA | NATION

A police officer scrutinises alcohol seized from a home in Murang'a during a past crackdown. Insiders say cartels have infiltrated the high-end alcohol market with counterfeit liquor disguised as foreign brands.

> In order to eliminate the use of licensed facilities in the production of illicit alcohol, KRA has put in place a stringent control and monitoring system,"
> **Mr Benson Korongo, KRA commissioner**



Fiery debate expected on telco market dominance

BY BRIAN NGUGI
bnjoroge@ke.nationmedia.com

Heated debate is expected this Tuesday over a controversial telcoms report commissioned by the Communications Authority following a detailed study on market dominance. Policies crafted from this debate could see giant Safaricom compelled to share its infrastructure with rivals at subsidised costs.

The draft report dated March 20 last year has been receiving input from the industry's main operators.

It was written by MS Analysys Mason, the London firm retained by the CA for the market dominance study in Kenya.

The CA has now invited operators and the public to a Nairobi hotel on Tuesday to disseminate the findings of the study on market dominance.

A similar public debate on the report called by the regulator last August was cancelled in unclear circumstances.

"As you are aware, the Communications Authority of Kenya, (CA) contracted MS Analysys Mason to carry out a competition study of the telecommunication sub-sector with a view to evaluate the competitive landscape of the market," said the authority in a notice published in national newspapers on Friday.

"The study was specifically meant to foster a competitive telecommunications market, which can attract sustainable investments, provide more choices to consumers and increase consumer welfare through the provision of affordable high quality services," said the regulator.

The public debate, as required by the Constitution, is expected to pave the way for far-reaching policy decisions.

Airtel and Telkom Kenya have over the years accused market leader Safaricom of occupying a dominant position that has tilted the playing field in its favour.

A draft report on behalf of the authority released last March said Safaricom is dominant in the mobile money and mobile

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

Weekly indicators

MARKET PERFORMANCE

Points	NSE 20	Index
Last Friday		3741.02
This Friday		3713.25
Week's change		Down -0.74pc

TOP GAINERS ORD 2.50

	Price	%
Unga Group	42.75	46.15
Home Afrika	1.25	8.70
Eaagads	24.0	4.35

BIGGEST LOSERS

	Price	%
Olympia Capital	3.00	-10.45
E.A.Portland	27.00	-6.09
Sameer Afrika	2.50	-5.66

TOP TRADERS

	Price	Shares
Safaricom	29.25	18.88m
Kenol Kobil	15.10	17.81m
Equity	42.75	12.24m

MARKET TURNOVER

Equity turnover

	This Friday	Prev Friday
Equity:	2.72 billion	6.66 billion
Bond:	13.35 billion	18.68 billion

MACRO INDICATORS

Interest rates: Latest (%)

91 days	8.033	23/2/2018
1182 days	10.403	23/2//2018

Compiled by James Kariuki

Public called to discuss key report on Telcos market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

communications sectors and that steps should be taken to improve competition, or the company should be broken up.

But Safaricom has criticised the proposals — first mooted in June 2016 — to split the company. The government, on the other hand, has said it is opposed to measures that would stifle innovation.

"The consultants have undertaken the study and submitted draft findings to the authority. In this regard, the authority invites industry players and other stakeholders, including members of the public, to participate in an interactive stakeholder consultation workshop scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi," said CA.

Safaricom rivals have been pushing the regulator to implement rules that will restrict the dominance.

"The regulation for a dominant operator already exists," Telkom Kenya chief executive officer Aldo Mareuse told *Bloomberg* in July last year. "It's just a matter of implementing it... as soon as possible because otherwise it just endangers the industry."

In 2016, the Treasury warned that collapse of mobile money service M-Pesa could cause widespread disruption of the economy, renewing debate as to whether Safaricom is a dominant player in Kenya's telecoms market that requires extra regulatory action.

Asymmetric rates

Some experts have argued that the regulator should consider the introduction of lower, asymmetric call termination rates to facilitate growth of smaller operators.

Call termination rates are the rates a telecommunications operator charges for carrying another operator's calls.

Each of the operators in Kenya currently pays the same rate to each other.

Safaricom's share of the voice calls market rose to a five-year high in the year ended June 2017, underscoring the company's continued dominance.

Data from CA released last October shows that Safaricom had 80.4 per cent share of voice traffic, up from 75.7 per cent the previous year.

Safaricom's dominance of the voice market last rose past 80 per cent in the year ended June 2012.

Kenya's two other telecoms operators, Telkom Kenya and Airtel, saw their share of voice traffic shrink, signalling the challenge they face fighting for space in a market dominated by the Safaricom behemoth.

Telkom Kenya's market share fell from 8.6 per cent in 2015/16 to 6.3 per cent in 2016/17 while Airtel's market share fell from 15.4 per cent to 12.9 per cent, according the latest industry report.

The CA attributed the changes to pricing decisions made by the two smaller operators.

Upward reviews made to voice and data tariffs have seen customers either flee from the smaller operators or choose not to use those networks when making calls, the CA report says.

The report painted a dark picture on competitiveness of Kenya's telecommunication sector, questioning the ability of the smaller operators to survive in the current market structure.

Tourism surges in Watamu as politics subside

BY MATHIAS RINGA
@MathiasRinga
mringa355@gmail.com

Hotels in the seaside town of Watamu in Kilifi County are doing booming business following a sharp rise in the number of international visitors.

According to the Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers and Caterers (KAHC) Coast branch executive officer, Mr Sam Ikwaye, hotels in Watamu have an occupancy of 80 per cent, with almost all tourists being foreign, compared with 30 per cent occupancy in the same period last year.

He attributed the boom to calm enjoyed in the area and efforts by hotel-owners to market the town in European markets. The official said Europe's winter season had also contributed to the good fortunes as visitors are escaping the biting cold to soak up the sun on the town's sandy beaches.

"Since 2014, tourism in Watamu and Malindi hit a low ebb, with few tourist arrivals," he said.

"To overcome the drought, hotel owners from Watamu marketed the destination overseas. Their efforts are paying off," he noted.

To address the low season challenge, where hotels in Malindi and Watamu sometimes close down, Mr Ikwaye called on the government to fast-track expansion of Malindi Airport.

He said this would enable it to receive direct international flights from Europe and help boost hotel occupancy throughout the year.

Direct flights would spare tourists the inconvenience of travelling by road from Mombasa, after arriving in Nairobi on eight-hour long flights from Europe.

Garoda Beach Resort manager Daniel Mwita said the hotel was full after tourists from Italy arrived last week. He said that since last month they have been enjoying 90 per cent occupancy, compared with 30 per cent in the same period last year.

"Due to political uncertainty last year, the hotel had few foreign guests. But since the situation has normalised, visitor numbers have increased," he said.

Jacaranda Beach Resort managing director Philemon Mwavala said the Watamu hotel had 80 per cent guest numbers, compared with 40 per cent in the same period last year.

Other hotels enjoying a boom include Aquarius Club Resort, Watamu, and Voi Safari Lodge in Tsavo East National Park. Kenya Coast Tourism Association chairman Victor Shitakha said hotels in Mombasa were averaging 50 per cent occupancy, mainly from conference and holiday tourism.

Borrowing > Experts say Moody's downgrade of credit worthiness unlikely to cause a hitch

Kenya may issue new Eurobond 'next month' to settle big debts

Borrowing target is between Sh151.9 billion and Sh303.8 billion, sources have said

BY CONSTANT MUNDA
cmunda@ke.nationmedia.com

Kenya is likely to become the third African country to borrow from international markets this year to pay up her maturing debts after Egypt and Nigeria with offers expected to be as much as $3 billion (Sh303.8 billion).

A source at one of the four international lenders involved in advising Kenya in its bid to tap cash from international investors following a successful debut in June 2014, said the Eurobond will be floated before the end of next month.

The banks being involved in Kenya's second Eurobond issue after the previous one raised serious accountability concerns from the Opposition and queries from Auditor-General Edward Ouko, are Standard Chartered, Citigroup, Standard Bank and JPMorgan Chase.

"Eurobond will be before end of Q1 (quarter one)," the source said, hinting at a possibility of early March issue, but declined to divulge further information as they are not authorised to speak publicly on the matter.

The Treasury officials remained tight-lipped over the details of the impending issue of the new Eurobond after $2.8 billion (Sh278.4 billion) was raised in debt issue between June and December 2014.

Kenya paid 5.9 and 6.9 per cent interest to creditors for five-year and 10-year tranches in the previous issue.

Proceeds from the new bond issue are expected to ease the pressure of mounting debt repayments, projected at Sh658.2 billion in the current year which ends in June and Sh1 trillion next fiscal year, on her sluggish revenue.

The country is expected to borrow between $1.5 billion (Sh151.9 billion) and $3 billion (Sh303.8 billion) to be repaid in 10 to 15 years, said sources familiar with the ongoing arrangements that gathered steam this week with a road show targeting investors in the US and UK. Kenya will be following in the footsteps of Egypt which became the first country on the continent to tap the Eurobond markets this year, borrowing $4 billion (Sh405 billion) on February 13.

The most populous country in the Arab world will pay investors 6.6 per cent for 10-year debt instrument and 7.9 per cent for a 30-year tranche in an offering that received $12 billion (Sh1.2 trillion) bids from investors.

Nigeria, on the other hand, raised $2.5 billion (Sh253.1 billion) two days later last Thursday, split in two equal tranches of 12 years and 20 years at an interest of 7.1 and 7.2 per cent, respectively.



Economist Razia Khan: Market is ready

"We expect investors to be more discriminating about individual credit risk that's posed by different countries," Standard Chartered Bank's chief economist for Africa Razia Khan said of the returns investors are likely to demand during her visit to Nairobi on January 24.

She added: "African countries that put in place best reforms will benefit from that. They will find it easier, other things being equal, to go to the markets again to borrow."

Kenya's credit worthiness – a measure used by investors to set interest rate – was slightly dented on Tuesday after US credit rating firm Moody's downgraded the government's score to B2 from B1, with a stable outlook.

Moody's cited fast-accumulating debt which stood at Sh4.6 trillion last December and pressure to repay the maturing ones amid modest growth in revenue in assigning Nairobi a lower score, basically telling international investors that investing in government's securities is speculative and subject to high credit risk.

A section of analysts have, however, said the downgrade was not likely to affect the appetite of international investors for Nairobi's debt because Moody's is not Kenya's official credit rating agency.

The country's official rating agencies, S&P and Fitch Ratings, have both retained Kenya's credit score at B+, which implies possibility of a default but with some margins of safety.

"We opine the ongoing Eurobond roadshows will not be affected by Moody's rating downgrade as the government's official rating agencies are S&P and Fitch Ratings," analysts at Genghis Capital said in an investor's note this week.

Investment decision in Kenya's second Eurobond, analysts have said, will be boosted by waning political tension, expected acceleration in economic growth to more than five per cent from an estimated 4.8 per cent last year and likely removal of caps on loan charges, which will boost private sector investments.

Nation sacco posts steady growth rate

Nation Sacco Society chief executive officer Jacob Kimathi (right) with secretary John Kiarie (centre) and chairman Peter Munaita yesterday during the society's annual general meeting at National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.



ANTHONY OMUYA | NATION

Market > Africa is a big market for motor vehicle spare parts

Spare parts firms jostle for space with counterfeits

Nairobi's Kirinyaga Road said to be the hub of dealers, with consumers more worried about price than originality

BY MILLICENT MWOLOLO
@milimwololo
mmwololo@ke.nationmedia.com

Kenya is grappling with proliferation of generic car spares putting lives in peril, according to a section of genuine dealers.

The generic parts are mainly imported from China and Turkey with their dens mainly located along Nairobi's Kirinyaga Road after Tanzania enacted tough market policies to curb the menace.

This comes even as Kenya loses an average of 3,000 lives through road accidents annually, placing it among countries with the highest road carnage globally.

And now motor vehicle traders are raising the alarm over the increasing presence of counterfeit spare parts that are driving genuine dealers out of the market and compromising road safety as the government loses billions of shillings annually in taxes.

"In a market where fleet owners look at the price, the implications are dire in the long-run. Most of cargo and passenger transport vehicles stall on roads because of use of low quality spare parts," said Al-fayaz Sunderji, sales and marketing director for Wilex GmbH in Nairobi.

A study by the Anti-Counterfeits Authority (ACA) posted on its website reveals that buyers of fake products believe they are as good as genuine products. "People buy these fake products because they don't care if they're real, while some just buy them because it's all they can afford as they are very cheap," it says.

A survey carried out by Toyota Kenya indicated that eight out of 10 vehicles in the country had at least one fake spare part. The study was carried out at the firms dealerships spread across the country on vehicles brought in for service.

Unscrupulous dealers have perfected the art of imitating the original branding and packing.

"Everything from the logo looks fine, the barcode too; only that it is a previous barcode that was changed in 2012. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) is not doing a thorough scan of the market," said Mr Sunderji.

In response Kebs says all automobile spare parts getting into the country are inspected at their country of origin under the Pre-Export Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVOC) programme, according director of quality assurance Eric Chesire.

The standards body said it does periodic sampling at entry points. The public can verify if products are certified via mobile phones services. According Chesire, all a consumer needs is to send a text message with the product's brand name or standardisation mark permit number to 22203. "You simply type SM#brand name or standardisation mark permit number and SMS to 20023 from a Safaricom line," he said.

In addition, Kebs also conducts targeted market surveillance, which happens periodically. However, this happens in locations that incidences of low quality spare parts have been reported. "Unfortunately, most of the times members of the public do not volunteer this information," notes Mr Chesire.

A family-owned business that operates from Germany and Nairobi, Wilex GmbH supplies genuine aftermarket OEM spare parts for European trucks and cars.

120 The number of spare parts containers used in a month

From Nairobi the company services their dealers in Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan Mozambique, Malawi and all over Kenya.

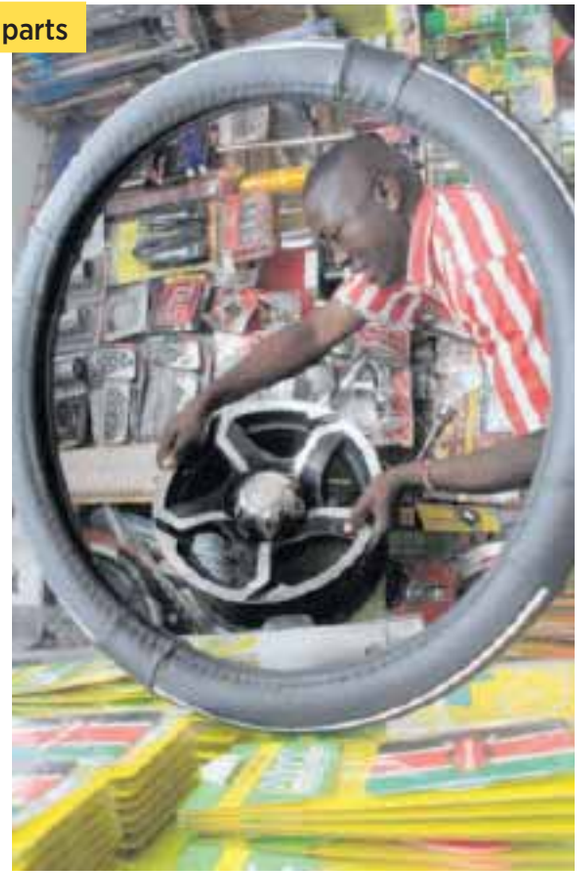
"Africa is a big market for motor vehicle spare parts with over 120 containers being consumed within a month in the East African region. Our network of 60 dealers, each distribute about two containers of spare parts in a month," says Mr Sunderji. Kenya, the biggest market consumes slightly over 12 containers of motor vehicle spare parts in a month.

"There is need for Kebs to engage stakeholders in the industry and to register a list of genuine spare parts dealers that can be used to check on imports from points of entry," he proposes.

After a one-and-half-year market slowdown, the industry is slowly making a comeback as seen in the rise in demand for truck and motor vehicle spare parts in the East African region since January.

"We have seen a 30 per cent rise in customer demand for spare parts, this is unlike the last quarter in 2017 when business was almost at a plateau phase," said Mr Sunderji.

He dispels the view that the new train freight cargo in Kenya may deal a blow to goods trucking business across the region. "In Europe, the railway cargo freight is a big industry, yet the cargo trucking industry is very vibrant," he says. The reach of SGR cargo train has created even more business for trucks as it necessitates that the goods be offloaded and transported by road into warehouses," said Mr Sunderji.



JOSEPH KANYI | NATION

A spare parts dealer removes a wheel rim for a customer at his shop in Nyeri town. High import duty and competition from counterfeit dealers are major challenges in the business.

COMMENTS
Go to this link to join the debate and to see views from other readers: www.nation.co.ke

Automobile group seeks links with importers

By PAUL LETIWA

Automobile Association of Kenya (AA) will start partnering with importers to improve the quality of cars being shipped in.

AA Director General Francis Theuri said the association — which has more than 35,000 members — will work with those importing cars, and inspect them so that buyers are more informed about the vehicles they purchase.

"We are going to start this immediately because our aim is to ensure that cars (especially second-hand cars) that are driven on our roads are of high quality," he said.

He added that AA will inspect vehicles and write a report to guide consumers on the value of cars before they buy them.

Mr Theuri was speaking recently during a meeting of African AA presidents and FIA in Nairobi.

"The attraction of importing cars from Japan is evident — highly competitive prices as well as quality and reliability associated with Japanese used cars. However, market saturation and competition have eroded the quality of cars being imported and it has unfortunately given rise to heartless criminals who are happy to fleece their victims. This is what we want to curb," he said.

Last year, close to 300 vehicles were rejected by Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) on first inspection and owners were asked to fix them before re-inspection. But research shows that low quality second-hand cars still find their way into Kenya.

Records from KEBS show that about 7,000 second-hand vehicles from Japan, Dubai, United Kingdom, South Africa and Singapore are imported to Kenya every month. Under a new rule by Kebs that begun last month, imported vehicles must pass safety and mechanical inspection, must be right-hand drive and must be less than eight years old. This, according to Kebs, is aimed at reducing the risk associated with substandard vehicles entering the Kenyan market.

Importation of second hand vehicles has increased in recent years among the expanding middle class.

Compensation dispute threatens to derail Sh6bn bypass project

BY DENNIS LUBANGA
dlubanga@ke.nationmedia.com
AND WYCLIFF KIPSANG
wkipsang@ke.nationmedia.com

Complaints by residents over an unclear roadmap on compensation threaten to derail the construction of the Sh6 billion Eldoret Southern bypass.

A spot check by the *Sunday Nation* last week revealed that the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) and the National Lands Commission (NLC) have already earmarked the areas to be covered by the 35 kilometre route, which is aimed at decongesting Eldoret Town.

However, residents who spoke to *Sunday Nation* expressed fears that they may lose a lot of investments should they be moved from their ancestral land without proper compensation structures.

"We have just been given the compensation forms to fill but we have not been told if we shall be compensated for our properties ,which stand on the land," said Mr Stephen Kiplagat of Nandi Gaa area.

"The contractor has already erected beacons but they are not telling us when the money will be deposited in our bank accounts to make arrangements to relocate" said Mr Kiplagat, 39.

"We have already prepared our lands for planting this season but we are uncertain when the project will commence. We fear that it will start when we have already planted, thus we end up incurring losses," said Ms Teresia Jemeli, another resident. Six homesteads in her family will be affected by the project, which will run from the Eldoret-Nakuru Highway at Cheplaskei to the Eldoret- Malaba Highway at Maili Tisa.



Another resident, Ms Rosebella Samoei, said she is expecting at least Sh10 million for her two acre piece.

"We want to be given at least six months after we are compensated so that we have ample time to look for land elsewhere and transfer our children to other schools," said Ms Samoei who works at the nearby Nandi Gaa Primary School. Part of the school will also pave way for the project.

Mr Eric Langat, a resident of Kapseret, said locals will not move out until they are fully compensated.

But NLC Chair Muhammad Swazuri (left) assured residents that no one will lose their land without being compensated. "We have deployed our team to the ground to establish the exact number of people who will be affected by the project and the modalities of payment. We expect to conclude the exercise soon," Mr Swazuri told *Sunday Nation* on phone.

KeNHA has also assured residents that the project was still on course, saying it has partnered with NLC to fast-track compensation.

"This exercise will be concluded soon to pave way for the compensation process," said KeNHA assistant director of corporate communications Charles Njogu.

SUNNY DAY

Are you teaching your children to cheat? It shall come back to you

In the game of cricket, there is an honour system. A batsman can be officially "out" (sent back to the pavilion) in a variety of ways; but he can also choose to "walk" if he feels he was out but no one noticed.

A parent recently recounted an experience in this regard. Her young son was batting, and decided to walk even though the umpire had not adjudicated him out. She was sad that his innings had ended, but happy that he had done the right thing.

Everyone did not share that sentiment, however. Another mother, whose son was playing in the same team, came up to berate her and her son for letting the team down. The argument being that there is no point leaving the field of play if no one has asked you to. Even if you were actually out. It costs the team, you see. And the whole point is to win.

Which mother do you find yourself siding with?

Many parents are these days thinking like the second mother. Cricket's honour system has become a relic. The modern game has too much money swirling in it to be beholden to dated concepts like ethics and dignity. It is rare to find a professional cricketer walking off when not asked to. And the modern game is bedevilled by periodic match-fixing revelations — so much so that I stopped watching a sport I once loved many years ago.

Football is just as bad. Players not only try to get away with infringements, they actually try to con the referee into punishing their opponents for things they haven't done. Some players have become so adept at "diving" — falling as though they have been fouled in order to win penalties — that one suspects they are actively coached in this.

And yet everyone looks away. Why? Because there is a lot of money at stake, and where money is involved, anything goes, right? As long as you don't get caught, you should push ethics to the limit. And so even parents are coaching their children in playing the game of life the "smart" way.

Is it any wonder that whenever we have had examination scandals in this country, it is usually the parents and teachers who are the culprits? They are the ones who transact and do the deed. The supposed role models and erstwhile guardians of virtue are the ones propagating the ethical collapse. Because there's a lot of money at stake, you see....

Allow me just a few comments on this phenomenon this Sunday. If you are teaching your child to cheat small, don't be surprised when your child grows up to cheat big. Cheating starts micro and goes macro. A fake penalty earned in a game of soccer turns into cheating in a public examination, for example.



SUNNY BINDRA

> Don't look surprised when your coaching comes full circle, and you too join the ranks of those hoodwinked by your offspring."

When exam cheating works, the next step is to cheat in order to land a job. By bribing recruiters and rigging selection lists, say. When jobs are gained by cheating, what ensues is cheating on the job — pretending to work without doing so, or using the employer's time or resources for side hustles.

Once the habit of cheating the employer is set, next to be cheated is the State. Taxes need not be paid religiously, surely? State coffers are just there to be emptied, are they not, by those who provide thin air and ghost workers and briefcase companies in return for handsome procurement dollars?

And then there's the law. That too can be cheated, and should, because rules are for honest fools. Why should any law apply to the adept cheater? Again, engaging the right bunch of wigs can usually do the trick.

And then: do you think the tenderpreneur who cheated on the pitch, cheated in the examinations hall, cheated in the workplace, cheated in the corridors of ministries, and cheated in the courts will play by the rules at home? Who's next to be cheated? The spouse, of course. Once the habit of playing fast and loose with the rules is established, is there any need to abide by the norms of fidelity and loyalty? Not at all. Just don't get caught.

And so back to you, the parent who thought teaching your child to cheat was A-OK these days. Thank you for giving your society another lying, scheming citizen, one who may eat its morals and destroy its institutions. Some justice will come, though, when your cheatin' child grows up to cheat you, too. Don't look surprised when your coaching comes full circle, and you too join the ranks of those hoodwinked by your offspring.

www.sunwords.com

Governors to spearhead much-awaited reforms in the coffee sector

BY MUCHEMI WACHIRA
@wachiramuchemi
muchemiwachira2015@gmail.com

Governors will now bear most of the responsibilities in implementation of proposed coffee sub-sector reforms, which have remained behind schedule following opposition by some stakeholders.

This is according to what came out of a meeting on the revival of the crop held in Naivasha recently.

The devolved units will be expected to streamline the leadership of farmers' unions, which are charged with marketing coffee on behalf of members.

Some unions are dying due to poor management while others have over borrowed and can no longer provide credit to growers. They have been using millers and marketing agents to provide credit to growers, which is seen as a conflict of interest.

The Co-operative Bank, as it emerged during the event, has established Sh2 billion fund for lending to farmers. The money will be advanced in form of Cherry Advance (Sh1.2 billion), buying farm inputs (Sh600 million) and for coffee factories improvement (Sh200 million).

The meeting noted that some measures have already been executed, but due to lack of grassroots support, they are yet to have an impact. For instance, only a few farmers have benefited from a fertiliser subsidy programme, which government introduced in 2016.

The Coffee Sector Implementation Committee (CSIC), which is implementing the reforms proposed by a national taskforce, is only mandated to co-ordinate and provide leadership.

It is the work of other government departments and Council of Governors to help in implementing the reforms. They will now be tasked with ensuring all farmers access the cheap fertilisers on time.

And since agriculture is a devolved function, most of the work falls at the hands of the regional government.

"We want to know the role the county governments can play in reviving the coffee sub-sector and I expect you to first go through the proposed reforms first," CISIC chairman Prof Joseph Kieyah told governors during a recent meeting.

At 3.2 per cent growth, Kieyah noted, Kenya is far below other countries such as Uganda (36 per cent), Rwanda (17.6 per cent) and Ethiopia (16.3 per cent).

And the main reason is failure to empower growers by ensuring that they receive good pay from their deliveries. His committee has encountered hurdles while trying to gazette legal reforms the taskforce developed.

TECHNOLOGY

Ins and outs of made-in-China phones

Has your phone been heating up lately for no apparent reason? Does it restart itself or occasionally freeze? When you take a call, does the person on the other end keep shouting that he can't hear you or you can't hear them? Does its charge drain faster than you expect? If these symptoms describe your phone, phablet or tablet computer, here is the bad news: your gadget is due for replacement.

Planning for your technology, especially your phone and computer — the two equipment many people use daily — is key. Every day that you use these devices, they wear out and get closer to their expiry date.

Most phones are built to last between two to three years. Any time longer than three years is a stretch. Most computers are built to give their best for about three years after which they need to be supported from time to time.

As soon as you buy a new phone, you need to start saving for the next. Why? Because a phone, its use and maintenance, is now a critical part of your budget. Let's do some simple mathematics. Say you buy a phone for Sh20,000 and it is expected to last 24 months. If you spread the Sh20,000 over the 24-month period, you will find that every month you are paying approximately Sh833.

That does not include the cost of airtime and data bundles — the two variables that add up to the cost of keeping a phone.

Most of the phones sold in Kenya are China-made. Tecno, Huwaei and Infinix are the most popular phones in Kenya and Africa, because their prices are favourable to low-income communities that make the majority of the population.

Pruned features

However, there are many other categories of made-in-China cheap and often unbranded or weirdly-branded phones. From the outside, these phones resemble the top-end phones. From the inside, however, they have been stripped of some features. Pruning the features helps to keep the price low.

This category of phones has a short shelf-life. With modest use, they last between 12 and 15 months. They are not build to last longer than that, anyway. They are built to give you some modest service for a short time and for a pocket-friendly price, and then they die.



SAM WAMBUGU

> If the Chinese do not build and supply affordable technology, many people would have to save for a long time before they own a phone or access the internet."

The same goes for the low-priced office assembled computers. When you buy such, you will be lucky to get a warranty of more than six months. In fact, the length of the warranty is a strong indicator that the gadget is not expected to last long.

If the seller had a higher confidence in the gadgets, he would offer a warranty that covers a year or longer. But for a shoe-string budget, that's what you get. This is not necessarily a bad deal. If the Chinese do not build and supply affordable technology, many people would have to save for a long time before they own a phone or access the internet.

Such people would never access apps, such as mobile money platforms, that open up doors to many other social and economic services. It is common to look down upon made-in-China gadgets but more than seven in 10 Africans depend on them for calling, texting and data services.

Made-in-China technology has employed millions of traders who sell chargers, phone cases and other allied accessories.

The downside is, compared with sturdy phones, the second-rate phones can be infiltrated more easily by bad guys. Their hardware and software are not robust enough to stop intruders from accessing the phone and your data.

The writer is an informatics specialist.
samwambugu@gmail.com
@samwambugu2

Distributors targeted in war on illicit brew

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

That marked the first fall in that period since 2011 when collections fell to Sh37.01 billion from Sh39.52 billion the year before, an analysis of the data kept by the Central Bank of Kenya shows.

"Industry analysts term the performance as unusual given what would otherwise have been a strong season given election-related consumption," commissioner-general John Njiraini, whose second and final three-year term expires early next month, said.

Alcoholic drinks and cigarettes account for about 90 per cent of income from excise duty, which is also charged on soft drinks, water, cosmetics, food supplements and polythene bags (whose production is only allowed for industrial use since August 2017).

President Uhuru Kenyatta in July 2015 ordered a countrywide crackdown on illicit production of alcohol resulting in reduction of licensed manufacturers of spirits to 21 from 177.

This was after the Inter-Agency Task Force on Control of Potable Spirits and Combat of Illicit Brews, formed by the then Interior secretary, the late Interior secretary Joseph Nkaissery, found 114 licensed firms to be unfit to process spirits for human consumption.

The KRA last week cleared 28 firms to make spirits this year. The revenue agency, ABAK and the taskforce on illicit alcohol, last week Wednesday rolled out a two-week multimillion-shilling sensitisation campaign on how to verify genuine alcoholic drinks using the "Soma Label" app.

Alcohol manufacturers, distributors, retailers and importers as well as the police in 35 hotspot towns are being sensitised on how to verify genuine alcoholic products using smartphones.

Most of low-value spirits from Uganda, some packaged in banned sachets, market insiders said, are widespread in western towns such as Kisumu and Bungoma, and downtown Nairobi streets.

"To ensure a quick response time to reports of illicit products in the market, KRA has devolved its Market Surveillance function to Kisumu and Mombasa," Mr Korongo said.

WORLD



SHABAAB'S NEW TACTICS
A report published by Combating Terrorism Centre in the United States is being used by Al-Shabaab supporters to defend the extremists, a new study has shown. **PAGE 43**

Marginalisation > President Paul Biya dispatched troops, helicopters and vehicles to the region

Cameroonian Anglophones in Nigerian state prepare for war



PHOTO | AFP

Cameroonian refugees gather for a meeting in Boki district of Cross Rivers State, Nigeria. On October 1, separatists issued a symbolic declaration of independence for the putative state of Ambazonia, marking a turning point for the country's English speaking minority.

No formal camps have been identified but young fighters are engaged in rituals

IKOM, Nigeria, Saturday

For the first time in his life, Victor Obi believes the only way to win freedom in Cameroon is with a gun.

"I don't want to die but the only future is our independence, and they will not give it to us," said the student, whose name has been changed for own safety.

The 25-year-old is camped out in a small Nigerian village just kilometres from his home in Cameroon where authorities have launched a crackdown on English-speaking separatists.

"They killed my sister and brother," said Obi, his voice heavy with hatred. "I have nothing to lose."

Obi says soldiers invaded his hometown of Kajifu in December and started shooting indiscriminately at suspected separatists, said to be running a training camp in the thick forest surrounding the village.

Kajifu is in one of Cameroon's two English-speaking regions that have been pushing for independence from the French-speaking elite who rule the West African country.

On October 1, separatists declared the two regions as the self-proclaimed republic of "Ambazonia", marking a turning point for the country's English-speaking minority, which makes up around a fifth of the population.

Cameroon President Paul Biya dispatched troops, helicopters and armoured vehicles to root out the dissidents, forcing tens of thousands to flee to Nigeria.

At least 26 soldiers have been killed in the violence, according to a tally.

But the civilian death toll is not known, with NGOs and independent media barred from the conflict zone.

Though the original Ambazonia leaders have dissociated themselves from militant offshoots — they claim their struggle is peaceful — there are a growing number of attacks against the government.

On Sunday, before a national youth day parade in Batibo, a town near the Nigerian border, a government official was kidnapped and his car razed in an attack claimed by separatists.

Lucas Cho Ayaba, leader of the Ambazonian Defence Forces, took credit for the kidnapping, declaring: "You kill my people, we will chase you to the gates of hell."

The ADF, along with three other militias, represent the main groups which count more than 300 fighters, according to an International Crisis Group estimate. There are also 10 smaller but violent factions in the conflict.

"Few claim attacks and it is difficult to know exactly who is responsible," said ICG researcher Hans De Marie Heungoup.

"The main issue for Ambazonian groups is that they lack finance. If they had money to buy weapons, train and feed their people, they could raise an army."

But amidst the chaos, one thing seems certain: the crackdown has radicalised many English-speakers, among them the farmers and managers who have long felt marginalised by Yaounde but have never been interested in politics — until now.

English-speakers in Cameroon have been marginalised for long, said Pastor John Mbe, one of more than 33,000 refugees in Cross River State, Nigeria.

"Many people have died already. We can't go back home," he said. "Young people may not have guns and bullets, but I can tell you they're angry."

A source close to the militants says they have adopted the guerilla philosophy of freedom fighters in Eritrea as well as that of Nelson Mandela's anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

> Few claim attacks and it is difficult to know exactly who is responsible. The main issue for Ambazonian groups is that they lack finance. If they had money to buy weapons, train and feed their people, they could raise an army"
>
> **Hans De Marie Heungoup, a researcher with the International Crisis Group**

In Manyu, a region at the epicentre of the conflict, separatists block roads with tyres and tree trunks to ambush and attack the military.

The militants are armed mostly with homemade rifles, some Kalashnikovs, grenades and other improvised explosives.

The few sophisticated weapons they possess have been stolen from police stations.

As a result of the simmering violence, thousands of refugees are arriving in Ikom, a city just over the border in Nigeria, raising fears that the conflict is spiralling out of control.

No formal fighter camp has been identified, but according to several witnesses interviewed, young refugees are performing black magic rituals to prepare for war.

They gather in small groups for "juju" ceremonies, during which they cut their foreheads and rub the bleeding wound with "magic potions" to make them invincible, said a Nigerian soldier who attended one of the ceremonies. *(AFP)*

COMMENTS
Go to this link to join the debate and to see views from other readers: www.nation.co.ke

BRIEFLY

DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania police accused of killing varsity student

Tanzania's main opposition party has accused police of shooting dead a female university student and seriously injuring four other people while dispersing a peaceful demonstration in Dar es Salaam. Police admitted a person was hit but accused protesters of throwing stones. The student was struck by a bullet while on a bus the day before a parliamentary by-election in Kinondoni constituency, an opposition spokesperson said. *(AFP)*

MAPUTO

Hunger in Mozambique as pest destroys maize

More than 8,000 people are on the verge of starvation in Mozambique following the destruction of crops, a regional official has said. More than 100 hectares of farmland in Motaze, southern Maputo province, were wiped out because of low rains and a caterpillar infestation. Isabel Tembisa, head of the Motaze administrative post, said the situation was critical — particularly given the fact the main crop destroyed was maize, the region's staple food. *(BBC)*

NEW YORK

Group wants ICC to probe mass expulsion

Human Rights Watch has asked the International Criminal Court to investigate the displacement of the entire population of the Libyan town of Tawargha. Some 40,000 residents were forced out of the town in 2011 when armed groups from Misrata accused them of supporting Muammar Gaddafi and committing war crimes. Tawergha population was displaced in what was described as collective punishment by rights groups. *(BBC)*

BANJUL

The Gambia ordered to pay journalists $127,000



The Gambia has been directed to pay four journalists a total of six million dalasis ($127,000) for breaching their rights. The journalists should receive either one or two million each, West African regional group Ecowas ruled. The four plaintiffs launched their case in 2015, when Yahya Jammeh (above) was still president of the Gambia — a period which was marked by little respect for human rights or freedom of speech. *(BBC)*

Dateline Africa > Sisi supporter contests against him to give the poll some legitimacy

It's a season of high drama as heads leave office

Just one and a half months into 2018, extraordinary political developments have taken place on the continent, among them the departure of Jacob Zuma from the South African presidency.

Whereas that was expected following a convoluted campaign from many quarters, few expected Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to tender his resignation about the same time.

The Ethiopian premier, who has been in power since 2012, submitted the letter of resignation on Thursday.

The decision came amid a flurry of anti-government protests that have hit the country in recent times, having reached the peak in 2015.

That was when protracted demonstrations spread across Ethiopia, leaving hundreds dead and prompting parliament to declare a 10-month state of emergency.

As the PM, Hailemariam had to take responsibility for that declaration that was made in October 2016, further heightening political tension.

Poignantly, though, in order to ease tensions in the country amid mounting unrest, the government recently released thousands of prisoners, a move that did not quell opposition grumblings.

Not surprisingly, the premier said his throwing in the towel was advised by a personal wish to facilitate the implementation of reforms in the Horn of African country.

Remarkably, it came soon after the announcement of the death on Wednesday of Morgan Tsvangirai, the icon of Zimbabwean opposition politics, at the age of 65.

The developments in South Africa and Ethiopia also came when opposition parties in many African countries had been flexing their muscles despite obstacles.

For instance, Chad recently suspended the activities of 10 opposition parties for two months after accusing them of disturbing public order and inciting violence.

The move followed a march called by trade unions, but which was dispersed by police, leaving a trail of injuries.

The suspension, announced by security minister Ahmat Mahamat Bachir, followed a decision by the parties to back trade union calls for a protest against austerity measures.

Also banned was a march that was expected to bring together civil groups, trade unions and politicians opposed to cuts in public spending.

Although described by the finance ministry as vital for staving off bankruptcy in Chad, the cuts have increased social tension and anger at President Idriss Déby Itno, who has been in power since 1990.



CIUGU MWAGIRU

> Matters are not easier in Sierra Leone, where opposition leaders have been challenging a decision by the police to ban vehicular movement during election day."



PHOTO | AFP

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivers his State of the Nation address in parliament on Friday. Ramaphosa took over from Jacob Zuma as South Africa's president.

According to observers, there is an unwritten policy of zero tolerance for protests in the country, where almost half the population of 14 million lives below the poverty line.

Political temperatures are also building up in Egypt, where opposition leaders have vowed to boycott next month's presidential election.

Authorities responded by launching investigations on opposition leaders "who are out to destabilise the country".

As matters stand, only one other person, Moussa Mustafa Moussa, will run against President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Critics, however, say the sole candidate is one of Sisi's leading supporters, adding that he entered the race at the last minute to give the election some legitimacy.

Not surprisingly, the looming presidential election has been described as a charade by the country's opposition, while 14 human rights organisations have labelled it "farcical".

Matters are not easier in Sierra Leone, where opposition leaders have been challenging a decision by the police to ban vehicular movement during election day on March 7.

Described as a security measure, it would see only government vehicles and those with a special passes allowed on roads, but 10 of the 17 registered political parties are opposed to it.

According to the parties, the planned restriction was bound to bring to question the integrity of the electoral process.

Given that many polling centres are long distances apart, Denise Bright, the chairman of the National Grand Coalition, said the police proposal infringed on citizens' rights of movement and assembly.

Following claims that the aged and the disabled would particularly be affected, the parties in a joint statement called on the Inspector General of Police to scrap the plan.

Also raised were other concerns they wanted addressed ahead of March 7, particularly relating to the general conduct of the police force.

Claiming that its members had previously been used to rig elections in favour of the incumbent, the opposition forces demanded several reforms on their deployment.

By all indications, as the year unfolds, the African political landscape could yield even more drama than we have seen so far.

ciugumwagiru@yahoo.co.uk

Oxfam fights back criticisms on prostitution scandal

LONDON, Saturday

The head of Oxfam on Friday hit back at criticism over a prostitution scandal that he said was "out of proportion", as the British charity agreed not to bid for more government funds until it cleans up its act.

Chief executive Mark Goldring has repeatedly apologised for failings in the way the charity dealt with claims of sexual misconduct by its aid staff, but said some people refused to listen to explanations.

"The intensity and the ferocity of the attack makes you wonder, what did we do?" he said in an interview with *The Guardian* newspaper.

"We murdered babies in their cots? Certainly, the scale and the intensity of the attacks feels out of proportion to the level of culpability. I struggle to understand it."

He suggested that some critics were motivated in part by opposition to taxpayer-funded aid — Oxfam received nearly £32 million (36 million Euros, $44 million) from the British government last year.

Earlier, the charity unveiled an action plan to tackle sexual harassment and abuse, and agreed not to bid for any more state funds until reforms were in place.

"Oxfam has agreed to withdraw from bidding for any new UK government funding until the Department for International Development is satisfied that they can meet the high standards we expect of our partners," aid minister Penny Mordaunt said. She added all the government's charitable partners had been asked to give assurances on their safeguarding and reporting practices by February 26. "We have been very clear that we will not work with any organisation that does not live up to the high standards on safeguarding and protection that we require," Mordaunt said.

Oxfam has been mired in scandal since revelations one week ago that staff used prostitutes while working in Haiti following a devastating 2010 earthquake.

There have since been claims made about aid workers in Chad, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines, and three Oxfam global ambassadors including South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu have quit their roles.

Deputy chief executive Penny Lawrence resigned over the Haiti affair earlier this week and on Friday, Oxfam International's executive director, Winnie Byanyima, said it would haunt the charity.

"What happened in Haiti and afterwards is a stain on Oxfam that will shame us for years, and rightly so," she told the *BBC*, adding: "From the bottom of my heart, I am asking for forgiveness."

Ministers have demanded Oxfam produce a plan on how to deal with any forthcoming allegations, that it reports any staff members involved in the Haiti scandal and that it fully cooperates with the Haitian authorities.

The aid group said it would create an independent commission with the power to access records and interview staff, and impose stricter controls on employees.

It will also double the number of staff engaged in safeguarding and triple its funding in this area to more than $1 million (800,000 euros), while also increasing investment in gender training. *(AFP)*

Ramaphosa era brings hope to South Africans

CHRIS ERASMUS

> These sorts of interactions belie the notion that Zuma was 'the man of the people' while Ramaphosa has been painted as aloof."

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has set out to show he is nothing like his predecessor, dispensing with Jacob Zuma's enormous security, engaging with citizens on streets and raising the hope for a better life under his administration.

When in Cape Town, Ramaphosa is routinely seen jogging on the beachfront of the city's popular promenade.

He is open to citizens approaching him, even taking photos with them, accompanied by only a few security personnel.

Friday was a landmark day on which Ramaphosa delivered the State of the Nation address. On entering parliament, Ramaphosa walked behind a reporter for an independent TV news channel, but was happy to be stopped and take ad hoc questions.

Closer to the truth

He was convivial and open, saying he was excited about delivering the address — originally to have been given by Zuma — but was also somewhat apprehensive.

These sorts of interactions and accessibility belie the notion that Zuma was the 'man of the people' while Ramaphosa has been painted by critics as being aloof and distant.

The opposite is, in both instances, closer to the truth, with Ramaphosa's casual openness contrasting sharply with Zuma's intense engagement with pomp, ceremony and trappings of state power.

There is a growing sense of hope among South Africans that under Ramaphosa, the country will return to racial harmony, economic growth and improved quality of life experienced under Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki's presidencies.

Meanwhile, Zuma's state capture network is disintegrating faster than could be imagined.

Gupta family members have appeared in a Free State province court on a $19 million dairy farm corruption charge.

AJ Gupta, one of the lead figures in state capture, is officially on the run, with border security on the watch for him and with 13 more arrest warrants issued.

In a separate matter, but related by theme, two Free State provincial government officials, including a former provincial minister, have been charged with corruption relating to a 2009 tender.

State capture

At least three close Gupta associates, including the nephew of controversial brothers Atul and AJ and Rajesh, appeared in the Bloemfontein magistrates court on Thursday on charges of money laundering, corruption and theft of state money.

The three — Gupta lieutenants Ashu Chawla and Ronica Ragovan, and nephew Varun Gupta — were among five people arrested early on Wednesday morning.

At least another two suspects, one of them AJ Gupta, were to have handed themselves over on Thursday, but AJ failed to do so, triggering a nationwide manhunt for a man who until a week ago was effectively "untouchable" as Zuma's close friend and ally in state capture.

Their lawyers have been quoted in local media as rubbishing the charges, but spokesman for the crack Hawks investigating arm of the police, Hangwani Mulaudzi, said authorities were confident of the corruption case.

Al-Shabaab using think tank report to back its activities

MOGADISHU, Saturday

A report published by the Combating Terrorism Centre in the US is being used by supporters of the militant group Al-Shabaab to defend the extremists.

Somalimemo, a pro-Al-Shabaab media outlet, picked out parts of the report titled "Targeted Terror" to support its own narrative that the Islamist militants often avoids civilian casualties in its attacks.

"A research centre owned by the US military has said in a new report on Al-Shabaab that the mujahideen movement's attacks are highly targeted," *Somalimemo* reported.

The report said that unlike other groups, Al-Shabaab often minimises civilian fatalities in its attacks.

"In a 40-page report on Al-Shabaab bombings between 2006 and 2017, the report says the attacks are highly targeted, focusing on Somali government officials, UN centres, and bases of the invading African Union forces in the country."

Somali government troops supported by thousands of African Union forces have been battling Al-Shabaab for years.

The group, however, has continued to carry out deadly attacks both inside Somalia and in neighbouring countries - both on security forces and civilians. *(BBC)*

Kosovo marks 10th birthdday



Young Kosovo Albanians with flags of the countries that recognised Kosovo's independence, march in Pristina yesterday. Kosovo marked the 10th anniversary of independence from Serbia.

PHOTO | AFP

Bombers kill 19, injure 70 at a fish market

KANO, Nigeria, Saturday

Three suicide bombers killed 19 people at a fish market in northeast Nigeria, civilian militia leaders said on Saturday, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram jihadists.

The blasts happened at about 8: 30 pm on Friday in Konduga, some 35 kilometres (20 miles) southeast of the Borno state capital, Maiduguri.

Babakura Kolo and Musa Ari, from the Civilian Joint Task Force assisting Nigeria's military against the Islamists, said the bombers were all men.

"We have 19 dead and about 70 others injured. Two of the bombers attacked the Tashan Kifi fish market. Then four minutes later, a third bomber struck nearby," said Mr Kolo.

"The victims included 18 civilians and one soldier. The Tashan Kifi is an informal market which serves as an eatery, market and also hang-out for residents."

Ari said 22 of the 70 injured were in critical condition, adding: "There is no question as to who did it: Boko Haram has targeted Konduga several times."

There was no immediate comment from the military or the police in Borno state, which has borne the brunt of the violence in Boko Haram's nearly nine-year insurgency.

At least 20,000 people have been killed and more than 2.6 million others made homeless since 2009. Nigeria's military and government maintains the group is a spent force. *(AFP)*

Plea > Former Trump national security adviser pleaded guilty

Indictment of Russians boosts probe on collusion in US poll

The Russians were charged with meddling in the US presidential election, which Donald Trump won

WASHINGTON, Saturday

With the surprise indictment on Friday of 13 Russians for meddling in the US election, Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of possible collusion between Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and Moscow has entered new territory.

In the first charges directly related to the election, the indicted Russians were accused of running a secret campaign to tilt the vote, including by churning out online posts that were damaging to Trump's political rivals.

Deputy Attorney-General Rod Rosenstein (right) said, however, the indictments contained "no allegation" that any American was a knowing participant in the meddling, and that there was no judgement on whether the election outcome was affected.

Mueller's probe has made progress nine months after he was appointed.

The indictments so far show his team of investigators moving in multiple directions.

On October 30, he charged former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, and Manafort's deputy Rick Gates, on money laundering-related charges arising from their work in Ukraine for former pro-Moscow president Viktor Yanukovych. That work, which ended in 2014, had no connection to the 2016 US election. Recent court filings suggest Gates is preparing a plea deal with Mueller.

Also on October 30, Mueller extracted a guilty plea from George Papadopoulos, a Trump campaign foreign policy advisor. The plea was to one count of lying over his contacts with Russians during the campaign, and made clear Papadopoulos was cooperating with the probe.

On December 1, Mueller announced a guilty plea by former Trump national security advisor Michael Flynn, also to one count of lying, about his conversations with then Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Flynn, who faces numerous other accusations, was also believed to be cooperating with Mueller in exchange for the single charge.

In addition to the conspiracy and identity theft charges announced Friday against the 13 Russians, Mueller unveiled identity fraud charges against Californian Richard Pinedo, who admitted to selling stolen bank and credit card numbers to the Russians.



Mueller's team appears to have interviewed most of those connected to the Trump campaign, including Attorney-General Jeff Sessions, Trump son-in-law and White House senior advisor Jared Kushner, White House communications director and Trump confidante Hope Hicks, former Trump strategist Steve Bannon, and others in the president's inner circle.

13 The number of Russians charged with collusion in the 2016 US election.

The interviews have focused both on the possible collusion with Russian attempts to sway the election, and on Trump's alleged obstruction of the Mueller probe, including his firing of FBI director James Comey.

There is no sign yet of the investigation reaching an end. Mueller still wants to interview Trump himself, for one.

And his team is following other leads, apparently, such as financial connections between the Trump Organisation, the president's real estate business, and Russia.

Mueller and Trump's lawyers have been in discussions for weeks over whether the president will speak to him. While Trump told journalists he is willing to do the interview, his lawyers are opposed, concerned that he may incriminate himself. *(AFP)*

BRIEFLY

MEXICO

Two killed in plane crash as quake triggers panic

A strong earthquake shook southern and central Mexico Friday, causing panic less than six months after two devastating quakes that killed hundreds of people. No buildings collapsed, according to early reports. But two towns near the epicentre, in the southern state of Oaxaca, reported damage and state authorities said they had opened emergency shelters. Later in the day, a helicopter en route to the scene carrying the country's interior minister and the governor of Oaxaca crash landed, killing two people on the ground even as the passengers survived. *(AFP)*

PARIS

Serial killer confesses killing girl 30 years later

Serial killer Michel Fourniret has finally "confessed" to murdering British language student Joanna Parrish in France nearly 30 years ago, the family lawyer said. Jailed for life in 2008 for killing seven girls, Fourniret was dubbed the Ogre of the Ardennes. He was interviewed last by two instructing magistrates in Paris and, according to lawyer Didier Seban, admitted murdering the 20-year-old Parrish and French teenager Marie-Angele Domece. "He made detailed and repeated confessions. He clearly recognises having killed Joanna Parrish and Marie-Angele Domece," Seban said. *(AFP)*

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Death and Funeral Announcement



Josphat Kimani Njoroge (Ithe Wa Karee) Dick

(1933 - 2018)

Son of late Mr/Mrs. Njoroge Gatoto, Husband of Jane Wanjiku Kimani (Mwari wa Boro). Father Njuguna Kimani (Soldier) of Aqanyce Co. Ltd and Wanjiru Nduati (formerly Wrigleys), Joyce Njoki & Mbugua Wanderi of Ministry of Agriculture, Benadate Thira of Wrigleys & Mwaura. Wanjiru & Mungai, Sarah Nyambura & late Ruringi Chuhi, late Issabel Wanjiru. Brother of Mbugwa, Wainanina, Thira, late Kioi, Wanjiru, Wanjiku and Kiarire. In Law of Mary Waitherero Nduati of Kiganjo. Mbugwa Wadibi, Mbura Muringiya, late Muhia Njunguna and late Chuhi Mararo. Grandfather of Joakim Kimani, (Portal Ventures Cabs) & Wangechi, Njoroge Mwaura, Nduati & Kimani (Aquanyce), Mbugua, Kimani (KPLC, Moridate), Wanjiku, Wangari (Equity Bank-River road), Chuhi & Kezia (Both of Muthaiga Golf Club). Great-grandfather of many.

Today, Sunday 18th we shall have prayer service at Mr & Mrs Njuguna's home Bustani Gardens-Hse No. 22 Njathaini road off Kiambu-Nairobi road next to Starehe Girls from 3pm. Also another service will be at his residence Juja farm, Gikumari.

Meetings start on Monday 19th at Senior officers' members club Kiambu from 6pm. Last meeting will be on Wednesday 21st.

The cortege leaves KU mortuary at 9am on Thursday 22nd February for burial at Juja Farm-Gikumari. Body will be removed from same day.

"Baba, urari nmuhoreri, uromama kwega na thayu ucio"

1st Anniversary



Dad, though days have turned into weeks months into a year since you went home, your memory is our treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Dad, your guiding hand on our shoulders will remain with us forever. There is no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts.

Memories of you are still very close within our hearts.

Remembered and missed dearly by your loving wife Wangari, Your children Muteru, Mukigi and Wamuyu, Brothers, Sisters, Cousins and the entire family.

We thank God for his continued blessings and grace to all of us. To relatives and friends who have walked with us, blessings to you all.

Solomon Nguyo Muteru

"God is our merciful father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others" 2 Corinthians 1:4

Rest with Angels Dad....Amen

In Loving Memory / 8th Anniversary



Lucy Kanyua Kathurima Miriti

A Loving Wife, a devoted Mother and a cherished Friend; Loved by all.

We thought of you today, but that is nothing new; We thought about you yesterday and days before that too; Yet 8 years have gone by.
We think of you in silence and often mention your name;
All we have are memories and your picture in our minds;
Your memory is a keepsake from which we'll never part;

Almighty God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.

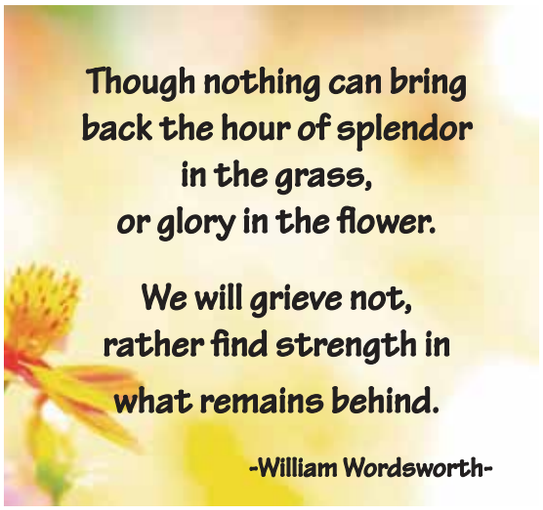
A child of God, you were simply the Best!

May your soul be at rest with Almighty God.

Forever cherished by your family, relatives, friends and all whose lives you touched.

"Those we love don't go away; They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard, but always near;
Still loved, still missed and very dear."

- Intercede for us -



Forever in our Hearts



Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Unseen and unheard, but their resounding wisdom and counsel lives on. Their memories are a treasure.

Four years have passed since you went to be with the Lord Dad. We shall forever hold dearly onto the virtues that you bestowed in our hearts.

We pray that the winds of heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear how much we love and miss you and wish you were here with us.

Job Omung'ala Amboko

Sunrise: 28/11/47
Sunset: 18/02/14

Dearly missed by your loving Wife Jemimah Omungála, Son Kenneth Amboko, Daughters Angela Amboko, Hildah Amboko, Viennah Amboko & Winnie Amboko, Daughter-in-law Sanura Jumanne, Grandsons Trevor Amunga & Job Omung'ala, relatives and friends.

In all things give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus. 1st Thessalonians 5:18.

The Catholic Diocese of Nakuru and
the Family of Rev. Fr. Simon Wambugu Mugwe

Death and Funeral Announcement



With humble acceptance of God's will, we announce the passing on of Rev. Fr. Simon Wambugu Mugwe of the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru on 10th February, 2018.

Son of Mr. Peter Mugwe and Rahab Waithera. Brother to Ann Wairimu, Priscillah Nyambura and Charles Kuigaiga, Rachel Njeri and John Murira, Moses Kinuthia and Beth Wanjiru, Samuel Wahome and Anne Wanjiru and Beatrice Nyambura. Uncle to Peter, Ian, Tonny, Eric, Nancy, Faith, simon, Susan, Dorcas, Jecinta and Benson.

Holy Masses are celebrated everyday at his Parent's home in Mihang'o- Subukia. The cortege leaves PNN Funeral Home on Sunday February 18th at 4.00pm for the viewing of the body followed by night Vigil Masses at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Nakuru. Vigil Masses Programme; 6.00pm requiem mass by Bishop Maurice Muhatia, 7.45pm office for the dead, 8.30pm Chaplet of divine Mercy and the litany for dead, 9.00pm 2nd requiem mass by Bahati Deanery, 10.00pm Holy Rosary (sorrowful followed by glorious mysteries, Litany of the blessed virgin Mary, 12.00am Requiem Mass by Classmates, 1.30am Chaplet of divine Mercy.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated at Cathedral of Christ the King on Monday 19th February at 10.00am and thereafter the burial will follow at Diocesan Clergy Cemetry at St. Augustine Parish Bahati at 1.00pm.

Rev. Fr. Simon Wambugu Mugwe

Sunrise 1: 13/05/1982
Sunrise 2: 10/02/2018

"Ad Majorem Dei Glorium" (For the Greater Glory of God)

Celebrating A Life Well Lived



Phillip Karanja Kabaru

Sunrise 07-04-1932 - Sunset 14-02-2018

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Phillip Karanja Kabaru. Son of the Late Paul Kabaru & the Late Susan Wambui Kabaru. He was a brother to the late Winifred Wanjiru Mwangi, the late Edward Mwangi, James Muturi, Flora Kamau, Lucy Ndegwa and Jane Maina.

Beloved husband of Salome Wanjiru Karanja (a.k.a Sister Karanja) of Karuri sub-location, Banana Hill, Kiambaa, Kiambu. Father of Susan & Timothy Masila, Zaituni & Paul Kabaru, Isaac Ngugi, Maryanne Mwihaki, Marian Njeri, Isaac Gitonga, Teresa & Moses Omari, Lydia Wambui and the late Edward Mwangi. Grandfather of Robyn, Sienna, Phillip, Wayne, Ethan, Sean, Leo, Kahiga, Evelyne, Eli and Liam.

Friends and family are meeting daily at the family home in Karuri sub-location, Banana Hill, Kiambaa, Kiambu. There will be a Prayer Service at the family home on Sunday 18th February 2018 at 3:00pm. A second Prayer Service and Fundraiser towards the hospital bill will be held on Tuesday 20th February 2018 at the All Saints Cathedral Church in Nairobi at 5:30pm. Contributions can also be made through M-PESA Paybill number 258250. Please write your name as the account number.

Burial date to be communicated in due course.

Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

May Dad's soul rest in eternal peace.

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LEARN THE RULES

Etiquette shouldn't come once a year, like Valentine's Day



VINCENT WANG'OMBE

Valentine's day is a silly affair. The trouble that many go through on this "lover's" day, if you look at it dispassionately, does go to extremes.

Come to think of it, the same thing can be said about golf.

Golf, just like love, can increase the heart rate, ruin composure, spoil the appetite for food, blister the hands, play havoc on the nervous system, make grown men (and sometimes women) to cry like little tots, cause ulcers of the stomach, leave one tongue-tied and lead to bankruptcy.

Done properly however, golf and love don't have to have such adverse effects.

Love and golf are suitable for all. The fit and the unfit, the religious and the atheist, the octogenarian and the young lad can all find enjoyment on the golf course.

Unlike Scotch, the other popular product from the highlands of Scotland, too much golf is not injurious to the health. If anything, golf cures anxiety and is a neutralising agent for stress. On the golf course, companionship with fellow golfers is not always guaranteed.

Even though majority of golfers have good etiquette, once in a while it is not uncommon to find yourself in the company of golfers who are rough around the edges.

There are those that will perform dismally in social intercourse and have very little courtesy or honesty if any.

One of the little idiosyncrasies of the golfers with poor etiquette is the thought that the world would stop if they were not reachable for even one minute.

They always have to have their mobile phones on their person.

Talking on the phone

I would understand when an obstetrician carries his phone to the golf course; but what matter of life and death would a teacher or an accountant require a phone for?

Talking on the phone is not only discourteous, it also slows down the pace of play. It does not make it better when one hides in a bush to talk on the phone.

It is unbecoming of golfers to keep others waiting to talk on the phone.

And no! a perfunctory apology for the delay does not give absolution for the sin.

The other faux pas on our golf courses is cheating. I used to get what I thought were weird comments when discussing Rules of Golf especially with golfers who are fond of betting.

I was once discussing with a golfer on the procedure for taking free relief from Ground Under Repair (GUR).

For him, the irreducible minimum is that the position of a ball being picked from the GUR must be marked. I pointed out to him that whereas it is good practice, the player is not required to mark its position.

The Rules state that a ball to be replaced must be marked but since the ball picked from the GUR is not going to be replaced in the same position, there is no requirement for marking its position.

"How will I know where the ball lay if he does not mark its position?" was his reaction. "He will tell you where it lay" was my answer. "What if he's not honest?" he retorted.

"What kind of people are you playing with?" I wondered.

This is something that I am hearing more and more nowadays. When I first heard the question, I naturally assumed that it was a misinterpretation of the Rules of Golf. I am now beginning to realise that some people are lying to either win bets or tournaments.

The level of distrust in certain groups of golfers is appalling. I'd hate to suspect anyone of cheating in golf. Sadly, that is what it has come to.

Unfortunately, the practice of flagrant violation of the limit of the value of prizes in amateur tournaments is rearing its ugly head again.

The fact that a prize must not exceed £500 in retail value is being ignored.

This has the effect of encouraging cheats as a few rotten golfers use the opportunity to try and win.

A story is told of the great Bobby Jones that illustrates the true nature of the spirit of golf.

He was making a stroke in a bush. No one followed him into the bush and all people saw was the ball emerge from the bush. When he finished the hole, he declared a penalty stroke.

Soiled diaper

Bobby Jones was astonished when some people suggested that it did not really matter.

The fact that no one saw him accidentally move the ball in the bush meant that he could get away with it. Bobby Jones looked at them like they were a soiled diaper.

How could he not have declared the infringement? To him, there was no other way to play the game.

Not declaring a penalty that he incurred was unimaginable. To him it was tantamount to trying to cheat himself.

Golf etiquette and integrity, just like love, should be practiced every day of the year.

They should not come once a year when we think that everyone is watching.

vincent.wangombe@gmail.com

Nakuru Rally > Only 16.4 seconds separate winner from runner up in opening round of national championship

Rai returns first, Chager second

BY ABDUL SIDI
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Onkar Rai won the Top Fry Nakuru Rally in dramatic fashion yesterday after a very close battle with Baldev Chager.

An incident in one of the stages almost cost Rai the victory. The Kabras-sponsored driver survived to successfully defend his title by pushing Chager to the second place by 16.4 seconds at the end of the six competitive stages of round one of the Kenya National Rally Championship.

''I would have really blamed myself for losing valuable seconds in one stage after I made a stupid driving mistake," said Rai, the Kabras Team driver.

He added: "I hit a bank, which damaged one of the wheels that compelled me to limp for few kilometres before the end of the stage. But I am lucky it didn't cost me the win."

Chager, a former Safari Rally winner was quickest in a majority of the competitive stages to finish second in the Rift Valley Motor Sports Club event.

Reigning Kenya champion, Ian Duncan (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo10) was placed third overall while, Manvir Baryan Skoda Fabia), the defending African Champion followed Duncan in the fourth position.

The event was praised by drivers for running faultless.



AYUB MUIYURO | NATION

Baldev Chager, navigated by Ravi Soni, in a Mitsubishi Evo10 blows up dust at Gicheha farm in Rongai during the Top Fry Nakuru Rally yesterday. Chager finished second behind race winner Onkar Rai.

RESULTS

Leading provisional results: 1. Onkar Rai/Gareth Dawe (Skoda Fabia) 01:28:04.3; 2. Baldev Chager/Ravi Soni (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:28:20.7; 3. Ian Duncan/Anthony Nielsen (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:32:34.7; 4. Manvir Baryan/Drew Sturrock (Skoda Fabia) 01:33:31.6; 5. Carl Tundo/Tim /Jessop (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:35:27.6; 6. Tejveer Rai/Zahir Shah (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:36:31.7; 7. Jasmeet Chana/Ravi Chana (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:40: 36.9; 8. Farhaaz Khan/Keith Henrie (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:41:00.1; 9. Karan Patel/James Mwangi (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:41:57; 10. Ammar Haq/Victor Okundi (Mitsubishi Evolution10) 01:48:49.3

Horse racing >

Fillies Guineas on the cards

BY THE GRUNDY
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Racing features the second classic showdown of the 2017/2018 season, the Fillies Guineas at Ngong Racecourse and Golf Park today.

A one mile (1,600m) race, the Fillies Guineas is the female version of the Kenya Guineas where all the runners will be carrying the same weight of 57kg.

It has attracted a field of six runners and it comes as the sixth race in the eight-race programme at 3.15pm.

Of the six, three, namely, Marais, Ione and Zodi West won last time and as a results, they are likely to attract a great deal of support from the punters though the three will have to beat Soho Mouse with jockey Lesley Sercombe aboard.

German Day aside, plenty to race for

BY DEJA VU
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

German Day at Ngong pledges to be full of pomp as the Fillies Guineas Classic sets a tone of obscurity, compared with its counterpart last month.

Marais and Zodi West, have each covered the distance, but Soho Mouse was withdrawn prior to an attempt. Marais, sired by Martial Art, is sure to be contentious when it matters most. No cerebral reasoning about Ione, Makushla, or Lettfot.

More intriguing is the Harry Deakin GBA Memorial Bowl, where Flash Harry, El Mundo, and Hawker Fury, are inseparable, to a point of disregarding other entries.

Ngong Runners >

12:25 Race 1 The Adsite Maiden: Dist 1200m. A maiden race for two year olds only at starting.
1 (2) Kournikova P. Mungai 55.0 4
2 - Karowe J. Lokorian 54.5 2
3 - Silverstone Air (SAF) J. Muhindi 54.5 1
4 - Lassie K. Nganga (5.0) 53.0 3

1:00 Race 2 The Sixt Handicap: Dist 1200m. A handicap for three year olds and over rated 15 and below at closing.
1 (3-3-3) Marico R. Kibet 59.0 H 1
2 (5-3-2) Crixus P. Mungai 58.0 4
3 (4-3) Turbadore (SAF) K. Nganga (5.0) 57.0 2
4 (2-w-3) River Run J. Lokorian 54.0 3

1:30 Race 3 The Alibhai Shariff Handicap: Dist 2400m. A handicap for three year olds and over rated 22 and below at closing.
1 (1-3-5) Fire Drake R. Kibet 57.0 2
2 (3-3-5) Rifle Range J. Muhindi 57.0 H 3
3 (3-1-w) Piece of Cake Le. Sercombe 53.0 1
4 (7-w-3) Omaha Beach J. Lokorian 52.0 5
5 (w-w- 1) Grand Opera (SAF) M. Micino (3.5) 50.0 4

2:05 Race 4 The Bosch Handicap: Dist 1800m. A handicap for three year olds and over rated 29 and below at closing.
1 (1-2-6) Navy Seal (SAF) Le. Sercombe 58.0 3
2 (3-3-4) As Paragon (SAF) K. Nganga (5.0) 57.0 5
3 (1-3-2) Dreamliner J. Muhindi 57.0 2
4 (1-1-5) Anjoli (SAF) P. Mungai 54.0 H 6
5 (6-5-1) Eternal (SAF) H. Muya 53.0 1
6 (1-5-3) Trade Secret J. Lokorian 50.0 H 4

2:40 Race 5 The DT Dobie Handicap: Dist 1600m. A handicap for three year olds and over rated 19 and below at closing.
1 (4-1-1) Shaman (SAF) Le. Sercombe 59.0 4
2 (4-3-2) Forewarned J. Muhindi 57.0 6
3 (1-4-6) Romeo Foxtrot (SAF) M. Micino (3.5)57.0 H 1
4 (6-3- 5) Maasai King P. Mungai 56.0 2
5 (5-8-4) South Lodge J. Lokorian 56.0 5
6 (2-4-4) April's Song P. Kiarie 52.0 3
7 (2-7- 6) Tuff Cookie H. Muya 52.0 7

3:15 Race 6 The KHS Fillies Guineas; Dist 1600m. A terms race for three year old fillies only.
1 (3-5-1) Ione J. Muhindi 57.0 2
2 (1-2-5) Lettfot J. McCann 57.0 4
3 (4-w-5) Macushla (ZIM) P. Kiarie 57.0 3
4 (4-1-1) Marais J. Lokorian 57.0 T 6
5 (w-2-w) Soho Mouse (SAF) Le. Sercombe 57.0 1
6 (5-4-1) Zodi West (ZIM) P. Mungai 57.0 5

3:50 Race 7 The Allianz Maiden Handicap: Dist 2060m. A maiden handicap race for three year olds and over rated 8 and below at closing.
1 (7-7) Miss Zuri D. Tanui 57.0 6
2 (w-3-2) Pepper Wood R. Kibet 57.0 T 1
3 (3-6-3) Chitaki Spring (ZIM) M. Micino (3.5) 56.0 3
4 (2-7-4) Mount Sinai J. Muhindi 56.0 8
5 - Tianma J. Lokorian 55.0 2
6 (5-5-2) Winter Comet (ZIM) P. Mungai 55.0 7
7 (2-4-4) Glascote Rose (SAF) H. Muya53.0 T 4
8 (7-5-6) Joshua P. Kiarie 50.0 5

4:25 Race 8 The Harry Deakin GBA Memorial Bowl: Dist 1000m. An open handicap race for three year olds and over.
1 (4-1-1) Hawker Fury (SAF) P. Kiarie 61.0 4
2 (1-1-2) El Mundo (SAF) R. Kibet 58.0 2
3 (2-1-1) Flash Harry (SAF) J. McCann 58.0 1
4 (3-4-5) Caen (SAF) P. Mungai 56.0 6
5 (1-1-4) King of Oxted M. Micino (3.5) 56.0 3

SUNDAY NATION

SPORT



FOOTBALL

Chelsea warm up for their Champions League clash against Barcelona with rout of Hull City in FA Cup fixture **PAGE 51**

Commonwealth Games > Zakayo, Kwemoi, Chebet light up national trials

'Kisirani' at Kasarani: Upsets rule the track



CHRIS OMOLLO | AFP

Sandra Chebet (right) on her way to winning the women's 10,000m at the Kenyan trails for the Commonwealth Games at Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani yesterday. On her left is Stacy Ndiwa. Inset: Women's 20km race walk winner Grace Wanjiru.

Big names Aprot, Tanui, Rotich fail to make team as new stars dare to flex their muscles

BY AYUMBA AYODI
sayodi@ke.nationmedia.com

Olympic 10,000m silver medallist Paul Tanui and Africa 10,000m champion Alice Aprot were major casualties when Kenya's athletics team for Gold Coast Commonwealth Games was named yesterday.

The going was also tough for the 2016 Diamond League 800m series champion Ferguson Rotich and 2014 World Junior 800m champion Alfred Kipketer who were locked out of the 800m team by a new order in the two-lap race.

Olympic and world 3,000m steeplechase champion Conseslus Kipruto and world 5,000m champion Hellen Obiri were the only athletes to get wild cards in their specialities.

The trials were explosive and witnessed new talent as some of the country's fast-rising youngsters made their presence felt.

They are the world Under-18 3,000m silver medallist Edward Zakayo who won men's 5,000m and world Junior 10,000m champion Rogers Kwemoi and 2015 World Under-18 2,000m steeplechase silver medallist Sandra Chebet, who won men and women's 10,000 races respectively.

World Junior 3,000m steeplechase champion Cellphine Chespol continued with her rise to win her race, beating Commonwealth champion Purity Kirui to second place.

After all the action, Athletics Kenya named a squad of 65 athletes and seven officials for the "Club" Games due April 4 to 15 in Gold Coast, Australia.

Tanui, who has won bronze medals in 10,000m at three previous World Championships, withdrew from the hotly contested 25-lap race race with 15 laps to go from a tendon injury.

Kwemoi injected pace in the last lap to win in 28 minutes and 46.5 seconds, beating the reigning Commonwealth Games 3,000m steeplechase champion Jonathan Muia to second place in 28:46.8.

Jonathan Bett settled for third place in 28:47.4 to seal the last place in the team for the "Club" Games.

"I had planned to test the field in the first five laps. I felt strong over the laps and it feels great to graduate to senior rank in style," said Kwemoi, who has vowed to stop the Ugandans, who, have denied Kenya victory in the last three editions.

"We have a strong team following this great show."

Muia is also determined to secure another victory, this time around, in the 25-lap race.

Chebet clocked 32:41.2 to triumph while claiming sweet revenge on Stacy Ndiwa, who beat her at the National Cross Country Championships at Uhuru Gardens last weekend.

It was a thriller as Chebet went front at the bell but Ndiwa caught up with her with 300m to go.

However, Chebet stepped on her gas pedal at the 200m mark, to win her first major race as a senior.

Ndiwa came in second in 32:41.6 as Beatrice Mutai came in third in 32:44.7.9 to all qualify. Aprot withdrew with 13 laps to go with a congested chest. "I am so glad to represent Kenya for the first time in track as a senior," said Chebet, who finished second during the National Cross Country Championships.



28:46.5
Rogers Kwemoi's winning time in the men's 10,000m race

TENNIS

Kei Nishikori edged closer to a first ATP Tour in two years at the New York Open on Friday after coming from behind to defeat Moldova's Radu Albot and claim a semi-final berth. The Japanese is on his way back from a five-month injury layoff.

19 Age of Austria-based Kenyan skier Sabrina Simader who completed here 2018 Winter Games assignments yesterday.

CRICKET

NZ REGROUP FOR ENGLAND

New Zealand wasted no time debating bowling woes after a record Twenty20 loss to Australia as they regrouped yesterday ahead of their tri-series showdown against England.

NBA

WORLD BEATS US AT ALL-STAR



Team World attacked the rim and dominated from three-point range as the internationals kicked off the NBA 2018 All-Star Weekend festivities with a 155-124 victory over Team USA on Friday. Serbian guard Bogdan Bogdanovic *(above)* scored 26 points and drained seven of 13 from beyond the arc and his Sacramento Kings teammate Buddy Hield tallied a team-high 29 points in the Rising Stars Game at Staples Center arena.

Kenya's C'wealth Games athletics team

Women:

20km race walk: Grace Wanjiru, Linda Waweru

10,000m: Sandra Chebet, Stacy Ndiwa, Beactrice Mutai

5,000m: Margaret Chelimo, Eva Cherono, Hellen Obiri

3,000m steeplechase: Cellphine Chepsol, Purity Kirui, Fancy Cherono

1,500m: Beatrice Chepkoech, Winney Chebet, Mary Kuria

800m: Emily Cherotich, Margaret NYairera, Eglay Nalianya

400m: Maximilla Imali, Veronica Mutua

400m hurdles: Maureen Jelagat(women),

200m: Joan Cherono, Millicent Ndoro, Gladys Musyoki (women),

Hammer: Lucy Omondi

Long jump: Priscilla Tabunda

Men:

20km race walk: Samuel Gathimba , Simon Wachira

10,000m: Rogers Kwemoi, Jonathan Muia, Josphat Bett

5,000m: Edward Zakayo, Nicholas Kipkorir, David Bett

3,000m steeplechase: Abraham Kibiwott, Amos Kirui, Conseslus Kipruto

1,500M: Timothy Cheruiyot, Elijah Manangoi, Kumari Taki

800m: Jonathan Kitilit, Wycliffe Kinyamal, Cornelius Tuwei

400m: Boniface Mweresa, Collins Omae, Alex Sampao

400m hurdles: Nicholas Bett, Harun Koech, Willy Mbevi Peter Mwai, Mike Mokamba

110m hurdles: Kiprono Kosgei

100m: Mark Otieno

Hammer: Dominic Abunda

Long jump: Bethwel Lagat

Javelin: Julius Yego, Alex Kiprotich

Triple Jump: Elijah Kimitei

High Jump: Mark Musau

Decathlon: Gilbert Koech

Management: Joseph Ochieng (Team manager), Phillip Ngovi (assistant team manager), Mary Chege (chaperone), Japheth Kemei (head coach), Julius Kirwa, Joseph Kirwa, William Murgor (assistant coaches)

Kilifi youngster wins Sh11m in lottery draw



BY NATION REPORTER
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

When 22-year-old Baraka Moses Chigogo bought a Sh50 raffle ticket this month, little did he know it would be his path to Sh11 million.

That raffle ticket proved the source of a perfect Valentines' Day gift as the youngster from Kilifi County was named winner of Sh11 million in Lotto's Power draw conducted on Thursday.

Baraka (pictured) becomes the latest winner of Valentines Power draw and perhaps the youngest at only 22 through a simple purchase of a Sh50 raffle ticket. Last year, businessman John Mugere and his wife Judy Wanjiru won.

Lotto's 238th draw had the winning numbers set as 11, 38, 24, 31, 42, 25 and bonus number 2. Baraka hinted at donating Sh1million to his aunt who brought him up and saw him through Secondary School from where he graduated more than a year ago. He hopes to use the money to pay for a course in engineering.

BRIAN YONGA
byonga@ke.nationmedia.com



making his senior debut in 1987 All Africa Games at Kasarani, where Kenya claimed bronze

Guinness World records





VINCENT OPIYO | NATION

Former Kenya international basketball player Joseph Odhiambo when he visited Nation Centre on Tuesday.

than 500 tricks using up to 24 basketballs.

"I put the disappointment of not playing in the NBA behind and decided to perfect my skills of the court and try on the records," he says.

In between, he lost his dad in 1994 bad this made him lose interest in teaching as he sought some time off to mourn.

"His death affected me in some way and I took a break from teaching and just wanted to be left alone. Thank God there was basketball to get me back on my feet and provide some refuge at that trying moment," he reflects.

It is after that he returned to break the amazing records which have earned him so much respect and praise globally

He is currently the director of "Triple T Basketball Skills and Entertainment, Inc.", an independent organization specialising in conducting clinics, camps, workshops, and motivational talks on what it takes to succeed through practice.

As one of the most sought after motivational speaker, coach, and a celebrated basketball handling demonstrator, Odhiambo has acclamation as one of the world's best basketball dribblers.

Coach Odhiambo's free-style basketball handling accomplishments have been published in various newspapers and magazines around the world, the most notables being The Guinness Book of Records.

Other publications which have captured his heroics include Arizona Republic Newspaper (Phoenix, Arizona); The Tribune Newspaper (Mesa, Arizona); Highway Magazine, Alternative World Records (Germany); and Ripley's World Records.

Odhiambo's unique basketball handling skills have also been featured on Guinness: Primetime (Spain and Brazil); Ripley's Believe it or Not, British television show Sports Tonight with Mark Curtis (NBC affiliate Arizona), Suns' Jam Session (UPN 45), Good Morning and Evening Arizona (News Channel-3, TV Arizona), and Morning News on CBS (Arizona).

In 2003, Odhiambo received News Channel-3 TV award for Outstanding Athlete for the month of January for his outstanding work with kNowtobacco programme at local schools in Arizona.

He is saddened by the state of basketball in Kenya, and wants to work towards returning the sport back to the top.

He is of the opinion that the current Kenya Basketball Federation officials are only a bunch of selfish individuals out to enrich themselves at the expense of others.

"It is sad that people in a position to help the masses are only thinking about how they can make some quick money while the sport suffers.

"It is shameful to hear that we are losing to the likes of Uganda, Rwanda Somalia and South Sudan.These are countries would not even rank with us in my time," he adds.

Odhiambo, who is in the country until next month, is planning to give back to the society and wants to scout for talent, especially tall players who do not get the chance at furthering their basketball careers.

"I hope my story of rising from Mathare Valley can be an inspiration to many youths that they should never stop believing. I will work to ensure that tall players who get ridiculed secure scholarships and in turn they to should give back and assist others, "he revealed.

54 Age of US-based former Kenya international basketball player Joseph Odhiambo who now works as a coach

He admires current Golden State Warriors star Kevin Durant in the NBA and is hoping that Kenyans will also make their debut in the NBA some day.

"Durant is such an amazing fellow, so down-to-earth and has a great personality on top of his prowess on the court," he says.

"Big Joe," as he is fondly referred to, reveals that the one thing he misses about Kenya is Kenyan food, particularly ugali and fish. He never misses a chance to catch up on his two delicacies and is drawn to any basketball court he comes across. He has had the time to catch up with his mother as well as his siblings- two brothers and two sisters before he heads back to USA.

Asked about his marriage life, Odhiambo shrugs off the question before saying that he is married to basketball and the kids he is helping.

"Well if you are able to get married go ahead and do it, if it is not possible then you can also make a difference in whatever capacity," he says.

He looks at his watch many times, a hint that he is running out of time after our interview. He is possibly heading to a nearby basketball court.

Basketball league play-offs >

Blades rue two missed free throws at the death as KPA escape with half basket win



KANYIRI WAHITO | NATION

HATCHING A PLOT. Kenya Ports Authority men's assistant coach (right) Mike Opel illustrates some tactics to his players at a time-out during their Premier League finals play-offs game one against Blades at Africa Nazarene University indoor court yesterday. KPA won 51-50 to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-five series. Game two is today at the same venue.

BY PHILIP ONYANGO AND VICTOR OTIENO
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Kenya Ports Authority men narrowly won game one 51-50 as the Premier League finals play-offs got underway at Africa Nazarene University in Nairobi yesterday.

But the dockers who are the league defending champions had to fight every inch of the way for the win which came against the run of play.

The finals play-offs, sponsored by marketing firm Enlightened Sports and Entertainment Network to the tune of Sh800,000 saw the students lead 11-10 in the first quarter but were behind 27-24 at half time.

The third quarter was evenly scored at 11-11 before KPA just nicked it with a 16-13 run for their half basket victory

Blades had a chance to kill the game with four seconds left with KPA leading 51-50 but guard George Okoth missed both free throws as the buzzer went.

"We started badly despite leading by a half a basket in the first quarter but our last three minutes were superb which makes me believe we will win tomorrow " Strathmore Blades coach Tony Ochieng said.

His KPA counterpart Sammy Kiki was however not happy with his charges saying they were not at their best and didn't play according to his instructions.

Evans Leting and Moses Wanjara scored 10 and five points respectively for KPA while towering Brian Onyango had a game high 16 points for the students which included three slam dunks.

51-50 KPA's win over Blades in their men;s Premier League final play-offs game on at Nazaren University yesterday

KPA women beat Equity Bank 67-57 to take the driving seat in their finals game one.

Earlier Footprints secured the National Division One title after sweeping Masaku Sparks 3-0.

Footprints comfortably won the decisive game three 60-40 at Africa Nazarene University to not only be crowned champions but also get their promotion to the Premier League.

The Juma Kent-coached Footprints led 18-11 in the first quarter.

In men's Division One, Emyba took a 2-1 series lead against KDF Morans following their 89-85 overtime victory after the teams had tied 75-75 in regular time.

See off the soldiers

Simon Wamahiu's 18 points and Steve Omolo's three is all Emyba needed to see off the tough soldiers. Eric Odhiambo scored 20 points for Morans.

In Kisumu, Lakeside are one win away from lifting the 2017 men's Division One title following their 68-50 victory over World Hope to hand them a 2-1 advantage in their best-of-five series. In fact, Lakeside are one step from making history by winning their first ever national basketball title.

World hope won the first game 56-52 but Lakeside retaliated in the second with a 70-56 victory at From their first two meeting at Upper Hill School in Nairobi last week.

Lakeside coach George Onassis said: "We lost the last quarter because we relaxed but tomorrow we want to wrap up the game early."

The Big Interview

Athletics > As a talented youngster, he earned national junior team call-up while in secondary school, and soon joined the senior team,

Joe 'the trickster' dribbles his way to

US-based coach rose from Mathare slums to represent Kenya in 1987 All Africa Games on his way to reaching dizzying heights in basketball, including entering record books for his free-styling and dribbling wizardry. As a player, he missed out on a chance to play in the NBA due to his height. He is now occupied with nurturing future stars of the game





When you first come across Joe "the trickster" Odhiambo, you would mistake him for just another ordinary tall fella. But wait till you hear his story and his achievements, and yo are left wanting to hear more from the lanky dark man.

I could not believe my ears as he described his achievements to me at Nation Centre last Tuesday. It sounded so unbelievable that one can achieve so much in very little time.

Odhiambo holds five basketball handling Guinness World Records, which he has either set, tied or broken 14 times between 2006 and 2008.

These are dribbling six basketballs simultaneously for one minute, spinning one basketball for the longest using both hands, dribbling one basketball for the longest time, juggling three basketballs while shooting the most layups in one minute and spinning a basketball the longest with one hand only.

These achievements have propelled him to internationally fame as he is recognised as a leader in the world of basketball free-styling and dribbling.

But his story, just like many others, started from a humble back ground.

"I started from very humble beginnings in Mathare Valley slums in Nairobi and it was here where my love for basketball was born," he tells me.

"My interest for basketball started while I was in class six at St Teresa's Primary School in Eastleigh (in Nairobi). We played other sports but basketball was appealing and fashionable at that point," he recalls.

"However, there was a catch for them to continue playing the sport as they were required to attend Bible Study sessions.

"Father Grolin saw that the only way to get us to grow spiritually was to threaten to take away the one thing that we loved and because we could do anything to play the sport, we obliged and attended Bible Study.

While out of school, he played for a local club known as Eastleigh Bucks and his prowess earned him many enemies who felt intimidated by his brilliance on the court.

This saw him chased away from the court, and he was sidelined a number of times.

"This did not put me down because I knew I was good and the only way to improve my game was to continue playing," the 54-year-old recalls.

Joe joined St Teresa's High School and his impact was immediately felt as he led the school to win three straight national basketball titles from 1982, 1983 and 1984 He would later move to St Patrick's Iten and led them to titles in 1985 and 1986.

While in secondary school, Odhiambo had already been called up to the national junior team, and a call-up to the senior team soon followed.

He made his senior debut during the 1987 All Africa Games at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani.

Kenya claimed bronze behind eventual winners Angola and Senegal, and Odhiambo admits the team should have won gold.

Some of his teammates are current Strathmore women's basketball team coach and former national team coach Ronnie Owino, Joseph Amoko, the current Kenya Basketball Federation Fixtures Secretary as well as Thomas "Smarts" Olumbo among others.

"I think we had the best squad and only lost out due to some poor decisions that could have been avoided," he says.

He played for Kenya Airways and Central Bank of Kenya clubs, leading both clubs to national titles before they were disbanded.



> I put the disappointment of not playing in the NBA behind and decided to perfect my skills of the court and try on the records"
>
> **Joseph Odhiambo, former Kenya international**

His skills saw him earn a scholarship to study computer science and mathematics at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona in 1989 and also play basketball at the same time.

He would later return to complete a Masters degree in education.

While at Canyon, he played varsity basketball, leading his team to several State Championship titles and scouts came calling ready to have him sign up for the NBA.

However, there was just one problem, Odhiambo, standing at 6'3," fell just short of the 6"10 height required for a guard in the NBA.

"I was disappointed because I had always dreamt about playing in the NBA, it was everyone's dream and mine ended before it even started," he recalls.

After college, he worked as a computer programmer and statistic analyst.

He resigned three years later to become a motivational speaker, and basketball coach.

Coach Odhiambo developed a training regimen that allowed him to build his basketballs handling platform in two years.

Practicing four to six hours a day, he learnt more than 200 tricks, including tying the Guinness World Record of dribbling four basketballs simultaneously.

Since then, he has added more

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EXTRA GAMES
SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2018

TIME	GAME ID	GAME	1	X	2
14:00	3625	Sevilla Atletico vs Almeria	2.26	3.07	3.55
15:00	1653	Zirka Kirovohrad vs Illichivec Mariupol	2.91	3.13	2.59
15:00	4838	Karpaty Lviv vs Zorya Lugansk	4.66	3.32	1.87
15:30	1122	Dynamo Dresden vs Jahn Regensburg	2.42	3.44	2.90
15:30	2027	Nurnberg vs Duisburg	2.03	3.53	3.64
15:30	4194	Eintracht Braunschweig vs Union Berlin	2.64	3.34	2.69
17:00	1862	Frosinone vs Ascoli	1.45	4.55	7.23
17:00	2319	Vasalunds IF vs Hammarby	9.52	5.40	1.23
17:00	3275	Tvaakers IF vs Orebro SK	6.98	4.70	1.34
17:00	3629	Jonkopings Sodra vs IK Frej	1.59	3.86	4.68
17:00	5731	Dinamo Zagreb vs Hajduk Split	1.60	3.89	5.33
18:00	1714	Sigma Olomouc vs Viktoria Plzen	3.31	3.20	2.24
18:00	2145	Blackpool vs Peterborough	2.42	3.44	2.90
18:00	2712	Dynamo Kiev vs Olimpik Donetsk	1.22	6.43	13.13
18:00	5259	Cordoba vs Granada	2.80	3.28	2.58
19:00	2850	BK Hacken vs IFK Varnamo	1.17	6.67	10.52
19:00	4711	Brommapojkarna vs Gefle IF	1.28	4.86	8.95
19:00	5452	NK Slaven Belupo vs Cibalia Vinkovci	1.53	3.79	6.59
19:00	5596	Malmo vs Dalkurd FF	1.39	4.37	6.68
19:30	2553	Brescia vs Ternana	1.93	3.49	4.08
20:00	1956	Sparta Prague vs Slovan Liberec	1.60	3.74	5.89
20:00	4418	Numancia vs Cadiz CF	2.21	2.97	3.83
20:00	5316	Leonesa vs Rayo Vallecano	3.29	3.40	2.21
20:30	5611	Enppi Club vs Ismaily SC	3.44	2.65	2.49
22:00	2323	Lugo vs Barcelona B	2.04	3.28	3.92



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY PLAY RESPONSIBLY

Coast Rangers, Stima send their visitors packing

BY ABDULRAHMAN SHERIFF
asheriff@ke.nationmedia.com

Mombasa sides Modern Coast Rangers and Coast Stima registered victories against visiting KCB from Nairobi and Kisumu All Stars from Nyanza in their National Super League matches yesterday at Mbaraki Sports Club.

KCB put up a big fight but were unluckily to fall 1-0 to Rangers in the thrilling match that kicked off at noon.

Later, Stima put up a good show to beat the newly formed Kisumu All Stars 2-1 ad ensure the upcountry teams left Coast empty handed.

Rangers' lone goal came in the 85th minute when their newly signed striker Nahashon Thiongo from Zetech University scored from the rebound.

The goal was initiated by Christinus Onyango who sent a powerful shot that beat KCB goalkeeper Juma Mpongo but hit the side post and bounced back into play. An obliging Thiongo latched onto the rebound to guide his effort home.

Rangers head coach, Abdulkarim Nassir said they did not win the match easily. He said that their opponents made it difficult for his player to play their usual passing, ground football.

"My players failed in their bid to display our neat football as KCB kept playing aerial balls which made if difficult to play our usual game. I'm happy that we managed to secure maximum points," said Nassir.

> My players failed in their bid to display our neat football as KCB kept playing aerial balls which made if difficult to play our usual game"
>
> **Modern Coast Rangers coach Abdulkarim Nassir**

His KCB counterpart John Kamau said it was an unlucky day for them as they dominated the entire game but his strikers failed to convert their chances into goals. "Our opponents got their single opportunity and converted it into the match winner," said Kamau.

Coast Stima took the lead against Kisumu All Stars in the 24th minute through Davis Shikala from a free-kick but Dennis Ochieng levelled for Kisumu in the 58th minute. The home team got the match winner in the 76th minute through a penalty by Eric Mohammed.

Kenyan Premier League > Wazito hold their own against battle-scarred Homeboyz

Mathare go top of table

'Slum Boys' reap big despite drawing with Ulinzi at Afraha, Nakumatt pip Nzoia

BY VINCENT OPIYO AND PETER MBURU
sportsdesk@ke.nationmedia.com

Former champions Ulinzi Stars and Mathare United battled to a barren draw at the Afraha Stadium in Nakuru in one of four Kenyan Premier League matches played across the country yesterday.

The result saw Mathare move to the summit of the league table on seven points despite dropping points for the first time this season.

At Camp Toyoyo grounds in Nairobi, goalkeeper Eric Ogwade put up a man-of-the-match performance as newbies Wazito held visiting Kakamega Homeboyz to a goalless draw

In Bungoma County, Brian Nyakan's second league goal of the season handed Nakumatt a hard-fought 1-0 win over hosts Nzoia Sugar at Sudi Stadium.

And in Awasi, former FC Talanta striker Eric Kapaito's strike looked to have handed Kariobangi Sharks their first ever win at Chemelil Sports Complex before Amani Kyata struck at the death to ensure both sides shared the spoils in a 1-1 stalemate.

In Nakuru, the Slum Boys thought they had taken the lead in the seventh minute after Cliff Nyakeya headed in from a Daniel Mwaura cross, but assistant referee Gladys Cherono had her flag up, forcing referee Badr Yasin to call for a goal kick.



VINCENT OPIYO | NATION

Kakamega Homeboyz's Moses Mudavadi (right) beats Wazito defender Marvin Onyango during their Kenyan Premier League match at Camp Toyoyo in Nairobi yesterday. The game ended 0-0.

KPL Results and Fixtures

- Wazito **0-0** Kakamega Homeboyz
- Kariobangi Sharks **1-1** Chemelil Sugar
- Nzoia Sugar **0-1** Nakumatt
- Ulinzi Stars **0-0** Mathare United

FIXTURES: Today:

- Sony Sugar v Zoo Kericho (Awendo)
- Thika United v Bandari (Thika)
- Vihiga United v Posta Rangers (Bukhungu)

Nyakeya beat Ulinzi goalkeeper Timothy Odhiambo with a thumping header but Mwaura's ball had drifted out of play as he picked him with a pinpoint cross in the Ulinzi box.

Combined well

Mwaura, a constant threat to Dunstan Nyaudo's charges all afternoon, combined well with Clifford Alwanga midway through the half, but the former Tusker man couldn't go past the Ulinzi defence.

Moments before that, the Mathare bench held their heads in disbelief after Mwaura had beaten Ruto on the right but his shot drifted across the face of goal and out of play with Odhiambo well beaten.

At Camp Toyoyo grounds, Ogwade pulled a brilliant save in the 88th minute to deny Homeboyz midfielder Wycliffe Opondo a goal that could have separated the two sides.

Midfielder Moses Mudavadi broke on the right wing, left his marker, then teed up Opondo, but his shot was magnificently forced over the bar by a wrong-footed Ogwade.

MADE OF

FA Cup > Italian rested big names Hazard, Kante and Courtois

Chelsea readied for Barca as Willian leads rout of Hull



GLYN KIRK | NATION

Chelsea's mid-fielder Willian (left) scores the team's third goal during their English FA Cup fifth round match against Hull City at Stamford Bridge in London on Friday. Chelsea won 4-0.

Blues' magnificent performance leaves Conte with welcome selection headache

London

Antonio Conte believes Chelsea are ready for a season-defining few weeks after Willian starred with two goals to blow away Hull City 4-0 to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals on Friday.

Just four days before facing Barcelona in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie, Conte named a much-changed side with Thibaut Courtois, Cesar Azpilicueta, N'Golo Kante and Eden Hazard not even included in the Italian's squad.

But they still had too much quality for the Championship strugglers as two great strikes from Willian added to goals from Pedro Rodriguez and Olivier Giroud's first for Chelsea put the hosts 4-0 up by half-time.

Conte made seven changes in all from the side that beat West Brom 3-0 on Monday to ease the mounting pressure on his job after damaging defeats by Bournemouth and Watford.

Once again the Chelsea support showed their backing for the former Juventus boss, but more challenging tests lie ahead in their bid for Champions League glory, and a place back in the competition next year via the top four of the Premier League should they fall short.

Visit to the Bridge

Barca's visit to the Bridge on Tuesday is followed by consecutive trips to Manchester United and Manchester City on league duty before the return leg at the Camp Nou on March 14.

"We lost two games at the end of a busy period. Now we have the right confidence again," said Conte.

"But in the next two weeks we have to play massive games and we must be strong - Barcelona, United and City. We are ready."

Willian did no harm to his case to start against the Catalans with a stunning all-round display capped by his two goals.

"For sure, his performance was impressive," added Conte.

"I hope to see always this type of performance because, when Willy plays in this way, it is a great joy for me, the team, the club and our fans."

The Brazilian opened the scoring after just two minutes as he jinked inside onto his weaker left foot but still produced a fine curling shot into the far corner.

A former Barca duo combined for the second as Cesc Fabregas's lofted pass freed Pedro in behind the Hull defence to slot past David Marshall. (AFP)

MADRID

ZIDANE: COACHING REAL IS DEMANDING

Zinedine Zidane has admitted that coaching Real Madrid is draining as he prepares his side for their return to La Liga action on the back of the Champions League victory over Paris Saint-Germain. "It is exhausting, for sure, even more so at Real Madrid," the Frenchman, who had been under considerable pressure prior to the rousing 3-1 win over PSG in the first leg of their last-16 tie, told reporters at the club's Valdebebas training complex yesterday. "Of course there could come a time when there needs to be a change, for the coach, the club, the players, everyone."

BERLIN

RETIRE? NO, NOT YET, SAYS ACE ROBBEN

Veteran winger Arjen Robben says he plans to extend his career by moving to a new club should Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich fail to offer him a contract extension. Robben, who turned 34 in January, is out of contract at Bayern at the end of the season, along with fellow winger Franck Ribery, but has no immediate plans to retire. Robben, who played in the 2010 World Cup final for the Netherlands, has been at Bayern since 2009 and has won the Bundesliga on six occasions.

MILAN

VICTORIOUS ROMA MOVE TO THIRD

Cengiz Under and Diego Perotti scored second half goals as Roma moved into third position in Serie A with a 2-0 win at Udinese yesterday. The 20-year-old Under fired home his fourth goal in three games from a Daniele De Rossi cross to break the deadlock after 70 minutes, with Argentine Perotti tapping in a Radja Nainggolan cross in injury time. The victory moved Roma two points ahead of Inter Milan, who can reclaim third spot with victory away to Genoa later on Saturday. It was the third straight win for Eusebio Di Francesco's side.

WINNING MID-WEEK JACKPOT COMBO

KSH 27,246,319

2,1,X,2,2,X,1,X,1,2,2,1,2

BONUS AMOUNTS

12 CORRECT PREDICTIONS KSH 132,176 EACH

11 CORRECT PREDICTIONS KSH 17,288 EACH

10 CORRECT PREDICTIONS KSH 2,998 EACH



MATCHES HIGHLIGHTS
"1" is HOME WIN "X" is DRAW "2" is AWAY TEAM WIN
The teams in the game are always listed in the order:
GAME ID, HOME TEAM and VISITING TEAM

TO PLACE A SINGLE BET
SMS TO 79079: GAMEID#YOURPREDICTION#BET AMOUNT E.G. 1234#X#100

HOT GAMES

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2018

TIME	GAME ID	GAME	1	X	2
13:00	1760	Umraniyespor vs Eskisehirspor	1.89	3.47	3.94
13:30	1807	Kardemir Karabukspor vs Akhisar Bld	3.70	3.32	2.09
13:30	5306	Bursaspor vs Yeni Malatyaspor	2.05	3.29	3.88
14:00	1898	FC Helsingor vs AC Horsens	3.56	3.40	2.10
14:00	5227	Real Sociedad vs Levante	1.66	4.07	5.03
14:30	4839	Roda Kerkrade vs Utrecht	4.60	3.75	1.77
14:30	5476	Torino vs Juventus	4.66	3.53	1.82
15:00	1579	Norwich City vs Ipswich	1.73	3.62	5.13
15:30	1366	Gaziantep BB vs Istanbulspor	1.90	3.21	4.32
16:00	4305	AO Platanias vs PAS Giannina	2.67	2.94	2.89
16:00	4397	Randers FC vs Hobro IK	2.36	3.27	3.11
16:00	5109	Trabzonspor vs Basaksehir	2.58	3.28	2.80
16:30	1354	KAA Gent vs Mechelen	1.62	3.89	5.67
16:30	4366	Feyenoord vs Heracles	1.21	6.74	13.49
16:30	4907	Twente vs Sparta Rotterdam	2.21	3.55	3.17
17:00	1425	Bologna vs Sassuolo	2.61	3.15	2.88
17:00	3217	Benevento vs Crotone	2.59	3.13	2.92
17:00	3972	Nice vs Nantes	2.31	3.17	3.33
17:00	4698	Napoli vs Spal	1.21	6.73	14.27
17:15	2212	Hamilton vs Rangers FC	7.05	4.45	1.46
17:30	2492	Augsburg vs Stuttgart	2.00	3.47	3.85
18:00	1757	FC Zurich vs FC Luzern	1.73	3.88	4.69
18:00	2574	Adana Demirspor vs Boluspor	2.81	3.29	2.44
18:00	2684	BSC Young Boys vs FC Thun	1.41	5.11	6.80
18:00	2691	Celtic vs ST Johnstone	1.22	6.18	13.97
18:00	5294	FC Midtjylland vs FC Copenhagen	2.14	3.54	3.32
18:15	1477	Levadiakos vs Panetolikos	2.67	2.89	2.94
18:15	4265	Atletico Madrid vs Athletic Bilbao	1.46	3.96	8.95
18:15	4625	AEK Athens vs SKODA Xanthi	1.43	4.09	8.49
18:45	3781	PEC Zwolle vs Ajax	6.68	4.81	1.44
19:00	1817	Kasimpasa vs Galatasaray	4.34	4.12	1.73
19:00	3100	Vitoria Setubal vs Pacos Ferreira	2.31	3.11	3.38
19:00	3614	Moreirense FC vs GD Chaves	2.74	3.12	2.74
19:00	3974	Rochdale vs Tottenham	12.51	6.12	1.22
19:00	5324	Lille vs Lyon	4.07	3.63	1.90
19:30	2479	Leeds vs Bristol City	2.54	3.25	2.87
20:00	2280	AaB Aalborg vs Brondby IF	4.36	3.66	1.83
20:00	4656	Ironi Kiryat Shmona vs Hapoel Ashkelon	1.80	3.34	4.62
20:00	4808	Charleroi vs Standard Liege	2.74	3.28	2.63
20:00	5136	Borussia Monchengladbach vs Borussia Dortmund	3.03	3.62	2.27
20:00	5633	Atalanta vs Fiorentina	2.41	3.27	3.06
20:30	4646	Espanyol vs Villarreal	2.47	3.17	3.06
20:30	4982	Olympiakos vs Panionios GSS	1.25	5.15	14.86
21:00	2771	FC Porto vs Rio Ave	1.23	6.17	12.88
21:30	5918	Hapoel Haifa vs Maccabi Netanya	2.22	3.23	3.23
22:00	1120	Mouscron Peruwelz vs RS Waasland Beveren	2.59	3.40	2.70
22:45	3180	AC Milan vs Sampdoria	1.77	3.86	4.50
22:45	3705	Betis vs Real Madrid	6.27	5.46	1.42
23:00	1555	Marseille vs Bordeaux	1.67	3.94	5.12
23:15	2014	Vitoria Guimaraes vs Sporting Braga	2.58	3.28	2.80

*ODDS ARE SUBJECTED TO CHANGE. CHECK WWW.SPORTPESA.CO.KE FOR LATEST ODDS

WINNERS

SUNDAY NATION
SPORT



ATHLETICS
Several upsets registered at Kasarani during the Kenyan trials for the Commonwealth Games
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Sunday Nation
6 161105 100065

2018 Winter Olympic Games > Promising 19-year-old lived her dream of racing at the world's grandest stage

Kenyan female skier cements history

Austria-based Simader, Kenya's first female competitor at the Games, completes her Pyeongchang excursion with a creditable performance in challenging super-G race

BY CELLESTINE OLILO
colilo@ke.nationmedia.com

Kenya's Sabrina Wanjiku Simader completed her history making appearance at the Winter Olympic Games with a creditable performance in the women's super-G race at the Jeongseon Alpine Centre in Pyeongchang, South Korea yesterday

Simader aka "Snow Leopard", the first Kenyan women to compete at the Winter Games was watched by a 4,000-capacity crowd as she clocked 1:26.25 to finish 38th out of 41 competitors on a 2-kilometre long technically testing course, hard-packed with artificial snow.

She was just seconds behind race winner Czech Republic's Ester Ledecka.

"*This was an impressive attempt for gold. The difference between Sabrina and the gold medal was only 5.20 seconds! Hongera Sabrina! Kenya is proud*," a sufficiently impressed National Olympic Committee of Kenya tweeted. Ledecka edged defending champion Anna Veith of Austria by one-hundredth of a second. Liechtenstein's Tina Weirather, who finished 0.11sec off the pace, took bronze.

Austria-based Simader was cheered on by National Olympic Committee of Kenya President Paul Tergat and Kenya's outgoing Ambassador to Korea Mohamed Gello amongst others.

The 19-year-old Kenyan girl, who went through the hard way of qualifying for the Games and self-funding her trip to South Korea, also competed in the giant slalom on Wednesday finishing 59th out of 67 starters.

The super-giant slalom, or super-G, is a racing discipline of alpine skiing. It debuted as an official World Cup event in 1983 and was added to the official schedule of the World Championships in 1987 and the Winter Olympics in 1988.

The 2018 Winter Olympics Games will end next Sunday.



FABRICE COFFRINI | AFP

SWISH! Kenya's lone competitor at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games, Sabrina Simader "Snow Leopard", thunders downhill in the women's super-G at the Jeongseon Alpine Centre yesterday. She finished in position 38.





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The world of plus-size modelling

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SUNDAY NATION FREEWITH YOUR SUNDAY NATION. February 18, 2018

lifestyle





Medics who restored boy's severed hand

Doctors who took part in last month's groundbreaking operation to reattach a hand speak of six hours of anxiety, joy and breakthrough in recent delicate surgery

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MWALIMU ANDREW: FIOLINA WINS FIGHT FOR ATTENTION OVER PROBOX BUT DIVIDES FAMILY PAGE 10

YOUR WEEK

top stories

bottom heavy

Police arrest man who flew into Portugal sitting on drugs

Portuguese police detained a man who arrived at an airport in Portugal on a flight from Brazil wearing "fake buttocks" that contained about a kilogram of cocaine, police and reports said on Tuesday, AFP wrote on the same day. Customs agents at Lisbon, the country's busiest airport, found the drugs on the man's body, police said in a statement. While not specifying exactly where the drugs were found, the statement was accompanied by photos of a pair of multicoloured swim trunks that had two brown bags attached to the rear. The Portuguese daily *Público* and other outlets said the man was arrested after he arrived from Belem in northern Brazil wearing "fake buttocks" stuffed with cocaine under his swim trunks. He had also swallowed bags of cocaine, the newspaper said. Police said they arrested a second man at Lisbon's main railway station whom they suspect was the intended recipient of the cocaine. The two men, aged 32 and 40, face drug trafficking charges.

my money

Woman who crawls into X-ray

A woman in China was so attached to her handbag that she crawled into an X-ray security scanner rather than let it out of her sight, AFP wrote on Wednesday. A video showing her silhouette as she passed through the X-ray machine at a railway station on Sunday has gone viral in China. In the video, she rides the machine's conveyor belt and appears on the other side to the surprise of several other passengers waiting to collect their possessions at the station in the city of Dongguan. The recording has been watched more than three million times so far. The woman was worried the money in her handbag could be stolen while it was being inspected, according to a social media post by theYangcheng *Evening News*. Many Internet users mocked the woman, calling her a "weirdo" and saying she valued money more than her own well-being. The powerful X-rays used in the machines are harmful to health. The scanners are common at Chinese transport hubs and can even be found at subway stations and some bus stops.

picture story



AYUB MUIYURO / NATION

TOUGH MEN: National Youth Service men demonstrate their skills during a passing out parade at NYS College in Gilgil, Nakuru County, presided over by President Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday.

huge bill

TV star ordered to pay Sh57.3 million in unpaid taxes

A television star who was the BBC'S highest paid regional presenter was ordered to pay the Inland Revenue more than £400,000 (Sh57.3 million) in unpaid taxes, *The Sun* wrote on Thursday. Christa Ackroyd, 60, was on an annual salary of £163,233, more than that of the Prime Minister, when she presented *Look North* in Yorkshire from 2001 to 2013. She was paid through fixed-term contracts agreed between the BBC and her own company, Christa Ackroyd Media (Cam). Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) argued that the company was liable for income tax and national insurance payments relating to her under a rule called IR35. Ackroyd claimed she was a self-employed contractor and Cam should not have to pay the extra taxes. But a tribunal ruled in favour of the HMRC, meaning she is liable for unpaid tax between 2008 and 2013 totalling £419,151. IR35 is tax legislation that is designed to combat tax avoidance by workers supplying their services to clients via an intermediary, such as a limited company. Ackroyd claims the unpaid figure is approximately £207,000 (Sh29.6 million).

say hello

Abandoned cat wins favour for 'talking' like the locals

An adorable cat in the United Kingdom who was abandoned by her owner is so keen to talk that she appears to miaow "hello" when people greet her, *The Sun* wrote on Thursday. Ruby, a 16-year-old moggy, arrived at Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary in Lancashire county six weeks ago when her owner flocked to Australia. She has been melting hearts at the animal shelter since she arrived, trying to speak with all who fuss over her. Surprised at Ruby's love for conversation, Karen shared a video of her on Facebook. Ruby appears shy as the camera is on her, but she cannot help but miaow as the person filming greets her. Centre manager Karen Weed, said: "She's a really friendly cat and she loves to have a conversation. She really likes attention and for people to make a fuss of her. When you go over to her she will start talking, it's mainly vocalisms reacting to what you say. A couple of weeks ago we noticed that when we said 'hello', her meow reply sounded like she was saying it back".



little nurses

African ants found to dress wounds of injured mates

African Matabele ants dress the wounds of comrades injured during hunting raids and nurse them back to health, according to an "astonishing" discovery reported Wednesday, AFP wrote on Wednesday. After collecting their wounded from the battlefield and carrying them back home, nest mates become medics, massing around patients for "intense licking" of open wounds, according to a study in theProceedings of the Royal Society B journal. This behaviour reduces the fatality rate from about 80 per cent of injured soldiers to a mere 10 per cent, researchers observed. The study claimed to be the first to show such nursing behaviour in any nonhuman animal. "This is not conducted through self-medication, as is known in many animals, but rather through treatment by nestmates which, through intense licking of the wound, are likely able to prevent an infection," study co-author Erik Frank, who contributed to the research when he was at the Julius Maximilian University of Wuerzburg in Germany, said. The discovery raised several questions, the institution said: "How do ants recognise where exactly a mate was injured? How do they know when to stop dressing the wounds? Is treatment purely preventive (to avoid infection) or also therapeutic, after an infection has occurred?" Matabeles, one of the world's largest ant species, are fierce warriors and attack even humans with their ferocious bite.

Compiled by Carlos Mureithi
Twitter: @CarlosMureithi

tribute

Morgan Tsvangirai

With the death of Morgan Tsvangirai at the age of 65 from cancer on Valentine's Day, Zimbabwe has lost a man of conspicuous courage. He took the country's political scene by storm, becoming president Robert Mugabe's only serious rival for the better part of two decades, and campaigned until the end for a better country with greater democracy and transparency.

Tsvangirai became prime minister of Zimbabwe in September 2008 as part of a power-sharing agreement with Mugabe. He was sworn in the following year, and remained in office till 2013, but the path to get there had been long and vexed.



Tsvangirai's decision to help found, then lead, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in 1999 decisively tilted the political struggle in Zimbabwe from one between civil society and government to one that was based on a contest between political parties. He was arrested in both 2000 and 2003 on unsuccessful treason charges and, in 2007, was badly beaten while in custody. Even his bitterest enemies and detractors acknowledged his courage and determination.

Born in Gutu, Masvingo, in the south-east of the country, Tsvangirai grew up in a poor family, one of nine children of Chibwe, a bricklayer, and his wife, Lydia, and never attained the educational qualifications required for university study. Much later, when already in political life, he attended Harvard's Kennedy School programme for executive leadership, and tried to make up for his lack of extended education by assiduous reading. He had a liking for political biographies, and his hero was Nelson Mandela.

His immense courage as the first opposition leader of stature in Zimbabwean history will be forever a testament to him, but not his accomplishments as a beleaguered prime minister.

Tsvangirai is survived by the six children he had with his first wife, Susan. He married Elizabeth Macheka in 2012 and is survived by her.

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people

WORLD OF FIGURES » MUNGAI KIHANYA

Doing calculations with large numbers is easy

I HAD AN interesting discussion with one of my readers recently. He said that his friends think the Sportpesa betting company is unfair. "Why are they giving the whole Sh230 million jackpot to one person, it should be shared with everybody – all the 44 million Kenyans – and give the lion's share to the winner."

Their proposal was to distribute Sh44m to everyone and the remaining Sh186m to the winner. According to their calculation, each Kenyan could get one million shillings.

Well, there is something seriously wrong with that calculation! If you want to give 45 million people one million shillings each, you will need a lot more that Sh45m. As I pointed out to the reader, the total sum is more than all the money in Kenya!

This case illustrates the problems people face when doing calculations comprising large numbers. In this example, it should have been obvious that if you divide Sh45 million among 45 million people, each person gets just one shilling!

Even though the numbers being divided are very large, you don't need a calculator to do the sum. The "million" in the shillings cancels out with the "million" in the number of people. So, you are left with just 45 divided by 45. The answer is one: so, every person gets one shilling.

If you wanted to find out how much is required to give each person one million shillings, you multiply 45 million people by Sh1 million. Again, you don't need a calculator. A million has six zeroes; therefore, the result will have 12 zeroes.

What is the name of the number with 12 zeroes? Well that depends on where you come from. The British call it a billion and Americans a trillion.

In Kenya, even though we were once a British colony, we follow the American nomenclature. Twelve zeroes mean a trillion. So, the answer to the multiplication is that you need Sh45 trillion!

Do we have that kind of money? The answer is NO! For starters, the total national budget (that is, what the government plans to spend in one year) is only about Sh2.5 trillion. But that is not all the money in Kenya.

The total money supply is regularly monitored by the Central Bank of Kenya and published in bank's quarterly reports. The most recent report is for the period ending on November 30, 2017.

The total money supply (that is, currency notes and coins in circulation plus all bank deposits) at that time was Sh3 trillion. This is a lot smaller than the Sh45 trillion that would be required to pay each person in Kenya Sh1,000,000.

By the way, the same report records that the total currency in all the banks combined (including the Central Bank itself) was Sh31 billion while the total value of all bank balances was Sh2.246 trillion. Think about that. It's not a typo: Sh31 billion in notes and coins versus Sh2.4 trillion in bank balances! Where is the rest of the money?

www.figures.co.ke Twitter: @mungaikihanya

MOTORING » GAVIN BENNETT

What agents could learn from back streets

ABOUT 40 YEARS ago, I tried to rebuild the wreckage of an old limo which I had rescued from a field of weeds next to a wrecking yard.

Because it was so beautifully engineered (by Germans), most of its mechanicals could be restored by dismantling, cleaning, adjusting, lubricating...but it did need a few replacement parts for the engine (all the piston rings were broken and the bearings were worn out).

The main agents did not stock the parts for a 20-year-old model, but said they could try and order them. In time. They would do their duty, but left no doubt that my requirement was not convenient to their systems.

So I resorted to the independent sector who cut piston sleeve liners to size and knew which available piston rings would fit. The hunt for bearings took me to a back-street spares dealer with a shabby front door, a long sales counter, and a warehouse packed from floor to rafters with about a cubic acre of plain cardboard boxes. Shell bearings for a 1963 Mercedes 220? "Certainly – the ones with a hole or the ones with a lip?" They somehow knew there was an option, had both, and found them in the mountain of brown boxes in less than a minute. A moment never to be forgotten.

Today I run a rather unusual 12-year-old 4WD; one of only two of its kind imported new to Kenya before the model was updated with a new look, a new spec and an entirely new set of spare parts numbers.

Last month, mine acquired the need for a replacement rear axle assembly (tube, differential gears, axle shafts et al). The main agents didn't stock it, but could order it (delivery in about six weeks) at a price that was...well, this one component would cost 30% of what I had paid for the entire vehicle when brand new, and more than 100% of the price now quoted on the internet for a 10-year-old. They offered no alternative "fix" and limited technical knowledge or imagination. I could have flown halfway round the world to buy the part, brought it home as excess baggage and paid full customs duty...for half the sum the agents were asking.

There are reasons for the high price of genuine new parts – the monopolistic position of manufacturers for their own brand, the severe duty rates that main agents can't dodge or fudge, the stock costs of a huge number of line items, the additional overhead of "slow-moving" items...

I get all that. And the possibility that even a diligent agent might not stock a rare part for a relatively old model. I also understand that unconventional requests are not their favourite or most profitable line of business.

DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE WHO EXPECTS FAVOURS BECAUSE S/HE DID SOMETHING FOR YOU?

Forget police, the people taking advantage of you are much closer

The kind of high-level corruption in public offices started small

When I got an unexpected salary rise a year after landing my first job, the first thing I did, and with ill-concealed haste, was move from my one-room "house" in Githurai 44 into a one-bedroom house very far away from Githurai. You see, my memories of that place were not very good, and I couldn't wait to get away from there.

I once told you about that place, about the culture shock I was treated to when, on my first morning in my new dwelling, as I went to take a bath (the bathrooms and toilets were shared), I bumped into a man around my father's age wearing nothing but a tiny thin towel wrapped just below his potbelly, bath water dripping from his shoulders down his hairy chest to... I cannot even begin to explain how that image traumatised me – it is akin to seeing one's father naked. You can therefore understand why I could not wait to leave. And this is just one unfortunate story out of many, mind you.

My first day in my new house was surreal. It felt like a dream, but one I really hoped I would never wake from. It felt strange making my way from the bedroom through the tiny living room, if you could call it that, past the even tinier kitchen, into my own bathroom-cum-toilet. In those few steps, I half expected to wake up from this pleasant dream and bump into a more-than-half-naked elderly man. Thankfully, I remained awake. I was truly in paradise. A congested stuffy house with peeling paint, but paradise all the same.



Do you know someone who holds you at ransom?

My stay there was perfect, well, almost perfect, had it not been for the caretaker, who immediately formed a habit of borrowing money from me. He never called it money though, he called it *kachai*. Tea. The conversation would almost always start like this, "*Leo si uninunulie ka-chai*? (How about buying me some tea today?)".

If you're Kenyan, then you know that "tea" does not necessarily mean the one most of us take for breakfast. It is another name for a bribe. This offended me and made me feel taken advantage of because every end of month, I, like every other tenant here, parted with some money which went to pay the caretaker. Besides ensuring that we were not robbed during the day, his other duty included escorting tenants who happened to arrive late from work, from the matatu stop to the flats. It was a short walk, but it was unnerving in the dark, so the burly caretaker offered some much-needed psychological security.

I noticed that whenever I failed to part with *kachai* he would become cold towards me, and even refuse to pick my calls in case I was late arriving home. I would therefore be forced to brave the pitch-dark walk home alone, hopeful that there was no thug lurking on either side of the dense bushes. His strategy was effective, because I would be compelled to offer him *kachai* the next day without him even asking, so that he could pick my calls the next time I called. Talk of being held at ransom!

How many people do you know that are like this caretaker? People who take advantage of the "power" they have over you to extort money from you, whether it is 20 shillings or a couple of thousands? Or millions? Forget, for a moment, our police and others in public service who we, the taxpayers, pay to facilitate access to essential services such as water. We have been complaining about the corrupt tendencies of this group for decades, so I would be highlighting nothing new. I am talking about the others in your small circle, say your house help, who fails to return to work on the agreed date, confident that you won't sack her because you cannot do without her. Or your boss, who keeps pushing work that is his to do to you because he knows that you know that it is only him that can recommend that promotion. Or even that relative who expects you to send her "something" every month because she contributed some money in the harambee that enabled you to join university. Or the school principal you had to bribe so that your son could be enrolled in that school.

Obviously, the high-level corruption involving millions of shillings that we constantly complain and write about started small. It started in our own homes, in our offices, in our institutions of higher learning, ... I could go on and on.



MY WEEKEND

caroline njunge

cnjunge@ke.nationmedia.com; Twitter: @cnjerius. The writer is the editor, *MyNetwork*, in the *Daily Nation*

relationships

HINT» IT HELPS TO START BEHAVING LIKE YOU'RE TEENAGERS ONCE AGAIN

How to bring back fairytale love

Begin planning actual dates with each other again. This includes going places you've never been before



MEN AND WOMEN

chris hart

The beginning of a relationship's a bit like a fairytale. Lots of excitement and romance. But fairytales always end pretty soon. The fireworks fade away, and your relationship gets a little dull. And you can't imagine how to get the spark back.

Like in the beginning, everything you did felt so new. And then slowly became routine. But you don't remember what's routine. You remember novelty. So never miss an opportunity to do something different!

And do you recall how when you first starting dating you two would just make out for hours? You couldn't keep your hands off of each other. Or your lips. But somehow you've stopped all that. So start behaving like you're teenagers again!

And reminisce. Talk about all the nice things that you've done together. Like how you first met. Relive your very first few dates again and laugh about your awkward, silly, crazy and cute first moments. Your first kiss, the moment when you first realised you were an item, your first holiday together. Talking about those first times will bring back the old closeness.

Start planning actual dates with each other again. Go places you've never been before. Try new kinds of food together. Travel together. Try to make every date different.

In the beginning of your relationship you were forever touching. Holding hands and cuddling. How quickly things like that stopped. So never miss an opportunity to hold hands again. Even a few simple hugs will make you feel more connected. Don't lose touch with one another!

In your first few months together, you told each other how you felt. Lots of loving words, messages and phone calls. But as your relationship settled down, somehow those words started to fade away. Fewer and fewer sweet loving texts. No more compliments. But those "You're the best!" and "I'm so glad I met you!" really make a difference. So start speaking up again. Say out loud just how much you mean to each other. Appreciate every small favour. Say "I love you" as you wake up and fall sleep.

And make a point of going to bed together! Remember how when your relationship was just beginning, going bed together was the highlight of your day. But as the years passed, somehow that got forgotten. So one of you always ends up on the couch watching TV, while the other heads for bed alone.

Instead, have a last snack together on the sofa, sitting close and chatting about your day. And then prepare for bed together. You'll feel much more intimacy and warmth between you, and your sex life will definitely improve!

And really spice things up in the bedroom! Because good sex is what holds you together. So if your intimate moments have become relentlessly one note, you need to rev it up again. Let your wild side show. Try new moves and new places. And before you know it, you'll be in a fairytale romance again.

nyumbayangu@me.com



SUNDAY SERMON» FR JOE BABENDREIER

Dedicate time to God so you can resist evil

MAYBE YOU ARE one of those who used to get drunk but you stopped drinking. Maybe you used to neglect your family wasting your money on betting and gambling. Maybe you used to watch a lot of pornography but you stopped watching it. Or you had some other sinful habit, and God gave you the grace to change your life.

St Paul had all of these situations in mind when he wrote the Letter to the Romans: "When you were the slaves of sin, you felt no obligation to righteousness. What did you gain from living like that? Experiences that you are now ashamed of, because that sort of behaviour ends in death. But now you are set free from sin and bound to the service of God. For the wages of sin is death while the gift, freely given by God, is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

You are convinced. You want to be holy. You really do. You no longer want to be a slave of sin. But then temptations come. You feel the tug of those old habits. Some evil within you—the Enemy—whispers: "You need a little comfort. It won't do you any harm." Besides the temptations of the Devil, you have to struggle with temptations coming from people you live with and from friends at work. You know Jesus has washed you clean with his blood. But there are times when Jesus seems far away. All you can see, all you can feel is the temptation.

It would be nice if we lived in a world that encouraged us to live holy lives. It would be so much easier. As one holy man explained: "The world, the devil and the flesh are a band of adventurers who, taking advantage of the weakness of that savage you bear within you, want you to hand over to them, in exchange for the glittering tinsel of a pleasure, worth nothing, the pure gold and the pearls, the diamonds and the rubies drenched in the living and redeeming blood of your God, which are the price and the treasure of your eternity."

Jesus himself was tempted. He allowed Satan to tempt him. He did that precisely in order to show us how to push the evil away from us. How did he do it? Rely on God. As Jesus said in his moment of temptation (and you can say in yours): "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." The meaning of this phrase may not be obvious. One saint explained it by pointing out that you are basically promising God you will spend more time reading sacred Scripture, more time dedicated to meditating on God's word. This gives you strength to resist temptation.

jbabendreier@yahoo.co.uk

THAT'S LIFE

If you spend your days well, living once is more than enough



SOCIETY

carole mandi

"The art of living well and the art of dying well are one," Epicurus

When a palliative care nurse who worked with terminally ill patients, Bronnie Ware, wrote a blog titled "The 5 top regrets of the dying", she had no idea it would resonate across the world and make her an internet sensation.

While she admitted that her article, and subsequent book was based on her eyewitness accounts, conversations with the dying and not scientific research, nonetheless, it was a powerful work that provides readers with a chance to take stock of their lives. The five top regrets as witnessed by Ware are:

"I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me."

"I wish I hadn't worked so hard."

"I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."

"I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends."

"I wish that I had let myself be happier."

Perhaps what makes it so compelling is that end of life conversations tend to refocus us on what really matters, and how we are making the most of our limited and fast diminishing time. Thing is, life can be so daily, and we can get caught up in it's grind with little thought about how we want it to end. Consider this: Have you ever wondered where the time, year or decade went? Are some years of your life a blur and all you have to account for them is one line on your resume? Are you so caught up with partying in your 20s, building a career and raising a family in your 30s, paying off your mortgage or buying that plot in your 40s, paying for college and worrying about retirement in your 50s? Do all these activities on living so consume you that you are hardly aware of the quiet passage of time until you get a wake up call through a health scare or the loss of a loved one or friend? After your wake-up call, do you then try to 'make-up' on lost time through rash decisions?

We all pray that when we do get to "the end", and the credits roll on what we did, who we loved, and how we lived, we will have few or no regrets at all. Over the years, I have come to understand that this one precious life we have all been given requires that we actively engage with it. That we jump into the pool of living, loving, serving rather than just dipping our toes. In the Lion Chaser's Manifesto, Mark Batterson urges us to "quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death." If you are like me, you want to get to the end of life empty, having poured out everything in you, your dreams, your love and left it in the arena that was your life. You don't want to be lowered into your grave, still intact with unexplored dreams, forgiveness that was never sought or love that was never expressed.

In the end, I believe, it boils down to how we lived, not just that we lived. Examine this day. It is your life. You will have moments to work, play, love, laugh, learn and live a legacy. Do not just drift through it. Engage. Be present. Be loving. Be purposeful. James Albert Michener writes, "The masters in the art of living make little distinction between their work and their play, their labour and their leisure, their minds and their bodies, their information, their recreation, their love and their religion. They hardly know which is which, they simply pursue their vision of excellence at whatever they do, leaving others to decide whether they are working or playing."

Living well is not only about affluence, although having your basic needs met can make the good life possible. It is about intention, purpose and love. It is making the most of what you have and accepting that it is enough to take you to your next level. Even when all you have is just your life and health.

We probably won't truly understand how brief life is until we go through the proverbial "my whole life flashed before my eyes in seconds" moment. By then it will be too late. For now, elevate living. Make it sacred. Make it worth your while.

It is true that we only live once. But if you do it right, once is enough.

carole@carolemandi.com

travel

GOING PLACES » ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK



PHOTO I JAN FOX
The KWS Hargenia Special Campsite.

Weekend camping inside the Aberdares

From game viewing to exploring the moorlands, this park seems to have it all

JAN FOX
janfox@idc.co.ke

Many of you will be familiar with Mzee, our old 1976 Range Rover. Mzee has featured heavily in this column over the 30 or so years that it has been running, and his trips have tended to generate more interest from readers than your average 'Going Places' article. We received lots of emails, in particular, after our journey with Mzee from Mombasa to Johannesburg in 2011. People were surprised that we made it to Jo'burg in just six days, especially in a car that had suffered the worst of Kenya's roads.

Since he made the return journey through Botswana in 2014, Mzee has spent most of his time gathering leaves and rats in our garden. We'd drive him round the block occasionally to make sure that he was still alive, but he rarely ventured out of Lavington. During these quiet years, he really started to live up to his name as a wheezing, spluttering old man, with leaky pipes and a drinking problem. We didn't give up on him though, and decided to bring him out of retirement for a trip up the Aberdares.

My brother, Andreas, is a private safari guide, and he planned the Aberdares excursion as a recce for a future trip with Mzee up Mount Kenya. His usual safari vehicle is too heavy to run at such altitudes, so he will have to put his faith in Mzee instead. With a full service, though including the removal of a rat's nest behind one of the headlights, Mzee was given a new lease of life for the Aberdares trip.

We opted to approach the park from the east – from the Treetops gate and through the forested salient. Now that the Kenya Wildlife Service has ditched the smartcard system, and accepts card or M-Pesa payments, you can access the park from most gates without the inconvenience of visiting headquarters first.

The lower-altitude salient is more densely populated with wildlife than the moorlands running down the spine of the park. Herds of elephant and buffalo often congregate at the waterholes in front of the famous tree-hotels: The Ark and Treetops. On our last visit to The Ark, we were lucky enough to spot a female leopard and her cub, on the main road a few hundred metres from the lodge.

With the roof hatch open, Mzee was back in his element: chugging along dusty tracks through thick bush, without another vehicle in sight. After disturbing a giant forest hog in the undergrowth by the side of the road, we pulled into the Bongo Campsite for lunch.

Fantastic camping spot

There are accommodation options to suit all budgets in the Aberdares, and the Bongo Campsite is just one of many fantastic camping spots across the park. We decided to spend the night at the KWS Hargenia Special Campsite, a few kilometres north of the Chania Falls.

The landscape changed quite dramatically between the salient and the higher-altitude Hargenia Campsite, which sits at about 10,000 ft. Swathes of striking purple Vernonia shrubs transitioned into dense bamboo forest, which then opened out to the moorlands the higher we climbed. En route, we came across groups of colobus and Sykes' monkeys, and small caves by the road formed by elephants digging for natural salts with their tusks.

The campsite is shaded by a grove of beautiful Hagenia abyssinica trees, draped in pale green moss, or 'Old Man's Beard'. As we pitched our tents, a bold male bushbuck emerged from the bushes to graze a few metres away. Minutes later, he was joined by another male, and then by a couple of duikers, who were all as unconcerned by our presence as the first bushbuck. These welcome visitors browsed around our camp all night, and at one point barked in alarm at a passing hyena. I should say that a KWS 'Special Campsite', costs more than the park's public campsites, and needs to be booked in advance.

Up here, the temperature plummets at night, so we were keen to see whether Mzee would start up in the morning. Thankfully, he did, and we were able to explore the moorlands. On the rolling plains of tussock grass, we spotted a lone elephant, and even caught a glimpse of an aardvark before it disappeared into its hole.

One of the attractions of the moorlands is the option to explore some of it on foot. On the Kinangop Plateau, it's possible to walk to the top of the magnificent Karuru Falls. From here, on a clear day, you can also see Gura Falls in the distance – Kenya's tallest cascade (305m). There are other scenic waterfalls too such as Chania and Magura Falls, by the Queen's Cave.

There are some exceptional trekking opportunities in the high moorlands, as adventurous visitors can (with advance permission and a ranger) hike up the three main peaks: Lesatima (4001m), Il Kinangop (3906m), and Kipipiri (3349m).

For more information, visit the KWS website: *www.kws.go.ke.*

Jan Fox is a Director at iDC

COOKERY

Prepare sweet potato wraps with mince meat filling

SWEET POTATOES are not only nutrient rich, they are also delicious. They can be used in a variety of ways to create tasty and healthy dishes. The combination of their slight sweetness and savory meat creates a meal that is unique, wholesome and tasty.



PHOTO I IRENE NJOROGE

INGREDIENTS

Serves 2
Preparation time: 20 minutes
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, chopped
1/2- inch ginger, crushed
1 tbsp fresh coriander
1/8 tsp black pepper
1 cup mincemeat
Salt to taste
1-1/2- cups boiled and mashed sweet potato
1 egg
1 cup flour

METHOD:

1. In a saucepan, heat the oil and add the onion, garlic, ginger, coriander and black pepper. Cook for 3 minutes and then add the mincemeat. Cook for 15 minutes, or until the meat browns and becomes tender.
2. In a bowl, add the sweet potato, egg and flour. Add some water and mix until it forms a smooth batter.
3. Heat some oil in a frying pan and add ladles of batter to make small sized pancakes. Cook both sides until they turn golden brown. Set aside.
4. On each pancake, spoon the mincemeat and wrap. Cut into bite sized pieces and serve immediately with vegetables.

FB: Irene Njoroge cooking tips

HEALTH» CARLOS MUREITHI

Eating slowly, no bedtime snacks could help lose kilos

SLOWING DOWN THE speed at which you eat, along with cutting out after-dinner snacks and not eating within two hours of going to sleep, may help you lose weight, research published in BMJ Open, the online journal, said on Monday.

On its website, BMJ Open said that researchers found that changes in these eating habits were strongly associated with lower obesity and weight (body mass index), and smaller waist circumference.

They based their findings on health insurance data for nearly 60,000 people with diabetes in Japan who had submitted claims and had regular health checkups between 2008 and 2013.

All the aspects of eating and sleeping habits studied, as well as alcohol consumption and previous obesity, were significantly associated with obesity.

The study took into account potentially influential factors and the results showed that compared with those who tended to gobble up their food, those who ate at a normal speed were 29 per cent less likely to be obese, rising to 42 per cent for those who ate slowly.

And although absolute reductions in waist circumference – an indicator of a potentially harmful midriff bulge – were small, they were greater among the slow and normal-speed eaters.

Snacking after dinner and eating within two hours of going to sleep three or more times a week were also strongly linked to changes in BMI. But skipping breakfast was not.



This is an observational study, so no firm conclusions can be drawn about cause and effect. In addition, eating speed was based on subjective assessment, and the researchers did not assess energy intake or physical activity levels, both of which may have been influential.

Nevertheless, quick eating has been linked to impaired glucose tolerance and insulin resistance. This is possibly because it may take longer for fast eaters to feel full, whereas this might happen more quickly for slow eaters, helping curb their calorie intake, the researchers suggest.

They conclude: "Interventions aimed at reducing eating speed may be effective in preventing obesity and lowering the associated health risks."

cmureithi@ke.nationmedia.com

feature

ACHIEVEMENT» FOR THEURI, IT WAS TIME TO GET USED TO LIFE WITH ONE HAND BUT FOR THE MEDICS, THE OPERATION TO REATTACH I

Gifted hands: Six hours of anxiety in delicate surgery

Experts say once there is full recovery, the hand will regain between 80 and 90 per cent functionality, meaning Theuri can perform most of his chores with it

BY ELVIS ONDIEKI
@OndiekiMogere
eondieki@ke.nationmedia.com

When the time came for surgeons to let blood flow from Joseph Theuri's right arm to the hand they had just stitched into its former position, the man in charge of tranquilising the patient got scared.

A lot of blood was oozing from the point where the hitherto severed hand had been re-connected to the arm. And it worried Mr Leonard Orunga.

Mr Orunga, who was part of a team of 15 which conducted the operation on the night of January 26 at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), recalls feeling sorry for the patient.

"The patient lost a lot of blood. I nearly told them to just let him live without that [re-attached] hand," said Mr Orunga, whose responsibility was anaesthesia (inducing a state of lack sensation by administering drugs) to ensure Mr Theuri did not feel pain throughout the operation.

"It was scary. We were going to lose this young man because we were trying to construct a hand yet he could live with one hand," he added.

The team called for blood to be brought in, and it turned out that the blood transfusion unit had only two pints available.

The two pints were not enough to recover the loss and the team came up with an ingenious intervention.

"What they did was to replace the loss with intravenous fluids. That is what we used most of the times," he told *Lifestyle*.

That was among the many nick-of-time decisions made by the team led by University of Nairobi (UoN) plastic surgery professor Stanley Khainga to make the re-stitching a success, one of the first such feats in the region.

Now, 17-year-old Theuri is recuperating at a KNH ward, awaiting a procedure where a piece of skin will be hived off one part of his body to fill up a space that surgeons left on the stitched hand.

"Because of anticipated swelling during the operation, we had to leave a small area. It is always a safety precaution for injuries on the limbs," said Dr Benjamin Wabwire, the head of KNH's Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

When *Lifestyle* visited Mr Theuri in his ward on Wednesday, he said he was doing fine even as he awaits the other procedure.

"I'm progressing well. Doctors have done what they could and the pain has subsided," he said nonchalantly.

On that fateful Friday, Mr Theuri who is an orphan, was cleaning a chaff-cutting machine at his adoptive family's home in Gachie, Kiambu County. With his right hand on the blade's path, he accidentally switched it on, and off went the hand. He only realised it had been cut when he saw blood spurting out and excruciating pain hit him.

When one looks at the profiles of the people who grafted the hand back to the arm, one gets a feeling that it was no fluke that the operation — said to be the first in the country — ended well.

Calling the shots in the surgery were two plastic surgeons who lecture at UoN and are consultants with KNH — Prof Khainga, the surgeon on call that night, and Dr Wanjala Nang'ole whom Prof Khainga called to assist.

They were assisted by two surgeons currently pursuing their post-graduate training in plastic surgery — Dr Alex Okello and a Dr Awora.

Mr Orunga, the anaesthetist, was another vital member of the team, ensuring the patient remained unconscious for the entire duration of the operation that started at 10pm and lasted about six hours.

He had a choice of numbing only the arm but he thought it wise to have the patient wholly tranquilised.

"I decided to make him unconscious because I didn't know the duration of the operation," he said. "With that, you can maintain the patient's unconsciousness and pain-free state for as long as you want. And he will not feel tired of lying on one side."

Also present were a team of theatre assistants, porters and other auxiliary staff, some of whom had finished their work for the day but offered to stay on to help the young man who had been brought into the facility at about 5pm in an ambulance from the Kiambu County Hospital.

Looking at the résumés of the lead surgeons, one is left with no doubt that there was enough expertise to plan and execute a surgery just hours after the injury happened.

Prof Khainga, who turned 57 on January 2, owes his expertise partly to the knowledge he amassed during his four-year stay at Mwihila Secondary School in Kakamega County, from where he completed his O-levels in 1978.

He then joined Kakamega High School, obtaining his A-level qualification in 1980.

From 1981 to 1987, he was at UoN pursuing a degree in medicine and surgery. During the final year at university, he was a medical intern back home at the then Kakamega Provincial Hospital.

He returned to UoN in 1990 to pursue his Master's degree in general surgery before going to work in 1994 at the Naivasha District Hospital where he became the Medical Officer of Health and the district surgeon.

In 1996, he joined the UoN medical school where he has taught to date.

Prof Khainga also obtained a certificate of microvascular surgery in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Medical University of Southern Africa in 2004.

He was also a visiting fellow at the East Eastern Virginia Medical School in the US between May and July 1997 where he took a short course in plastic and reconstructive microsurgery and craniofacial resection.

With these, and many other papers, Prof Khainga knew he had the right academic equipment for the daunting task ahead of him. And he didn't disappoint.

In a February 11 interview with Citizen TV, Prof Khainga was asked if there was a danger of getting the joinery wrong.

"We are really trained. We identify these things (and) we know the anatomy. There is no reason why we should make that mistake. We are experts in that area," he replied.

But he acknowledged that there had been previous unsuccessful attempts to conduct similar operations in Kenya.

"In the 1990s, when I was a post-graduate student, there was an attempt to do a similar operation but I don't think they did it the right way because of lack of capacity," he said. "Within three days, the limb was dead."

During the surgery, Prof Khainga mainly focused on the stump that had been left after the blade severed Theuri's hand.

The other consultant surgeon, Dr Nang'ole, was working on the cut off hand, ensuring all disconnected parts were prepared for re-joining.

Dr Nang'ole, 46, who comes from Kiminini in Trans Nzoia County, studied for his O-level exams at Mother of Apostles in Eldoret, finishing in 1987.

He went to Mang'u High School for his A-levels, completing studies in 1989 before joining UoN's medical school. He did his internship at the Nakuru Provincial General Hospital between 1996 and 1997.



Dr Nang'ole obtained his Master's degree in surgery from the UoN in 2003. In the same year, he became a consultant surgeon at Isiolo District Hospital, a post he held until 2006.

He has also taken various surgery courses overseas, including a fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Cape Town, a flap elevation training at the Dukes University in North Carolina and has been a fellow under the European Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Dr Nang'ole wants Mr Theuri's experience to be a lesson to Kenyans on what to do in case a body part is chopped off during an accident or an attack.

"Ideally, we aim to have the surgery done within 24 hours of the injury but in the event that is not possible, we shall still give it a try," he said in a February 8 interview, urging that as soon as an accident happens, a cooler box to put the severed limb is a priority.

Mr Orunga, the anaesthetist in the historic surgery, has been a clinical officer at KNH since 1991 and has assisted in numerous operations.

TACH IT WOULD BE PRETTY ROUTINE





PHOTO I KANYIRI WAHITO

Above: Seventeen-year-old Joseph Theuri whose hand was successfully re-implanted at the Kenyatta National Hospital after being accidentally severed by a chaff cutter machine. LEFT: Kenyatta National Hospital CEO Lilly Koros and nurse Joyce Mukuria chat with Joseph on February 8.



Lead Surgeon Stanley Khainga



Plastic Surgery head, Benjamin Wabwire



Dr Alex Okello, Plastic Surgery Registrar

An old boy of Maranda High School in Siaya County, Mr Orunga studied clinical medicine at the Kenya Medical Training College.

"I worked briefly in Meru before caming back to MTC for a diploma in anaesthesia. I was then posted to Makindu Sub-District Hospital in Makueni but there was very little work there and I soon came back to KNH," he said.

He describes his job during the operation on Theuri as simply "to keep the patient alive and free of pain".

By analysing a patient's weight, he determines which dosage of drugs to administer to make the patient relaxed but alive.

"Once I give you the drug to make you unconscious, I maintain you asleep on some drugs that we administer through the anaesthetic machine. It delivers oxygen and a drug called nitrous oxide," he said.

One thing which makes him tick, he says, is the patience of the lead surgeons.

"I've worked with Prof Khainga and Dr Nang'ole several times. I appreciate their patience. They do their operation meticulously and very slowly. But that is also what makes us anaesthetists more worried. They go about it very slowly while we can't wait for the end of the operation. It is teamwork, though, so you have to tolerate the speed," he said.

Yet another member of the team which conducted the historic operation is Dr Alex Okello, a plastic surgery registrar at the UoN. He is presently pursuing postgraduate studies even as he works as a medic at KNH.

Dr Okello, 33, was born and raised in Mombasa. He attended St Joseph's Boys High School in Trans Nzoia County for his secondary education which he cleared in 2002.

He then attended Moi University where he studied medicine and surgery, graduating in 2010. It was followed by a year-long internship at the Forces Memorial Hospital in Nairobi. He was later posted to the Garissa Provincial General Hospital for three years before coming back to the University of Nairobi.

Dr Okello was in the accident and emergency department on the day Theuri was brought in. A caller told him to urgently review the case.

"He had come in with a nurse from Kiambu and everyone around was seated a far away from him. They were all in awe at how he was because he came with his forearm bandaged and there was no hand. And then there was a cool box right next to him," recalled Dr Okello.

After various tests, he established that the detached hand had been stored in the right manner, meaning a re-stitching procedure would be possible.

He contacted Dr Wabwire, the plastic surgery head at KNH, who advised him to reach out to Prof Khainga, the specialist on call.

"I discussed with Prof Khainga and he said, 'Yes; we need to give it a shot,'" recalled Dr Okello.

Securing a theatre for the operation was not easy because most were occupied that night. Luckily, one was found and surgeons made it on time and within 12 hours of the severing of the hand, it was back to its position.

Dr Okello said the whole process seemed daunting, but the men in charge knew their trade.

"The surgery itself is pretty routine for the specialists because they are trained," he said.

Dr Wabwire, who has been heading the KNH plastic surgery department since last year, told *Lifestyle* that once Theuri's hand recovers, he will be taken through a rehabilitation phase.

"It might take three to six months for any useful sensation to be back; so he has to be patient with us. But there will be an occupational therapist and a physiotherapist who will be working on him on the fingers and on the movements especially the joints," he said.

Dr Okello said the re-joined parts are now growing slowly — at the pace of a millimetre a day.

"Sensation has been moving forward day by day," he said, noting that bones were stitched back using wires while other vessels were reattached using very minute objects that cannot be seen without a microscope.

"He is already having some dysesthesia — some sort of abnormal sensation. But you can actually feel it. It is not yet refined, as such, like the way you can differentiate if someone pricks you with a pin," said Dr Okello.

Mr Theuri's guardian Virginia Gathoni terms the whole process a miracle.

"It is only God who can do this," she told *Lifestyle*. "It's a miracle. At first I didn't believe it. Now I have faith," he said.

Ms Gathoni, 40, has been taking care of Mr Theuri who lost his parents early in life.

On the day he cut his arm, she had travelled from the family residence in Gachie, to Narobi's Hurlingham area. She thanks a Good Samaritan who drove Mr Theuri to hospital (as she made frantic efforts to return home) and medics who preserved the hand so that it was possible to stitch it back.

style

FASHION TIP

How to look like the most stylish girl in the room: Pair dressy bottoms (a velvet maxi, a leather or beaded skirt, silk pants) with a worn gray crew-neck sweatshirt or T-shirt. When it doubt, always choose the smaller denim size, since jeans stretch with wear.

THERE ARE THINGS THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW ABOUT THE INDUSTRY

Plus size modelling has strict physical requirements too for men and women

The world of plus size modelling

BY CAROL ODERO
@CarolOdero

oderocarol@gmail.com

There was a time modelling was strictly the preserve of the skinny. That was before the cracks begun to show and the truth about the ugly side of modelling came out. This was long before the body positivity movement. Before names like Beth Ditto and Tess Munster nee Holliday were magazine covers.

But as it gains traction, there are things the world does not know about plus size modelling. It was imagined to be a direct and potent solution to the skinny problem.

Plus size modelling has strict physical requirements too for both male and female models. They have to be proportional and taller than the sizes 0 to 4 models not just for runway work, but even editorial shoots. While the 34-24-34 models have this distinct, striking and unique quality; they can be unconventional – with strong quirky eyebrows and lots of personality like Cara Delevingne, rich sleek navy-black colouring and high cheekbones like Alek Wek. They are polarising and not necessarily traditionally attractive. It does also explain why Kenyan beauty queens struggle to have success as international models. They have an accepted kind of beauty. Models who polarise seem to be far more memorable to the industry.

This is the very opposite of plus size modelling. Success demands very beautiful, photogenic facial features emphasising symmetry for close ups, shots that magazines love for plus size editorials. They must have very buttery skin, and even if they have thick bodies, the women must be at least 5 foot 9 inches to 6 feet tall, and the men even taller. The height stretches out their proportions. They need to have discernible waistlines, nice looking, clean unscarred knees and legs. That being said, there is a clutch of tattooed models. Ashley Graham is one of the most celebrated plus size models.



FILE I NATION
A model on the runway during the first edition of Plus Size modelling contest in Kisumu County in 2016.

She has a TED Talk with over 2 million views and is a very vocal advocate of body positivity. Philomena Kwao has cropped hair emphasising the beauty of her face. Her skin both absorbs and reflects light. She can wear bikinis and the rolls on her tummy add to her gorgeousness.

Plus size modelling embraces heft. Measurements start from 40-something inches.

Medium sized models are not big enough to be plus and too curvy to be skinny. Plus size models get trolled for encouraging unhealthy lifestyles, Tess Munster shares her life, diet and family life on Instagram, but the trolling got to her.

In a December 2013 article *The Dark Side of Modeling: What I Learned as a Plus Size Model* in the Huffington Post she writes how she was suicidal for 6 months. How the very same women who said they wanted representation in the industry tore her down, flipping from calling her inspirational to labeling her fat. She started her #effyourbeautystandards to heal from the negative scrutiny and all the venom directed her way. "I'm telling you, the models behind your venomous words have feelings. We see what you say about us, and it hurts. We have families, most of us have day jobs, and we struggle just like you to pay our bills. While you are sitting in your pajamas complaining about things you probably know nothing about, the women on the other side of your hate are now trying to deal with having their day ruined by YOU."

Here is the irony. While the plus sized industry is worth $17 billion (Sh1.7tr) and demand for plus sized models has been growing the past decade, what is fueling all this, is social media. In the past plus sized fashion did not thrive with plus sized divisions either shutting down or getting sold off.

In 2015 *Fortune* magazine reported approximately 65 per cent of US women are size 14 and up. The total apparel market is $110 billion (Sh11tr). The math does not add up because spend should be higher. More than the touted $17 billion.

And, the average Kenyan woman is said to be a size 16. Neomi Ng'ang'a and Fransica Nyamu are attempting to remedy this with a clothing line and Plus Size Fashion Week respectively. Internationally, Christian Siriano has become the go-to atelier for the plus sizes and women who do not fit the standard Hollywood profile. Speaking of, actress Melissa McCarthy launched her clothing line for sizes 4 to 28.

"A Perfect 14" is a documentary showing the dark side of plus size modeling. It interviews three women from Europe as well as industry players and experts in - wait for it - fat studies and body image, and how the media successfully chips away at womenu015B self confidence and body image. For the record, plus size is US 8 to 14, UK 10 to 16. With vanity sizing that becomes even more confusing. Fashion calls the skinny models straight size and plus sizes are curvy size. In between in no-woman's land.



YOUR SKIN

irene njoroge-kristian

Night time skin care routine

JUST LIKE TEETH, night time care is crucial for your skin. This is the time that the body is at rest and thus diverts energy and resources into healing and rejuvenation. You need to play your part to support this natural body process, so that you can derive maximum benefits for your skin. This can be achieved by developing a quick night time skin care ritual that should become a part of your unwinding time. If you remain committed to this routine, you will soon begin to see the results of your effort. Your skin will heal quickly and will always look glowing and refreshed upon rising.

All it takes is five minutes each evening. You can do it as soon as you settle down, or just before you sleep.

Step one: Make up removal: This is an often repeated mantra in skin care circles. It is important to remove all the make up worn during the day. Use a mi-cellar water or make up remover to swipe the eye area and the skin.

Step two: Cleansing: A thorough cleanse will remove grime, sweat and any other build-up on your skin.

Step three: Toning or rinsing: Tone or rinse your face to complete the cleansing process. Cold water helps to brace your skin and to temporarily close the pores.

Step four: Apply serum. Serums are active ingredients suspended in light gel. The concentration of vitamins, antioxidants and nutrients found in serums are useful for solving problems at targeted areas. The eye area requires a gentle, anti-aging serum, while spots, pimples and dark patches also need special treatment.

Step five: Oil. Apply night oil to your entire face and neck area to nourish, repair and revitalise. Oil is useful because it helps to combat dryness. Select light plant oils such as almond and olive oils.

Finally..... Get enough beauty sleep. Your body requires at least 7 hours of deep sleep. TIP: Drink a glass of water with lemon juice every night at bedtime to help clear your skin, stomach and eyes. You will wake up feeling extremely refreshed.

The author runs the safe skin care initiative. Query? whatsapp 0722987025

SYMPTOMS » I LOOKED IN HIS EYES AND FOUND A TRACE OF JAUNDICE, YELLOWNESS OF THE CONJUNCTIVA



Brave cancer patient who started a crucial campaign on death bed



SURGEON'S DIARY

Yusuf Dawood

I had a provisional diagnosis in my mind and the lack of any additional physical findings did not put me off

"Is that Mr K?" Asked the caller whose voice I could easily recognise. It was the secretary allotted to me by the hospital, to do my dictation, typing and other secretarial work. The mode of address, the explanation of which though digressing, my readers might find interesting.

It is an abbreviation of my surname, both difficult to pronounce and spell. In the past, I have described it as a cross, which I have carried all my life. It arose from the fact that my father was born in a village in India by the name of Kodwav and everybody from there is known as Kodwavwala. Little did I realise when I inherited the surname that it had V immediately next to a W, which made it more awkward, a fact brought to my attention more pointedly when I went to the UK to qualify as a surgeon.

The abbreviation was a result of Irish ingenuity possessed by Sister Robinson, the operating theatre sister, who had an occasion to call me for an emergency appendicectomy on the day I joined the hospital as a Resident Surgeon. After a few unsuccessful attempts at pronouncing the surname of the newly arrived surgeon, during which time she distorted it beyond recognition by me, she gave up and said. "Do you mind if I just call you Mr K?" That was it and the hospital staff caught on to the easy version.

I felt proud because Mzee Jomo Kenyatta was very much in the news, John Kennedy was the US president and Krushchev was in power in Russia and when the press was pushed for space in their headlines, K was often used as an abbreviation of these famous people and I felt very honoured to be in such distinguished company! I must add, however, that when it came to find a pseudonym for my writing, I shed it for a much simpler name, which has caught on too, though I have to use the difficult version as a surgeon because all my academic documents are under that name.

Reverting to the phone call, from my secretary, who except for urgent work, took dictations from me on Mondays and Fridays, she said: "I need to see you urgently on a personal matter. When would it be convenient for you to see me?"

Since I was doing desk work and noticing the urgency in her voice, I replied: "Come now if you are free."

As I was waiting for her to walk from the secretarial bureau to my office, I recalled that along with two other ladies, I had interviewed Jill about ten years back. With me sat the head of the secretarial bureau and the Human Resource manager. There were four applicants, all women, who had done their 'O' levels, followed by shorthand, typing and specialised medical stenographer's course to make them familiar with medical terms. At the interview I asked every candidate. "Medical stenography is a very narrow specialty. What made you take it up?"

I was impressed by Jill's reply which was. "I wanted to work in a hospital because I knew that there I would be exposed to different specialists and learn medical terms used in all specialties. Also, I wanted to be with patients, because initially I wanted to be a nurse but my family could not afford to pay for my training."

"So this is your backdoor entry into a hospital!" I remarked, making them all laugh.

Jill was unanimously voted the best candidate by the interviewing committee and bagged the job. I was very pleased with our choice when she started working. She was fast at taking dictation, typing and carried a filing cabinet in her head, which could easily recall medical facts of all my patients. As I was wondering what it was she wanted to see me for, there was a knock on the door and I said, "Come in." I could sense that Jill felt uneasy about whatever she had come to see me about, so I put a couple of minutes to make her comfortable and then set the ball rolling by asking. "What is it you want to see me for?"

"It's about my husband." She came straight to the point."For the last couple of weeks, Pascall has been feeling unwell and has now developed indigestion and has lost some weight."

"Who is looking after him?" I inquired.

"Our family doctor." replied Jill. "He is very good, but he doesn't seem to know what is wrong with Pascali."

"Has he done any investigations?"

"Only the basic like blood, urine and stool," Jill replied. "He says that my husband's complaints are so vague, he doesn't know where to start."

I decided to cut the cackle and asked."How can I help?"

"I was wondering if I could bring him to see you." Jill said.

"You know, your doctor is right about your husband's symptoms being vague. I will be very happy to see Pascall but he might benefit more by seeing a physician rather than a surgeon like me." Then to clear any doubts in Jill's mind that I was passing the buck, I added."Let us leave the final decision to your doctor."

The next day, I received a phone call from the GP and he added a little more information and then said that he thought that his patient better come under my care. A week later, Jill brought her husband to see me. Fortunately for me, Pascall's symptoms had become more specific and he had developed obvious signs which pointed to a clinical diagnosis. Amongst the many questions I asked him, one was."Have you any pain in your tummy?"

Silent killer

"Yes here," he said pointing to his upper abdomen and added. "It has recently appeared and goes deep into my back." As he said that, I looked in his eyes and found a trace of jaundice, yellowness of the conjunctiva."How is your appetite?" I asked.

"I have no appetite."

"Bowels normal?"

"Recently I suffered from diarrhoea and my stools are smelly," Pascall replied.

I had a provisional diagnosis in my mind and the lack of any additional physical findings did not put me off, because the diagnosis, I had provisionally made is known as a 'silent killer'. I asked for ultra-sound and MRI of the abdomen and they confirmed my worst fears; It was cancer of the pancreas. More dismal was the fact that both investigations showed metastasis – spread – in the liver, making it a terminal case. Knowing how familiar, Jill was with medicine and surgery as a medical stenographer, I did not hide anything from the devastated couple. "How long do you give him?" Jill asked when we were alone.

"As you know, this is one of the worst cancers to have." I replied. "Difficult to set the time frame but all I can say is that we have to think in terms of weeks rather than months. I presume, you have told your husband everything." I went on.

"Yes, I did," replied Jill.

"What was his reaction?" I asked.

"Bit strange," Jill replied. "He just hugged me warmly and said. 'We have had 20 years of married bliss and it's a pity that I have to leave you so soon.' Then he turned philosophical and urged me to start a campaign to make people aware of cancer."

> **NOW WITH CHANGE OF LIFE- STYLE AND DIET, THE DISEASE PATTERN IS CHANGING AND THE INCIDENCE OF CANCER IS SET TO ESCALATE**

After consulting Pascall, Jill decided to take him home.

"Though we have no children, we both have large extended families and they all would like me home," Pascall said.

On the day Pascall was going home, I went to see him, give him a prescription of drugs to take home to make life comfortable.

He sat me on the chair near his bed and said to the Sister who had accompanied me, "Please carry on with your work because I want to discuss certain personal issues with Mr K." As she made herself scarce, he asked his wife to sit beside him and said. "You want this surgeon to assist you in your mission."

Pointing at me, he added. "He has tried to create breast cancer awareness amongst women of our country." Then turning to me, he continued. "We have been busy talking about communicable diseases in Kenya like TB, Malaria and lately HIV and Aids. Now with change of lifestyle and diet, the disease pattern is changing and the incidence of cancer is set to escalate. We need to educate our people in cancer awareness."

Then he turned philosophical, as he had done with his when she gave him the details of his illness and prognosis and added. "I read somewhere that medical science is closing gaps like malnutrition and communicable diseases on the bridge of life and so we all fall in the abyss of cancer at the end of the bridge and it is important that our people are made more cancer conscious. It is too late to create a rainbow in my own sky but by Jill starting this campaign, I could create one in someone else's cloud!"

humour

FEUD» IT ALL BEGAN WITH JOY AND LOTS OF LAUGHTER, BUT THEN IT SOON ENDED SO BADLY

Fiolina wins fight for attention over Probox but divides family



When baby Sospeter, whom Branton still calls Probox, was born, my mother, my sisters Caro and Yunia were regulars at my home. Indeed they had shifts and a clear timetable on who would come which day and at what time. As such, my house was always full, and in as much as their presence had a negative micro-economic effect on my wallet, Fiolina got much help as this lessened the burden of raising our new baby.

But soon, I started hearing complaints which I initially ignored as I considered them women affairs. True men never get involved in such. At some point, however, I noted that the relationship between Fiolina and my sister Yunia was very cold. Not that the two have ever really been friends! Just that in this case, you could always feel the tension when they were together.

I asked Fiolina why. "Sorry to say but your sister is a thief," she said. "I think she came here to steal my things, not to help with my baby..."

A few days later, Yunia stopped coming. Caro continued to come until a few weeks ago, when she too, suddenly stopped coming. "It's a long story" was all she said when I asked her what was wrong. Later she told me: "Fiolina is not as good as many people think," she said.

Two weeks ago, I arrived at home from school to find my mother and Fiolina quarrelling.

"Andrea ni mtoto wangu," my mother was saying. *"Na huyu Sospeter ni mjukuu wangu."* Fiolina, on her part, reminded her that we have moved from their compound and we could now make our own decisions.

My mother reminded her that the land where we built our house belonged to our father. Fiolina did not answer her. Shortly after, my mother left, angry and spitting out words: *"Ningefanya Dre vile unafanya Sospeter wewe haungekuwa na bwana sasa."* She did not come to our house again. Henceforth, I had to go to school late and come back home early to help Fiolina with house chores, as she still refused to accept a house girl. *"Najua kuna fisi hapa na siwezi mletea nyama,"* she said when I challenged her to accept a house girl.

My mother would later ask me to go see her. *"Mimi ukiniangalia naweza iba?"* she asked me when I went to see her. She enumerated many charges against my wife – the way she holds the baby badly and insufficient sun exposure for Sospeter... I told my mother that I would speak to Fiolina.

"Ningekuwa wewe ningeanza kutafuta bibi mwingine," she said. When I asked her why, she told me that unless I get another woman who would not threaten me but fully submit to me, I will die early.

"Huyu atakuuwa na stress ndio akule pension yako," was her conclusion.

I went home ready to talk to Fiolina, but on seeing her face, I did not need a calculator to know that things were elephant. I decided not to raise the matter, but instead made myself available to be ordered here and there.

Two weeks ago, I received a call from my aunt Albina, requesting to visit the baby.

"I looked for you a wife and you can't tell me when you get a baby," she was complaining. For those of you who remember Senje Albina, she is a sister to my father, and the one who introduced Fiolina to me — and I did the rest. Enemies of development claim that she seduced Fiolina for me. Those are good for nothings who have never won a woman's heart.

I allowed Senje Albina to come and she arrived last Friday evening, and spent most of the evening with Fiolina in the kitchen. They talked and laughed until very late. Last Saturday, I was woken up by noise in the compound.

"Usimpe mtoto uji," said Fiolina. "He is still on inclusive breast feeding."

"This is a boy not a girl," said my auntie. "Boys need proper food," she said as she tried to make him take the porridge. Senje only stopped when Fiolina became uncontrollably noisy.

"Utaua mto wangu wewe mama!"

After breakfast, Senje took the baby outside, and unclothed him, exposing the baby to the sun

"Huyu mtoto haoti jua," Fiolina shouted.

"Mnataka mtoto akuwe na diarrhoea?" Senje said. Fiolina was not amused.

When the sun got too hot, they walked back to the house. Senje asked for her bag from which she removed a concoction of leaves tucked away in nylon bags. *"Niwashieni jiko,"* she asked.

We asked her what she wanted to do. "Message," she said. She meant massage. Senje Albina warmed the leaves, which she used to rub Sospeter's body, starting with the back then legs — the baby let out a loud cry. This attracted Fiolina who was in the bedroom. "Stop it!" she said, on seeing what Senje Albina was doing.

But this time round Senje held her ground, and continued. *"Hii ni lazima mtoto afanyiwe,"* she said, as she continued massaging different parts of the boy's body using the hot leaves, as the boy cried loudly. Fiolina could only watch.

As soon as she finished and washed the baby, Sospeter went to sleep. He slept for a very longtime, the longest he has ever slept! As the boy slept, Senje started showing Fiolina the things she should do. In our bedroom were so many drugs, that Fiolina had been buying.

"Mtaua mtoto na madawa," she said on seeing them, and advised Fiolina which ones to use and which ones not to use.

It was about 2pm when Sospeter woke up. Senje then took the baby and started to throw him up playfully and catching him mid-air. The boy was very happy and kept laughing loudly every time he was thrown up. Fiolina could not stand this.

"Kama unataka kuua mtoto go kill another one," she said. *"Sio huyu wangu."* The baby, who had been laughing, started crying when the mother took him away.

"Mtoto wangu hakuwa analia hivi," said Fiolina. Senje said he was hungry. *"Hiyo ni njaa, na maziwa yako haitamtosha,"* she said, then walked to the kitchen as Fiolina breastfed the baby, who kept on crying.

Senje Albina came back to the sitting room. She had prepared some soft bananas for the baby. *"Mtoto ako na njaa kama baba yake,"* she said as she took the baby from Fiolina and tried to feed him. But Fiolina would hear none of that.

"Hiyo ndizi utakula mwenywe," Fiolina said. *"Hakuna kitu unajua ya watoto."* This did not go down well with my aunt. *"Nimelea watoto saba wewe Fionila,"* she said. *"Ni nini utaniambia kuhusu watoto."*

"Hizo zilikuwa siku zenu," Fiolina answered. *"Bindu bichenjanga".* Fiolina grabbed the food from Senje and went with it away.

When she returned, Senje gave her the baby, packed her things ready to leave. I tried to convince her to stay but her mind was made up. Fiolina never said anything. And with that, she left, but not before she asked me to pay her Sh1,000 for the massage. I only had Sh500 which I gave her. With no house girl around and no relative allowed, it looks like my problems will continue!

STAFFROOM DIARY

mwalimu andrew

mwalimuandrew@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/mwisho-walami

ASIA SCENE» ALLAUDIN QURESHI

Time to fulfil your romantic musical wishes

Fresh cultural tidings have been received to appease lovers of traditional art of ghazals and musical melodies. Navrang Fine Arts Foundation (NFAF) known and respected for its authentic artistic and soulful presentations has announced the staging of HAZARON KHWAHISHEIN- a thousand cherished wishes, an evening of vocal and musical exposition featuring Gayatri Asokan at the Oshwal Centre Auditorium Westlands on March 17, 2018.

Gayatri Asokan is a young energetic and graceful performer who has made her mark as a versatile singer of Indian film songs, ghazals, bhajans and classical renderings. She takes pride in being the granddaughter of Ammukutti, the legendary Carnatic music teacher and Guru. Back home in India, Gayatri is an award winning vocalist. She has been associated with the Art of Living Foundation since 1995 and travels extensively singing and spreading the noble cause of the foundation in the service of humanity. I understand the royalty she receives for the musical albums is passed on to charitable organisations. Gayatri is also a judge at musical talent shows featured by the Indian small screen channels. At the Hazaron Khwahishein showing Gayatri will be accompanied by well-known professional Indian musicians and percussionists to support her renderings of choice ghazals and melodies.

Ghazal as we know is a poetic form of love and all that is beautiful and intoxicating and also of the agony of loss and separation. The performer explores a vast canvas of emotions to create an extra ordinary vocal expression of the theme of love and romance. This romance and melody skillfully interwoven into intricate ragas never ceases to fascinate the audience. NFAF is a leading Kenyan promoter of traditional and classical music fare. Hazaron Khwahishein is yet another prestigious and traditionally unique presentation from NFAF that should prove to be a heavenly cultural boon for our music lovers. Advance booking plans are open at Shah Chemists Sarit Centre. It certainly is time to fulfil your cherished romantic musical wishes with Gayatri and her group of professional musicians.

For pictures, visit the arts and culture section on www.nation.co.ke
Email: qureshi@simbatech

JOKES

Laura: How was your Valentine?
Monica: Ronny was nothing more than a shiver, looking for a spine to run up.
Laura: My Danny was even worse. His parents should have thrown him away and kept the stork.

***

If you love someone, set them free. If they come back, set them free again – until it is positive.
Two heads are better than none.
A nose that can see, is worth two that can sniff.
In comparisons, there are no comparisons.
Before a storm in a tea-cup brews, nip it in the bud.
The future has changed plenty in recent years.

Alcohol - A bitter fluid used to help people dance.
Bricklayer - A confused chicken.
Brouhaha - the joy of cooking.
Coffee - An attitude adjustment in a cup.
Immature - A word used by boring teachers to describe fun children.
Mother - One person who does the work of fifty, for free.
Nurse - Annoying medic who wakes you up to take pills.
Textaphrenia - Self explanatory.

***

Patient: What's wrong with my eyes?
Doctor: Your pupils have diluted.

***

Reporter: How is the security situation in your country?
President: If crime went down 150%, it would still be 300 times higher than it should be.

***

Katy: Why have you stopped me for absolutely no reason?
Officer: Little lady. You are in trouble with a Capital Ouble.

***

Larry: How did your Jason get on at University?
Cookie: He got so many degrees, he's going to start his own heat-wave.

Compiled by Deja Vu

TELEVISION

CITIZEN TV

4.00 CNN **6:00** Gospel Sunday Live **1:00** Live at 1 **1:30** Shamba Shape up **2:00** Inspekta Mwala Classics **2:30** Tahidi High Classics **3:15** Machachari Classics **4:00** Papa Shirandula Classics **4:30** Mother-in-Law Classics **5:00** Moyo Classics **5: 30** Mashtaka **6:00** The Wedding Show **7:00** Nipashe Wikendi **7:30** Mother-in-law **8:05** Road to Destiny **9:00** Sunday Live **10:00** Passion and Power **11:00** Afrosinema **1:00** Citizen Late Night News **2:00** Afrosinema

KTN TV

5:00 Command Your Morning **6:00** Joseph Prince - New Creation Church TV **6:30** Joel Osteen Ministries **7:00** Tukuza Live Gospel Show **12:00** Life N' Style-RPT **1.00** Lunch Time News **1:30** Animated Movie **3:00** Steve Harvey **4:00** Deal or No Deal **5.00** Chungu Chetu -RPT **5:30** Property Show. **6: 30** Skin Therapy **7:00** KTN Leo **7:30** Junior **8:00** Behind the Music. **9:00** Checkpoint **10:30** Movie **12:00** CNN

KBC TV

5:00 BBC **6.00** In Touch Ministries **7.00** New Life Ministry **7.30** Kuna Nuru Gizani **8.00** Calvary Chosen Centre **8: 30**Turning Point **9.00** Celebration Times **9.30** Jijenge Imani Yako **10.00** Worship Experience **11:00** Homegrown **1.00** KBC Lunchtime News **1 .30** Classmates **2:00** Daytime Movie **3:30** Mkulima **4:00** Kwa Raha Zangu **5:00** Sundowner **6: 00** Beyond the Headlines **7.00** Taarifa **7.30** Comedy Arena **8: 30** Jee Huu ni Ungwana **9:00** Channel 1 News **10:00** Turning Point **12:00** Layd Back **12.30** BBC



NTV WEEKEND @9PM

Join Victoria Rubadiri

TODAY
5:00am Once Cubed
6:00 One Voice
7:00 Mamlaka Hill Chapel
8:00 In His Presence
8:30 Gospel Outreach
9:00 Maximum Miracle
9:30 Refreshing Times
1:00 Cross Over 101
1:00 NTV at 1
1:30 #the Trend
3:00 Churchill Raw
3:30 Wicked Edition
4:00 Pwani Fitness Show
4:30 Woman Without Limits
5:30 NTV Property Show
6:00 Victoria's Lounge
7:00 NTV Jioni
7:30 The Pambazuka National Lottery Show
8:00 Churchill Show
9:00 NTV Weekend Edition
10:00 Avenida Brasil
11:00 CNN



CROSSOVER 101 @10AM

CINEMA GUIDE

NAIROBI

FOX CINEPLEX-SARIT CENTRE
SCREEN I
"AIYAARY" (TBA) 11AM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) (16) 11AM, 1.30PM, 4PM, 6.15PM, 8.45PM
"TAD AND THE SECRET OF KIN MIDAS" (3D) (GE) 4.20PM8.45PM
SCREEN II
"PADMAVAAT" 11AM
"AIYAARY" (TBA) 2.30PM, 6.15PM
"PADMAN" (PG) 9PM

CENTURY CINEMAX JUNCTION SCREEN I
"TAD JONES" (PG) 11AM, 1PM, 3PM, 5PM
'DEN OF THIEVES" (2D) (18) 7.30PM, 10PM
"WATU WOTE" (ALL OF US) 7PM

SCREEN II
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) (16)
11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM,,7.15PM, 10PM
SCREEN III
"MONSTER FAMILY" (2D) (PG)
10AM, 12PM, 2PM, 4PM, 6PM
"JUMANJI" WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE " (2D) (PG) 7.45PM, 10PM
"MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE" (2D) (16) 10PM
SCREEN IV
"BLACK PANTHER" (2D) (16)
12.30PM, 3.15PM, 6PM, 8.45PM
"WATU WOTE" 11AM, 12PM

PLANET MEDIA, PRESTIGE
"MONSTER FAMILY" 10.40AM, 12
"AIYAARY" (2D) 8.10PM
"BLACK PANTHER" 3.30PM, 6.10, 8.50PM
"DEN OF THIEVES" 10AM, 1.20PM, 3PM
"PAD MAN" (2D) 6.05PM

PLANET MEDIA, WESTGATE
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) (16)
11.40AM, 3PM, 6.20PM, 9.10PM
"MONSTER FAMILY" (2D) (PG)
11.30AM, 2PM, 4.10PM, 6.20PM
"DEN OF THIEVES" (2D) (16)
10.50AM, 4.05PM, 9.20PM
THE POST" " (2D) 6.55PM
"JUMANJI" WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE " (3D) (PG) 1.40PM, .45PM, 8.40PM
"AIYAARY" 11AM, 2.40PM, 550PM, 9PM
"PADMAVAAT" 11AM, 2.30PM, 8.40PM
"PAD MAN" (2D) 11.20AM, 3PM, 6PM, 9PM

IMAX, GARDEN CITY
"BLACK PANTHER" (2D) (16) 10AM, 12.45PM, 3.30PM, 6.15PM, 9PM
"AIYAARY" (2D) (16)1PM, 4PM, 9.45PM
"PAD MAN" (2D) (16) 7PM
"TAD JONES" (3D) 10.15AM, 12.15PM, 2.15PM, 4.15PM, 6.15PM
"JUMANJI" WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE " (2D)) (16) 7.45PM
"MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE" 10PM
"MONSTER FAMILY" 10AM, 12PM, 2PM, 4PM
?DEN OF THIEVES" (2D) (18)7.15PM, 10PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) (16) 11AM, 1.45PM, 4.30PM, 7.15[M, 10PM

ANGA IMAX CINEMA, NAIROBI
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 8.05AM, 10.30AM, 1PM, 3.30PM, 6PM, 8.30PM, 10.50PM
ANGA SKY CINEMA, PANARI
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 6AM, 7AM, 8.20AM, 9.20AM, 10.40AM, 1PM, 3.20PM, 4PM, 5.40PM, 8PM, 10.20PM, 12AM, 2.20AM, 3AM
"DEN OF THIEVES" (2D) 11.40AM
"MONSTER FAMILY" (2D) 2.20AM
"AIYAARY" (2D) 6.20PM, 9.10PM

KISUMU

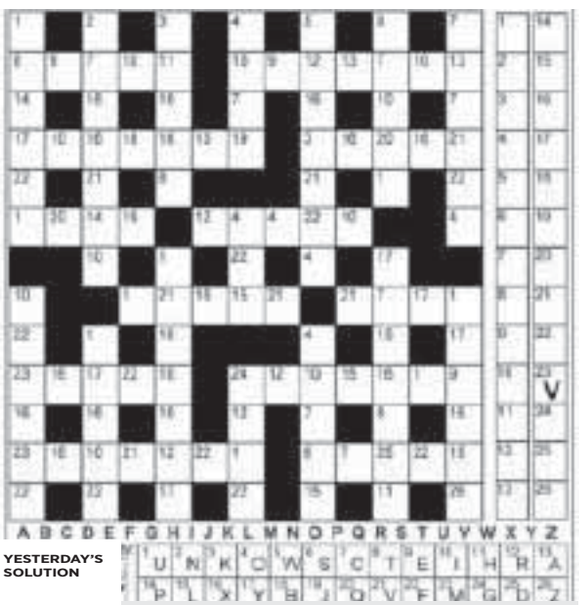
ANGA CINEMA, NAKUMATT MEGA
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 8AM, 10.20AM, 12.40PM, 3PM, 5.20PM, 7.40PM, 10PM
"MONSTER FAMILY" (2D) 12PM
"DEN OF THIEVES" (2D) 9.20AM
"AIYAARY" (2D) 4.20PM, 7.20PM,, 9PM
"PADMAN" 1.40PM

MOMBASA

NYALI CINEMAX
"PADMAAVAT" "(2D) 10.15AM
"JUMANJI" WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE " (2D)) (16) 10.30AM
"MONSTER FAMILY" (2D) 1PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 1.45PM
"PAD MAN" 3PM
"MONSTER FAMILY" (3D) 4.301PM
"AIYAARY" 6PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 6.30PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 9.15PM
"AIYAARY" 9.20PM
"TAD 2"| (2D) 11.30AM
"BLACK PANTHER" (2D) 1.30PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 1.30PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (2D) 3.30PM
"MONSTER FAMILY" (3D) 4.15PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 6.15PM
"PAD MAN" 6.30PM
"BLACK PANTHER" (3D) 9.15PM

CODEWORD

Each number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 23 represents V so fill in V every time the figure 23 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them.



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

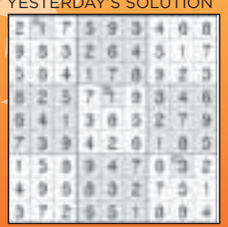
SUDOKU

Sudoku with Steers

Two winners win a Free Meal with Steers daily on 20567!

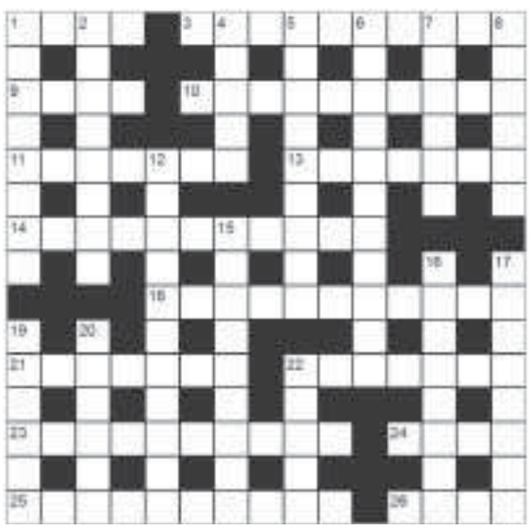
Fill in the 3 shaded digits and send the values ABC to 20567 for your chance to win a Free Meal with Steers. Start the SMS with the word Sudoku e.g Sudoku 1,2,3 Check your Wednesday paper to see if you are a winner. Winners will be contacted directly by **Steers within 2 weeks** to receive their prize
SMS cost: 10/=

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION





SENIOR CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Treat with contempt a pre-exam test (4
3 Initially going head first, changing to become shrewd (3-7)
9 Phoned and spoke (4)
10 Attendant making little display of anger crossing street (10)
11 Become strange, always offering greeting (4-3)
13 Italian in pain having a rest? (7)
14 Hostile little bugs in destructive action? A farmer grew unhappy (4,7)
18 Disposition to show rage – be regretful losing head (11)
21 Description of a Charlie in inferior part (4-3)
22 Nut to satisfy the boy at 23, by the sound of it (7)
23 Dissolute types given punishment at school, one boy included (10)
24 Leave with quiet expression of surprise (4)
25 Fool around, trying to be like Billy? (3,3,4)
26 Foreign money haphazard – order lost (4)

DOWN

1 Bankrupt's ultimate joke, involved in extra money being borrowed (8)
2 Study French city features on map (8)
4 Cordial disposition – it is evident in Jo's sister (5)
5 What nave of church has, being well-kept (9)
6 Fail to prepare for game at Eton?2,2,3,4
7 Disastrous time with student event undermined by one head of college (6)
8 Senility of Venice's bigwig entertaining volunteers (6)
12 Having both feet on the ground – as, say, after parachute jump? (4-2-5)
15 Putting right a part of the Army that's withering? (9)
16 Leo has this place with wild animal getting horrible disease (8)
17 Good person felt irritation as one post-operation? (8)
19 Woman given command in Salvation Army (6)
20 Projecting beam or stake buried under rocky territory (6)
22 Goddess elevated in prayer festival (5)


POPEYE
Hy Eisman
I REMEMBERS WHEN Y' WUZ COURTIN' TH' WIDDER
AH YES... THOSE WERE THE DAYS!
I COULD NEVER FIGGUR OUT WOT Y' SAW IN' ER!
SHE WUZ UGLY
TRUE!
BOW-LEGGED
ALSO TRUE
DUMB AS A GANGPLANK
ALAS
BUT ALL THOSE THINGS ARE MERE SUPERFICIALITIES!
I LOVED HER FOR WHAT SHE WAS!
AN' WOT WUZ DAT?
FILTHY RICH!
ARF ARF
Hy Eisman 12-18
THE PHANTOM
CREATED BY LEE FALK
T-THAT HORRIBLE SQUEAKING!! BATS!?
A FEW...
A PLACE KNOWN ONLY TO THE PHANTOM...
I HATE BATS!!
THEY WON'T BOTHER YOU.
S-SOUNDS LIKE MILLIONS OF THEM!
LOW CEILING HERE...WATCH YOUR HEAD.
IT'S A CRAWL NOW. UP AND OVER...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHERE ARE WE GOING!?
WE'RE GOING TO FIND THE KILLER YOU SAID YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND...
THEN I BRING YOU BACK HERE...
...TO BOOMSBY PRISON!
Tony DePaul & Jeff Weigel 2-18-18
FLASH GORDON
DALE ARDEN
DR. HANS ZARKOV
STRANDED ON A HOSTILE, ALIEN PLANET.
EVERY DAY A STRUGGLE JUST TO SURVIVE.
THEIR ONLY HOPE...
...TO STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND A WAY HOME.
FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE
2-18
RENSHAW'S TREACHERY IS REVEALED.
I'VE LIVED UP TO M...MY SIDE OF THE BARGAIN, GARAKAHN.
I...I'VE BROUGHT YOU FLASH GORDON!
YESSSS.
FINALLY... THE EARTHMAN IS MINE!
BRAC!
AAAHHRR!
KRAC!
PREPARE YOURSELF, GORDON, TO SUFFER... AS I HAVE SSSUFFERED!
NEXT!

ACTSCENE 'BLACK PANTHER' - WAS IT AS GOOD AS WAS SOLD? PAGE6

SUNDAY NATION

buzz

This is what could have caused Zari's split with Diamond

SHOWBUZZ, P. 2



FREE WITH YOUR SUNDAY NATION. No. 380 February 18, 2018



I'm my worst critic!

P.3

AMINA



Celebrities share their Valentine's Day experience

CENTRESTAGE, P. 4



Rock the fanny pack better than the 1980s

FASHIONFIX, P. 8

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SHOWBUZZ

with THOMAS MATIKO @tmatiko



Don't do it for the 'Gram - Bahati's jab at Pozee?

GOSPEL musician Kevin Bahati, who recently welcomed his first child with wife Diana Marua, has cautioned fellow artistes against imitating others and starting record labels. A fortnight ago boy-band Sauti Sol revealed they will be launching their label before the year ends. That announcement came just few weeks after gospel musician Willy Paul claimed that he is set to launch 'the biggest' record label. That has been interpreted by many as a rival move towards Bahati. The two have been trying to outdo each other over the years. Bahati launched EMB Records last year that has signed him, David Wonder and Mr Seed. However, as everyone seems to be feeding off Diamond Platinumz's WCB record label's success, Bahati feels most artistes aren't doing it purposefully.

"I would love to caution artistes who just wake up one morning and feel they need to start a record label; do it with a reason and vision. Find a purpose, a business mind to be precise, don't do it because you saw Diamond or Bahati do it. You will end up losing a lot of money for a couple of Instagram likes. You will trend for one week and then all will be history," Bahati cautioned in a rather cheeky way that could be loosely interpretted to be hitting on Willy Paul who made his announcement on Instagram.

'Essence' for Black Panther's history-making cast

THE cast of the 'Black Panther' movie, including celebrated Kenyan Hollywood actress Lupita Nyong'o, have been selected to cover the March 2018 issue of *Essence* Magazine, a renowned monthly publication that targets African American audience. The movie that has been the talk of the town, premiered in Kenya last week and has a majority of its cast members being of African descent. The magazine covers fashion, lifestyle and beauty. Lupita Nyong'o, Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Danai Gurira, Angela Bassett, Daniel Kaluuya, Forrest Whitaker, Letitia Wright and director Ryan Coogler, sat down with *Essence* Magazine writer Karen Good Marable to talk about what is was like shooting the highly anticipated movie, how they are all dealing with the success of the project and attention received from all over the world. Already 'Black Panther' that has been the most tweeted about movie of 2018 is estimated to rake in $165 million on the opening weekend, a figure that is close to its production budget of $200 million.



I'm a rapper not slay queen - Noti Flow

RAPPER Natalie Florence, popularly known as Noti Flow, has denied being sacked from the socialite reality TV show *Nairobi Diaries*. She states that she quit it to build a serious career as a musician. Noti Flow dropped her latest track "100 Barz" recently. She was conspicuously missing during the reunion of Season 7 of the show that had word in the street claim she had been sacked from the programme. Addressing the issue, the petite lass said the show was portraying her as more of a socialite.

"I actually quit *Nairobi Diaries* to grow my career. I want to grow a brand that doesn't make me look like a slay queen or a ratchet girl who just wants fame" she said.



Other businesses kept me from music - Nyota

COAST based musician Nyota Ndogo has revealed the reason she has been missing in the music action for a while now. Nyota, who for over a decade was a force with hits like "Nibebe", "Watu na Viatu" among others, has been luke-warm on her music career in the recent years.

However, currently signed to BMG Empire management, she says this lull is because she has been having other engagements that have been taking a toll on her and forcing her to stay away from music. She has promised to make a comeback of a kind.

"I had planned to release songs before Valentine's but I'm a bit busy for now. I'm constructing rental houses and as soon as I'm done with this project, I will go back to music." she explained.



Reasons for Zari's split with Diamond

NEWS of famous Ugandan socialite Zari Hassan's decision to dump Bongo Flava star Diamond Platinumz on Valentine's Day has been the talk of the town. While everyone was busy celebrating love on Valentine's, Zari spent the day alone, terming it as 'just any other normal day' before later taking to Instagram to confirm her decision to dump the music crooner accusing him of numerous infidelity cases. The two celebrities have been in a relationship since December 2014. Last year they were at the verge of calling it quits when Diamond confessed to having cheated on Zari with Hamisa Mobetto that resulted to Mobetto's pregnancy. Zari forgave. But what could be the straw that broke the camel's back this time? According to multiple close sources around the two, one reason is that Zari had remained insecure in the long-distance relationship as she is based in South Africa and Diamond in Tanzania. Secondly, an alleged clip of Diamond with another lady in their matrimonial house that leaked could have made the situation worse. Another reason floated is the fact that most endorsement deals that required the couple to be together might have expired. It is also said that Zari wasn't happy when Diamond was caught on camera getting cozy with his ex Wema Sepetu during the launch of his newest member of WCB, Marombosso.



Hackers not 'wema' with Sepetu's Instagram

TANZANIAN actress Wema Sepetu is reportedly losing a lot of money after her official Instagram account (with over 3.3 million followers) was hacked a week ago. It is claimed that the gorgeous actress is losing about Tsh700,000 (Sh31,000) a day that she charges for any advertisement post of a given product she endorses to her followers. Since the hackers took over the account, they have been using it to solicit money from her followers. According to her manager Neema Ndepanya, Wema has been trying so hard to regain her account unsuccessfully as the hackers continue to use it as they wish. She is yet to report the matter to the relevant authorities to help her save the situation. She is said to have entrusted two of her handlers fashionister Martin Kadinda and another identified as Besitizo to help sort out the mess.

"Ni kweli kabisa mpaka sasa Bestizo na Kadinda wanafuatilia kwenye mtandao wa simu kujua kwa nini wameshindwa kuthibiti suala hilo hadi sasa ambapo matapeli wanatumia njia kuwaibia watu kupitia akaunti hiyo," Ndepanya said. Efforts to reach Wema on phone for more clarification has been futile as she hasn't been picking calls nor replying to sent messages.



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FRANCIS NDERITU: Photographers
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GIG GUIDE: CATCH LIVE CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN SOUNDS ALONG WITH SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE JAMS WITH GOGO SIMO BAND AT 'SUNDAY LUNCH PLAN' AT VILLA ROSA KEMPINSKI TONIGHT AT 8PM

ONE ON ONE

AMINA ABDI

Last November, Amina Abdi Rabar was unveiled as the new host of NTV's popular show, 'The Trend'. She tells THOMAS RAJULA why she took up the challenge and her experience so far



When were you informed about the possibly stepping in as 'The Trend' host?
About a week before Larry Madowo announced that he was leaving the show, I got a call from then producer, Kevin. He had wanted to work with me on a show for a long time and when the opportunity looked like it was here, he reached out. Unfortunately, we never got an opportunity to work together because I didn't make up my mind until almost two months later, and by then he had got a scholarship to study in the UK.

Why did it take that long to make up your mind?
It took me long because I enjoyed doing *Alfajiri* at K24 and I had an amazing and dynamic team that I was working with. My bosses were also very kind; giving me creative control of the show. I felt like I was leaving a family. Sometimes, as human beings, we're just unsure of taking on bigger roles because we're comfortable in certain positions. I was very comfortable and happy, but I would come across stuff online that said "if you're about to do something that you think is scary, you should just do it" or "try to challenge yourself; if you're comfortable you're not growing". I guess the universe was trying to speak to me, so after two months I made up my mind.

What made you decide to join eventually?
I eventually joined because it was going to be a different job; different show with different timings to *Alfajiri*. I think just to take up the challenge of doing the show is what made up my mind to it. I went from doing ten hours a week of morning shows, to a five-hour Friday night show. Another plus is that it opened up time for me to be able to drop and pick up my son from school a lot more.

Did you feel people would be comparing you to Larry Madowo?
Larry had been the host for more than four years and people were used to seeing him. Viewers would obviously need some time to adjust to seeing me, or anyone else, and getting used to my kind of delivery.

Was Larry Madowo part of the process of you settling in?
Larry has always been helpful. I respect the fact that he shoots straight and doesn't really hold back because of what people might think of him. He critiques the show when he watches it and tells me what to do or not to do to improve it.

Did you feel pressure when you started?
There has been no pressure at all. Everyone has been very kind and supportive. I think the pressure has been internal because I'm such a big critic of myself. So far I don't feel like I have executed any show to perfection. There's always something I kick myself about at the end of every show. I believe the pressure should always come from yourself; be your own worst critic.

Was television always your target as the next step when you joined media?
No. I actually didn't even envision me being in media to start with. I always wanted to study law or international relations then radio came as I was waiting to decide on what next to do. Then I got an opportunity to join television, and the rest is history.

How do you prepare for shows?
Generally, we plan shows weeks in advance with my team. Because of the show's title we can even change the theme days before, depending on the week's trending topics. I set my Fridays aside just for the show. I like being alone for about five hours as I research on every person that will be coming on. I make sure I have everything I want to even the jokes and the punchlines.

What is the most memorable show you've had so far?
I haven't done that many shows to have a memorable one. So far so good, but if I had to pick the most memorable one, my first show was very memorable because it was the start of this journey.

You left radio?
I didn't quit radio, I just left the show that I was doing. I had done it for five years. Then I thought it was time for me to move to something else. I'm going to do a new show on a new time slot, still on Capital FM, that starts this March.

What's your favourite pass time?
I love to cook and spend time with my son. It sounds crazy but when you're a mum you're a mum. When you're not working it becomes the best thing to do to spend time with your family. It also sort of became a thing where my friends would come to my house and I have to cook. Even if that means they're buying the ingredients or sending me money. My favourites include anything with shrimp, cheese, pasta, and I can whip up *biriyani* in no time.



Are you into sports?
Not really, but my husband is. I was, however, a runner back in primary school and even had medals from competitions. I started falling away from that as I progressed through high school.

Is that your talent?
My talent is singing. That I can do effortlessly and I love it.

What tickles you?
My husband. I told my friends that he joked his way into my heart.

What is the craziest thing you've ever done for TV?
Riding a zip line and going on white water rafting.

So you're an outdoor person?
I prefer being indoors but for my son, I now have to accommodate camping and other excursional experiences.

buzz

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE

1. FIFTY SHADES FREED
2. PETER RABBIT
3. THE 15:17 TO PARIS
4. JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
5. THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

CENTRESTAGE

How your favourite celebrities spent their VALENTINE'S Day

By LILYS NJERU
lnjeru@ke.nationmedia.com

How did you spend Valentine's Day? Flowers, teddy bears, confectionneries and candle-lit dinners. That's how some describe the annual lover's day. On the other hand there are those who chose to go about the day doing their business as they usually do. Would you like to know where your favourite celebrity lies? We spoke to a few Kenyan celebrities and this is what they were up to:

PITSON – gospel Artist



Peterson Githinji, who is popularly known in the entertainment circle as Pitson, spent the morning of Valentine's Day scouting for a video location for his new single that is set to be released the first week of March. The *Lingala Ya Yesu* hit singer, however, set aside the afternoon and spent it with his wife and child. He told *Buzz* that he wrote the yet-to-be released song, *Welcome to the World,* for his daughter.

KEVIN BAHATI- Gospel Artiste



If you have been keeping up with the Bahatis on social media platforms, you already know that the couple was expecting their first child. According to Bahati's manager, the *Mama* singer and his wife, Diana, celebrated Valentine's Day in style at the Karen Hospital. At around 9:30 am they welcomed their daughter, Heaven Bahati.

"It was a day filled with ululation, prayers and baby gifts from their family and friends," he says.

MCA TRICKY – Comedian



Rib-cracker MCA Tricky treats Valentine's Day like any other day.

"Love is an everyday affair. I spent the day at Mahanaim Education Institute where I tutor comedy on Wednesdays. My girlfriend was away and unwell. Had she had been around, we would have done something, like we always do. However, he got in touch with her.I Sending a text message counts, right?" he asks.

Cece Sagini – Afro fusion artist

"My husband and I were working on different projects during the day but we created time in the evening, had dinner and then headed home. Valentine's Day is a special day for lovers. It matters to me."



MUFASA- Spoken word poet



"I spent the day up and down getting things done for my upcoming event, 'Mufasa in Concert', slated for April 7. I knew someone who was crazy about Valentine's Day so I sent her a pair of shoes that I had heard her talk about sometime back. We had not talked in a while and I don't think she even expected me to know her shoe size, so it was a total surprise. She wore it for the rest of the day. Please don't ask if she's my girlfriend, Valentine's Day doesn't have to be just about couples, right?"

AMINA ABDI – host, 'The Trend'

"Some years back Valentine's Day used to be a big deal for me but not anymore. I actually think that I'm done celebrating it but, if you ask me, this year was a blast. I had a wonderful day that started with gifts from hubby – I'm talking about Moet champagne and flowers. In the evening, we had a seven-course dinner and so much fun together."



CHIKI KURUKA –fitness instructor & dance choreographer



"This is how I celebrate my Valentine's Day – the first half of the day is all about self-love, then I celebrate romantic love later in the day. This year I bought myself a book, went for yoga, to the gym and had a spa treatment. Thereafter, I went home, dressed up and went for dinner with my all-time guy, Bien."

SHIRU -Auntie Boss



"Valentine's Day is akin to a wedding day. The lady should be made to feel special. On that day, my husband and I were both at work but we hooked up in the evening when I went to office. The company had organised a treat for couples. Before settling for dinner, I played the role of usher and photographer of the night."

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TOP HIP HOP AND R&B:

1. GOD'S PLAN - DRAKE
2. PERFECT - ED SHEERAN
3. FINESSE - BRUNO MARS & CARDI B
4. HAVANA - CAMILA CABELLO FEATURING YOUNG THUG
5. ROCKSTAR - POST MALONE FEATURING 21 SAVAGE

PHOTOS | FRANCIS NDERITU

>>> LOVE STORY FESTIVAL AT KICC



H_Art the Band seem to be loving their performance during Kenyan Love Story Festival held at the KICC grounds on February 10.



Bash, Johnie and Martin pose for a picture during the Kenyan Love Story Festival.



Kush Tracey (left) and Susan Tevin showing their best sides.



According to (Top picture L to R) Frank, Victor and Agnes and (Bottom picture L to R) Gladys Wanja, Bernice Wakarindi and Kiki three is not a crowd.





Nyota Ndogo performing on stage.

>>> KOHLER LAUNCH



Evelyne Kagambi and Winnie Waithera pose for a picture during a cocktail networking event by Kohler held at Capital Club.



Kohler President Salil Sadanandan, Commercial Director Ronelle Badenhorst, Poonam Shikotra head of Design Kitchens and Beyond and Managing Director K&B Vinit Dodhia.



Jackie Wachuka and Nancy Nyabera from Symbion pose for a picture at Capital Club.



(UP)Elizabeth Mwangi-Oluoch, Martin Muchai and Cynthia wakio. DOWN: (from left) Dipesh, Reshu and Manzu from Nile Plumbing





buz

GIG GUIDE: REMINISCE ON THE YOUNGER YEARS WITH DJ KACE'S 'THROWBACK NIGHT' AT THE ALCHEMIST BAR ON FRIDAY

ACTSCENE

with HILARY KIMUYU
@hilarykimuyu

Black Panther: Has all the hype been worth it?

Movie lovers who watched one of the most anticipated films that premiered across the globe this week walked out wondering whether it was impossible to overstate what *Black Panther* means.

To many, the superhero diversity and its story is, and will always remain, the same. The question is, "What do we want from a superhero movie in 2018?" Or rather, "what is fair to ask of a superhero movie?"

Black Panther arrives in the middle of this heavily mined, fracked and plundered story landscape, which was led by an action-packed trailer that did not, for the first time, feature a culture dominated by white superheroes. Rather, it was an almost entirely black main cast.

Before we go any further, let me say that the fact that *Black Panther* exists is wonderful. To me it was an unmitigated thrill watching a non-white superhero jumping around and kicking butt, surrounded by an almost completely non-white supporting cast and what seemed to be a more healthy balance of male and female butt-kickers.

In *Black Panther,* T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) returns home as king to a fictional African nation known as Wakanda, but finds his rule challenged by a long-time adversary in a conflict that has global consequences.

The film, shot in Atlanta - US, and Busan - South Korea, features established actors like Angela Bassett, Forest Whitaker, our very own Lupita Nyang'o, Danai Gurira, with rising stars Letitia Wright and Oscar nominee Daniel Kaluuya also making their presence felt.

The film has been given a rapturous reception from both critics and cinemagoers, enjoying a 98 per cent fresh rating on reviews website *Rotten Tomatoes*, despite a pushback campaign to bring the rating down.

Told with jovial wit and at a fast pace, it begins with the origin of the myth about Wakanda, a mountainous African country assumed by the rest of the world to be poor and backward. An ancient meteor strike brought the miracle substance, vibranium, to the area enabling Wakandans to build the most advanced civilization on Earth and cloak it under an invisibility shield.

Its monarchy was established by a panther goddess who lent her superpowers to an ancestor of T'Challa, who has inherited those powers and is now king.

Speaking to *ActScene*, IMAX Marketing Manager Flora Njagi said that *Black Panther* was one of the biggest movies to premiere in Kenya.



"We have never seen such a reception in this country. In Kisumu, it was all pomp as people celebrated one of their own."

She added that despite Lupita's absence at Kenya's premiere, it drew several hundred people and did not dampen the atmosphere. "It was an exciting moment when Lupita mentioned Kenya in the movie and the viewers went wild after she said, 'These are my friends from Kenya'."

But despite all this, is it worth cheering? When we're done celebrating what it represents, what we're left with is a fairly standard superhero movie.

The car chases and hand-to-hand combat sequences are fun, even if at times a bit disorienting. Some fight scenes are shot up close and in the dark and it can be hard to tell who's hitting who. And some sort of battle rhino makes an appearance. Despite that, there are some funny moments, with characters like T'Challa's sister Shuri (Letitia Wright), and M'Baku (Winston Duke), a rival tribal leader, providing some much-needed comic relief. You will also enjoy, without giving anything away, many plot points that feel too similar to things that have happened in previous superhero movies.

By the end of the movie, you will walk out thinking less about what makes it average and more about what makes it special. Most importantly, in Kenya, people were happy to celebrate Lupita.

"She couldn't be here in the flesh, but for her fans, Lupita's presence in the poster on display at the premiere next to the red carpet in Nairobi and Kisumu was enough," said Ms Njaigi.

Comedian Chris Rock premiers his new stand-up Tambourine

Comedian Chris Rock has admitted that he was addicted to porn and described it as being "sexually autistic", and that is what Netflix gave comedy fans this year asa Valentine's Day gift. Tambourine, is Chris Rock's first stand-up special in 10 years.

The hour-long introspective and political comedy is Rock's statement as a father and ageing performer. Many viewers will focus on his Trump commentary— "the cast of ***The Apprentice*** is running the world!"— or the fact that unsuccessfully hitting on Rihanna made him realise how old he is. But Rock's return to stand-up is more about his inner life than pop culture commentary. And it's bracingly honest. He candidly discusses his 20-year marriage to philanthropist Malaak Compton and admits that his addiction to pornography and infidelity led to their divorce in 2016.

The 53-year-old comedian opened up about his addiction to X-rated material, admitting that he was looking for a very specific type of girl at the time.

Chris, who says he's "a lot better now", said:

"I was addicted to porn. When you watch too much porn, you know what happens? You become, like, sexually autistic. You develop sexual autism. You have a hard time with eye contact and verbal cues. You get desensitised."

"When you start watching porn, any porn will do. ... I'm a lot better now."

In 2016, Chris and Malaak finalised their divorce.

The comedian also admitted that it was his fault the marriage failed and that he cannot understand why men cheat. He walks us through his divorce, talks about what he did wrong, sparing his ex-wife any blame in the matter. He talks about the entire process of getting divorced, highlighting elements many viewers might not have considered – like having to prove in court of law that he's a good parent. It's more illuminating than funny, mostly. But it's still funny.

"When guys cheat, it's like we want something new. But then you know what happens? Your woman finds out, and now she's new – she is never the same again. So now you have new, but you have a bad new. Some of these lessons you've just got to learn."

Papa Shirandula: Blame my wife for my weight

His story gives hope to thousands of aspiring actors around the country. Having climbed from unfathomable levels of poverty, he has become one of the most sought-after entertainers across the globe. Charles Bukeko, popularly known as Papa Shirandula, is still going strong nearly two decades down the line. He spoke to *ActScene* about why only death will take him away from doing what he loves.

You are a father of three, why are your children not keen on following in your footsteps?

I don't think they notice what I do. Children are very difficult and hard to predict. They have their lives, which do not go with my line of work. My daughter loves music and is strict about it. But the rest of the family supports me and my parents knew about the character Papa Shirandula before I even started acting it.

Why blame your wife on your weight?

I don't know whether it is malice or maybe my wife is trying to keep me out of the "market", but this is her doing. However, I'm fit; we have a small gym in the house.



What was your biggest break?

I would say that when I was cast as Herold for the play, *Nativity,* at Braeburn Theatre. I think that is when people saw that I had what it took to be an actor. James Falkland, the brains behind Phoenix Theatre, called me and told me there was more to do than acting. He decided to train me for free on theatre basics like lighting, directing, and put me on the theatre's payroll. I would say he liked me for my consistency. From then on I was involved in every show he did in one way or another.

How did Papa Shirandula come to be?

I approached Wachira Waruru with the idea of a Papa Shirandula TV show and that is how I got into television. Thumbs up to him because I would not be where I am if it wasn't for him, television-wise.

You grew up in theatre, what is happening now in the industry?

It is very difficult to gauge where theatre is at the moment in Kenya. Is it doing well or bad, that is the question? It is high time we had a forum to talk about theatre in Kenya. As far as I'm concerned, it is a policy issue and I would like to tell my fellow actors that it is time we seriously engaged the government because it has everything we need. We need to tone down the rhetoric about the government because it has so much to offer. It is so tiring living like orphans. There is so much *kelele* going on but we need to sit down and talk. We need sanity in this industry. You cannot just call yourself an artiste when you cannot account for what you did in the past year. Walking into a theatre does not make you an artiste.

Chris Foot vs Ezekiel Mutua, what is your take?

Artistes are very powerful. Take for example, Hollywood, they can control the country and I don't know why we are not. There was so much going on after the general elections yet we did nothing. Artistes have a say and we have support from our big following and it is high time we came together and did something. In the US, entertainers run the economy and it hurts me when I see the people who could be running the industry not coming together. Foot will 'OK' a movie while Mutua will say 'no.' We need to bring sanity to our industry.

What would you change if you had the opportunity?

I would call all the stake holders and see what we can do to create employment for artistes. We need to put up better structures. As artistes, we also need to tone things down. The industry has been polarised.

What are you doing to see that theatre never dies in Kenya?

It all comes down to patience, consistency and being persistent. They should always remember that life isn't about how much money you have but the difference you make in someone's life. I feel great when we nurture talent, and our production (*Papa Shirandula*) employs more than 1,500 people.

QUICKFIRE WITH PETRA



Wine or beer?
I don't take alcohol.

Freckles or dimples?
Dimples.

Fruits or vegetables?
Fruits.

Sausage or bacon?
Both, but I would go for sausages.

Scrambled or fried eggs?
Both, but I love them fried.

Marvel or DC?
Marvel, Lupita is in one of them.

Paying a mortgage or paying rent?
Mortgage.

Sky dive or bungee jump?
Bungee jump, I don't like water.

Fiction or non-fiction?
Non-fiction.

Smoker or non-smoker

Non-smoker.

Think before you talk or talk before you think?
Think before I talk.

Asking questions or answering questions?
Asking questions.

Favourite word?
Cartoons

Last book you read?
Harry Porter, but I didn't finish it. Ended up watching the movie instead.

Who's the last person who texted you?
My sister.

Puppies or Kittens?
Kittens.

Petra Yolanda Sonia Brooks is a Kenyan musician who has just been featured in Khaligraph Jones' new single, Rider.

GIG GUIDE: PUT YOUR BEST LATIN DANCE FOOT FORWARD AT 'FLAMENCO ON OCEAN SOLE' WITH ANITY LOYNAZ FROM VENEZUELA AT KAREN VILLAGE TOMORROW MORNING

ONEXTRA

CARA FERAL

Her music is a high-powered fusion of reggae and dancehall, and with five tracks to her name, Cara Feral's start to her music career has been blistering. Two of her tracks, 'Hakuna Matata' and 'Woman of Steel', have good airplay. She tells **JAMES KAHONGEH** why she thinks dancehall is marketable in Kenyan scene

While starting out, I hoped to focus on the local music market. But upon signing up with my current music label, Majestic Trends, the producer advised me to approach my music with a global outlook, then my music took a different turn. I have since done five Dancehall songs with a local feel and touch, in both English and Swahili.

My music revolves around everyday life and cuts across different societies and cultures, on the themes of love, women empowerment and normal life experiences. I try to package my lyrics to carry a message of hope in an entertaining way. I also use music to vent my state of emotion.

My audience is broad and cuts across all demographics. I employ a "world music" style, Afro-inspired-reggae dancehall with a touch of RnB and pop. My latest video 'Kazi ni Kazi' is a smooth dancehall song influenced by RnB. My upcoming track 'Mombasa Riddim', which features songs from Busy Signal and RDX, is a dancehall beat infused with elements of Afrobeat.

Top names I have worked with include Blaqk Sheep Music, a multi-genre music producer from Jamaica, Jah Boy Bailey on my song 'Born to Win', DJ Krush Proof on 'Rockers Riddim' which featured songs from Charlie Black and Ikaya.

Low self-esteem is the main shortcoming for most budding artistes in Kenya. They lack the vigour and the confidence to burst into the music scene that is virtually monopolised by a handful of already established individuals or entities. They fear they might not add any value to the music scene, which, consequently, keeps them from seeking to be more innovative.

Young Artistes have the power to determine their music destiny. Looking for and working with a mentor provides one with a solid foundation on which to launch a robust career in music. I have a mentor in Otti Majestic who has helped me to better my craft, stay relevant and remain competitive.

The most remarkable experience in my music career so far has been the exciting working relations I have with my management team, Majestic Trends. They've supported me in every step of the way. It's also been a milestone working with internationally celebrated producers. My music has also enjoyed warm reception on the international scene and received airplay on radio in Canada, England, Jamaica, Australia and Japan, which is enormously motivating.

I am inspired by every artiste who is daring enough to do something unique. This motivates me to also take a less travelled path hoping to create music that is both exceptional and different. I have immense admiration for Fena for her exceptional talent, versatility and consistency.

Music constitutes the largest proportion of my income through live performances and sale of albums. But just like any other entrepreneur, I have other income streams such as sale of my branded merchandise. Soon I plan to venture into fashion and possibly launch an online fashion store.

I went to Multimedia University where I studied public relations. Communication skills come in handy in my interactions with business partners and clients and in designing and executing effective communication strategies for my brand.

If I had the power to change the Kenyan music business I'd start with changing local fans' perception of our music, make them support and appreciate it more. I'd also put in place proper structures, for instance by hiring professional publicists, to promote our music on all platforms. Then I'd organise occasional workshops and seminars to impart valuable information to musicians on the commercial aspect of their art, to prevent wastefulness they usually exhibit and which later comes back to haunt them.

Strong vocal capabilities is my most valuable attribute. This helps me to convey different moods for different songs. I also pride myself for having a fluid personality; I can fit almost anywhere as long as the engagement is constructive.

My main aspiration is to create stirring music that will draw global attention, to tour the world and to meet my fans. In five years I hope to see my music being used as theme songs for corporate advertisements and social campaigns and even competing for international music awards.

The resilience of budding artistes in the Kenya is admirable. They keep going, despite the backlash sometimes coming from some industry players and fans. That there is always new music to keep the industry energised and fans thrilled is commendable. I'm particularly excited by generous Kenyans who share our music with friends on social media, expanding our fan base.

I'm disappointed by the lack of enough mentors who are willing to guide budding talents until they are strong enough to pursue their music course independently. Another challenge is duplicity of music because of lack of support. There's also a lot of unhealthy competition in our industry, which hurts all the participants.

To unwind, I spend time with my family and hang out with close friends, watch comedy and exercise at the gym. I have an adventurous spirit, so whenever I have the opportunity, I travel within and outside the country, to break away from the bustle of city life. This also helps to keep me energised in my demanding schedule.

On whether I am dating. Yes, I'm happily in love with an amazing man who strongly believes in my dreams and supports my music. He is a businessman; I made a deliberate decision not to date someone in showbiz to keep the inevitable scandals at bay. We, however, prefer to keep our private life under wraps.

Besides music, I have a penchant for stage and soon I'll put my acting skills to test when I start filming my music videos. I'm also due to feature on local television programmes, on adverts and commercials for local brands.

So far I don't have regrets in my music journey. Some experiences though have been disappointing when partners I trusted to assist me in my music endeavours turn out to harbour other ill intentions. When I insist on keeping our relations purely professional, some vanish. It's then that I discover that they were never frank from the start.

It would be a dream come true to meet global music icons such as Beyonce, Rihanna, Chris Martin, Kranium and Spice Official. They all inspire my music through their celebrated works.

My take on the Valentine's is that, if it's truly genuine, then every day is a Valentine's Day for people to show love.





FASHIONFIX

with SHARON MWANGI

PHOTOS I COURTESY

THE PACK IS BACK

Yes, fanny packs are back. And no, they are not going anywhere anytime soon. Fanny packs were a big trend in the 80s and 90s but were largely associated with men. The trend didn't last too long and lost relevance, until fashion houses like Gucci brought it back last year and fashionable celebrities like Asap Rocky and Kendall Jenner wore it into relevance.

Fanny packs aren't that easy to wear, especially if you're not willing to go out of your fashion comfort zone. However, imagine carrying a bag but not having to actually carry it. All you need to do is hang it around your waist and you're good to go. Now imagine carrying it in a club where you have the freedom to use your hands and dance, and not have to worry about losing items like your phone or lipstick. What's not to love?

In case you have fears about how to carry this controversial bag the best tip would be, instead of securing the bag around your waist, to turn it into a cross-body by tossing it across your chest.

The best part about the fanny pack is that it's a trend that will make any and every outfit look ten times better. Want to upgrade your usual white T-shirt and jeans uniform? Throw a fanny pack over one shoulder or around your waist and pair the outfit with boots or sneakers.

Need to add an unexpected twist to a ladylike dress? You can't go wrong rocking a small fanny pack, but to the side.

2018 is definitely the year of the fanny-pack so hop onto the trend, but make sure you don't look like you're stuck in the 80s.



BEAUTYTIPS

with DANIEL MUCHIRI

Spice up your style with a fringe

How long have you been doing your hair the same way? Months, a year?

It's amazing how little we play around with our best fashion accessory, our hair, and yet it can give us a completely new look.

For many of us, apart from reluctance to depart from the tried and tested, we are scissor-shy and petrified by the thought of snipping the locks we so dutifully care for.

That is where fringes - a section of hair cut away and styled differently from the rest of the hair - come in. Fringes are an attractive and simple way to update a cut, outgrow one or achieve a new look without plunging into the deep end for a new cut.

The other benefit is that a fringe can go with any length, texture and cut you already have. It is also versatile enough to be cut into short to mid-length hair and goes with an up-do.

As is the case when considering a cut, the shape of your face matters. Below is a look at which sort of fringe goes with which face.

Oval face

This face, considered the balanced or ideal shape, can go a number of different ways with a fringe. It can be one uniform length falling towards the eyes or even a little over them.

Round face

The aim of a fringe on a round face should be to add length and reduce the rounded, full look. To achieve this, the fringe should be cut in layers with the sides long to add length to your face with the shorter layers at the middle.

A bunk, a one-level short fringe, would emphasize the full the round look. On this face, an up-do and long fringe is a great look as it both adds length and takes away the rounded look.

Heart shaped face

For the heart shaped face, a fringe that's cut long is ideal, so that the eye is drawn to it and not the pointed chin below. Soft layers at the front with the hair in a sleek chignon or even hair left flowing free or in playful flips look great.

Square-shaped face

Like the round face, this has a full look but at the jaws. A smooth bob falling around the jaw-line is an ideal style.

A long rectangular face.

A short fringe to offset the length of the face would suit this kind of face. But do not have a blunt, one length fringe. A soft, layered, feathered one is best as it also softens the face.

Extra chic

Play around with your fringe by having highlights put on it. A fringe grows out fast so don't be afraid to play around with it.

You can wet it and, using a gel or hair wax, twist in sections. Let it dry and indo the twist to have little curls or ringlets to contrast with the rest of the hair.

The writer is a professional cosmetologist at Czars n Combs Salon, Nairobi. Email: danmuchi@gmail.com; WhatsApp 0722450546.