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People Daily

Aspirant lucky escape after being shot multiple times



PG6 Mvita UDA parliamentary aspirant Ali Mwatsahu recuperates in a hospital in Mombasa yesterday after gunmen shot him in Tudor on Tuesday evening. PD/COURTESY

News Beat >> PG 2



Tuju lands plum job in Raila's campaign

News Beat >> PG 7

Me in Mudavadi camp? You're kidding: Sakaja says he's in UDA

Nairobi contest in Kenya Kwanza got rocked after revelation that Wanjiru will face off with senator in party primaries



Form One selection results out next week

Page 8 Candidates to know the secondary schools they have been chosen to by Tuesday

FY 2022/23: Uhuru's last Budget

Why Yatani has nowhere to hide

- **Balancing act:** CS walking tight rope to ensure President's legacy projects get funding amid high demand for resources
- **Rising prices:** Minister has to strike balance between tax collection and cushioning Kenyans hit by high cost of living **PAGES 4,5**



AT A GLANCE



5.6%

The CPI increased by 0.85 per cent from an index of 119 in February 2022 to 120 in March 2022, as inflation hit 5.6%

31%

1 litre cooking oil in January was Sh227, increased to Sh332 in March 2022, a 31 per cent increase

17%

2kg wheat flour shot from Sh125 in Jan 2021 to Sh151 in March, a 17 per cent surge

28%

13kg cooking gas increased by 28 per cent, from Sh2074 in March 2021 to Sh2866 in March 2022.

20%

1 litre of petrol averaged Sh107 in Jan 2021 compared to Sh135 in 2022, about 20 per cent increase.

POINTERS



OPINION PAGE 11

Youths have a role in breaking the occasioned cycle



BUSINESS PAGE 18

Reprieve to farmers as State revises cheap fertiliser limit

WEATHER TODAY

Nairobi	27°	Nyeri	26°
Mombasa	33°	Kitui	29°
Kisumu	31°	Wajir	38°

Elevation thrusts Tuju into Raila campaign deep water

Immediate former Jubilee Secretary-General posted to Azimio presidential campaign to oversee 23 political parties

by Eric Wainaina
@PeopleDailyKe

Through his elevation as the Executive Director of the Azimio La Umoja coalition yesterday, former Jubilee Secretary Raphael Tuju has been thrust at the centre of a huge task of managing and coordinating all the 23 parties which form the entity former Prime Minister Raila Odinga will use as his presidential campaign vehicle.

Tuju, a Cabinet Secretary without portfolio and a former MP for Rarieda, who relinquished his leadership position in February when President Uhuru Kenyatta kicked off an ambitious campaign to re-brand and rejuvenate the ruling party whose fortunes had dwindled effectively carries the burden of managing officials in all the parties to ensure they work peacefully in favour of Raila.

Key responsibilities in his tray, according to sources, is managing parties within the coalition field candidates without sibling rivalry in areas that have emerged as battlegrounds, notably in Western Kenya where Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) and Defence Cabinet Secretary Eugene Wamalwa's Democratic Action Party are feuding.

His administrative skills will also be under the test in Nairobi and Kajiado where ODM and Jubilee have own governor, senator and MPs aspirants.

Sibling rivalry

"Tuju's main task is to oversee how parties under the Azimio La Umoja will relate and co-exist, particularly in the fielding of candidates to avoid sibling rivalry," a highly placed source privy to the thoughts behind Tuju's appointment told *People Daily*.

While announcing the appointment of the former Cabinet Secretary without portfolio, Raila's press secretary Dennis Onyango said: "As Executive Director, Hon Tuju will coordinate all member parties of Azimio and will lead the strategic and programme teams that will work to ensure Azimio victory in the August elections."

This will be the third time Tuju, a former broadcaster who rose to become a minister and holds a Masters of Arts in Mass Communication from the University of Leicester, UK, will be playing a critical role in Raila's presidential campaign.

In 2017, Tuju headed Uhuru's campaign team, an appointment viewed as a deliberate intention to stem the infighting that pitted officials of the president's defunct The National Alliance and his estranged deputy William Ruto's United Democratic Party (URP).



Raphael Tuju at a past press briefing at Jubilee Party headquarters in Pangani. He was appointed Executive Director of Raila Campaign yesterday. PD/FILE

At the time, Jubilee, which was created following the merger of 12 political parties, was experiencing wrangles as officials of the entities fought for control of its leadership and by extension the presidential campaign team, forcing Uhuru to tap the former Rarieda MP, then an outsider, to manage the rivalry.

Tuju was also expected to give a national look to the team that was tasked with planning and organising party meetings and rallies to explain Jubilee agenda. He is also reported to have played a key role in retired President Mwai Kibaki's election in 2002 as head of the communication wing of the campaign team. Initially, after quitting his party position to pursue what he termed as other political engagements, Tuju had been expected to contest for a political seat in either Nairobi or Siaya.

Through the appointment which took effect immediately, Tuju who is credited for his political experience and diplomatic approach to matters having served as Special Envoy of President Kibaki on various missions between 2008 and 2012, joined a team of technocrats, experienced politi-

cians and businessmen who Raila will be depending on in strategizing and spearheading the his presidential campaign.

Part of the designers of the planned Azimio La Umoja coalition have been mulling zoning regions and exclusively leaving them to the partner political parties depending on their respective strength to avoid sibling rivalry in areas that are emerging as battlegrounds without hurting each other.

The proposal of zoning has faced resistance from a section of the parties. The move follows concerns that the coalition could find itself fielding several candidates in a single electoral area and split their support in favour of United Democratic Alliance (UDA) which has vowed to face the poll united.

The coalition brings together over 20 political parties among them Raila's ODM, Jubilee, Wiper, Party of National Unity associated with Agriculture minister Peter Munya, Ubuntu People's Forum of Nakuru Governor Lee Kinyanjui (but who is defending his seat on Jubilee ticket), Devolution Empowerment Party belonging to Governor Kiraitu Murungi and National Ordinary People Empowered Union (NOPEU) associated with EALA MP Mpuru Aburi.

Also in the outfit are Kenya Union Party of West Pokot Governor Prof John Lonyang'apuo, Pan African Alliance of Governors Amason Kingi of Kilifi, Defense CS Eugene Wamalwa's Democratic Action Party, National Rainbow Coalition of Kitui Governor Charity Ngilu, Maendeleo Chap Chap headed by Alfred Mutua (Machakos) while in north eastern region has Frontier Alliance party of Treasury CS Ukur Yatani, Economic Freedom Party and Kenya Patriotic Party.

MORE ON TUJU

● **Raphael Tuju to manage and coordinate the 23 parties which form the entity former Prime Minister Raila Odinga will use as his presidential campaign**

● **Tuju, a Cabinet Secretary without portfolio and former MP for Rarieda, who relinquished his leadership position in February**

● **In 2017, Tuju headed Uhuru's campaign team, an appointment viewed as a deliberate intention to stem the infighting that pitted officials**



Nomination losers have 10 days to quit, run as independents

by Hillary Mageka
@PeopleDailyKe

Aspirants who will lose in party nominations will only have 10 days to quit their outfits and become independent candidates in the August 9 elections.

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) yesterday issued deadlines for those wishing to participate in the coming polls asking every party and aspirants to make sure they adhere to them.

For those who will feel slighted by the ongoing party primaries which are set to be concluded by April 22, they will have a window to declare themselves independent by May 2.

IEBC chairman Wafu Chebukati said anyone who will be on the ballot as an independent candidate will have to obtain clearance from the Registrar of Political Parties.

The Registrar Ann Nderitu told *People Daily* that independent aspirants should seek clearance cer-

tificates from her office by the date.

"The deadline is May 2 so they should come for the certificates by that date," she said.

Chebukati said one must present the clearance certificate to the Commission, which should clearly indicate they are not a member of any party to be cleared to run. The names and symbols of the independent aspirants will be gazetted by May 13.

For the nominations, the parties organizing them must present to the IEBC the names of aspirants, dates and venues of the primaries on or before April 9.

"The submission shall be made in the prescribed Forms 11B (Presidential), 11C (Senate), 11D (County Woman Member to the National Assembly), 11E (Member of the National Assembly), 11F (County Governor) and 11G (County Assembly Ward Member) of the schedule to the Elections (General) Regulations, 2012," said Chebukati.

BRIEFLY

Nyandarua Speaker allows for replacement of Majority Leader

Nyandarua speaker Ndegwa Wahome yesterday allowed the replacement of Ednald King'ori as Leader of Majority after he defected from Jubilee to United Democratic Alliance Party (UDA). King'ori is among several Jubilee Party MCAs in the assembly who have already defected to UDA and even produced campaign posters under the party associated with DP William Ruto. The Speaker allowed

the replacement of King'ori following a concern raised by Njabini-Kiburu MCA, Kiru Gachomba last week on MCAs who held leadership positions in the assembly but had defected from the Majority Party (Jubilee) that sponsored them. Gachomba had told the assembly that King'ori was not taking up his role seriously as he had not physically attended the sittings for several months.

- David Macharia

Pan-African icon who wanted to 'decolonise minds'

Nicknamed Africa's Che Guevara, Thomas Sankara declared he wanted to "decolonise minds" in Burkina Faso and across the continent.

But his revolutionary dreams were brutally cut short when he was gunned down in a 1987 coup after just four years in power.

On Wednesday, a military court handed life terms to a trio of men accused of playing the key roles in his assassination, including his former comrade-in-arms, Blaise Compaore, who succeeded him as president and went on to rule for 27 years. Despite his short time in power, Sankara remains for many a revered figure. During mass protests which toppled Compaore in 2014, young people carried portraits of Sankara aloft -- though many had not even been born during the Marxist-Leninist leader's rule.

"Sankara is a whole philosophy, a way of thinking and being, a way of life. Sankara is a pride of Africa," high-school teacher Serge Ouedraogo said.

"Today, we can say that Sankara represents a compass for the people of Burkina Faso. He is a guide, it is he who blazed the trail of hope for the people."

Born on December 21, 1949 in Yako in the north of the poor, landlocked country, Sankara was raised in a Christian family, his father a military veteran. He was just 12 when the country gained independence from France.

After finishing high school in Ouagadougou, he underwent military training abroad. He was in Madagascar for the 1972 insurrection, which overthrew President Philibert Tsiranana, considered by

foes to be a lackey of former colonial power France. Returning to his homeland in 1973, Sankara was assigned to train young recruits, and stood out while fighting in a border war with Mali in 1974-1975.

After a coup d'etat in 1980, the new leader, Colonel Saye Zerbo, appointed Sankara his secretary of state for information. But his radical views made him quit the government a year and a half later.

Prime minister

Sankara was appointed prime minister in January 1983 after another military coup, which led to a quiet power struggle at the heart of the army.

He was arrested in May 1983 but was then made president in August after yet another coup -- this one led by his close friend Compaore.

Aged just 33, Sankara symbolised for supporters African youth and integrity. He changed the country's name from the colonial-era Upper Volta to Burkina Faso -- "the land of honest men".

He moved into a rundown presidential palace with his wife and two sons, along with his guitar -- he was a decent player, according to his contemporaries.

He also brought a second-hand Renault 5, and imposed the small French model as the car for all government personnel, doing away with bigger vehicles.

Slender and athletic, Sankara always dressed in army fatigues, and on his belt liked to show off a pistol with a mother-of-pearl handle given to him by North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung. The priorities in his reform programme included reducing the

size of the civil service, improving healthcare, literacy, food self-sufficiency, measures to help peasant farmers, vaccination campaigns and building pharmacies in villages.

He banned female genital mutilation and forced marriages, among other measures to promote women's rights, which he oversaw with an iron fist.

The population was policed by the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution and sanctioned by the Popular Revolutionary Tribunal, which antagonised traditional tribal chiefs and others wielding wealth and power. "We must decolonise minds," he proclaimed.

However, he began to repress unions and political opposition, breaking up a teachers' strike by sacking them.

-AFP

Ex-president gets life for Sankara killing



Thomas Sankara revolutionised Burkina Faso before he was assassinated. Inset: Former president Blaise Compaore, who was yesterday found guilty of the killing. PD/AFP

Blaise Compaore, a long time ally of Thomas Sankara, was found guilty in a trial that has brought closure on death of one of Africa's revolutionaries

A military court in Burkina Faso on Wednesday handed down a life prison term to former president Blaise Compaore over the 1987 assassination of revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara.

Applause erupted in the courtroom as the long-awaited verdict was read out, bringing the curtain down on a case that has afflicted the impoverished and volatile state for 34 years.

The court also issued life terms to Hyacinthe Kafando, an officer suspected of having led the hit squad, and General Gilbert Diendere, an army commander at the time of the assassination, which coincided with a coup that brought Compaore to power.

Compaore, who lives in exile in Ivory Coast after being toppled by public protests in 2014, and Kafando, who has been on the run since 2016, were tried in absentia. The six-month trial was avidly followed by many in the landlocked Sahel nation, for whom Sankara's bloody death remains a dark blot on the country's history.

Neo-colonialism

A fiery Marxist-Leninist who blasted the West for neo-colonialism and hypocrisy, Sankara was shot dead on October 15 1987, little more than four years after coming to power as an army captain aged just 33.

He and 12 colleagues were killed by a hit squad at a meet-

ing of the ruling National Revolutionary Council. Discussing the leftwing icon's death was taboo throughout the 27-year reign of Compaore, Sankara's comrade-in-arms.

The court in the capital Ouagadougou found Compaore, Kafando and Diendere all guilty of harming state security.

Compaore and Diendere were also found guilty of complicity in murder, and Kafando of murder.

Their sentences exceeded the request of military prosecutors.

They had sought 30 years for Compaore and Kafando and 20 years for Diendere, who is already serving a 20-year term over an attempted military coup in 2015. Eight other accused were given jail terms ranging from three to 20 years, while three defendants were acquitted.

In its closing statement, the prosecution recounted in grim

detail a plot to ambush Sankara and his closest followers.

Sankara headed to the National Revolutionary Council meeting for a rendezvous with death, for "his executioners were already there," it said.

After Sankara entered the meeting room, the hit squad burst in, killing his guards, the prosecution said.

"The squad then ordered president Sankara and his colleagues to leave the room. They would then be killed one by one."

Ballistics experts

Ballistics experts told the trial Sankara had been shot in the chest at least seven times by assassins using tracer rounds.

But the defendants said the victims died in a botched attempt to arrest Sankara after he and Compaore fell out over the direction of the country's revolution was taking.

Compaore boycotted what

his lawyers dismissed as a "political trial," while an attorney for Diendere said his client's life term was "excessive" given that he had attended the trial and contributed to proceedings, while the two other chief accused were absent. Sankara's widow, Mariam Sankara, who attended the trial throughout, hailed the outcome.

"The judge has handed down his verdict in line with the law, and everyone appreciates this," she said.

"It is something that we had requested -- justice and truth," she said.

"Our goal was for the political violence we have in Burkina Faso to come to end. This verdict will give many people cause for thought."

Guy Herve Kam, the Sankara family's lawyer, said the culmination of a decades-long legal fight made him "proud" to be both a Burkinabe and a lawyer.

Prosper Farama, another

Sankara lawyer, said: "Our hope is that this odious crime never happens again in either Burkina Faso or elsewhere in Africa."

One of the world's poorest countries, Burkina has a long history of political turmoil since it gained independence from France in 1960. Reminders of that instability came during the trial, when proceedings were briefly suspended after a coup on January 24 that deposed the elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kabore.

Kabore was toppled by rebel officers angered over his failure to roll back a nearly seven-year-old jihadist insurgency.

The campaign has claimed some 2,000 lives and displaced 1.8 million people.

The trial resumed after new military strongman Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba restored the constitution and swore an oath.

-AFP

KENYANS EXPRESS MIXED EXPECTATIONS

**Belton Mwakisha, Taxi driver**

Life has become hard with prices of all commodities going up; from food to fuel. We hope the Budget will consider low earning citizens. For us in the taxi industry, the price of fuel should be reduced because that is where we earn our living.

**Alison Kariuki, Business man**

Tomorrow's budget might not be the best because of the hardships the country has been facing from the Covid-19 pandemic to the Russia-Ukraine war, which has brought the economy to its knees. Hopefully the President will live to his promise of giving the youth first priority in job provision.

**Mildred Ludia, Employee**

The Budget should address the cost of living which is getting worse for the common mwananchi. Paying rent is becoming hard and we have had to forego some family needs while other families have been forced to move to cheaper houses which are not in the best conditions.

**Vincent Kasali, Boda boda rider**

The way things are going we don't expect much. I predict a more constraint Budget but I will only request the President to heed the pleas of boda boda riders, because most of these motorcycles are acquired through loans and the loaners expect the payment regardless of the hardship we are facing.

**Alice Wahito, Business lady**

The Budget must address the plight of the small businesses. The cost of living has sky-rocketed. The President should consider reducing taxes. The President should also consider reducing the electricity fee by introducing a body to compete with Kenya Power.

**Nixon Kisaka, Journalist**

It is high time the President ensured that the estimated Sh3.3 trillion Budget benefited the youth. It should be able to help create job opportunities to the many jobless youth out there by putting up projects, even as some get bursaries to attend institutions of higher learning.

Skepticism and hope in Uhuru last Budget

Wananchi hope minister will strike the delicate balance between revenue collection and cost of living

by Jacktone Lawi
@PeopleDailyKe

Hard hit by a steady rise in the cost of living, Kenyans are crossing their fingers that today's Budget speech will ease the financial burden they have been carrying in the past year. From captains of industry to *mama mboga*, the plea is the same: Treasury Cabinet Secretary (CS) Ukur Yatani should make life bearable.

Yatani will be walking a tight rope to ensure that President Uhuru Kenyatta's last Budget addresses his legacy projects amid global crises beyond his control but has to strike a balance between tax collection and addressing the spiraling cost of living.

A spot-check by *People Daily* revealed that most Kenyans are concerned about the increasing cost of basic commodities such as food, fuel, cooking gas and kerosene. In the past two months, gas prices have more than doubled, making the commodity unaffordable to majority of low-income earners.

Reducing taxes

Latest data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics shows that prices of cooking oil, wheat flour and gas rose 6.50 per cent, 4.47 per cent and 7.76 per cent, respectively, in March. Meanwhile, gasoline and diesel prices rose 3.83 per cent and 4.49 per cent.

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) is hoping the Budget "will centre mwananchi's needs by reducing taxes for the basic commodities. Additionally, it should focus on reducing the cost of production for manufacturers, which will ultimately reduce the cost of goods for citizens", says the CEO, Phyllis Wakiaga.

She hopes the Budget would incentivise investors to venture into manufacturing while promoting the growth of SMEs and

large manufacturers. Among other proposals the KAM wants include: Lowering the cost of industrial inputs, manufacturers to be allowed to offset "inputs" and that the minister should allow excess interest to be carried forward for up to five years.

Naivas Supermarkets chief operating officer Willy Kimani is also rooting for prices of commodities to come down so that consumers are shielded.

"Customers are under a lot of pressure. Any form of cushioning is welcome, especially subsidies in cooking oil, flour and other basic commodities that Kenyans use everyday. We want the government to offer support to importers and ease the process of taxation at the ports. Also, suppliers are increasingly piling pressure on us to deliver so if the government can effect the tax refunds, that will go a long way in helping Kenyans," he says.

The Jua Kali sector has also been waiting for the Budget with bated breath. The Jua Kali association's CEO Richard Muteti feels that cheaper credit and construction of industrial centres in counties will help revive the sector.

He says: "The sector has not fully recovered; we need more cushioning measures. What we need now is affordable credit. The government had also promised industrial centres in all counties. We are looking forward to these so that the sector can be supported skills-wise. In the steel sector, we expect a change because as schools reopen with the current high prices of steel and metal raw materials, school boxes will be expensive."

Skepticism is, however, threatening to cloud the hope that Kenyans have as they wait for the Budget speech.

Phoebe Akinyi, a shoe shiner on Nairobi's Koinange Street, expresses fears that the recent rise in the price of basic commodities will unlikely be solved by today's interventions.

"It would seem that the government doesn't care much about what's going on with commodity prices. Fuel drives everything. Supply of most goods is done using diesel, this means everything has to go up once fuel cost goes up," says Akinyi.

She adds: "We are not sure if the prices will



Traders go about their business at Nairobi's Gikomba market. Kenyans have high hopes that today's Budget speech will ease the financial burden they have been carrying. PD/FILE

HIGH COST OF LIVING

● Angry Kenyans have been taking to social media to protest about the high cost of living in the country.

● This is driven by a spike in the cost of basic commodities including food, electricity and fuel.

● Inflation on basic commodities for the month of January stood at nine per cent, meaning many Kenyans struggled to put food on the table.

ever come down, which means an uncertain future for poor Kenyans."

Louis Ochieng', who comes from Ndhiwa sub-county in Homa Bay County, notes that prices of essential commodities had tripled in the past 12 months, straining household budgets. "We are requesting the government to consider reducing the taxes," he says.

He adds: "It is unfortunate that the prices of important items such as soap, cooking gas and cooking oil have increased threefold leaving us helpless. We urge the government to reduce the taxes in today's Budget."

Lynet Ombok, who also deals in second-hand clothes, expresses the same sentiments and is hopeful that the government will effect measures to cushion Kenyans from harsh economic realities.

Rising cost

"There has been an overall increase in the cost of doing business. All I am looking forward to is a reduction in the prices of unga, cooking oil and fuel," she says.

A boda boda rider who works for one of the local taxi hailing apps Bolt, and who sought anonymity, reveals that they have had to change tack to keep up with the current fuel shortage and the increase in the price of the commodity.

He discloses that they have had to make an out of pocket agreement with customers who request their services to add some cash above the one displayed in the app.

"I have to do it because those in office don't seem to consider that there has been an increase in fuel price, if we don't do it will be unsustainable," he says.

Despite the government maintaining that the rising cost of living is not exclusive to Kenya, a recent report by Stanbic Bank revealed that Kenyans felt the effects more due to increased taxes.

"It is a global phenomenon fuelled by numerous external factors, among them the ongoing Russia invasion of Ukraine, which has led to a rise in the global price of petroleum, which is a key factor in production," a statement from the government said.

With the current financial year's Budget set at Sh3.31 trillion against KRA's collection target of around Sh1.8 trillion, it is unlikely that the government will lower taxes.

Samuel Nyandemo, an Economics lecturer at the University of Nairobi, says Kenyans should brace themselves for even tougher times ahead due to loan obligations that the country is grappling with.

Nyandemo says Kenyans should not expect a reduction in the prices of essential commodities, but rather foresees an increase in taxes for luxurious commodities such as alcohol and cigarettes.

"We are going to experience increased prices for basic commodities such as bread, unga and cooking oil, not because of taxes but due to shortages because of drought," he says.

He points out that going forward Treasury will be incapacitated due to a constrained fiscal space as the government will be looking to complete its signature projects that are currently underway.

With the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine and a constrained fiscal space for Treasury, Kenyans seem to have been trapped between a rock and a hard place.

The surge in prices comes at a time when average private-sector pay is growing at the slowest pace in a decade.

To complicate matters for Kenyans, any hopes of a quick economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic may not be forthcoming because of negative sentiment normally associated with a general election in the country, which threatens to be extremely competitive and highly polarising.

Sh3 trillion budget a sly balancing act

Treasury expected to ring-fence revenue to complete ongoing mega projects that the Jubilee regime started

by PD Reporter

The National Treasury will today unveil President Uhuru Kenyatta's final budget, in what will be a delicate balancing act on the back of surging cost of living, a deeply divided government, drought and pandemic shocks.

The presentation of the Sh3.31 trillion financial estimates also comes in the midst of the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, which is snarling global logistics, coupled with a General Election full of tension and uncertainty.

It will be a unique budget in that Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani will unveil it two months earlier than the normal time, paving the way for Parliament to approve expenditure before it is dissolved to pave way for the elections. This budget will be for the financial year commencing July 1, 2022.

According to Francis Kamau, a partner and tax expert at Ernst Young, while Uhuru is making a budget he will not complete, he will definitely want to consolidate his legacy in the three months before hand over. "These are ongoing projects and there are those that only need to be completed. He should, however, not start new projects."

The general policy direction of the FY2022/23 budget is to accelerate econom-

ic recovery through the implementation of an Economic Stimulus Programme, with the State expected to ring-fence revenue to complete ongoing mega projects that the regime started.

State House spokesperson Kanze Dena hinted that ongoing projects covering UHC, manufacturing, food security and affordable housing won't end with the tenure of President Kenyatta, noting that they're part of the broad Vision 2030.

"President Uhuru Kenyatta won't have completed all the Big 4 Agenda projects by the time his term ends later this year. But much progress has been made in all the Big Four Agenda sectors," she stated.

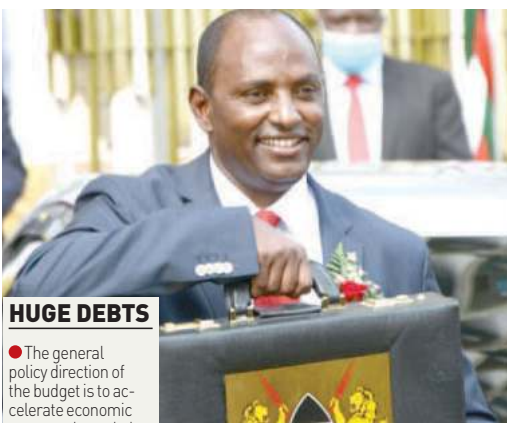
Experts say the elephant in the room may stir the hornets' nest, amid an increasingly tense social, political and economic environment. The government will be hard pressed in this pursuit, since it will mean less money for more urgent, and softer social issues, unless it goes for more debt.

Little headroom

Unfortunately, experts have said there is very little headroom for debt. This may further compound fiscal challenges, with the government already under intense criticism over major borrowing at a time debt levels are historically high.

The debt stock, which was initially driven by infrastructure expenditure, amounted to Sh7.99 trillion as of September 2021, having risen by 19 per cent from June 2020, reflecting an increasingly constrained fiscal space and high debt burden environment.

"It is composed of domestic debt (48 per



HUGE DEBTS

● The general policy direction of the budget is to accelerate economic recovery through the implementation of an Economic Stimulus Programme.

● Kenya's debt stock, which was initially driven by infrastructure expenditure, amounted to Sh7.99 trillion as of September 2021.

● It is forecasted to range between Sh8.6 trillion and Sh8.8 trillion by June 2022 and cross the Sh10 trillion mark by the end of 2024.

Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani. PD/FILE

cent) and external debt (52 per cent). At the current level, debt stock accounts for 88.8 percent of the Sh9 trillion PFM Debt Ceiling (Sh9 trillion)," said the BPO.

The debt stock is forecasted to range between Sh8.6 trillion and Sh8.8 trillion by June 2022 and cross the Sh10 trillion mark by the end of 2024.

The economy has suffered in the past two years from Covid-19, with hunger pangs and increasing cost of living. It will be a tough balancing act for Yatani to unveil Kenya's largest budget, after the presidency gobbled up close to Sh19.7 trillion mostly on mega infrastructure projects since 2013, for a total of Sh23 trillion.

Experts at the Parliamentary Budget Office already warned that economic growth projections by the Treasury of 6 percent in 2022 are too ambitious due to slower economic recovery, coupled with the negative impact of the drought experienced in 2021 and 2022.

The office also warned of a possible dampening of growth in private investment due to election-related activities, as well as the possibility of reinstatement of coronavirus containment measures.

Further, the budget advisors say there is no novel, specific and quantifiable revenue enhancement measures that will support the assertion of expected faster growth in tax revenue relative to economic activity. "The projection that ordinary revenue as a share of GDP will increase from 13.8 percent in 2020/21 to over 16.1 percent by 2023/24 is not premised on specific interventions," said the BPO.

Captains of industry say the budget must ensure the investment environment is predictable and it must incentivise investors to venture into manufacturing whilst promoting the growth of SMEs and large manufacturers.

"To ensure certainty and predictability of tax policies to encourage industrial investments, KAM has proposed VAT exemption on plant and machinery of Chapter 84 and 85 used for manufacture of goods," said Phylis Wakiga.

Kamau says that the government should, however, look at how best to cut costs and leverage on increased dividends from sale of government entities, and increasing grants during the election period.

Pending bills to take large chunk of estimates despite increased payments

The government is expected to increase the allocation in the 2022/23 budget to settle bills owed by both national and county governments.

The Treasury Cabinet Secretary — during the unveiling of the FY2021/22 Budget — directed all government ministries, departments and county governments to clear their pending bills by June 30. The Treasury urged Parliament to help enforce compliance in payment of verified pending bills by county governments, by temporarily stopping transfers to county governments that fail to comply with the directive.

In the 2021/22 budget, as part of economic stimulus packages to enhance liquidity and mitigate the adverse impact of Covid-19, the government directed payment of Sh13.1 billion to clear pending bills. The 2022 budget will focus on implementation of policy measures aimed at stimulating resilience and economic recovery.

As such, the government must ensure significant resources are released to county governments to settle pending bills in the budget. Pending bills arise when a government

MARCELINE OCHOLA

Arrears cause constraints to entities doing business with the two levels of government

entity fails to settle invoiced amounts for goods and services properly procured, or rendered.

These bills include payments to contractors, suppliers, statutory deductions, and pension arrears.

Recently, there have been complaints from the public that some county governments are reluctant to settle outstanding arrears.

Despite the good progress made in improving service delivery and unlocking growth of the rural economy, government entities have persistently failed to settle bills owed to the private sector, including small and micro enterprises (SMEs).

Outstanding bills erode investors' confidence. Thus, counties lose reliable suppliers and contractors. Also, delayed payments cause constraints to entities doing business with the government.

The challenges have had

negative impacts on the economy, leading to increased levels of unemployment and poverty. Sectors that are hardest hit by pending bills include infrastructure, energy and ICT, with estimated pending bills valued at Sh85 billion, as well as 88 stalled projects.

Given the prevailing funding challenges, these sectors can benefit greatly from public-private partnerships.

Based on the latest reports by Treasury, pending bills hit Sh467.7 billion at the end of 2021, up from Sh423.2 billion by the end of September 2021.

Data from the Treasury indicate that the arrears have accumulated despite efforts by the government to prioritise payments. State corporations and ministerial departments owed the bulk of pending bills, at Sh414.2 billion. Counties had outstanding eligible bills to the tune of Sh10.8 billion by June 2021.

The Cabinet Secretary and chairman of the Council of Governors should cooperate to minimise pending bills.

— The writer is a senior tax consultant at EY. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of EY.



MEDIAMAX NETWORK LIMITED

INVITATION FOR TENDERS - CCTV AND BIOMETRIC

Mediamax Network Limited is a leading organisation in the media industry in Kenya. The company prides itself of 6 Radio Stations; 2 TV Stations, a print newspaper and a dynamic digital platform - K24Plus. News, information and entertainment is critical in our content strategy.

The company now invites interested bidders/vendors to participate in the bidding of **CCTV and Biometrics** as follows:

Scope of Work

Supply, install, test and commission high quality Biometric Access Control and IP CCTV Surveillance system along with software, server(s), power supply, power distribution and required accessories throughout facilities of the organisation.

CCTV

- All cameras shall be true IP Camera, 4MP 1080p or higher resolution and Power over Ethernet (PoE).
- All CCTV cameras shall have connectivity to Owner's PoE-powered dedicated local area network.
- Video management software shall offer both video stream management and video stream storage management.
- Support for multi-user and multi-user group environment in addition to classified/hierarchical access for archived footage.
- Surveillance system shall include centralized recording solution with Video Management Software, Network Video Recorder and storage for minimum 90 days.
- Provide a local storage solution with the option of cloud-based storage.
- Secured recording for evidence purposes and user authentication to protect data integrity.
- Power supply, power distribution and required accessories installation.
- System should allow a distributed or centralized architecture with support to any number of cameras and any number of clients that may be added in the future.

BIOMETRICS ACCESS CONTROL

- Access Control System is designed for the entrances and corridors of main buildings of Mediamax Network Limited (MNL):
- Entrance of each function/department.
 - Entrance of server rooms, power rooms and any other protected facilities.
 - Access control system shall be based on proximity (Facial, Fingerprint, Card & PIN) technology in order to restrict the entry of unauthorised people.
 - Access control system shall be centrally managed together with CCTV.

Successful bidder shall be responsible for:

- Undertaking survey and providing report.
- Installation and Configuration of the solution.
- Provide basic access control, attendance report for Biometrics and Enrollment Management.
- Training & handing over of all materials, equipment and appliances.
- Provision of any other items/accessories required for installation, testing and commissioning of the CCTV system.

Evaluation Criteria

Interested bidders/vendors are expected to submit all the mandatory requirement to ascertain their compliance with the legal requirements. Mediamax Network Limited (MNL) reserves the right to confirm the authenticity of all documents submitted. Any attempt by bidder to misrepresent themselves by submitting documents that are not genuine will lead to automatic disqualification.

Bid documents with necessary details are obtained from the Procurement Office on 3rd Floor, DSM House along Kijabe Street, Nairobi on normal working days between 8.00am to 5:00pm upon payment of non-refundable fee of KSh1,000 (One thousand shillings only) per set, payable to **Mpesa Paybill Number: 200202**, Account name: **MNL - CCTV**.

Duly completed bid documents must be submitted in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked MNL - Invitation for Tenders - CCTV and Biometric addressed to:

The Chairman, Adhoc MNL Committee,
Mediamax Network Limited,
P.O. Box 24943 - 00100,
Nairobi.

To be deposited in the bid box provided at Third Floor, so as to be received on or before 21st April, 2022 at 12.00 Noon.

MNL reserves the right to accept or reject the bidding document in whole or in part without giving reasons for rejection or acceptance.

Canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification from the bidding process.

THE CHAIRMAN,
ADHOC TENDER COMMITTEE.

Mombasa aspirant fights for his life after gun attack

Incident comes one day after MCA hopeful in Kisii was hacked to death at his residence in Bobasi

by Reuben Mwambu
@reubenmwambu

A Mombasa politician was last night fighting for his life after he was attacked by unknown gunmen and shot at several times on Tuesday night.

Ali Mwatsahu, who is contesting the Mvita parliamentary seat on a United Democratic Alliance (UDA) ticket, had just taken Iftar, the evening meal eaten at sunset during Ramadhan, at his second wife's home in Bamburi Fisheries area, when he received a phone call as he prepared to leave for his first wife's residence in Tudor shortly after 9pm.

Mwatsahu, 60, is said to have walked downstairs and headed to the parking area where he handed over a bag of shopping to his wife before driving off.

The politician's second wife, Mildred Odinga, told journalists she received a phone call 30 minutes later informing her that her husband's vehicle had been sprayed with bullets at the JCC roundabout between Buxton and Tudor area.

"Immediately, I tried calling him but I couldn't reach him. I decided to get a boda boda to take me to the scene but on arrival at the scene, my husband was not there. I was told that he had been rushed to hospital," said Odinga.

Mwatsahu's vehicle was reportedly riddled with 24 bullet holes after the unidentified gunmen, who were said to have been driving in two vehicles, opened fire at him in what appeared to be an assassination attempt.

Stable condition

The father of two sons and two daughters sustained multiple fractures in his right arm and limbs following the attack and was rushed to Aga Khan Hospital by a tuk-tuk motorist who was passing by.

According to a police report, Mwatsahu, who was driving a white Toyota Vanguard, was trailed by unknown people driving in a silver car.

The report added that following the attack, he sustained extensive fractures in the arm after suffering multiple gunshots in the lower abdomen and two gunshots in the rear side of the body and was rushed to Aga Khan Hospital. It added that he was in stable condition.

Mwatsahu's wife said the attackers seemed so determined to kill her husband,



Police at the scene where Mombasa politician Ali Mwatsahu was shot on Tuesday night. The car reportedly had 24 bullet holes. PD/NDEGWA GATHUNGU

saying they pursued him to the hospital and fired several shots outside the facility.

"It appears the attackers were determined to ensure he was dead because when we arrived at the hospital, we had bursts of gunfire as he was being wheeled to theatre. My husband needs protection. Security must be beefed up at this hospital such that whoever walks or drives in is thoroughly screened," Odinga told journalists at the hospital.

We could not independently authenticate the allegations as both the police and the hospital's authorities would not be drawn into commenting on the matter.

Odinga said reports of Computed Tomography (CT) scan and X-ray performed on the politician had established that more than 20 bullets were pumped into his body.

She said a total of 17 bullets were successfully removed from the body at around 1.30am while more were still lodged in his stomach. "Two surgeries have been performed to treat the fractures he sustained. The first one was completed at 4.30am while the second one was completed at 9.30am," she said, adding that medics were expected to perform more procedures.

We could not, however, independently corroborate information on the number of bullets fired at the politician.

The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) leadership in Mombasa blamed the attack on politics.

UDA coordinator in Mombasa, former Senator Hassan Omar, called for thorough investigations into the shooting, saying those behind the attack must be identified and made to face the full force of the law.

"I managed to talk to him before he went into theatre for surgery and he informed me that his rivals had got him, it is a political matter," Omar claimed.

But reacting to the matter, Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i cautioned politicians against giving "baseless allegations" without facts, saying police had opened investigations into the incident.

"There is a forensic investigation ongoing. Let us allow our officers to do their work. Let them complete investigations and give a conclusive report," said Matiang'i, who spoke in Mombasa.

Coast regional Directorate of Criminal Investigations boss Washington Njiru said police were yet to establish the motive of the attack, adding that investigations had been launched.

The incident comes barely three days after a civic aspirant in Kisii County was hacked to death at his residence in Bobasi constituency.

Yesterday, residents of Gesabakwa village, Bomachoge Borabu constituency blocked the Kisii-Kilgoris highway protesting the killing of Bombaba Borabu ward aspirant Thomas Okari Ontweka on Monday.

Transport on the highway and business at Getumo and Mogonga markets were paralysed as the protesters demanded the arrest of those behind the murder.

Evans Kimori, a Bomachoge Borabu parliamentary aspirant, who led the protests, said, Okari, 38, was a promising young man from his Igorera area and urged top Azimio leaders to intervene, claiming the killing was politically motivated.

Okari was contesting the seat under the ODM party ticket. "Okari, also known as Sundowner, was a star. He was a husband, a father and a great man. We demand an expeditious investigations and justice for his family," Kimori said, adding that his life was also in danger.

Mutyambai defends police in property demolitions and forcible evictions

by Hillary Mageka
@hillarymageka

Inspector General of Police Hillary Mutyambai has defended the police against accusations of carrying out illegal evictions. At the same time, the IG said he would in future clear all eviction exercises to ensure they comply with the law.

Appearing before the Senate Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental relations that is investigating demolitions in Eastleigh and Pumwani estates in Nairobi, Mutyambai (below) said police officers only maintain law and order during the execution of court orders.

"The role of the police is clearly spelled out in the court order, which is confirmation that adequate notices have been served to the parties concerned," said the police boss.

New directive

The IG told a nine-member panel that no demolition or eviction will in future be carried out unless sanctioned by his office.

"I want to confirm that because of the messy way eviction has been taking place, I've issued a new directive to the National Police Service (NPS) that I will have to clear any eviction or demolition. This message has gone to all my formation units in writing through the Kenya Police Service," Mutyambai said. "Court orders for evictions and demolitions will have to come to me and then I do

further consultation with the Office of the Attorney General who will verify again on top of the verification taking place on the ground and advise me."

The IG's directive comes days after Interior PS Karanja Kibicho issued similar directives to police to seek his guidance before implementing court orders on demolitions and evictions.

Citing the forcible evictions in Eastleigh and Pumwani areas, Homa Bay Senator Moses Kajwang said while the police should be guaranteeing law and order, they have been accused of illegal acts during evictions.

"What we are hearing from the affected persons, the police provided lawlessness and disorder," he said and asked the IG to do an internal inquiry and take action against officers who perpetrated acts of lawlessness and disorder.

Kajwang said the IG, the Lands Cabinet Secretary, the Nairobi Metropolitan Services and the Governor of Nairobi should provide a common position on the ownership of a parcel of land No. 209/6712.

According to the police, the land was set aside for Senior Police quarters.

"The land contains six high grade houses that were put up by the Kenya Police Service during the colonial period. The units housed senior officers of Eastleigh Police Station which was later moved to its current location Pangani Police Station along Juja Road," he said.



Kuria asks court to quash IEBC proceedings against him

by Bernice Mbugua
@BerniceMuhindi

Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria has moved to court to challenge the summons issued to him by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) over the vote rigging remarks he made last month.

Kuria, through Ndegwa Wa-

home, Francis Munyoro and Geoffrey Omenke advocates, wants the summons quashed saying IEBC does not have jurisdiction on the matter.

In the summons, IEBC indicated that it had material evidence against him in regard to violation of the electoral code of conduct and that the words he uttered created an impression that the Jubilee Party,

which he belonged, rigged the 2017 election.

The MP claims IEBC's actions were illegal for want of an enabling anchor in the Constitution, statute, or subsidiary law, to conduct investigations and hearing.

"The Respondent has failed to prescribe regulations to enforce the electoral code of Conduct as per the provisions of section 109 (c) and

(f) of the elections Act," he says in court documents.

He argues that the electoral code of conduct only binds those who have subscribed to it during the material election period and he was yet to subscribe to it.

"This means the respondent (IEBC) has no authority to summon me," he says in court documents.

Kuria claims that IEBC com-

menced the process not to preserve the sanctity of anything, but to protect itself from public scrutiny, arising from its refusal to comply with the Supreme Court orders five years later.

"The Conduct by the Respondents is unbecoming of public officers and in utter defiance of Chapter 6 of the Constitution on Leadership and Integrity," he says.



Partnership seeks to fight corruption in the Judiciary

by Sophie Njoka
@PeopleDailyKe

The Judiciary is set to partner with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to curb graft among judicial officers.

Chief Justice Martha Koome (pictured) said the conduct of a few judicial officers has led to the

blanket condemnation of the entire Judiciary. "Due to the failure to live up to the ideals of ethical conduct at times, we have heard accusations lodged with the Judicial Service Commission and office of the Ombudsman, both on social media and mainstream media that some amongst us make decisions that are motivated by considerations that

are inconsistent with the judicial oath of office," she said. Koome was addressing judges at Whitesands Beach Resort in Mombasa yesterday when she officially opened the annual judges colloquium. The CJ noted that in light of the corruption accusations being leveled against judicial officers, the Judiciary was pursuing the goal of

enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of its complaint handling mechanisms at the JSC, Ombudsman and EACC. "In addition, we have also partnered with EACC to undertake a thorough systems review of the Judiciary and make recommendations on how to seal loopholes that are being exploited to further corrupt activities."

Me with Mudavadi? You must be joking! I'm in UDA - Sakaja

His move sets the stage for a gruelling duel with Bishop Wanjiru for party ticket in city governor race

by Jeremiah Kiplang'at and Alvin Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja will be seeking the United Democratic Alliance ticket to run for Nairobi governor's seat in the August elections, setting the stage for a brutal battle with Bishop Margaret Wanjiru who has been the face of the party in the city.

Sakaja yesterday confirmed he was a member of Deputy President William Ruto's UDA and will be fully participating in the party's nominations on April 14.

It was earlier thought he had joined Amani National Congress party led by former Vice-President Musalia Mudavadi after leaving Jubilee, but yesterday he dismissed the speculation, saying he was getting ready for a face-off with Wanjiru.

"When did I join ANC? I was in Jubilee and when I left I went straight to UDA. We are now gearing up for nominations on April 14," he told the People Daily.

Sakaja, one of the front-runners in the quest to become the next city boss, has been hobnobbing with Mudavadi in the recent months and even yesterday he was with Mudavadi when the ANC boss hosted grassroots leaders from Lang'ata, Dagoretti South and Kibra constituencies.

"We continue to listen to the people as we chart the way forward for our country and the great county of Nairobi. Their resolve is clear. The vision is strong. Our match is unstoppable," Sakaja said after the meeting.

Sakaja's entry into UDA presents a fresh headache to the DP, who has this week focused on brokering deals between rival aspirants in a bid to avert bitter fallout within his outfit and Kenya Kwanza Alliance. Wanjiru and Sakaja accompanied Ruto in the DP's vote forays across the city recently and he ensured both spoke during the events.

City politicians

A recent poll by Trends and Insights for Africa indicated that Sakaja enjoyed a more favourable support than Wanjiru although the survey found more city dwellers were yet to decide who to vote for.

The poll established that the first-term senator would win the governor's race with 23 per cent support while Wanjiru had four per cent. Wanjiru, however, has obtained support from some city politicians, including former Law Society of Kenya President

SAKAJA

When did I join ANC? I was in Jubilee and when I left I went straight to UDA



PERCEIVED DISCORD

● Differences between Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja and former Starehe MP Bishop Margaret Wanjiru have intensified in the recent past, occasionally degenerating into shouting matches.

● Recently, the UDA aspirants clashed in the presence of ANC boss Musalia Mudavadi and Ford Kenya leader Moses Wetangula during a rally in the city.

● However, Deputy President William Ruto is said to be brokering a truce between the duo, as he has been doing with other stiff contests involving key aspirants.

Nelson Havi, who have said she deserves to lead the county. "As the larger Western Kenya community that votes here in Nairobi, we have unanimously resolved to put our support behind Bishop Margaret Wanjiru for the candidature of the governor of Nairobi," Havi said recently.

Yesterday, Wanjiru said she was ready to face off with Sakaja in the nominations. She, however, expressed concern that there were people within Kenya Kwanza, who were plotting to frustrate her campaigns. "Yes, I am aware that he is in UDA and he is just coming to spoil (for me). Let him know that I am ready to face him in the nominations. Nitamfunza vile siasa za Nairobi zinafanywa (I will teach him how Nairobi politics is done)," a bullish Wanjiru told People Daily.

Acknowledging the recent pact between Ruto and Mudavadi, the former Starehe MP said nothing would stop her from going for the governor's seat.

"Who does not know that I was the first person to declare that I will vie for Nairobi on UDA? I have been active on the ground consolidating my base. Some of the individuals you are hearing that are vying for governor are just clueless, they do not know what they want in life," she said.

Differences between the two have intensified recently and have occasionally degenerated into shouting matches.

Recently, they clashed in the presence of Mudavadi and Ford Kenya leader Moses

Wetangula during a rally in the city.

Some of his close allies confirmed Sakaja had already paid UDA's nomination fee.

"He paid in the last days before the exercise. He has decided to keep a low profile about it but as you know Sakaja is a schemer, he is working behind the scenes," the source told People Daily on condition of anonymity.

Stiff contests

Ruto is said to be brokering a truce between the duo, as he has been doing with other stiff contests involving key Kenya Kwanza alliance members.

Last month Sakaja, said the UDA-ANC pact would be perfect for his candidature.

The vocal senator said he was ready for any nomination route expressing confidence in his support base.

"They might decide to let us do nominations. I am ready for that," he said.

Already, Wanjiru has settled on Hospital Hill Ward Patrick Musili as her deputy, a key strategy she says will help her clinch the Kamba vote.

Others who have declared interest to succeed Governor Anne Kananu are Westlands MP Tim Wanyonyi, business woman Agnes Kagure and Kenya National Chamber of Industrtr (KNCCI) president Richard Ngatia, all who are seeking the Azimio La Umoja ticket alongside Kananu.

The city experiences unstable stint since the ouster of former Governor Mike Sonko.

Aspirants in Nyamira step down as DP brokers deal

by Evans Nyakundi
@PeopleDailyKe

Deputy President William Ruto yesterday brokered a truce that will see the United Democratic Alliance party not conduct nominations for governor and Senate seats in Nyamira county

In the deal, some aspirants shelved their ambitions in favour of other candidates.

Former Kitutu Masaba MP Walter Nyambati and the 2017 gubernatorial loser will be the UDA flagbearers after Dr Ereneo Nyakiba dropped his candidature in his favour.

Nairobi-based advocate Nyambega Mose will carry the mantle for the Senate after his only contender, Hellen Makone, stepped down.

The deal was brokered at Ruto's Karen residence.

In North Mugirango constituency, Dr Emily Nyasimi also dropped her candidature in favour of incumbent MP Joash Nyamoko.

But the party will conduct primaries for the Woman Rep seat pitting Josephine Omanwa and former office holder Alice Chae after they failed to agree to support one of them.

"As a party, we engaged in a tense consultation process on who will fly our party tickets in Nyamira. We had set up a team to harmonise our team in Nyamira, which has done a very successful work," said Ruto while announcing the deal.

"It was also decided that some candidates will be subjected to nominations while others ceded ground for others on the basis of opinion polls that are being conducted," said Ruto

Makone, who pulled out for Nyambega will now be part of the presidential campaign team.

In West Mugirango constituency, Nairobi-based advocate Charles Ongoto might be handed the party flag after it emerged that he was the only candidate.



Six Vihiga county members leave ANC for Ruto's party

by Enoch Amukhale
@PeopleDailyKe

Amani National Congress (ANC) of Musalia Mudavadi has suffered a political blow after six members of the Vihiga County assembly decamped to United Democratic Party (UDP) of Cyrus Jirongo.

The six are: Victor Ijaika (Lugawa wa Muluma), Elisha Amara (South Maragoli), Evans Chunguli (Central Maragoli), Gladys Analo (Busali Ward), Wycliffe Masini (Mungoma Ward), and Violet Bagada (nominated).

They cited rampant frustration in ANC, especially by top officials close to party leader Mudavadi.

Yesterday, the MCAs were welcomed to UDP by Vi-

higa Senator George Khaniri (right), who assured them of party tickets and support.

The MCAs said they had been suffering at the hands of ANC officials who are backing their opponents.

They pointed at an incidence where top ANC officials invited their rivals to the party's National Delegates Convention in Nairobi, leaving them behind.

Facing frustrations

"We have decided to decamp to UDP where we will have peace. We have been facing frustration from top ANC officials, who are sponsoring our opponents in our respective wards," they said.

Analo was elected on an ANC ticket but moved to UDP. The MCAs said they were



KHANIRI

Let us join UDP and give its leader, Cyrus Jirongo, high bargaining power in Azimio

ready to battle it out with aspirants fronted by ANC. "We shall beat them hands down and shame their sponsors," they declared.

Onslaught by PPK

Ijaika said they stood with Mudavadi in 2017 despite an onslaught by PPK of Moses Akaranga, which won many seats in Sabatia constituency. Only two seats were clinched by ANC in the constituency — Busali and West Sabatia.

He said party officials tampered with nominations in 2017, hence the many seats the party lost to its rivals.

"Some people in ANC messed up the party primaries by favouring weak candidates. That cost the party

many seats in Vihiga county. They want to repeat the same mistakes," said Ijaika.

Khaniri — who also decamped from ANC to UDP — urged other aspirants in Emuhaya, Luanda and Hamisi to join UDP. He said UDP is the home party of the region and is ready to accommodate everyone.

Bargaining power

Khaniri is contesting the Vihiga gubernatorial seat on a UDP ticket.

"My people, let us join UDP party which our shield so that we can grow it to high levels. UDP will win many seats in Vihiga county, and that will give our son, Jirongo, high bargaining power in an Azimio government," said Khaniri.



FGM incident shocks Nyeri MP, leaders

Nyeri Woman Rep Rahab Mukami (above) yesterday condemned an incident in which six minors were subjected to forced circumcision in Muthuthini village, Mukurweini sub-county.

The six, who are Class Eight students whose Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) results were released last week, are recuperating at Mukurweini Level Four Hospital.

Primitive practice

Mukami called for speedy investigations, terming the practice primitive and outdated. "It is disturbing to hear that female genital mutilation (FGM) has found its way into Nyeri County in this day and time," she said.

She appealed to residents to discard outdated practices and instead embrace Christianity and education.

She sympathised with the girls, saying they need medication and psychosocial support.

Nyeri County children officer Mwaniki Kung'u said one of the suspects is on the run, adding that parents of the girls are also to blame for assenting to the crime.

On Tuesday, Mukurweini sub-county police commander Patrick Manyasia said they were informed of the incident by villagers. "Our officers rushed to the scene and arrested three suspects, who are in custody at Mukurweini police station.

Police are also looking into the possibility of more families promoting the outlawed practice in the area.

— KNA

Form One admission list out by Tuesday, assures Magoha

All-inclusive criteria used to ensure pupils get equal chances despite their backgrounds, says minister

by Irene Githinji
@Igitshie

The 2021 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination candidates will know the secondary schools they have been placed in by Tuesday next week.

Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha yesterday said Form One selection is almost done and that an all-inclusive criteria was used to ensure all children got equal chances despite their backgrounds.

"The selection results could be out either on Monday or Tuesday. I want to go personally and make sure that nobody has corrupted it and that we have protected the weakest link," said the CS.

The CS made the remarks at Kenya High School when he commissioned a Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) classroom.

"Kenya is a rainbow country. In a school like this one (Kenya High), I would like to see a Samburu girl here... not a Samburu girl who sat her exam in Nairobi, but somewhere in Maralal. Whether anybody likes it or not, we will do that," he said.

Represents Kenyan fabric

He also said that candidates who sat their papers in urban slums and scored good marks would get an opportunity to join coveted schools. "The best of the best will come here (Kenya High) but we shall have affirmative action to ensure that national schools represent the Kenyan fabric, unlike in the past where children from poor backgrounds used to be elbowed out due to lack of money. This will not take place under my care," said Magoha.

For those who do not have the financial capacity to join Form One, the CS said, another round of Elimu Scholarships would assist 9,000 disadvantaged children.

Out of the total number to receive scholarships, 4,000 are from urban slums and



Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha addresses the media after commissioning a Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) classroom at Kenya High School in Nairobi yesterday. PD/GERALD ITHANA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Parents will have about two weeks to prepare their children for admission as the Government implements a 100pc transition policy.
- Another round of Elimu Scholarships will assist 9,000 children — 4,000 from slums and the rest from each sub-county.
- Pupils who sat the exam in prisons, refugee camps or are over age, might not be placed.

the rest from each sub-county.

"We will make sure we get the right candidates for these scholarships," the CS said.

After the Form One selections are announced next week, parents will have about two weeks to prepare their children for admission as the Government moves to implement the 100 percent transition policy from primary to secondary levels.

Capacity of national schools

Some 11,857 candidates scored 400 marks and above in the examination and are expected to join national schools.

In total, the 103 national schools across the country have a capacity of about 30,000 learners. Another 315,275 candidates had 300-399 marks, 578,197 had 200-299 marks, 307,532 others had 100-199 marks while 1,170 had between 0-99 marks.

Going by the criteria used last year, candidates who sat the examination in prisons, refugee camps or are over age, might not be placed. Regarding the marking of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education

(KCSE) examination, the CS promised a faultless exercise that puts all children on an equal pedestal.

"As promised, the KCSE results will be released at the end of this month. There will definitely be casualties ... voluntary casualties, because nobody forced them to try to steal the exam. There is a price to pay," the CS said.

He warned against politicising the exam process, saying that from the beginning he cautioned against this. He said that anyone who dared mess with the integrity of the exam will face the full force of the law.

"The chicken are coming home to roost. Everybody guilty of breaching the exam will be punished according to Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) laws," warned Magoha. "If you are a politician and you want to make noise, I will not listen to you. Every child will get the same dose. If you were caught with a cell phone, do not think you are going to scare us. If you like, you can go to court but I have a credible exam to deliver," he said.

BRIEFLY

Sh25m gold scam case set for May 3

The hearing of a criminal case in which two businessmen are charged with defrauding a foreigner Sh25 million in exchange for non-existent gold has been adjourned to May 3, 2022.

The case had been scheduled for hearing before Milimani Chief Magistrate Micheni Wendy but she was out of office. Two businessmen, Jonathan Okoth Opande and Steve Ochieng' Odhiambo, appeared before another magistrate, Susan Shitubi, and denied the charges.

The prosecution said the two obtained Sh25,760,000 from Samuel Olaleye Adeyeni, a Nigerian, by pretending they could sell him 250 kilograms of gold on diverse dates between January 19 and February 18, 2019, at Lagos Hotel in Nairobi.

— Alphonse Mung'ahu

TSC issues guidelines on teacher transfers

All new teachers will be posted to schools and regions with higher shortages

by Irene Githinji
@PeopleDailyKe

Teachers Service Commission (TSC) has directed its Regional Directors to submit a detailed report on school staffing status by May 9.

TSC Secretary Nancy Macharia said staff balancing in schools, sub-counties and counties should commence immediately. The exercise will see some teachers transferred from their current stations.

She said that all newly recruited teachers will henceforth be posted to schools and areas with higher shortages.

"The process of staffing of schools is guided by staffing norms whose key objective is to achieve the optimal utilisation of teachers and in so doing, reduce disparities in teacher distribution," said Macharia in a circular to Regional Directors.

The Regional Directors are expected to work with County Directors to ensure the rationalisation exercise achieves equitable redistribution.

Macharia said that despite the Commission's efforts to address teacher deficit, the chal-



TSC Secretary Nancy Macharia. PD/FILE

also be a key consideration, with those suffering from terminal illnesses spared.

"The committee will, however, evaluate each case on its own merit taking into consideration the supporting medical documents, the availability and accessibility to the appropriate medical facilities among other factors in the proposed station," said Macharia.

Teachers with disabilities and with necessary certification will also not be affected by the transfers.

"When transferring teachers, priority will be given to schools within the sub-county and within the targeted shortage before transferring out of the sub-county," she said.

On family, the employer said transfer of couples employed

TEACHER DEFICIT

● The country has a teacher shortage of 114,581 in primary and post-primary institutions despite annual recruitment of 5,000 for public schools.

● TSC says the challenge has been compounded by irregular distribution thus creating an imbalance.

by TSC, and have declared their marital status, should be to the same neighbourhood where possible.

The length of stay in a station since first appointment will also be a key consideration.

The teacher must have served in a station for a period not less than three years and

five years for North Eastern and other areas respectively since first appointment unless otherwise authorised by the Commission.

Priority will also be given to teachers who have applied for transfer. In cases where teachers meet the criteria for transfer, the Commission will consider "first in, first out" factor, gender balance where applicable and teacher's security.

"Transfer of teachers will be carried out during the school holidays to ensure stability and smooth running of the school programme except for emergencies," Macharia directed.

Last week, the TSC boss said the transfers would have a human face and must be discussed with all relevant offices to ensure equity for all learners.

lenge has been compounded by irregular distribution thus creating an imbalance.

"The teacher staffing imbalance continues to limit the initiative towards equitable distribution of teaching resource. If unchecked, this will adversely impact learning outcomes in learning institutions," she said.

One of the factors to consider in the transfers is the age of the teacher. TSC has directed that teachers aged 56 and above will be exempt.

A teacher's health status will

Magistrate in defilement saga seeks to stop charges

by Nancy Gitonga
@PeopleDailyKe

A Senior Principal Magistrate yesterday petitioned the High Court seeking to stop the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) from prosecuting him over claims of defiling a 17-year-old girl.

In a suit filed under certificate of urgency, James Ong'ondo is seeking orders restraining police from arresting and charging him.

Ong'ondo, who is the Kehancha Senior Principal Magistrate, was arrested on Friday last week in a lodging with the alleged minor in Kaplong, Sotik in Bomet county.



Court papers state that Ong'ondo was arrested after the female in his company informed DCI officers that she was below the age of 18 years.

Ong'ondo was arrested at a lodging where he had booked a room to spend the weekend with the female who he claims is 22 years old.

In his petition, the magistrate says he was attending to a social function among his peers when he was escorted by officers from the DCI for being with an underage girl.

He faults the owner of the bar for failing to verify her age and allowing her to have an alcoholic beverage.

The magistrate states that he has since verified the age of the girl through the production of her birth certificate which shows she is aged 22.

Booked room

"The court be pleased to issue an interim order restraining DCI, IG and the DPP, their agents, servants or employees from arresting arraigning in court, charging and prosecuting the petitioner or otherwise instituting criminal proceedings against the magistrate pending the hearing and determination of the main petition," he states.

Through lawyer John Swaka, the magistrate wants a stay of his prosecution at the Bomet High Court.



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QUOTED TODAY



I I have finally made a decision not to align myself to any of the political formations ahead of the August 9 polls. I will defend my seat as an independent candidate.
UASIN GISHU
 SENATOR MARGARET KAMAR



T The process of staffing in schools is guided by norms whose key objective is to achieve the optimal utilisation of teachers, and in so doing, reduce disparities in teacher distribution.
TSC BOSS NANCY MACHARIA



I I want to talk to the hearts of Central Kenya people. Look at what the President has done for you in terms of infrastructure. If 20 per cent of this was done in lower Eastern, we will be adoring him. But look, they're insulting him.
WIPER LEADER KALONZO MUSYOKA

CS must temper taxes with harsh realities

National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani will this afternoon be between a rock and a hard place when he steps into Parliament to unveil President Uhuru Kenyatta's Sh3.3 trillion legacy budget.

The budget, which comes earlier than expected due to a looming General-Election, will set the pace for the Presidency to complete whichever projects that can be finalised quickly.

Yatani will be hard-pressed to consider recent cries to ease the spiralling cost of living that has been the bane of the nation since Covid-19 struck, amid a deeply divided government, the General Election and drought that continue to hurt the economy. The budget presentation also comes in the midst of an ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces which is snarling global logistics.

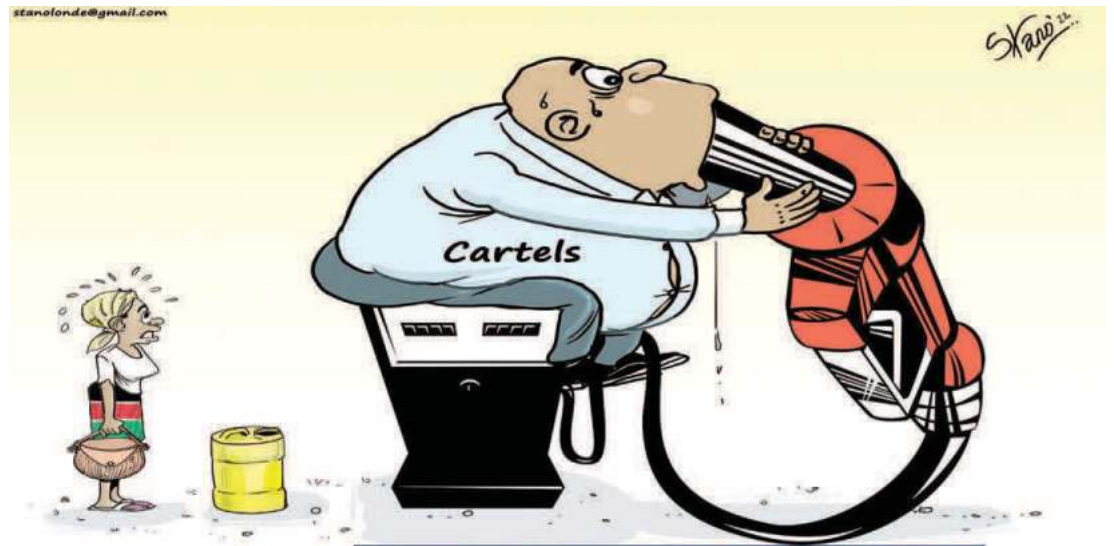
The pain has been compounded by the increasing cost of fuel, which has been in short supply as oil marketers slug it out with the government over unpaid fuel subsidies. National Treasury will also have to ensure that it honours tax promises made to the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and spur growth in an economy that is already heavily taxed.

Treasury must also follow the general policy direction of the FY2022/23 budget, which is to accelerate economic recovery through implementation of an Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) with the State expected to ring-fence revenue to complete most of the ongoing mega projects that the Jubilee regime started.

All eyes will be on the Treasury boss to provide a magic wand that will satisfy the budgetary obligations despite claims that Kenyans are among the heavily taxed people in the world, coupled with a surging debt portfolio. Kenya's debt stock is said to have grown to Sh7.99 trillion as of September 2021, having risen by 19 per cent from June 2020, reflecting an increasingly constrained fiscal space and high debt burden environment.

Unfortunately, even economic growth which is expected to hit 6 per cent may not be forthcoming due to drought, election jitters and global logistics challenges. With such uncertainty in the economy and the increasingly hostile political environment, expectations are that the government will focus on social-economic issues in the short-term as opposed to ambitious development projects.

But as for the ordinary Kenyan, whichever side the policy documents direct spending, it is expected that it will not only spur growth but also cushion the poorest among us during these tough times.



Ukraine holds the key to peace with Russia

Peace talks between the two warring neighbours; Russia and Ukraine, resumed on Monday April 4. Apparently, the few peace talks held so far have yielded something that leaders of both sides can work with. Amid the gloom, there is hope arising from an announcement by the Ukrainian delegation that a draft agreement is now ready for discussion by the presidents of both countries.

Indeed, Ukraine holds the biggest responsibility of settling the conflict peacefully and amiably. While it is not the aggressor, it is the country's lack of foresight that has provoked Russia's current intervention by entertaining the latter's avowed enemies on its land. To Russia, attempts by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and by extension the United States (US) to get a foothold on its eastern neighbour is totally untenable.

By now, it should have occurred to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he was simply a pawn in a vicious geopolitical scheming.

Naturally, his immediate neighbors would have the best interests for his country rather than overseas selfish and manipulative players. Were it not meddling by the West, Russia has no other grievance against Ukraine, at least to an extent that can lead to such a confrontation.

By constantly engaging and indulging Russia's opponents amid escalation of the war shows that Ukraine is double dealing, buying time to see whether its powerful allies can actually become active players in the conflict. But the allies understand that crossing that

STEPHEN NDEGWA
I It is the country's lack of foresight that has provoked Russia's current intervention

line could have grave ramifications. Furthermore, they still want to create the impression that they adhere to international law.

If he really means peace, Zelenskyy should stop blowing hot and cold on the war. He should not preach peace on one side to please or deceive his adversary, and on the other beg his allies for more weaponry and logistics to sustain his defence. Secondly, the Ukrainian President must stop echoing propaganda on what is happening on the warfront.

While there is no denying there have been several unfortunate civilian deaths so far, the utter sensationalist reports of massacre by Russian soldiers is irresponsible and dangerous.

For instance, the appeal to the Group of 7 by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Sunday to impose "devastating" new sanctions on Moscow for carrying out what he termed as a deliberate "massacre" in Bucha town outside Kyiv was outrageous and reactionary. It has already poisoned the air with mistrust and sends the wrong signals about the sincerity of Ukraine in the peace effort.

Like on cue, some Western countries have levelled accusations of 'war crimes' against Russia arising from the foregoing allegations.

But even as they work arduously towards mutual understanding, the two countries should not fear or shy away from picking choice proposals that have been offered by external parties.

For instance, in its recent meeting with the European Union, China reiterated the "four musts" universal framework to any peace negotiations and settlement as espoused by President Xi Jinping.

These include respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, the full observation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respecting the legitimate security concerns of all countries, and unconditional support to all efforts that are conducive to the peaceful settlement of the crisis.

This is a good starting point and crucial step to discussing the nitty gritty of how a sustainable peaceful future would look like. It would weed out all partisan parties and interests in the ensuing negotiations.

It is hypocritical of the West to warn China against helping Russia endure their punitive sanctions but contrarivise mobilize money and resources to help Ukraine stoke the fire to its logical conclusion, akin to leading sheep to slaughter. It is a temptation and ruse that Zelenskyy should now resist to save lives and stop his country from being totally destroyed.

— The writer comments on international affairs

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding

The English curriculum goes beyond amusing learners

In his March 7 column, Mr Isam Latoti, in an article titled *KICD's role should not stifle imagination in literature* criticised Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for recommending textbooks which have little or no entertainment value in schools. "All such books possess subtle didactic value that only overshadows the manifest enjoyment imaginative literature is designed to elicit in a reader," he argued.

He accordingly challenged KICD to "accommodate diverse and experimental writings that excite the mind," for study by the students. I believe KICD is guided by the intellectual and artistic excellence of the books they prescribe. Works of outstanding literary excellence educate and entertain readers. They appeal also to widely shared concerns and values that are neither dated nor confined to a village or a country. The concerns and values they affirm are of universal implications.

The artistic character of a work of art implies the work is flexible enough to appeal to readers of all cultures and times. This is because a great work of art is allegorical or symbolic. The concerns Latoti raises can be read at literal or primary level as well as secondary or correlated level of significance. It is the reason KICD recommended books with characters Latoti mentions: Waiyaki in *The River Between*, Ihuoma in the *Concubine*, Okwonkwo and Chief Nanga



KENNEDY BUHERE

Intensive reading of setbooks without an extensive reading background is exercise in futility

in *Things Fall Apart* and *A Man of the People*, respectively. You are likely to find these characters in most of our villages, clans, tribes, nations and institutions—given more or less similar pressures they respectively face in the books.

George Orwell's *Animal Farm* was written to address and define political dynamics and events in his time. However, the book still retains relevance and meaning ever since Orwell published it in mid 1940s.

A book with artistic excellence doesn't stifle but kindles the imagination of the reader. Latoti agrees that Ngugi, Achebe, Amadi, Oludhe, Ogolla and Shakespeare were great artists. It follows that the books they wrote are not only great, edifying and pleasurable to read.

The issue Latoti should worry about the most is that the current generation of students are not being exposed to extensive reading of works of outstanding literary merit before they embark on the intensive reading that setbooks require.

Students can't appreciate or enjoy setbooks without prior sufficient exposure to books of outstanding literary merit. Background knowledge

of anything determines a person's understanding. Without basic appreciation of fictional works, one can't make sense of setbooks. This is regardless of the number of time one reads them. I have met people who know the storylines of books they have read but have no idea what the book is all about when taken to task. They are unable to see the obvious correlation between the book and real life situations, until someone demonstrates it to them.

It, therefore, doesn't matter whether the setbooks KICD recommends for study for KCSE "speak of current realities" or realities of bygone time. The students will not read the books with the critical appreciation skills that are required. This is the reason most find setbooks—regardless of the nationality and time of the author—a drudge and not a pleasure to read them. It doesn't matter whether setbooks "accommodate diverse and experimental writings."

Intensive reading of setbooks without an extensive reading background is an exercise in futility. Students don't understand anything if they have not read books of comparable depth, breadth and rigour. Most of

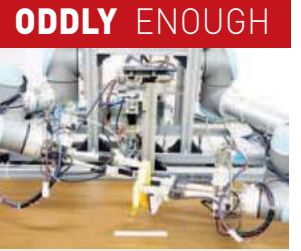
the stuff students read—out of their own volition—is lightweight in vision, purpose and morals. The books are not also sophisticated or complex enough in terms of plot, diction and other literary devices. This is what concerns me. This is what should concern anybody interested in the proper preparation of students for the vagaries of the future.

Literature operates at allegorical or symbolic levels. Literature doesn't test comprehension skills—even though understanding is critical in appreciating a work of art. Literature as a subject is about critical thinking; analytical and conceptual thinking; imagination; problem-solving; and discerning patterns or tendencies.

We should urge school administrators to stock libraries with quality books—fiction and non-fiction—and create time for students to spend quality time reading the books.

KICD has introduced a new cohort of setbooks for study by students. Very soon you will see literary scholars writing guidebooks for the students. Most students spend more time reading guidebooks than the setbooks themselves—because they can't read the books critically in the first place. Why can't the students gain an articulate grasp of the books without the guidebooks? That is the question we should be asking.

— The writer Communications Officer, Ministry of Education



Japanese robot can peel bananas cleanly, perfectly

Robots in Japan are found on factory floors carrying out simple tasks or delivering food to restaurant patrons but researchers have now unveiled a robot capable of executing the delicate task of peeling a banana without squashing the fruit inside.

While the dual-armed machine is only successful 57 per cent of the time, banana peeling points to a future where machines undertake more subtle operations than moving metal parts or delivering coffee.

Video from researchers at the University of Tokyo showed the robot pick up and peel a banana with both hands in about three minutes.

Researchers Heecheol Kim, Yoshiyuki Ohmura and Yasuo Kuniyoshi trained the robot using a "deep imitation learning" process where they demonstrated the banana-peeling action hundreds of times to produce sufficient data for the robot to learn the actions and replicate it.

In this case, the banana reached its success rate after more than 13 hours of training.

While still undergoing more testing, Kuniyoshi believes his robot training method can teach robots to do different simple "human" tasks.

He hopes the better-trained robots can alleviate Japan's labour shortage problems, for example at bento lunch box or food processing factories that are highly dependent on human labour.

— Reuters



TRUTHIS: When you think about giving to others, think about all God has given you.

How tobacco industry uses front groups to advance interests

The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 8 million people a year around the world. More than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

Despite all these mind boggling facts, the tobacco industry continues to reinvent itself whenever debate around the destructive nature of their business arises. The industry employs numerous tactics to ensure that it actively counters any move aimed at curtailing its multi-billion-dollar business across the globe. One such strategy is the use of front groups.

A front group is an organization that purports to represent one agenda while in reality it serves some other party or interest whose sponsorship is hidden or rarely mentioned. The tobacco industry has a long



SIMON MWANGI

The more the sector is constrained by law, the more it will fund groups whose agenda dovetails into its own

history of using front groups which often have had hidden links to it. Although often difficult to detect, the use of front groups is a clear example of third party techniques.

Some groups with an involvement with the tobacco industry have been very opaque about their funding.

Interestingly, medical practitioners have also sometimes found themselves being used by the tobacco industry to water down scientifically proven facts on the negative impacts of tobacco use. They do this through deflection of medical facts or trying to remove tobacco from the equation.

The tobacco industry has pioneered the use of front groups to advance its cause, probably more

than any other controversial industry. The industry undermined the efforts for international regulation on smoking to such an extent that the WHO decided to investigate.

One of the fundamental problems with front groups, the lack of transparency, is highlighted in the WHO report. "Lack of disclosure by front groups and consultants of their links with the tobacco industry results in unbalanced arguments and evidence, presented without statements of relevant competing interests," reads part of the Tobacco Industry Interference with Tobacco Control report.

The more the industry is constrained by national and international law, the more it will fund

groups or think tanks whose agenda dovetails into its own. The tobacco industry uses front groups to create the appearance that a broad-based public constituency in support of their issues exists.

The groups are then used to influence opinion leaders, legislators, regulators or public opinion in general, and to make it look like a wide range of apparently unrelated third parties support tobacco industry positions.

The tobacco industry has repeatedly formed and financed biomedical research front groups with the goal of generating a body of published academic research about tobacco that does not harm the industry, and that helps advance industry positions on a wide range of issues.

— The writer is Corporate Communications manager at the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse

#TWEETS TO THE EDITOR



Why Africa is miserable today

@OgbeniDemola: Mobutu was used against Lumumba, Blaise Compaore was used against Thomas Sankara, Joseph Ankr was used against Nkrumah, Yakubu Gowon was used against Igbos. The worse of us have always been used against us. That's why Africa is miserable today.

Tuju entry ends confusion in Azimio

@smutoro: In picking Raphael Tuju, Raila clears way for Siaya gubernatorial tussle for James Orengo. In Tuju, an experienced spokesman, President Kenyatta takes full charge of the RAO campaigns. Confusion in communication around Azimio (Makau Mutua/Mureithi) will now be a thing of the past.

Parenting is vital in a child's life

@modi_juma: Parenting is vital in every child's life, at personal level or school work. Let your child understand what is bad and good, what is expected of him in the family/society. Talk to him on terrorism, it's effects & let her grow knowing terrorism is evil.

Advocacy efforts starting to pay off

@Mwauraisaac1: So glad to have 4-month-old Isaac Mwaura Jr. named after me by a young couple Gitonga & Nyamusi. The dad decided not to run away like it was in my case after having followed my story, way before he got married. The advocacy work that we have done over the years is paying off.



ODM Kisii primaries kick off amid ticket tinkering claims

Orange party nominations exercise gripped by anxiety owing to favouritism fears by some aspirants

by Robert Ochoro and Hillary Mageka
@EWainaina

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) supporters in Kisii county go to the polls today in wake of widespread claims of direct tickets having been reserved for some aspirants.

Yesterday, party officials were quick to refute claims of ticket tinkering in favour of certain preferred aspirants, including Woman Representative Janet Ong'era had been given a direct ticket.

Dagoretti North MP Simba Arati, who is eyeing the governor's seat, maintained that no aspirant has been given a direct ticket.

He, however, clarified that only aspirants without competitors will be given tickets.

The MP, flanked by his running mate Dr Robert Monda, Kitutu Chache South MP Richard Onyonga, and county ODM chairman Kerosi Ondieki told aspirants on Tuesday that the nominations will be free and fair.

"Onyonga and I have not been given tickets. It is propaganda that the party has given tickets to some aspirants," Arati explained during the meeting attended by MP, Ward and Women Rep hopefuls.

He stated that the aspirants had been briefed on the nomination process and appealed to youths not to be misled by politicians to cause violence.

He said the party's register would be used during nominations.

Echoing Arati's sentiments, Kerosi said the party would conduct free, credible and verifiable elections, adding that plans had been finalised to ensure the exercise is seamless and transparent.

ODM's National Elections Board Chair Catherine Mumma had stated nominations for parliamentary and Ward Rep seats would be conducted in regions where consensus had failed while urging Woman Rep aspirants to respect the party's decision.



Woman Rep aspirant Dorice Aburi said Mumma called her on Tuesday and told her that there will be nominations for Woman Rep seat despite opinion polls commissioned by the party showing that she (Aburi) was the clear front runner for the ticket.

Dagoretti North MP Simba Arati (centre) addresses Kisii aspirants during a briefing on Tuesday.
PD/ROBERT OCHORO

Best candidates

"I urge my supporters to be patient, calm and not to be dampened with the decision. I assure you that my name will be on the ballot come August 9," Aburi, who attended the meeting alongside rivals- Evelyn Ogendo and Brigit Ombati, explained after the meeting skipped by Ong'era.

Onyonga said there will be no nominations in 10 wards where aspirants had agreed on consensus.

"We want to get the best candidates to back former Prime Minister Raila Odinga should he be elected the fifth president," Onyonga said.

A total of 103 aspirants are seeking par-

liamentary, Ward and gubernatorial ticket to vie for elective seats even as Nyaribari Masaba parliamentary hopeful Lisper Maseme urged the party's top leadership to suspend the exercise to allow aspirants prepare well.

Last week, several youths protested against the party's decision to give Ong'era the ticket even as some members of county Assembly, led by Josephine Ombati, defended her, saying she is a pillar in the party and deserved the ticket.

Ombati said Ong'era campaigned for Raila in 2013, 2017 and it was necessary to give her the ticket to enable her campaign for the ODM boss even more.

Speaking to *People Daily*, Mumma refuted claims that ODM had handed a direct ticket to Ongera.

This is after reports emerged that Ong'era had been given the party's nomination certificate without undergoing nomination. Ong'era, a former Nominated Senator, is facing a fierce battle from four contenders including her 2017 closest rival Aburi, who vied on a Jubilee ticket but has now decamped to ODM.

Fierce battle

Ong'era shelved her governor ambitions and opted to defend her Woman Rep seat. "Aspirants in Kisii were under the impression that we had handed over the certificate to the Woman Rep. I would like to assure them that we have not handed over any certificate," said Mumma in an interview on Monday.

"We had a conversation around consensus. We have not arrived at that consensus. As it is we are actually planning to carry out nominations in Kisii on Thursday," added Mumma. "So, consensus will be ongoing and can happen even the day before the nominations," she held.

On Thursday last week, Ong'era's supporters, led by Nominated MCAs Josephine Ombati and Jane Justine, lauded the decision to give her a direct ticket.

They said she was the most popular and has been a loyal party member and strong Raila campaigner.

This even as a section of aspirants have cautioned ODM against the direct tickets.

The aspirants said the party appears to "repeat the same mistake that was made in 2017 that led to it not having a single MP elected on its ticket despite its popularity."

REMINDER

● A section of aspirants have warned ODM against issuing direct ticket saying, the party appears to "repeat the same mistake that was made in 2017 that led to it not having a single MP elected on its ticket despite its popularity."

Kamar to take on rivals as independent candidate



by Wycliff Kipsang
@wksang08

Uasin Gishu Senator Margaret Kamar has finally broken her silence on her political future and declared she will defend her seat as an independent candidate.

But during a meet-the-people tour in Moiben yesterday, Kamar made the declaration. "I have finally made a decision not to align myself to any political formation ahead of the August polls. I will defend my seat as an independent candidate," she said.

This puts to end months of speculations on her party of choice in defending the seat in the August polls.

Kamar (pictured), the Senate Deputy Speaker, has defended her tenure, arguing that she did a lot in the five-year term and expressed optimism she will recapture the seat.

She will face off with UDA candidate, who will clinch the ticket during the party primaries slated for April 14.

Perceived rebels

Those who will battle it out for the UDA ticket are outgoing Governor Jackson Mandago, lawyer Kipchumba Karori and comedian Robert Kemei.

Pressure has been piling on the senator, who was elected on a United Republic Party to throw her weight behind Deputy President William Ruto's UDA after other perceived rebels in Rift Valley succumbed to public pressure and declared their political allegiance to the DP.

Nandi Hills MP Alfred Keter has since joined the DP's camp while William Chepkut of Ainabkoi has remained ambivalent. Chepkut is expected to face off with former MP Samuel Chepkonga.

It is widely believed that Kamar opted to vie as an independent for fear that UDA primaries will not be free and fair.

Kamar, widow of former powerful Cabinet minister Nicholas Biwott, has come under pressure from DP's allies for not singing to the UDA wave in the region. Her election as Senate Deputy Speaker, for instance, thrust her into national politics, however, it caused some political jitters in DP's North Rift backyard.

Those against her election viewed it as opportunistic, especially after she took the position at the backdrop of the purge on leaders allied to the DP in Senate and National Assembly.

Azimio parties set to clash in Mombasa governor race

by Eric Wainaina
@Harrison Kivisi

Azimio La Umoja is staring at a fresh headache in the Mombasa governor race as two of its affiliate parties have declared to field candidates in the August election.

Wiper Democratic Movement is fronting Kisauni MP Ali Mbogo to battle it out with whoever wins the Orange party ticket between businessman Suleiman Shahbal and Mvita MP Abdulsamad Nassir.

Mbogo said Wiper is not ready to drop its ambition to field candidates in Mombasa even after the party signed a political pact with Azimio. "So far there is no agreement in

Azimio to field one candidate. For us we have paid all the fees required to participate in the race and we are ready for the task," Mbogo stated.

Should they not agree on a formidable candidate, history will repeat itself after a similar scenario was witnessed in 2017 elections.

In 2017, Governor Hassan Joho of ODM was in a fierce political fight with the then Senator Hassan Omar of Wiper. Joho defeated Omar.

Speaking in Mombasa yesterday, Mbogo warned his rivals to prepare for a contest like no other in the race to succeed Joho.

Nassir and Shahbal are still locked in a row after ODM suspended primaries in Mombasa.



Mbogo, who is banking on a significant Kisauni vote, says his opponents are banking on ODM influence and have nothing to offer politically.

He says his development record speaks for itself and residents have every reason to elect him as their next governor.

"Our record speaks for itself; the residents of Kisauni have credited me for the development record, so I do not see any reason why a Mombasa resident would not go for development that we have been championing," said Mbogo.

Kisauni constituency is among the vote-rich sub-counties with over 120,000 registered voters.

Raila: Decentralise strategic fuel reserves

Former Premier says move would cushion country from petrol shortages in future

by George Kebaso
@Morarak

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga yesterday proposed the decentralisation of the petroleum strategic reserves from the Port of Mombasa to the rest of the country to cushion Kenyans in times of crises.

He said to put up strategic reserves in places that are not vulnerable to any interference is urgent so that the country is not taken by surprise.

"In future, there is a need for this country to address the issue of strategic reserves properly," he said in Nairobi when addressing petroleum industry stakeholders.

Raila spoke even as it emerged there is enough fuel stock to run the country for close to two months.

Data with Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) shows there are enough petroleum products in stock and in the high seas waiting to be offloaded, all totalling to around 780 million litres.

Raila called on the stakeholders to work out a comprehensive programme on how the country is going to deal with importation and distribution issues to cushion citizens from a crisis in future.

"This is an unavoidable situation," he said, pointing out that what's facing the country is an issue that needs to be dealt with properly even as stakeholders called on the government to put in place measures that give room for predictability of future shocks.

Raila said since the government doesn't have other sources of income apart from taxes, price instability for petroleum products will be experienced occasionally.

Practical solutions

"If the prices are much higher than the taxes it collects, whether it gets that additional fund to pay at the end of the day there will be price instabilities," he said and called for extensive national dialogue to come up with a practical solution to deal with



Azimio La Umoja presidential candidate Raila Odinga addresses petroleum stakeholders in Nairobi, yesterday. PD/GERALD ITHANA

STOCKS

● Kenya Pipeline Company says it's holding 200 million litres of Premium Motor Spirit, 160 million litres of diesel and 60 million litres of jet fuel.

● Two vessels have docked with an additional 120 million litres of jet fuel and another 120 million of super petrol to be offload in the next two days.

the issue.

"But above all, we have to cushion the consumer from the suffering which is going on at the moment," he added.

KPC Managing Director Macharia Irungu revealed that the company is holding 200 million litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), 160 million litres of diesel and 60 million litres of jet fuel, and 120 million litres of Super petrol in the high seas.

"The country has all the products it requires for the next one month and a half, but what's of concern is where we will take these products if this impasse is not resolved," he said revealing that another two vessels have docked with an additional 120 million litres of jet fuel and another 120 million of super petrol to be offload in the next two days.

National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) Chief Executive Officer Leparan Ole Morintat said the country should be agile enough to put in place a strategy to address the shocks related to such an emergency in future.

Reserves fund

He said NOCK is prepared to participate through a legal notice that incorporated 30 per cent of petroleum products requirements for the country.

This was done through a legal notice that was published for public participation in February.

He said Legal notice No.43 mandated NOCK to set up

and manage strategic petroleum reserves to last the country 90 days.

"If the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) published regulations

to operationalise the strategic petroleum reserves function by creation of a Petroleum Strategic Reserves Fund is approved we will be going to manage this," he said.

Morintat said the funds are expected to sustain the country for up to 90 days and will provide petroleum products to sustain the country for 90 days equivalent to an estimated six billion litres of products imported per year.

Input process

"Once the regulations are approved, it will enable NOCK to secure the country in terms of supply of unfranchised petroleum outlets and to replenish the 30 per cent import quota," he added, noting that the existing crisis requires a holistic approach in order to avoid it in future.

Wanjiku Manyara, the Director of Petroleum Institute East Africa, said the petroleum industry is overburdened by debts because it has to keep the consumer going and called for timely disbursement of funds.

"There is a need for a time-

line within which the oil marketing financial capability is kept available so that there is purchasing power of the product that's already within the KPC pipeline and distribution of the same across the country," she said, noting that there is sufficient fuel in the country.

She called on the prioritisation of the gazettelement of the governing regulations by hastening the formulation and stakeholder input process.

"In the interim of implementing the applicable regulations, a binding agreement with at the very least featuring the timelines for disbursement of the deferred margins along with the requisite formula should be drawn out and signed off by OMCs, National Treasury, MOPM and EPRA," she pointed out.

She said the industry has advocated for the development of a holistic National Tax Policy that will review and justify all the existing taxes including those in the petroleum sector so as to prevent arbitrary changes to the taxation system.

howlow.co.ke

f @ t v

TUKTUK

inaenda na 40Bob tu!

Anza biashara mpya na tuktuk kwa bei yako
ya chini Jumamosi hii 9PM!

BID KWA TUKTUK SASA!

TUMA 40Bob. Paybill 777892

Ac TUKTUK + BID e.g TUKTUK 173

-1-
DAY
TO GO!

HOW LOW

0111 005 111

FORM PLUPA/DC/3 (r.3/3)(k)

THE PHYSICAL AND LAND USE PLANNING ACT (No. 13 of 2019)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE

The registered owners of Plot No. Ruiru / Ruiru Kuu Block 5/628 off Thika Superhighway Road - Kimbo Estate, proposes to Change Use from Residential (OPDH) to Residential Multi-dwelling Use (Plats), subject to approval by County Government of Kiambu. Individuals, institutions, members of the public etc. with comments and/or objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

The County Executive Committee Member, County Government of Kiambu, P.O. Box 2362-00900, Kiambu.

Name of the Registered Planner: John Mwangi Maina Reg. No. PP0153

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CHANGE OF USER

The owner of Plot Loc.11/Maragi/10459 located in Murang'a Municipality, Kongoini area, proposes to change the use of the parcel from Agricultural to Multi-dwelling Residential use, subject to approval by Murang'a County Government. Individuals, institutions or organisations, etc., with comments/objections to the proposal are requested to forward them in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice to:

THE COUNTY SECRETARY, MURANG'A COUNTY GOVERNMENT, P.O. BOX 52-10200, MURANG'A.

Gallant Worldwide Auctioneers
(G.W. Auctioneers)
Property, Civil Law Enforcement and Commission Agents
Utalii House, Utalii Street, 2nd Floor, Rm 217B, Mobile: 0725-259379 / 0780-259379
P.O. Box 38805-0020, NAIROBI

PUBLIC AUCTION

Under instructions received from our principals, we shall sell by public auction the under mentioned goods on **SATURDAY 9th April, 2022 AT PANGANI AUCTION CENTRE, NAIROBI AT 11:00 AM**

RE: DISTRESS FOR RENT

LANDLORD -VS- PATRICK M. WAMBUA & ALISTERH KARIUKI

Ramtons Dispenser, 6 Office Seats, 1 Office Table, 1 Complete Computer, 4 Way Work Station, 1 Office Paper Stands, 1 Photocopier, 1 Staple Machine, 1 Sideboard, 7 Cartons of the Suction Tube, 12 Cartons of Feeding Tubes, 30 Pcs of Endotracheal Tubes, 10 Ltrs Surgical Spirit, 5 Pcs Applicator Slick Wooden, 18 Pkts Collection Tubes, Wooden Counter, 2 Coloured Office Seats, 4 Pkts of Injection Pot, 7 Pcs Medical Protection Clothes, 17 Pcs X Gauge Gel Plus, 13 Pkts Blood Bags, 10 Pkts of Rapidly Deep Slick Test, 4 Covers Glass Pkts, 5 Pkts Universal Specimen Containers, 3 Pkts Face Masks, 15 Pkts Surgical Crown, 4 Pkts Alcohol Pads, 1 Plump Syringe Single, 1 Infusion Pump, 2 Pkts Tussing Sterile, 11 Pcs Urine Bags, 10 Pkts Disposable Needles, 3 Pkts Umbilical Cord Clamp, 5 Pcs Cotton Wool, 2 Cartons Gauzel Airways, 5 Pcs Blood Pressure Monitor, 29 Pcs Wego Latex Foley Catheter.

CONDITION OF SALE: Strictly cash at the fall of the hammer.
ALL ARE WELCOME Mobile No: 0725-259379



Businesshub

Excessive debt is exposing the Shilling to instability since half of the money borrowed is US dollar denominated

Tough choices Yatani faces as he presents 2022 budget

Experts say CS must deal with a ballooning debt, escalating cost of living as he tries to balance the estimates

by Noel Wandera
@NoelWanderaH

Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani must deal with a ballooning debt and the escalating cost of living as he tries to balance this year's National Budget, experts have said.

They warn that having borrowed close to Sh8.5 trillion so far, the government is in an awkward position to balance its books of account.

Samuel Nyandemo, a senior economics lecturer at the University of Nairobi (UON) said the national budget will be read amid shrinking revenues and drought, which will lead to food insecurity. Prices are also expected to persistently go up, he said.

"At the end of it all, he (Yatani) will resort to hidden tax. He will tax the sin industry, soft drinks and also hit hard on Safaricom and other channels of communication," he said, adding that it will be difficult to balance it, on the back of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yatani will read the financial year 2022/23 budget statement in parliament this afternoon.

As of September 2021, the public debt stock amounted to Sh7.99 trillion, having risen by 19 per cent from June 2020. External debt takes a big chunk at 52 per cent, against domestic debt stock of 48 per cent.

It is expected to range between Sh8.6 trillion and Sh8.8 trillion by June 2022, and cross the Sh10 trillion mark by the end of 2024, the Parli-



Treasury CS Ukur Yatani set to read 2022/23 budget statement this afternoon. FILE

BALANCING THE BOOKS

● Experts warn that having borrowed close to Sh8.5 trillion so far, the government is in an awkward position to balance its books of account.

● The budget will be read amid shrinking revenues and drought, which will lead to food insecurity.

mentary Budget Office (PBO) said in its 2022 medium term debt management strategy report. According to the report without the amendment of the debt ceiling and adherence to the fiscal consolidation path, fiscal policy will be implemented under increasingly constrained fiscal environment and the desired outcomes may not be achieved.

Fiscal deficits

"Against a ceiling of Sh9 trillion, this illustrates insufficiency of fiscal space to finance the fiscal deficits for financial year 2022/23 (Sh846 billion) and the rest of the medium term," PBO notes. Ken Gichinga, the Chief Economist at Mentor Economics said excessive debt is exposing the shilling to instability, since half of the money borrowed is US dollar denominated.

"You can imagine that extra money Kenya has to pay is not budgeted.

This is enough reason to consider our debt strategy moving forward," he said.

According to PBO the fiscal deficit, which facilitates the accrual of public debt amounts to Sh846 billion in financial year 2022/23, and is estimated to decline to Sh675 billion by the end of the medium term.

While initially, the fiscal deficit was prompted by infrastructure related expenditures, the increase in debt servicing expenditures alongside critical expenditures including implementation of the economic recovery strategy and general elections are expected to play a greater role in the stickiness of the fiscal deficit over the medium term and determine the pace of debt stock growth.

Since 2013/2014 financial year, Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis says the annual net borrowing has increased by Sh685.7 billion.

INSURANCE



How unconnected events led to fall of Resolution Insurance

The story of Resolution Insurance depicts a company that reached dramatic heights only to face a dizzying fall, affecting thousands of people in the process.

At its peak, industry experts predicted a bounty decade for the insurer when in 2014, it raised new capital as part of its four-year strategy to move it to the top tier of the industry to compete with the likes of AAR Insurance and UAP Old Mutual Group regarded as "big cheese" in the market.

At the helm was Peter Nduati – who founded Resolution Insurance in 2002 as medical insurance provider – a man who in November 2014 guided the firm in securing a Sh1.67 billion (\$18.7 million) deal for a majority stake by LeapFrog Investments, through its holding company, Resolution Health East Africa Ltd.

LeapFrog Investments would then inject Sh1.1 billion new capital with the intention to support diversification strategy as a fully-fledged general insurance business. The financing was part of a Sh2.5 billion investment the firm was seeking for its expansion bid.

Emerging consumers

It was a decision the deal's crafters believed would propel the company as a key player in the East African Community (EAC) region, a market that was estimated to be worth over Sh180 billion (\$2 billion) at the time the transaction was met.

"There is a major opportunity to extend access to health and diversified insurance to millions of low-income emerging consumers across East Africa, leveraging Kenya's strategic position as a regional leader and gateway in," reads a 2014 statement by Leapfrog. Indeed, those steps would

pay off as Resolution Insurance announced a 21 per cent increase in its total income for the full year 2015, recording an increased gross written premiums from Sh2.5 billion in 2014 to Sh2.9 billion in 2015, attributing the growth to increases on SME and retail portfolios.

But that marriage would only last seven years when the two parted ways in 2021, paving the way for the UK-based Insurance firm, Linkham Group, which fully acquired 100 per cent interest held in Resolution Insurance by LeapFrog Investments for an undisclosed amount.

Green light

It was a deal the Competition Authority approved and given the green light by industry regulator, Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA).

The deal had experienced significant delays owing to macroeconomic challenges from the Coronavirus pandemic thereby exposing the company to heavy working capital restraints.

The firm had hoped to finalize on capital raising and take immediate measures to normalise operations, but the acquisition process of a majority stake in the firm hit the company's capital, as a number of hospitals shunned its health covers.

In March 2018 for instance, the High Court dismissed Resolution's application to challenge Sh1.5 million awarded to a HIV positive woman, after High Court judge Roslyn Aburili dismissed the case filed to fight the award given by the HIV and Aids Tribunal (HAT). Resolution also had a spat with the Embassy of Chile in Nairobi which recently wrote to the firm seeking a refund of services not rendered.

– Steve Umidha

I&M moves to deepen retail sector presence

Heral Aloo
@PeopleDailyKe

I&M Bank has partnered with Mastercard to rollout class credit and debit cards in yet another revenue-diversification strategy targeting the tech savvy and high-net individuals. The collaboration is set to solidify the bank's penetration in the retail sector through tech-based convenience and accessibility.

Kihara Maina, CEO of I&M Bank Ltd welcomed the collaboration, saying it aligns with the bank's business growth agenda, which looks to further penetrate the retail market segments through the provision of market driven solutions. "I&M Bank's corporate strategy follows an ambitious digitisation agenda and

leveraging partnerships. Our partnership with Mastercard is a key enabler towards growing our online payments business," he said.

The card categories, which will be rolled out in a phased manner, consists of the Mastercard World Elite, World Debit and Credit, Platinum debit, Corporate Standard, and Corporate World cards.

Travelling benefits

Cardholders, depending on the category, will enjoy a host of privileges including luxury air travelling benefits, access to global emergency services, and comprehensive travel insurance cover among others.

The cards' features are tailored around the clients' lifestyle among them spend-

ing patterns and travelling frequencies.

East Africa Mastercard Country Manager Shehryar Ali reiterated that the partnership will open a world of premium and exclusive offerings to cardholders.

"At the core of our product innovation and approach to partnerships is ensuring that cardholders can access unique advantages, lifestyle privileges and priceless travel benefits both at home and abroad. We are proud to further digitisation of the payment ecosystem through meaningful collaborations such as this," he said.

Clientele range include young professionals with average monthly income of Sh50,000-250,000, premium clients earning up to Sh1m monthly, and individuals pocketing over Sh1 million. monthly.

Aligning tax policies to enhance foreign and local investments

Taxation is the only means of raising revenue to finance government spending and therefore setting an efficient and fair fiscal policy framework that is geared towards integrating the country into the international economy.

Sufficient revenue from taxation cushions the excessive government borrowing that has escalated in Kenya over the last 10 years with some adverse economic effects.

Kenyan investors have found it difficult to gauge the government's fiscal policies to boost ordinary revenue from taxes against the intention to sustain tax rebates and incentives that attract the same investors. In most cases the government opts for the easier path that excites the citizenry by drafting and implementing



NAHASHON MATHENGE

The government should ensure certainty in tax policies by rolling out periodic plans.

tax policies with incentives instead of rational, modern and economically efficient tax policies - A tax delayed is a tax evaded.

On a separate note, the government should ensure certainty in tax policies by rolling out periodic plans, of say five years, in order for both local and foreign investors to leverage on the predictability and design-appropriate investment and business strategies for the periods.

The need for decentralising and

devolving investments should be highly prioritised. To encourage investment in the country, the application of capital expenditure allowances is key in promoting capital investments and securing their payback through profits. Tax policies should enhance this to 150 per cent to direct investments and development in rural areas.

In recent times we have witnessed tax measures that are not progressive in nature since they heavily collect

tax from well-established enterprises and rich individuals compared to those in the informal sector – renown for rampant tax evasion.

A case in point is the strict implementation of the Tax Procedures Act which was enacted to harmonise the tax practices under the different tax laws hence creating a standard level playing ground between taxpayers and the taxman.

In relation to exemptions and deductions tending to narrow the tax base and negate effective progressivity, the employment income tax structure in-country is perforated with thoughtful violations of the two basic principles of good tax policy: symmetry and inclusiveness. It goes without saying, that tax policy should also be guided by the general

principles of neutrality, equity, and simplicity. The symmetry principle refers to the identical treatment for tax purposes of gains and losses of any given source of income. If the gains are taxable, then the losses should be deductible.

The inclusivity principle relates to capturing an income stream in the tax net at some point along the path of that stream. For example, if a payment is exempt from tax for a payee, then it should not be a deductible expense for the payer. Violating these principles generally leads to distortions and inequities.

The writer is Tax Manager at PKF Kenya. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of PKF.

BRIEFLY



KCB Foundation gives Sh252m to scholarship plan

LEARNERS: KCB Foundation is calling for applications for the high school learners' programme for the class of 2022. This year the Foundation has scaled up the programme by putting in Sh252m to support 1,000 bright underprivileged learners from across the country up from 240 students from all 47 counties. In a statement, KCB Group Director, Marketing, Corporate Affairs and Citizenship Rosalind Gichuru (pictured) said the increase in the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has caused economic constraint to Kenyans hence the increase in capacity. She said the adverse impact of the pandemic has placed financial strain on households and widened the poverty gap, affecting access to education for many young Kenyans from marginalised areas.

"We have increased the scholarship capacity to ensure that more of these bright students have a chance to continue their education and change their future, hence supporting their transition from high school to institutions of higher learning," Gichuru said. The KCB Foundation scholarship is comprehensive, covering fees for all four years, catering for personal effects, learning materials, school uniforms, transport to and from school, term school-based mentorship sessions with a KCB staff and an annual group mentorship and networking with fellow scholars.

The 2022 class will form the fifteenth cohort of the scholar's programme, with 1,320 students currently in school, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 3,535 since its inception in 2007. – **Bernard Sigei**

Reprieve to farmers as State revises cheap fertiliser limit

Farmers across the country set to access up to 20 bags of subsidised fertiliser after the Ministry of Agriculture raised the cap from 10 bags

by Herald Aloo
@heraldaloo

It is another sigh of relief, especially for the large-scale farmers after the government increased the limit of subsidised fertilisers to 20 bags per farmer from 10 bags announced earlier.

Ministry of Agriculture had last Friday capped subsidised fertiliser to 10 bags per farmer, citing urgency to minimise possible stock-out occasioned by panic buying by large-scale farmers as planting season picks up.

The government injected 5.7 billion to subsidise fertiliser prices that had hit record high Sh6,000 per bag by last week, the highest since 2008. The money will be used to subsidise 111,000 tonnes of fertilisers for farmers growing food crops, estimated to cover about 1.13 million acres.

Crops production

"The government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives, sees the need to expand our fertiliser subsidies to farmers for their food crops production towards assured food security in the country," Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya said in a statement.

Under the subsidy, retail prices are now more than 50 per cent cheaper. Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), the commonly used planting fertiliser, will now retail at Sh2,800 per 50kg, down from 6,000kg.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (NPK) is set at Sh3,000 while Calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) will cost Sh1,950, down from Sh4,900 and Sh3,900, respectively. To ensure efficient delivery and control mechanism, the subsidised fertilisers will be available at the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) stores countrywide from today.

The government stopped provision of fertiliser subsidies through NCPB three years back and instead introduced an e-voucher programme that mainly targeted

small-scale farmers.

Fertiliser for maize farmers was excluded in the current supplementary budget while coffee and tea received Sh1 billion each, with sugar getting Sh1.5 billion.

The ministry attributed the global spikes in fertiliser prices to huge consumption by big economies like the United States which forced producing countries such as China, Russia and Turkey to protect their farmers by restricting export.

"This increased buying of fertiliser has also led to competition for shipping thus increasing the rates for bulk and container cargo to high levels," Munya noted. The Russia-Ukraine crisis has further dampened the global fertiliser industry.

In the last 12 months, fertiliser prices have risen to levels that has affected the agricultural sector which contribute 100 per cent food and nutrition security and about 40 per cent overall workforce.

Agriculture sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) has been on a



MUNYA

Increased buying of fertiliser has also led to competition.

contracting trend in the last three quarters of 2021 as the government slashed intervention programs amid pandemic.

Animal feed security

Reinstatement of the subsidy programme is also part of a raft of measures by the government meant to ensure both human food and animal feed security in the country.

There has been uproar that the high cost of farm input and restriction of yellow maize importation was triggering rife competition between animal feed and human food manufacturers over white maize that is already in short supply.

In late March, the ministry changed its GMO policy thus permitting animal feed manufacturers to import yellow maize with minimal GMO level in a bid to minimise human-animal food competition and tame surging costs of commodities used to raise farm animals.



Technical partnership engagement

Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (Kemsu) Acting CEO John Kabuchi (left) and Global Fund High Impact Africa II Department Head Linden Morrison after a meeting between the two organisations. Morrison led a high powered delegation of senior executives from Global Fund for a weeklong official working visit to Kenya with a commitment to continue extending technical support to accelerate ongoing reforms at the State-owned agency. PD/

ALICE MBURU

Dividends: Stanchart tops peers

New data shows local lenders are too mean on the sharing of profits compared to foreign banks

capital retention. No wonder the share price is the lowest on price to book and price to earnings metrics," said Sunil Sanger, the managing director at Orion Advisory Services Ltd.

However in nominal terms, Equity and KCB were the largest dividend payers in the industry. All banks declared dividends totalling to Sh42.7 billion for the year ended December 31, 2021 on the back of a 75 per cent jump to net profits.

The dividend payout by nine of listed Kenyan banks is 185 per cent higher than the short-handed Sh15 billion payout in 2020 when most lenders skipped the payout having taken a cash preservation stance.

Nominal terms

Equity Group has declared the highest dividend in nominal terms at Sh11.3 billion ahead of KCB Bank with Sh9.6 billion and Absa Bank Kenya at Sh6 billion.

Co-operative Bank paid dividends of Sh5.9 billion, NCBA Sh3.7 billion, Stanbic Holdings Sh2.9 billion, I&M Sh2.5 billion and DTB Sh838.8 million.

Only Housing Finance has skipped the annual dividends ritual in the period under review. The combined payout by the eight banks round off to a 33 per cent distribution of full-year earnings.

The increased earnings was largely due to a 16 per cent growth in net interest income and a 9 per cent jump in non-interest funded income which points to increased returns from lending and greater income from the digitisation of services for the banks.

by John Otini @PeopleDailyKe

Stanchart, Absa and Bank of Kigali have the most favourable dividend policy to their investors as foreign lenders lead the industry with the lowest capital retention, fresh industry data shows.

Data compiled by Mwango Capital, a financial research firm, shows that Stanchart paid out 81 per cent of their profits to shareholders as dividends while Absa paid out 55 per cent of their profits to shareholders.

The compares differently from the most profitable banks in the market such as Equity Bank and KCB Bank which paid out just 28 per cent of their profits to their investors.

Equity Bank and KCB which have the highest capital retention have in recent years been involved in aggressive expansion across the Eastern Africa regions and DRC.

Kasiva Mutisya, investment analyst at Standard Bank, said dividend payment of a company depends on the companies dividend policy.

Growth and expansion

"A high retention rate means they are using the funds for growth and expansion: by acquisition or organically and high payment ratio signals a mature company. Those banks are not expanding to other regions unlike KCB and Equity," he said.

DTB Kenya paid the lowest dividend ratio at 21 per cent and retained over 78 per cent of their earnings.

The data also shows that local banks were mean when it comes to sharing profits compared to foreign banks that were more generous.

Family Bank and Stanbic closed the list of above average dividend payments while Co-op Bank and I&M Bank were in the below average section. The average dividend payout for the large banks was 42 per cent.

"The bank with the lowest return on equity and the highest Capital Adequacy Ratio is DTB Kenya and has the lowest dividend payout and highest



PAYOUT RATIO

● Data compiled by Mwango Capital, a financial research firm, shows that Stanchart paid out 81 per cent of their profits to shareholders as dividends while Absa paid out 55 per cent of their profits to shareholders.

● This compares differently from the most profitable banks in the market such as Equity Bank and KCB Bank which paid out just 28 per cent of their profits to their investors.

NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

HIGH	LOW	SECTOR	VWAP	PREVIOUS	TOTAL
15.00	10.00	Eagapeds Ltd Ord 1.25	12.65	12.45	100
425.00	340.00	Kakuzi Ptd Ord 5.00		424.50	
101.00	80.00	Kapchorua Tea Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00		99.75	
350.00	240.00	The Limuru Tea Co. Ptd Ord 20.00	320.00	320.00	900
22.40	16.75	Sasini Ptd Ord 1.00	18.75	18.40	200
154.75	125.00	Williamson Tea Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00	135.00	135.00	100

AGRICULTURAL					
76.00	20.00	Car & General (K) Ltd Ord 5.00		82.00	

AUTOMOBILES & ACCESSORIES					
12.95	11.30	ABSA Bank Kenya Ptd Ord 0.50	12.25	12.30	80,000
30.00	26.50	BK Group Ptd Ord 0.80	30.00	30.00	1,154,300
40.00	54.25	Diamond Trust Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 4.00	55.50	57.00	10,300
53.00	49.00	Equity Group Holdings Ptd Ord 0.50	49.80	49.50	1,149,300
3.40	2.80	HF Group Ptd Ord 0.50	3.17	3.13	12,400
22.00	19.80	I&M Group Ptd Ord 1.00	20.15	20.25	63,200
44.80	43.00	Kellogg Group Ptd Ord 1.00	43.30	43.35	334,200
27.00	23.00	NCBA Group Ptd Ord 0.50	26.40	26.15	52,900
moo	95.00	Stanbic Holdings Ptd Ord 5.00		104.00	
145.00	130.75	Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Ltd Ord 5.00	143.50	143.75	12,100
14.00	12.50	The Co-operative Bank of Kenya Ltd Ord 1.00	12.80	12.80	76,900

BANKING					
5.10	0.45	Deacons (East Africa) Ptd Ord 2.50		0.45	
0.98	0.81	Eveready East Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	0.85	0.84	1,200
4.30	3.80	Express Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00 ara	3.95	4.00	200
0.00	0.00	Homology Entertainment Ptd Ord 0.50		4.48	
9.50	0.80	Kenya Airways Ltd Ord 1.00		3.83	
3.90	3.26	Langhorn Publishers Ptd Ord 1.00	3.38	3.38	100
5.10	4.20	Nairobi Business Ventures Ltd Ord 0.50	4.95	4.82	50,200
21.80	18.50	Nation Media Group Ptd Ord 2.50	20.10	20.10	8,800
2.70	2.18	Sameer Africa Ptd Ord 0.50	2.20	2.18	2,200
16.40	11.90	Standard Group Ptd Ord 0.50	12.10	13.10	800
13.00	11.40	TIPS Eastern Africa Ltd Ord 1.00	11.75	11.70	1,200
0.02	0.18	Uchumi Supermarket Ptd Ord 0.50	0.18	0.20	50,900
4.37	3.75	WPP Scangroup Ptd Ord 1.00	4.01	4.00	70,800

COMMERCIAL AND SERVICES					
8.35	2.40	ARM Cement Ptd Ord 1.00		5.55	
37.50	34.05	Bamburi Cement Ltd Ord 5.00	35.45	36.00	4,800
39.55	34.00	Crown Paints Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00		36.00	
1.21	0.96	E.A. Cables Ltd Ord 0.50	1.06	1.05	7,900
7.10	6.30	E.A. Portland Cement Co. Ltd Ord 5.00		6.90	
4.00	3.49	KenGen Co. Ptd Ord 2.50	3.40	3.59	475,100
1.70	1.30	Kenya Power & Lighting Co Ptd Ord 2.50	1.52	1.50	767,800
5.00	4.10	Kenya Power & Lighting Ptd Ord 4% Pref 20.00		4.11	
6.00	6.00	Kenya Power & Lighting Ptd Ord 7% Pref 20.00		6.00	
25.00	23.00	TotalEnergies Marketing Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00	23.55	24.00	2,300
7.50	5.50	Umeme Ltd Ord 0.50	7.34	7.00	10,800

ENERGY & PETROLEUM					
7.10	6.40	Britam Holdings Ptd Ord 0.10	6.84	6.70	3,800
2.30	1.90	OCIC Insurance Group Ltd Ord 1.00	2.00	2.13	35,100
280.00	240.00	Jubilee Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	241.00	232.75	1,400
2.30	2.15	Kenya Re Insurance Corporation Ltd Ord 2.50	2.20	2.18	42,400
7.18	5.64	Liberty Kenya Holdings Ltd Ord 1.00	6.14	6.12	2,000
13.55	11.00	Salam Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00		11.20	

INSURANCE					
14.40	11.70	Centum Investment Co Ptd Ord 0.50	12.20	12.20	20,200
0.39	0.33	Home Afrika Ltd Ord 1.00 ara	0.35	0.35	33,600
1,500.00	1,500.00	Kurwilo Ventures Ltd Ord 100.00 ara	2.10	1,500.00	
2.25	1.90	Olympic Capital Holdings Ltd Ord 5.00	2.10	2.10	100
1.28	1.00	Trans-Century Ptd Ord 0.50 ara	1.19	1.17	4,500

INVESTMENT					
8.10	6.90	Nairobi Securities Exchange Ptd Ord 4.00	7.84	7.80	92,700

INVESTMENT SERVICES					
98.00	61.25	B.O.C Kenya Ptd Ord 5.00		80.00	
510.00	420.00	British American Tobacco Kenya Ptd Ord 10.00		491.25	
13.20	10.00	Caribac Investments Ptd Ord 1.00	10.95	11.35	58,300
194.00	145.00	East African Breweries Ptd Ord 2.00	151.25	150.75	700
1.45	1.10	Flame Tree Group Holdings Ltd Ord 0.825		1.29	
14.00	10.40	Kenya Orchards Ltd Ord 5.00 0.0		10.40	
0.70	0.25	Mumias Sugar Co. Ltd Ord 2.00		0.27	
36.40	26.10	Unga Group Ltd Ord 5.00		28.35	

MANUFACTURING & ALLIED					
45.25	33.50	Safaricom PLC Ptd Ord 0.05	35.10	35.45	2,546,600

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST					
7.48	5.80	ILAM FAHARI I-REIT Ord 20.00	6.54	6.02	6,800

EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS					
2075.00	1780.00	ABSA New Gold ETF	20971	2035.00	

NSE ALL SHARE INDEX: DOWN 0.88 points to close at 157.73
 NSE 20-SHARE INDEX: UP 1.51 points to close at 1857.44
 NSE 25-SHARE INDEX: DOWN 11.88 points to close at 3578.85

MARKET WATCH

TREASURY BONDS ISSUE

Central Bank of Kenya
 RESULTS OF 91, 182 & 364 DAYS TREASURY BILLS ISSUE 24/09/21, 24/12/21 & 2/12/21 DATED 28/11/2021
 The auction outcome is summarised in the table below:

	91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS	TOTAL
Due Date	28/02/2022	30/05/2022	28/11/2022	
Amount Offered (Kshs. M)	4,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	24,000.00
Bids Received (Kshs. M)	3,936.66	2,230.43	9,634.51	15,801.61
Performance Ratio (%)	98.42	22.29	96.33	
Total Amount Accepted (Kshs. M)	3,936.28	2,230.19	6,547.11	12,713.59
Of which: Competitive bids	3,514.25	2,271.29	6,003.11	11,788.66
- Non-competitive bids	422.04	246.90	544.00	1,212.93
Bid-to-Cover Ratio	1.00	1.00	1.38	1.19
Parcels / Applications of Funds	1,779.40	4,586.90	4,285.40	10,651.70
Returned / Rejected	2,166.38	2,066.71	2,261.71	
New Borrowing/Net Repayment	2,156.38	2,066.71	2,261.71	
Market Weighted Average Interest Rate	7.182%	7.844%	8.972%	
Weighted Average Interest Rate of accepted bids	7.181%	7.114	8.944%	
Price per Kshs. 100 at average interest rate	98.241	96.240	91.811	

COMPARATIVE AVERAGE INTEREST RATES OF ACCEPTED BIDS

	The Auction (%)	Last Auction (%)	Variance
91-day	7.181	7.114	0.067
182-day	7.835	7.747	0.088
364-day	8.944	8.848	0.096

NEXT TREASURY BILLS AUCTIONS: ISSUE NO. 24/09/21, 24/12/21 & 2/12/21 DATED 06/12/2021

TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS	TOTAL
Offer amount (Kshs. M)	4,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	24,000.00
Auction Dates & Bids Closure	02/12/2021	02/12/2021	02/12/2021	
Results Announcement	03/12/2021	03/12/2021	03/12/2021	
Redemption				19,391.62
New Borrowing/Net Repayment				4,608.38

CBK KEY RATES

Central Bank Rate	7.00%	29/03/2022
Inter-Bank Rate	4.79%	06/04/2022
CBK Discount Window	13.00%	29/03/2022
91-Day T-Bill	7.302%	04/04/2022
REPO	0.00%	23/03/2022
Inflation Rate	5.56%	March, 2022
Lending Rate	12.17%	February, 2022
Savings Rate	2.56%	February, 2022
Deposit Rate	6.61%	February, 2022
KBRR	8.9%	27/07/2016

KEY CBK INDICATIVE EXCHANGE RATES 6/4/2022

CURRENCY	MEAN	BUY	SELL
US DOLLAR	115.1206	115.0206	115.2206
SW KRONER	12.2955	12.2831	12.3079
STG POUND	151.1550	151.0000	151.3100
SINGAPORE DOLLAR	84.9379	84.8360	85.0399
SAUDI RIYAL	30.6882	30.6607	30.7157
SA RAND	7.9206	7.9123	7.9290
S FRANC	124.4749	124.3600	124.5897
NOR KRONER	13.2495	13.2363	13.2626
KES / USHS	30.8000	30.7298	30.8702
KES / TSHS	20.1702	20.1093	20.2312
KES / RWF	8.8365	8.7550	8.9181
KES / BIF	17.5498	17.3999	17.6997
JPY (100)	93.7273	93.6345	93.8202
IND RUPEE	1.5289	1.5270	1.5307
HONGKONG DOLLAR	14.6954	14.6826	14.7081
EURO	126.4574	126.3306	126.5841
DAN KRONER	16.9646	16.9487	16.9804
CHINESE YUAN	18.0919	18.0745	18.1093
CAN \$	92.7233	92.6166	92.8300
AUSTRALIAN \$	87.9349	87.8527	88.0170
AE DIRHAM	31.3420	31.3109	31.3730

Twitter confirms it is working on an edit button

Twitter has confirmed that it is working on an edit button that would allow users to change tweets after they have been posted.

It comes after new board member, Tesla boss Elon Musk, asked his followers in a Twitter poll whether they wanted the feature. Many users have long called for an edit button but there are concerns about how to execute it. Twitter said it would start testing the idea in the coming months.

The social media firm's communications team tweeted: "Now that everyone is asking... yes, we've been working

on an edit feature since last year! "No, we didn't get the idea from a poll," it added.

"We're kicking off testing within @TwitterBlue Labs in the coming months to learn what works, what doesn't, and what's possible." Users of Twitter Blue, the platform's

subscription service, get early access to features it is testing. Under an edit function users could be able to fix typos or errors in a tweet without losing any replies, retweets or likes it has already gained.

Consumer product

Jay Sullivan, the company's vice president of consumer product, said it had been "the most requested Twitter feature for many years" in a thread on Tuesday. However, he said the company was exploring how to build the feature "in a safe manner." "Without things

like time limits, controls, and transparency about what has been edited, Edit could be misused to alter the record of the public conversation," he said. "Protecting the integrity of that public conversation is our top priority when we approach this work."

During a talk in 2018, former Twitter boss Jack Dorsey said the firm would "probably never" add the feature amid concerns about transparency. But rival social media platforms Facebook and Instagram already allow users to edit their posts, and Twitter's new boss Parag Agrawal appears open to the idea. -BBC

We're kicking off testing within @TwitterBlue Labs in the coming months.

World News

ALI ABD-AL-RAHMAN

I am innocent of all of these charges," the accused told judges on Tuesday after the charges were read out

Alleged militia leader on trial at ICC's first Darfur row case

Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman's case is the first before the Hague-based court for crimes in Darfur in 2003

Hague, Wednesday

A man accused of leading Sudan's feared government-linked militia known as "Janjaweed" pleaded not guilty to dozens of war crimes charges at the start of the International Criminal Court's first trial over the Darfur conflict.

Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman is charged with overseeing thousands of pro-government militiamen during the peak of fighting from 2003 to 2004 and responsibility for atrocities including murder, rape, pillaging and torture.

"I am innocent of all of these charges," the accused told judges on Tuesday after the charges were read out at the start of his case.

His trial is the first before the Hague-based ICC for crimes in Darfur, in which 300,000 people were killed and two and a half million fled their homes, according to UN figures.

Wearing a dark blue suit, light blue shirt and a maroon tie, Abd-Al-Rahman, 72, sat motionless as the 31 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity allegedly committed in 2003-04 were read.

Abd-Al-Rahman voluntarily surrendered to The Hague-based court in June 2020.

He has regularly denied the charges and his lawyers have argued in earlier stages of the proceedings he was not the militia leader also known as Ali Kushayb.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said the trial was a momentous day for those in Sudan who have been waiting for justice for nearly two decades.

Khan told judges they would hear many chilling accounts of "bestiality" violence by Abd-Al-Rahman himself during the trial that is expected to last many months.

"There's so many examples of abuse, not just using his ax, not just killing people or



Handout photo obtained from the ICC shows former senior commander of the Sudanese Janjaweed militia Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, during a confirmation hearing over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. AFP

DARFUR TRIAL

● Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman is charged with overseeing thousands of pro-government militiamen during the peak of fighting from 2003 to 2004 and responsibility for atrocities including murder, rape, pillaging and torture.

● Former President Omar al-Bashir and three others are still being sought by the ICC for crimes in Darfur. Following his removal in 2019, al-Bashir remains in Sudan despite calls for him and two other associates to be handed over to the ICC for prosecution.

ordering the execution of children or men, allowing rapes, and participating in all of the allegations that are charged and are before you," he said.

'A strong case'

The trial comes amid what humanitarian groups say is a surge of inter-communal violence in Darfur since the end of the United Nations and African Union peace-keeping mission there. At least 45 people were killed last week in the latest bout of fighting between Arab and non-Arab tribes in South Darfur. Decades after the worst of the fighting, 1.6 million people are still internally displaced in Darfur, the United Nations has estimated.

Darfur's conflict first erupted when mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms against Sudan's government, accusing it of marginalising the remote western territory.

Sudan's then-government mobilised mostly Arab militias - which called themselves "Popular Defence Forces", but were known to the rebels as the "Janjaweed" - to crush the revolt, unleashing a wave of violence.

Abd-Al-Rahman has been accused of 31 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity and could face up to life imprisonment if convicted.

Prosecutors have said he was a key militia leader that the government of Sudan relied upon and who participated knowingly and willingly in crimes.

They dismissed earlier statements by Abd-Al-Rahman that he is not Ali Kushayb. "Witness after witness saw him, heard him, recognised him. Witness after witness knew Abd-Al-Rahman from before. This is - the prosecution says - a strong case," Khan said.

Still languishing in refugee camps today, victims of the Darfur conflict said they were relieved that justice was finally being done.

But Adam Musa, speaking from the sprawling Kalma refugee camp in Darfur, said he was "surprised to hear that Kushayb denied the charges of killing our people".

"I have seen him take away men from our village and none of them came back," Musa said.

Former President Omar al-Bashir and three others are still being sought by the ICC for crimes in Darfur. Following his removal in 2019, al-Bashir remains in Sudan despite calls for him and two other associates to be handed over to the ICC for prosecution. Asked about efforts to get al-Bashir to The Hague to stand trial, Khan said negotiations with Khartoum's military government continued, but "cooperation is challenging". - AFP and Xinhua

BRIEFLY

Zelensky visits site of alleged atrocities

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday visited the town of Bucha outside Kiev, where hundreds of murdered civilians were allegedly found after Russian forces withdrew, the Ukrinform news agency reported. "It is very important for us that the press is here, the journalists - this is the most important thing. We really want you to show the world what was happening here, what the Russian forces were doing, what the Russian Federation was doing in peaceful Ukraine," Zelensky told reporters at the site. At least 280 people, including children, were found dead in Bucha, some 28km northwest of Kiev after the Ukrainian army retook control of the town from the Russian military. - Xinhua



Court again stalls Khan prorogue case

Pakistan's Supreme Court has again delayed its ruling on the legality of Prime Minister Imran Khan's move to dissolve parliament and call for fresh elections. A five-judge bench of Pakistan's top court is hearing multiple petitions challenging Khan's dissolution of parliament after parliament's deputy speaker dismissed a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition, calling it a foreign conspiracy. During Wednesday's proceedings in the top court, advocate Ali Zafar, who was representing President Arif Alvi, questioned the court's jurisdiction behind taking up the opposition's case. Meanwhile, there is uncertainty over whether a crucial session of the Punjab assembly to elect a new chief minister will go ahead. - AFP

Rajapaksa defies calls for his exit

Sri Lanka's beleaguered president will not be resigning, his government's whip has told parliament. The declaration defies calls from the public and political opponents for Gotabaya Rajapaksa to step down amid the country's economic crisis. Public anger has prompted nearly all cabinet ministers to quit, and scores of MPs to leave government. Opposition MPs have also rejected his bid to form a national unity government, saying voters want the entire government to quit. Yesterday, chief government whip Johnston Fernando told lawmakers: "As a responsible Government, we state President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will not resign from his post under any circumstances." - BBC

International community unites to aid Hargeisa fire victims

Nairobi, Wednesday

The Somaliland community in Kenya reacted to calls from the government and the business community in Hargeisa to mobilise funds to help rebuild the expansive Waheen market in the capital Hargeisa razed to the ground in the weekend with an estimated cost of over US\$2 billion lost in the inferno.

Kenya hosts a huge number of Somaliland communities some of whom have also been affected by the losses in the market that serves

the Horn of Africa and beyond.

The Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed in a statement Kenya shares a common heritage and strong bonds of friendship with Somaliland.

"It is with deep regret that we have learnt of the tragic accident that occurred in Waheen market in Hargeisa. The Government and the people of Kenya stand in solidarity with the people of Somaliland and extend sympathies to the victims and families of the injured," the ministry said in a statement.

In Hargeisa, the business community has already contributed substantial funds towards reconstruction efforts of the market, considered one of the largest and busiest in the Horn of Africa.

It came on the eve of the Holy month of Ramadan, a period when traders import huge quantities of food and other goods, all of which were lost in the inferno.

It is feared that from the tragedy, the city and its environs will face a severe shortage of food and other commodities which was already be-

ing felt due to the war in Ukraine.

Key leaders who have shown sympathy with Somaliland include British Prime Minister Boris Johnson who said his government will assist in the rebuilding process and called on those with goodwill to help.

"It is our hope that the international community will take cue from the British Prime minister's appeal and help in the reconstruction effort," said Dahabshiil CEO Abdirashid Duale who is leading the mobilization of the business community to raise funds. - Agencies

Clique & Clicks ▶ Get Spotted

BUSINESS AND TRADE



PBCK chairman Joao Ramos with Portugal Ambassador to Kenya Luisa Fragoso.

by John Ochieng

The Portuguese Business Council Kenya (PBCK) recently held a networking event at the Goan Gymkhana in Nairobi. Dubbed 'Membership Drive and Networking', the council members were equipped with information on how they can expound their investment options. Established in May 2019, PBCK is a non-profit, business association of companies and individuals from Portugal and Kenya, whose aim is to promote and facilitate bilateral trade, investment and business development between the two nations. Present at the event were Portugal Ambassador to Kenya Luisa Fragoso, PBCK chairman Joao Ramos, European Business Council Kenya chairman Darren Gilan, and British Chambers of Commerce Kenya CEO Farida Abbas.

PD/JOHN OCHIENG



European Business Council Kenya chairman Darren Gilan with British Chambers of Commerce Kenya CEO Farida Abbas.



Cereal Millers Association CEO Paloma Fernandes with her hubby Engage BCW executive director Ian Fernandes.



Helena Ballester and BonThomas Auk.



PBCK founding member Elmer Noronha.

Cheers to the new

by Elly Gitau

Travel management company Express Travel Group has rebranded to Hemingways Travel. On Friday, it hosted an elegant cocktail party for its clients, partners and stakeholders to celebrate the move. Hemingways Group CEO Ross Evans said the rebrand and related investment is in response to emerging opportunities for growth and the need to enhance the travellers' experience at a time when travel is experiencing unprecedented disruption and changes in needs. Also present were Hemingways Travel MD Joseph Kithitu, KLM Airlines country sales manager Hildabeta Amiani, and Ethiopian Airlines area manager Tigist Terefe.

PD/ALEX MBURU



Let's make a toast: Hemingways Group CEO Ross Evans, KLM Airlines country sales manager Hildabeta Amiani, Hemingways Travel MD Joseph Kithitu, Ethiopian Airlines area manager Tigist Terefe and Safarilink Aviation CEO Alex Avedi.



Irene Levi with Lenny Berg .



Ruth Wairagu with Catherine Mwangi.



Barbara Njenga with Terry Mathenge.



Rhoda Mwebesa with her spouse Nkoregamba Mwebesa.



Raffle ticket winner Vane Kerubo with Hemingways Nairobi GM Richard Kimenyi.

Ten... Things you didn't know about alopecia

What stood out for many people during this year's Oscars awards was American Chris Rock being slapped by Will Smith. Rock had taken a swipe at Jada Smith's baldness. Whether he knew about Jada's hair loss condition or not is still a question yet to be answered. But **Malemba Mkongo** compiles some facts on the condition that is estimated to affect close to 56 million people across the world



1. It is an autoimmune disease

Current evidence suggests that alopecia areata is caused by an abnormality in the immune system that damages hair follicles. This particular abnormality leads to autoimmunity, a misguided immune system that tends to attack its own body. As a result, the immune system attacks particular tissues of the body. In alopecia areata, for unknown reasons, the body's own immune system attacks the hair follicles and disrupts normal hair formation. Biopsies of affected skin show immune lymphocytes penetrating into the hair bulb of the hair follicles.

2. It is genetic

While scientists are unsure why the white blood cells attack hair follicles, it seems that genetics are involved as studies show one in five people with the disease has a family member who has also developed alopecia areata. However, traction alopecia — hair loss that's caused by repeatedly pulling on your hair— can affect people in certain professions, such as ballerinas, who wear their hair up in buns all the time. The pressure and friction from sports headgear, such as helmets or baseball caps, can also cause hair loss. And in areas where it is common for people to pull their hair back tight on a regular basis, there are higher rates of traction alopecia.

3. It occurs at any age

The condition can affect anyone regardless of age and gender, though most cases occur before the age of 30. It tends to appear during childhood, but it could surface at any age. It can also disappear for decades—it's common to have it as a child, then you grow hair only for the condition to reappear 20 years later.

4. Hair loss is the most common symptom

The most common sign of alopecia is patchy loss hair with small size of hair falling out, especially on the scalp, although any site with hair such as beard and eye lashes might be affected. The loss of hair can be sudden, developing in just a few days or over a period of a few weeks. There may be itching or burning in the area before hair loss. The hair follicles are not destroyed and so hair can re-grow if the inflammation of the follicles is treated urgently. People

For many people, especially women, their hair is their crown and loss of it might result to stress and depression due to the societal perceptions

who experience just a few patches of hair loss often have a spontaneous, full recovery without any form of treatment. However, it should be distinguished from hair shedding that may occur following the discontinuation of hormonal oestrogen and progesterone therapies for birth control or the hair shedding associated with the end of pregnancy.

5. Treatment varies

There is currently no cure for alopecia areata, although there are some forms of treatment that can be suggested by doctors to help hair re-grow more quickly. The most common form of alopecia areata treatment is the use of corticosteroids, powerful anti-inflammatory drugs that can suppress the immune system. These are commonly administered through local injections, topical ointment application, or orally. When it is caused by traction or discoid lupus, urgent treatment of the inflammation on the scalp is required or might result to permanent hair loss. The longer the period of time of hair loss and the larger the area involved, the less likely the hair will re-grow spontaneously.

6. Home remedies not supported by research

As conventional treatments for alopecia are extremely limited, studies that support natural treatments for alopecia are even thinner on the ground. Some people recommend rubbing onion or garlic juice, cooled green tea, almond oil, rosemary oil, honey, or coconut milk into the scalp. While none of these are likely to cause harm, their effectiveness is also not supported by research. Some people turn to alternative treatment methods such as acupuncture and aromatherapy, although there is little, if any, evidence to support these treatments.

7. Possible prevention

Preliminary researches have shown that a natural occurring bioflavonoid, which is found in fruits and vegetables might prevent development of alopecia in human beings and also treat the existing hair loss. However, further researches are being conducted including human trials before it is considered as treatment.

8. It is a traumatic condition

Even though the condition does

not directly make one sick nor is it contagious, it can cause one an emotional turmoil as it difficult to adopt and cope up with the situation. For many people, especially women, their hair is their crown and loss of it might result to stress and depression due to the societal perceptions and slow acceptability of women with baldness.

9. Intertwining conditions

If you have one autoimmune disease, you're at greater risk for others. The pathways of your immune system are all interconnected and set off by inflammation. Therefore, alopecia areata is occasionally associated with other autoimmune conditions such as thyroid disease, vitiligo, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and ulcerative colitis.

10. Stress is a major trigger

Stress is like fuel for inflammation. So, if you suffer from alopecia areata—or any other autoimmune disease—stress can launch or heighten your hair loss. For this reason, exercise, meditation, and other stress-relief therapies can calm or prevent hair loss due to alopecia areata.



American Actress Jada Smith has been open about her experience with hair loss due to alopecia. COURTESY

Travel Wise ▶ Get set... go!

Tourism hotspots struggle to survive as Ukraine war holds

Having caused chaos in the energy and food markets, with widespread inflation globally, the conflict has added pressure to an already struggling sector, and the extent of the damage is expected to be felt in the upcoming Easter holiday

by Peter Leshan

@PeopleDailyKE

As the tourism industry is slowly regaining its momentum after the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that resulted in loss of lives and jobs, another threat is worrying the industry. A prolonged Russian invasion of Ukraine is not only impacting the politics and trade issues in the world, but also an economic ripple effect is being felt in the country's travel sector.

"If the war continues, its going to be another pandemic since Russia produces a lot of oil, which it sells to Europe and is also a big player in the oil market in the world. We all know the effects of fuel increase or lack of fuel, which is, increase in prices of everything including food. The moment you hit people's pockets, the first thing that suffers is tourism, because people see travel as leisure," explains Geoffrey Mukolwe General Manager Baobab Beach Resort. "Also in a few months, we will be having the general elections, with the campaigns gaining momentum every day. There is a worry that in the next 120 days will be tough for us," he adds.

Hike in fuel prices

Geoffrey adds that airlines too have increased their air fare, because of fuel hikes.

"The moment fares increase, less people fly. A lot of the business in our hotels comes in through air transport. The Diani Airport, for example, is the fastest growing local airport because of the destination. It is a very worrying time for us," he says.

"The issue is, unlike other commodities or services, we are the only industry that can't increase rates, because we will lose business. We are taking the hit because we are paying more for goods and services that we have to pay for and yet we can't pass on the increase to the customer," he adds.

James Njoroge, the national chairman of Tour Guides and Drivers Association says that apart from the Ukraine crisis, hike in fuel prices, including Jet A fuel, has increased the cost of travel, adding that it will affect arrivals, mostly of international visitors in the middle class and locals who are finding the cost of living unbearable.

Geoffrey has already felt the effect of the war since all their suppliers have informed them of an increase in prices of everything. Already, some eateries in Nairobi have informed their clients of the removal of some items from their menus. "The price of cooking oil has increased marginally. This means all food items in the menu must increase to cater for the hike," observes John Musau, the general manager of Tamarind Tree Hotel.

"The price of Salmon, for example, has doubled in price. This has meant that we have to increase the selling price too. Ideally we have not removed items from the menu, but instead increased their prices," he adds,



John Musau



Alex Serkov



Geoffrey Mukolwe



Bharat Mehra



Tourism Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala receives tourists on board Bulgarian charter in Mombasa in January. PD/HARRIET JAMES

which he says is unfortunate, because the number of people seeking to eat at restaurants will reduce.

Apart from the increase in the price of food, hotels and tour agents are also recording cancellations. "We are receiving a lot of tourist cancellations not only from the two countries, but from majority of western countries who are not sure if the war will cross borders. A lot of tourists are scared of being trapped in foreign countries, so they are postponing travel. This comes at a time when we were just beginning to heal from the effects of Corona virus pandemic. For tourism to thrive in any destination, there needs to be a peaceful environment," continues Musau.

Ukraine trip

Geoffrey observes that from July last year, the industry began to slowly witness things getting back to normal with the eastern Europe countries, such as Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria opting to travel to the country. In 2020, he was part of a road show that travelled to Ukraine to market Diani in the country. "We spent 10 days in cities, which are being attacked now, such Kyiv and Lviv, and we had talks travel agents and they brought a lot of business to. We were reliant on that Eastern European market. There was a charter coming in direct from Kyiv to Mombasa, which stopped in February 2022 when the Russians attacked Ukraine," he notes.

Coastal counties that have grown used to receive charter flights every week with each charter carrying about 250 guests.

Despite Russia charters being completely closed and no travellers streaming in from Ukraine, Bharat Mehra, Resident Manager, Neptune beach hotels shares that he is optimistic business will get back to normal in the next few months. "From March we were expecting about 50 room bookings from Ukraine, but of course things changed in February. And around February 21, we had

to send the guests back, in partnership with the Ukrainian Embassy in Mombasa. Nobody was expecting this to happen. But we understand that it's not about us. It has impacted all the other hotels. We are hoping in three months time, by July or August business will pick up pace again. It will take time, that's for sure," he says.

Alex Serkov, Ukrainian Consulate in Mombasa, Alex Serkov intimates that the war has affected the tourism business not just in Mombasa, but across the world, and will take some time to recover. "We started sending back the Ukrainian tourists from the February 21, when the war started, so far only two families are remaining in Kenya, because they chose to. The Russian market so far remains closed; they are not allowed to travel to any country. At the same time, the Ukrainians who have been received in other countries will need jobs to sustain them there, so naturally people will want to spend even less on travel. We only hope that it ends soon, so in the next three to four months, we can start receiving visitors again," shares Alex.

While Mombasa, Nyali and Diani might have been most affected by visitations from Ukraine, Freddie Del Curatolo, spokesperson of the Italian Community in Kenya, shares that Malindi also has received a fair share of the hit.

"The most affected destinations at the coast remain Mombasa, Nyali and Diani because they receive charter flights every week. Malindi used to bring in travellers from Russia and we are definitely missing those. On the other hand, before the war, there were some Russian investors who wanted to invest in the hotel industry in Malindi in partnership with some Italian hotel owners, but now this has stopped," he says.

In other places, such as say Italy, there is a lot of fear of travelling to Kenya. Even the ones who had made bookings from Italy and France are now cancelling as they are afraid of the economical consequences. There

were very minimal bookings from either Ukraine or Russia so from the two countries no cancellations," says Freddie.

With the rise of flight fuel, he adds that most tourists are afraid the crisis will increase even in Kenya. So unfortunately, this Easter will not hold the best tidings it should have brought.

Refund cash

In Masai Mara Game Reserve, some 685 tourists from Ukraine who had booked to stay in three tented camps, between mid February and April cancelled the visit because of the invasion while 140 others left before their scheduled stay ended in early March.

Most of them, hoteliers say, were from Mauoi, now the epicentre of the war between Russian and Ukrainian forces and Kyiv, the capital city.

They say most were leaving Kenya for Poland and Sweden where they have relatives and friends to avoid being caught in the war, adding that tour companies, which had brought them were forced to refund money they had paid upfront.

Other tourists from Ukraine who were booked in various hotels at the coast, also left three weeks ago. "They left shortly after arriving and shortly after the invasion. Those who had planned to visit between February and April will not come," says Ben Kipeno whose camp along the Siria Escarpment outside the Mara Triangle was among those that hosted the visitors.

He says that now that it is low season in Mara and the coast, hoteliers had banked on arrivals from Ukraine and Russia to keep businesses afloat. "Most were planning to escape the biting winter, but the war stopped them from either leaving or continuing to stay outside their country. It was sad and frustrating seeing them leave. Apprehension about the war was written all over the faces of those who were leaving," says Kipeno.

Patrick Wanjohi, the general manager of Into Africa Eco Travel Limited agrees with Kipeno saying even those his company booked in Tanzania, Botswana and South Africa left ahead of their time. "It will now take years before tourists from Ukraine venture out of their country. It was a fast emerging market," he says, he says in conclusion.

Additional reporting by Harriet James and Jasmine Atieno

MEET&GREET
WITH NAILANTEI NORARI

Allan Otieno-CEO, Japolo Holiday Homes

How did your journey in the comedy industry begin?

My journey began back in primary school and high school. I would always make my friends laugh and I was your go-to Master of Ceremony (MC) for our school events and the infamous funkies. Joining college, I perfected my craft and at some point, I had to drop out to do informal jobs to pay my school fees. I also maximised on minor gigs to make ends meet. I am glad that now I have been able to Mcee in big events, such as the Luo Festival.

When and how did you venture into the travel business?

Japolo Homes was basically born during the pandemic period. Yes the pandemic really affected my life, but it was also a double edged sword. On one end, I lost planned gigs and events on the other, I was able to explore alternative sources of income to make ends meet hence the birth of Japolo Holiday Homes Limited in Homabay, Mombasa and Nairobi.

Starting a new business during the pandemic... must be such a ride!

Yes. Things started off well, but so far, the business is not fairing well, because the pandemic has really messed up the economy. Most of our clients are from abroad, and so they are unable to travel, meaning we have only been depending on local tourists. We are hoping things will be better this year. Probably mid-year.

Has the Russian war also contributed to stalling your business further?

Yes, the conflict has really messed up with the tourism and hospitality sector since there is high tension from the international tourists from the affected regions, actually we are now depending on local tourists. I have also been depending on my beauty products business, Japolo Beauty Products, but that too has been affected, especially for those of us who depend on the directly imported commodities from Europe. We have had inadequate supplies with high taxation and increase in purchasing prices.

Any future plans?

We plan to innovate to capture a higher market percentage by placing our products as high end and effective in meeting clients' needs. I plan to include luxury items and surprises for my guests so as to be different.



FORK AND LIFE



MAIN: Burgers soo green!
BELOW LEFT: **Green smoothie anyone?**
BELOW RIGHT: **A burger and a side of fries for Burger Wednesdays.**
PD/FAITH KYOUMUKAMA

Green burgers for a day

Celebrating an important occasion with great food has always been a good idea, and making 'Shrek burgers' seemed to be the go-to move for this restaurant's kitchen creatives on St Patrick's Day

by Faith Kyoumukama
@martkinel

I'm green, but not with envy. I can explain. It's Thursday afternoon at the Nabo Bistro restaurant in Lavington on St Patrick's Day. I'm sure you are in the know what this day is all about and why those who celebrate it don't everything green, don't you? Well, for those who don't know, St Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland. On this day, the Irish People wear green as an expression of pride. The link between green and Irish pride originated in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. As the Irish rebelled against the British soldiers, who wore red, they wore green uniforms.

Refreshing ambience

Now that you have gotten the context, at this restaurant known for its French cuisine, it was a green affair from the dress code to the menu on this day.

I arrived at 4PM and the ambience was refreshing. It's a restaurant with no walls and creatively vegetation separates the sit-

ting spots.

The owner and head chef Joy Maina tells me she spent years learning the French cuisine, and at 26 in 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, she decided to build and open the restaurant. Her story is such an inspiration, but I choose to tell it in a different sitting.



Also, you can't have too much of the cheese cake, so you might want to have it in moderation.



For now, shall we eat? The menu for the day was three mini burgers served with French fries and a dessert, which was a cheese cake crumble. I have been here before just on a random day and I know the burgers here are lip-smacking, so I'm assured that it will taste great. I'm not sure about the green colour of the buns, but it's an awesome twist to the foodie world for sure. I'm of the foodie view that if you could eat a melon in a burger then what is colour on a bun?

While I wait, I sip on a cold crisp Hop House beer, which is great to calm the heat. I get into an interesting conversation with the chef and in no time, my burgers arrive. The buns are Grinch green, but the colour won't fool me into diving in, so I take a full on bite. I love it, so fresh and all the ingredients mellow into each other perfectly.

I love the well-done patty and the extra cheese in every bite. These are three mini burgers of the same character and the consistency in taste is exceptional, the beef patty is also very well seasoned making it so flavourful. Usually, one burger is messy to eat, but incase you have been wondering how to avoid this, here is a tip, get a mini burger, also known as mini beef patties. They will have you sorted.

Then comes the cheese cake, which is usually a fave on my foodie book and this one was green, with cream cheese and a biscuit crumble, which I really loved. I love the fact that cheese cakes are not gooey, especially since I'm not really such a sweet tooth. Also, you can't have too much of the cheese cake, so you might want to have it in moderation.

We also had a few beer cocktails, one of them known as Shandy, which was invented in Britain in the mid-1800's. The original name was shandygaff, which refers to a beer mixed with ginger beer or ginger ale. Incase you are a newbie in taking beer you might want to try out a beer cocktail as well.

BRIEF

BY FAITH KYOUMUKAMA

Local airline passengers to redeem points on flights

Regional low-cost airline Jambojet has launched a three-tier level loyalty programme for its customers, named Jambojet Rewards, which will see passengers redeem points on flights, get priority check-in and baggage handling, discount vouchers, and more when they acquire enough points. "We conduct research studies with our customers to understand their perspective on the areas we are excelling at, and where they would like to see an improvement. The Loyalty programme is an area that keeps coming up and the team has been

working on this product over the past two years," said Karanja Ndegwa, Jambojet Managing Director and CEO during the launch. Jambojet has reported to have flown over 4.9 million passengers since its inception in 2014. The airline operates flights in 11 routes; From Nairobi to Mombasa, Malindi, Kisumu, Ukunda (Diani), Lamu and Goma in Eastern DRC. It also operates flights from Mombasa to Lamu, Eldoret and Kisumu. The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, James Njoroge

lauded the airline for their contribution to the growth of Kenya's aviation sector. "Since Jambojet's entry in 2014, we have seen the number of air travellers increase by an average of seven per cent year on year. Jambojet has been a great contributor, having flown over 4.9 million passengers to date in the 10 routes they operate in Kenya," he said during the event. Upon signing up to Jambojet Rewards through the Jambojet website, all customers will automatically join the first tier, Emerald. To move on to the second

tier, Ruby, one needs to earn 3,500 points or 40 flights. The third tier is Diamond, and one needs at least 5,000 points or 60 flights to join the tier. Each tier has specific benefits ranging from redeeming points for flights, baggage or other ancillary, priority check-in and baggage handling, discounts on Jambojet services among others. The loyalty programme comes after the airline launched cargo operations in the routes they operate in. The airline also launched operations to Lamu and Goma in Eastern DRC in September 2021.

People Plus ▶ Tell your Story

I turn paper into money

When a young **Aaron Muli** set out to pursue a course in teaching, little did he know that his dream to become a publisher would be his success story. His company Signal Publishers is now among Kenya's major schoolbooks publishers

by Alvin Mwangi
@PeopleDailyKe

If Aaron Muli, 35, knew that it is in teaching that he would be able to establish a multi-million company, then he would have been least hesitant in enrolling in a teaching course.

Growing up in a sleepy Nyaani village in Kitui county, he always dreamed of becoming a cartographer, but how he landed on teaching is a jigsaw puzzle that he has not been able to solve to date.

"I was the typical kid who was adventurous, but what I liked most was sketching. I had a dream of pursuing a course that would shock everybody in the village. Little did I know that it was through teaching that I would end up establishing a multi-million entity that would send shock waves not only in Nyaani, but also in the entire country," says Muli.

During a candid chat with *People Daily* in his office in Nairobi's Industrial Area, he says completing his O-Level education opened an avenue for him to discover finer things in life, at least in the publishing perspective. After all, he owns Signal Publishers, a company whose main function is to publish primary

school books and examinations, through his own innovation.

Teacher is born

Muli would later enroll for a teaching course at the Kitui Teachers College in 2006, and after three years, he was posted as a teacher in one of the schools in his home county. However, the young but ambitious Muli resigned from the teaching job in 2008 to pursue his calling in publishing. He joined Jesma Publishers.

He says he would juggle between teaching and publishing since he was in dire need of money for upkeep. "I practiced teaching for a few years before I transitioned into publishing. My desire was to publish materials that

young people would use for their studies and excel," he explains.

At Jesma, he says, he learnt the ropes of the game that would prepare him to start his own company. "This company gave me a platform that I am always grateful for. At Jesma, I understood the dynamics of publishing and what one should do to establish a big company," Muli intimates.

He adds that while working at Jesma, he started making savings since he had the desire to start his own company and being his own employer.

And as days and months passed by, one thing led to another and eventually, he took the hard decision and resigned from Jesma in 2010 to start his own venture a year later.

At the beginning, however, Muli says things were not as rosy as he had thought, but his strong faith and will gave him a strong assurance that all would be well.

"I started out at a small shop along Luthuli Avenue in the Nairobi Central District (CBD), where I would only design my work. Since I did not have money to buy printing machines, I used to hire them," he says, adding that through savings, he eventually was able to purchase small machines after which he relocated to a larger space before moving to his

▲ Piracy is one of the biggest challenges we have in the publishing sector. Many people use our work to illegally enrich themselves



Some of the books published at Signal Publishers. PD/ALVIN MWANGI

present location on Likoni Road.

Today, Signal Publishers is among the leading publishing firms in Kenya and have more than 100 staff. The company distributes books all over the country. However, Muli says the business is not devoid of challenges, giving an example of piracy.

"Piracy is one of the biggest challenges we have in the publishing sector. Many people use our work to illegally enrich themselves. If we had tough policies, I am sure we would be able to have a competitive market," he asserts.

Being an industry where one is dealing with content in young people's mind, Muli says that his team is always keen to have well refined content. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has also affected his business, since most printing papers are imported from Russia, a situation he says may force publishers to hike book prices.

Turbulent skies

"Most Kenyans are only seeing challenges in the oil market, but the truth of the matter is that publishers are suffering as well. Most of our papers come from Russia and we are not getting adequate supplies," he says.

Muli also urges parents to embrace the new Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC). He offers: "To me CBC is God-sent. Our children finally have an opportunity to explore their skills. I know there are complaints about its cost, but I know the government will do something at the end of it to make it affordable to everyone."

To his fellow publishers, Muli advises them not to fight with technology, but to prepare in advance. "Technology is here to stay and the best thing is to prepare well. I'm sure that in the coming days we will not have hard copies, and at Signal Publishers, we are working to have a system where everyone will access our books digitally," he says.

Expansion plans

In the near future, Muli says he will venture into the East African market as well. His business insight, he says, has been assisted by his Christian values and humble beginnings. "The secret has been to remain humble; I do not have the desire to live large. There is beauty in simplicity and ordinariness," avers the man who during his free time reads books or listens to sermons.

His message to aspiring entrepreneurs? "You can overcome trying times and as long as you are willing to work, you shall get the desired results. Get down to work and avoid sitting back waiting for mana to fall from heaven," says Muli in conclusion.

AT A GLANCE

● Muli started out as a teacher, but quit the profession preferring to pursue his dream career in publishing.

● He joined Jesma Publishers in 2008 and quit two years later to start his own venture, Signal Publishers in 2011.

● The company started in a small shop in Nairobi's CBD before shifting to its current space in the city's Industrial Area.

● Signal Publishers has grown to become one of the major book publishing entities in the country, with Muli planning to expand into the larger East African region in the near future.



Aaron Muli in his office at Industrial Area, Nairobi. PD/ALVIN MWANGI

Tribe43 ▶ The Sheng Republic

@tribe43shengmag TRIBE 43 - Sheng Republik



MULIKWA WITH MWANGI ALBERTO

Kuna ngori ingine wazim imehangaisha mraiya hasapa Kenya kwa wiki mbweke or so, na haileti raha ata kiasi. Shortage

ya irori imekuwa tafash zaidi ya noma, karibu mashuguli za daily zikwame. The thing is, ngata ndio hufuel economy quite literally. So, unaget it's unavailability iko na matokeo negative mob kuruka. Gethaa yoyote kuna shortage, bei ya basic commodities hupanda. Hii ni kwa sababu sector zote hudepend on fuel in their operations, since vitu most including raw materials za maindstry hutransportiwa by road.

Kwa izo wiki mbili, tumewitwitness Wakenya wakikula mateso bila chuki. Long queues kwa petrol stations imekuwa ndio norm nowadays, wasee most wakitravel long distances kutafta hii bidhaa muhimu. Tumechekei raiya imebebana na jerrycans za kila aina, wakisaka ngata. Kuna ile mraiya ya renga, senke, visiagi na pia wakulima, ambao wameaffectiwa vimajor nah ii ngori.

Juzi kuna mboto nifla ilisambazwa mitandaoni, ya jango mjamo wa boda, mwenge (I think after kutafta kibuyu aka-kosa) aliamua kung oa nduthi yake tank na akaishia nayo kwa petrol station kusaka irori. As dire as the situation ilikuwa, hii picha ilichangamsha netizens



Shortage ya ngata imekuwa tafash jo!

sana, but ilipaint the true picture of how bad things have become.

But gova ilifanya jambo la busara, pale iliporelease Sh34 billion zenye zinafaa kuishia kwa oil marketers kama subsi-

dies, in a move kuona prices na supply ya irori imerudi normal. Although kuna wale wameingi-za politics kwa hii issue wakidai eti selfish business people in the oil sector wameficha mafuta deliberately ndio wacreate

temporary shortage ndio demand for ngata ipande, as well as bei yake pia. So, tunaomba tu hii noma ifike mwisho as soon as possible ndio mraiya iweze kuendelea na hustle zao za daily manze.

URADI By Nafsi Huru

Leo tumebanja na CARLOS CHARO KAHINDI aka DJ Carmrash na bado marketing guru ndani ya YDX Agency, wakichapa janta za kampuu kama Nokia, Tusker Lite na zengine mob

Ilikuaje ukaamulia hii mboka?

Nimekuaga na passion for marketing kutoka kitambo, sasa day flani nilikua nachapa gig ya kuDJ kwa event ya Tala, chance ikatokea kwa io agency wakisaka team leader nikaona nipite nayo na ndio huyo mdogo mdogo nimekua adi project leader nikihandle clients wa vungu.

Achievements ni gani toka uingie hii mcharuko?

Nashukuru nimezea kugrow, nilirudi shute kula mbuku fom za project management na pia kueza kutoka kwa team leader adi project inanipa motisha ya kukua project manager Inshallah.

Kwa nini uliacha deejaying?

Bado mi huchapa gigs na nimekua since 2010 at Homeboyz, but hii journey ya marketing inanice ju ni fom na yebe.

Challenges nazo ni gani?

Hii time yote ya rona tumekula ngumu, sema sahihi kumefunguka mafom zinajipa. Pia hii mboka hudai msee open minded na ujitume viserious kumeet targets na goals



za client efficiently. **Clients mnapataga jea?** Mara kibwena inakuaga pitching proposals kwa wastiri na bado over the years tumejenga jina na kutambulika kwa kazi safi, so return clients ua most.

Unaeza pea msee advice gani akidai kuingia hii mutaratara?

Hii kitu sio rahisi; inataka ujitume, meet goals and targets, na ukuwe open minded na utamake it.



TOKAJIKO By Nafsi Huru



JOHNNY SKANI

1. System - Johnny Skani
2. Wasted Purely - Virusi Mbaya, Djungle & Komando Flaco
3. Asum's Intervention - Asum Garvey
4. Wada - Sewersydaa ft Peela
5. Laini - Young Njita ft CLD
6. Mwanangu - Boutross ft Munyax
7. Nitembelee - Genty Plenty
8. Haters - Buff G
9. Odinga - Wakuu ft ReKless
10. One Mic - Con Boi

Itabidi umecheza level yako

By Manuel Njoyai

MANUSCRIBES

Ikifika ni story na kujibamba, kila msee huwa na stingo yenye huwa inamnice kivyake. Kila nyani na niceness yake. But sasa hakunaga kitu mbaya kujiforce kwa sherehe huwezeni.

So, pale zabe kuna day tumetulia kakishika mdogo mdogo, halaf sasa ilikuwa kaend month, so mraiya ya saalo ilikuwa na maform kuruka. Kuna boys anaitwa Kamah yeye hutuchafua ikifika ni time ya starehe, but of late ameanza kuzua ati hakuna msee huwa anarudisha mkono. Then Kamah akaingia kama yuko maji design ya tanki.

Akaanza kutuchapia vile of late ametutoka juu amepatana na mbogi ingine

ya maform zaidi. Kama kawaida, raia ikawa inataka kujua rada ndio gani. Ikawa kila day jamaa anapitia kama bado yuko tungi zaidi, but pia kuna vile alikuwa anakaa mangori tu kila kukizidi.

Wiki mbili kuisha, jamaa akawa amerudi regular member pale base, ndio ikabidi Ras akamuuliza niaje siku hizi hajinice na mabeste zake wapya. Kamah ndio akatuchalia vile walikuwa wanakula bata hadi kuku wanaskia wivu.

But sasa noma ilitokea after msee kurealise anatumia doh viexcess. Sasa hadi hio month hakuwa amekanja landlord. Ndio Ras akamshow, kila msee hucheza ligi yake.

By Rodgers Ndegwa

SHENGPEDIA

1

Kusababisha - Balling

Origin - Ng'ondo

Example - After kukanjwa mshande, cuzo wa mine alisababisha kuruka.

2

Kuingiza para - To pretend

Origin - Mwhoko

Example - After kucheki mavedi tukiwa base jana iliibidi kila mtu

Tambulika By Nafsi Huru

MONAJA

Monaja ni one of the most prolific mcees kutoka East Africa representing Meru county level za hatari. Mwanaharakati wa dharti, bado anakukujia kama historian kuelimisha vizazi ju ya roots zao. Doba zake ni mwoto mbaiya zikimwok na feel ya originality ju self pride na kuembrace identity ni vitu ameaniia mbaya. Style yake anaita Tema Imba yaani anarap-sing akinyafura beats proper kama kawa akitema sense viserious. Monaja amekua akizoza kutoka days za WAPI huko BC kwa wale wa-naryeng. Mtemi huchafu-kaga na Sheng na Kimeru kutoka 2018 after kuona importance ya kuleta vibe different kwa meza. Na pia kupiga challenge venye Churchill

alidai Wameru hawaezi imba. Yeye ni msanii diverse sana ju hajashikilia tu sound jamo, but anaembrace mziki in its entirety. Recent project amechwado na Ameru Crew ni masterpiece from audio hadi video utatii. Audio ina incorporate bpm ya Meru songs, kicks ni drums kutoka Chuka, strings ni orutu ya Wajaka na flutes na shakers za Mijikenda utapenda. Doba ina-jitta Ntamburukia Nkoro, ngoma moja spiritual serious ikiongelea nisto ya Maumau wenye walitunishwa na mangati husuko Meru. Kama community leader mpenda haki, Monaja amekua vocal ku-question society na system penye inachoma mboto. Mziki ya raiya ikiongelea wasio na sauti ndio zime-jaza catalogue, lakini bado anawapikia club bangers ju maisha lazima tusele.





- 5.00 Inuka
- 5.30 Wake Up, Shape Up!
- 6.00 K24 This Morning
- 9.55 Wisdom Moments
- 10.05 Inuka
- 11.00 Daily Brief
- 1.00 K24 News Cut
- 1.30 Budget Day 2022
- 4.00 K24 Mashinani
- 4.30 Brewster The Rooster
- 5.00 Beatbox
- 6.00 Laura
- 7.00 K24 Saa Moja
- 7.30 Boomerang
- 8.00 Made In Cartagena
- 9.00 K24 Evening Edition
- 10.00 Riddim Vybes
- 12.00 Al Jazeera



- 5.00 Ime Ria Ruciini
- 6.00 Rikiritha- Live
- 10.00 Riigu Mix- Rpt
- 10.30 Satai
- 11.00 Kurekereria Kodi- Live
- 1.00 Mohoro Gitau-Live
- 1.30 Thirikika
- 3.00 Wendo Muroge- Rpt
- 3.30 Thandi Cia Wendo- Rpt
- 4.00 Ririmbuka -Live
- 6.00 Maisha Bure- Rpt
- 6.30 Wendo Wa Githagathago
- 7.00 Kameme Maturaini-Live
- 7.30 Njungwa Ya Muthee Kihenjo
- 8.30 Maisha Bure
- 9.00 Mutamburuko Wa Mohoro-Live
- 10.00 Thenema
- 11.30 Ririmbuka
- 12.30 DW



- 6.00 Morning-Express
- 8.00 Life-N-Style
- 9.00 Life N' Style
- 10.00 Losing-Heaven:
- 12.00 The-Property-Show-Rpt:
- 1.00 Mbiu-Ya-Ktn
- 4.00 News Highlights
- 4.30 Dinofoz
- 5.00 Maisha-Mzuqa
- 6.00 Losing-Heaven
- 7.00 KTN-Leo
- 7.30 Jameni
- 8.00 The-Entrepreneur
- 9.00 KTN
- 11.30 The-Diary

TIME OUT!

10.00PM RIDDIM VYBES



RIDDIM VYBZ

::IN THEATRES NOW::

ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA: 11:30,13:30,15:30,17:30,19:30,12:30: **MORBIUS**
 ANGA SKY PANARI:14:25,16:20:18:35: **MORBIUS**
 ANGA DIAMOND PLAZA:10:30,13:50,18:40:21:30: **ATTACK**
 WESTGATE CINEMA: 11:15,14:00,16:30,19:00,21:00,11:20,19:05: **ATTACK**
 ANGA SKY PANARI:20:35: **ATTACK**



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

SUDOKU

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

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

LIFE'S LIKE THAT! | BY TUM



- ACROSS**
- 7. Garment worn after a shower (8)
 - 8. Once more (4)
 - 9. Shut with force (4)
 - 10. Giant ocean waves (8)
 - 11. Appropriate (7)
 - 12. Units of heredity (5)
 - 15. Timber beam (5)
 - 17. Speediest (7)

- 20. Topics (8)
 - 22. Quantity of paper (4)
 - 23. Neat in appearance (4)
 - 24. Not positive (8)
- DOWN**
- 1. Ride a horse at pace (6)
 - 2. Hair cleansing products (8)
 - 3. Flat-bottomed boat (7)

HOROSCOPES



- ARIES (MAR. 21 - APRIL 20)**
 Rest and relaxation will be more favourable than you think. You should spend your day trying to get things completed at work.
- TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)**
 You need to get out if you want to meet potential partners. You will do well in social settings, and new and interesting individuals may spark a romantic curiosity.
- GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**
 You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. You may be admired by colleagues and employers for your diplomatic way of handling your work and those you work with.
- CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)**
 You're in the mood to spend time with your lover. Don't press your luck with your loved ones.
- LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 22)**
 New partnerships will develop if you join investment groups. You need to spend some time with individuals who have more experience than you.
- VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 23)**
 You may find it impossible to get the rest you require. Your pursuits may end up being fruitless.
- LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**
 Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. You need to enjoy the company of those who enjoy the same pastimes.
- SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**
 If you are in the midst of a financial deal, this is your lucky day. Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do.
- SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 21)**
 You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work.
- CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN. 20)**
 Depression may be likely if you're away from home. Monitor your budget carefully to avoid unnecessary stress.
- AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)**
 Chronic health problems are likely to surface if you are keeping your problems locked up inside. Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding.
- PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)**
 You may want to make changes in your home environment. Try not to donate to organizations if you can hardly afford to take care of yourself. Lovers may not be truthful.



- 5:00 BBC
- 5:30 Gear Up
- 6:00 Good Morning Kenya
- 9:00 Lay'd Back
- 10:00 Rags
- 11:00 Spirou
- 12:00 Worship
- Experience
- 1:00 News Desk
- 1:30 Business Defined
- 2:00 Kendi Imani
- 2:30 Daytime Movie
- 3:00 Jesus Son Of God
- 5:30 Club 1
- 6:30 The Great Deaters
- 7:00 Taarifa
- 7:30 Road to Success
- 8:00 Charging Currents
- 8:30 Magical Scene
- 9:00 KBC Channel 1 News
- 10:30 Feature
- 11:00 GGTV
- 12:00 Lay'd Back
- 12:30 BBC



- 5.00 Password Plus
- 6.00 Am Live
- 8.00 Better Living
- 9.00 On The Wings Of Love
- 10.00 Wild Skin
- 11.00 NTV Today
- 1.00 NTV at 1
- 1.30 NTV Sasa
- 3.00 China Wings
- 3.30 Gina's Kids Club
- 4.00 NTV At 4
- 4.15 Password
- 5.00 The Beat
- 6.00 Be Careful With My Heart
- 7.00 NTV Jioni
- 7.30 Wicked Edition
- 8.00 Wild Skin
- 9.00 NTV Tonight
- 10.00 Road To Russia
- 11.00 The Beat
- 12.00 CNN

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

- ACROSS**
- 7. Figure
 - 8. Refuse
 - 10. Antenna
 - 11. Expel
 - 12. Flats
 - 13. Ovoid
 - 17. Hefty
 - 18. Puma
 - 22. Fedup
 - 23. Opening
 - 24. Regard
 - 25. Manual
- DOWN**
- 1. Affairs
 - 2. Agitate
 - 3. Trunk
 - 4. Reverie
 - 5. Dumps
 - 6. Wells
 - 9. Salvation
 - 14. Leopard
 - 15. Dubious
 - 16. Largely
 - 19. Alire
 - 20. Adage
 - 21. Began

► The one-stop Sport shop...

GOLF
Tiger eyes comeback trail blazed by legendary Hogan- Pg32



Rider Marquez returns to MotoGP after eye problem

MOTOGP: Six-time MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez will return this weekend at the Grand Prix of the Americas in Austin, his Honda team announced Wednesday. The Spaniard suffered from double vision after a heavy crash in Indonesia last month and missed last week's race in Argentina. Marquez also suffered from diplopia, or double vision, at the end of last season. "We have some work to do after missing two races and the whole Argentina weekend so I am not here to set one target at the moment," he said. "There's many things to do and consider, but the important thing is that we are back on the bike this weekend." Marquez has won the American Grand Prix seven times in his career, only missing out on victory in 2019 when he failed to finish the race. **-AFP**

Le Tissier leaves club role after Ukraine tweet

FOOTBALL: Former England forward Matt Le Tissier has stood down from his role as an ambassador with Premier League club Southampton following a backlash over a controversial social media post on the war in Ukraine. The 53-year-old ex-Southampton player on Tuesday re-tweeted a message suggesting media manipulation in the reporting on the war regarding the alleged massacre of Ukrainian civilians by Russian troops in the town of Bucha. Le Tissier, who scored 209 goals in 540 appearances for Southampton, wrote "This" and a pointing-down emoji towards a message suggesting the media had "lied" over various issues including coronavirus. He deleted the post and sought to clarify his position by saying "the point was about the media manipulation". He posted another update on Wednesday to make it "very clear" he does "not advocate war in any way shape or form", adding he did not "advocate anyone taking lives of others and anyone who commits such acts should be dealt with accordingly". **-AFP**

Flyweight boxer Karanja shines in Africa Zone 3 heat

BOXING: Flyweight boxer David Karanja saved the day for Kenya by emerging the only winner during the opening day of the Africa Zone 3 Boxing Championships in Kinshasa yesterday. Karanja squeezed to a 3-2 points victory over his opponent in the flyweight division. The other three Kenyan pugilists in action, minimum weight Martin Maina, flyweight Ann Wanjiru and Welterweight Joseph Shigali (pictured) all lost their bouts to DRC opponents. Shigali, the last Kenyan in action last night, lost on points to Mutombo. Hosts DRC, who are being represented by a total of 42 boxers, were dominant in the opening day of Zone 3 tournament which ends on April 11. They have two men's teams and 16 female boxers. **-Barry Silah**



Ouma ambitious to win FKF league Cup

Sofapaka trainer hopes to replicate his tactician skills in his new team, after a successful career while with Harambee Starlets

by Charles Thuku
 @PeopleDailyKe

Newly-hired Sofapaka trainer David Ouma is not only a hands-on personality but also a crusader of perfection amongst players. Love or loathe him, whenever things go wrong on the pitch, Ouma does not shy away from pointing it out to players before giving useful tips to them to reverse it. This was well documented when he was the head coach of the national women's team Harambee Starlets who have a sprinkling of players in European leagues among them Mwanahalima "Dogo" Adam (IF Djurgardens, Spain), Annette Kundu and Ruth Ingosi (both of Lakatamia FC, Cyprus). Ouma now hopes to replicate these skills in Sofapaka as the team



SOFAPAKA RESULTS IN THE LAST FIVE MATCHES:

PSofapaka	0-0 FC Talanta
Talanta	2-1 Sofapaka
Sofapaka	1-1 AFC Leopards
Gor Mahia	1-1 Sofapaka
Sofapaka	0-0 KCB



a positive step and we want to build on it moving forward in our upcoming fixtures," said Ouma. The tactician, who started his career in 1993 as a youth trainer with Outspan FC, heaped praise on the players for giving their all against the newly-promoted Talanta. "I'm satisfied with the players' response in the match. They showed determination, character and a desire to win the encounter. They gave their best and I feel sorry for the unit because they missed chances that would have won us the match. He went on: "It is welcoming to have the players fighting for results and this only gives me confidence moving forward. In general, I'm satisfied with the players' contribution." The Dutch-trained tactician with the highest CAF Level A certification, however, faulted the team for a frailty in the final third which he hopes to fix.

Sunday Ikekhai of Sofapaka FC (left) controls the ball from Charles Momanyi of Tusker FC during a past FKF-PL match played at Ru-araka grounds. Inset Sofapaka coach David Ouma. PD/RODGERS NDEGWA

NOC-K kicks off second edition of Youth Elite Camp

by Barry Silah
 @PeopleDailyKe

Kenya-National Olympic Committee (NOC-K) has commenced the second edition of Elite Youth Camp at Kenyatta University Ruiru campus. Coaches who underwent training in preparations for the Youth Camp last week have already reported to Camp, alongside NOC-K Youth and Elite Commission members to prepare for the athletes. The Camp will feature athletes aged between 12 and 18 years from various federations and different counties across Kenya. They have started reporting to Camp where handball, taekwondo and triathlon were the first teams to register. Following the success of the first edition in 2019, the Youth Camp which will be hosting a total of 174 young athletes is expected to help nurture young athletes through the development of character as well as sportsmanship in general.

NOC-K aims to host a series of camps planned over each school holiday as a platform to prepare for the 2022 Youth African Games to be held in Cairo Egypt, and the Youth Olympics to be held in Dakar, Senegal 2026. Speaking on the athletes reporting day NOC-K, Youth Commission member, Milicent Busolo lauded the move to bring back the program after a pause caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "We are in the process of developing talents so that they can come to a level where they feel fit to represent our country. The plan is to develop their character as well so that in future they can represent Kenya well in different championships" stated Busolo. The elite youth camp has seen success stories. In the 2019 edition, some junior players transitioned to the national senior team such as the ladies' hockey team which went to Birmingham.



Female athletes compete in 5000m during South Rift region trials for the World U-20 Championships at Kericho Green Stadium last year. PD/FILE

Shujaa lands tough draw

Shujaa acting captain Nelson Oyoo hits tackling bags held by Tony Omondi (left) and Billy Odhiambo during a past resistance training drill at the RFUEA grounds. PD / ALEX NJUE



Kenya Sevens in 'pool of death' with HSBC defending champions South Africa

by Alex Njue @PeopleDailyKe

Shujaa boss Innocent Simiyu is calm ahead of Singapore Sevens Rugby Tournament set to be hosted at the National Stadium over the weekend.

His team will feature in nervy pool A consisting of the top two African sides and the top two North American sides to make up the 'pool of death' led by series defending champions and current standings leader South Africa, Kenya, USA and Canada.

This weekend's action will write off a crucial two-month break that was used by teams to tune-up for the 5th consecutive leg after featuring in a back to back Dubai sevens in November and December and later in January, the Spain Sevens Series was hosted in the towns of Malaga and Seville.

Shujaa coach Innocent 'Namcos' Simiyu told People Sports the team is in good spirits ahead of the tournament that gave Kenya the sole goldware back in 2016.

Only Nelson Oyoo will return to the National Stadium from the 13-man squad that featured in the April 17th 2016 Cup finals Kenya

won after condemning rivals Fiji to a 30-7 humiliation.

Oyoo returns as the team captain to seek the same fate with a different set of players because of the unavailability of his fellow experienced players who were part of the 2016 edition winning team.

They include Alvin Otieno, Sammy Oliech, Willy Ambaka and Augustine Lugonzo while a majority of that squad - Humphrey 'Tall' Kayange, Andrew Amonde, Biko Adema, Oscar Ayodi, Robert Aringo 'Majei' have since hung their boots.

"The weather is okay, it's hot and humid and we are still adapting. The team is in a good mood ahead of the pool games on Saturday.

We hope this squad is capable of registering expected results and go ahead and improve on their performance in Vancouver next weekend," Shujaa coach Simiyu told People Sports on phone from Singapore.

Among the key areas coach Innocent Simiyu worked on during the two-month break were tackle completion and core skills to manage their rate of errors at crucial moments of the game.

"The two months break gave us a humble time to work on a few key arrears including tackle completion and we also got the opportunity to work on our core skills to reduce our error rate at key moments of the game," he added.

Kenya is expected to start their campaign against rivals the USA at 7:12am this Saturday. The team will later at 10:40am play South Africa before deciding their top eight fate against Canada at 2:05pm.

POOL A FIXTURES:

SAT 9 APRIL 2022

USA	vs Kenya 7s - 07:12 AM
South Africa	vs Canada -07:34 AM
USA	vs Canada - 10:18 AM
South Africa	vs Kenya 7s - 10:40 AM
Kenya 7s	vs Canada - 2:05 PM
South Africa	vs USA - 2:33 PM

SINGAPORE SEVENS POOLS:

- Pool A:** South Africa, USA, Kenya 7s, Canada
- Pool B:** Australia, England, Spain, Samoa
- Pool C:** Argentina, Scotland, Wales, New Zealand
- Pool D:** Ireland, France, Japan, Fiji

Next track, field championship to be held at Tambach teachers college

by Kiprono Ericson @PeopleDailyKe

Over 200 athletes will on Saturday converge on Tambach Teachers Training College in Elgeyo Marakwet county for the North Rift Region Track and Field Championship.

Athletics Kenya North Rift region Public Relations Officer Boniface Tiren said five counties will participate in the one-day championship. The counties are Trans Nzoia, West Pokot, Turkana, Samburu and the host Elgeyo Marakwet.

Tiren said the top athletes are expected to prove their worth as the regional championships will be the basis for selecting a good team for the national championships to be held at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani at the end of this month.

"This is a running region and we expect them to live up



Rhonex Kipruto (right) in the lead during 10,000m finals for Team Kenya ahead of Tokyo Olympics last year. PD DAVID NDOLO

to the expectations. North Rift is well known for producing world champions and this weekend when they take on the track, they will not just be running for their counties but they will be chasing for a ticket ahead of world championships in Oregon, USA and Africa Senior Championship in Mauritius" Tiren added.

Among the notable athletes expected at the championship include; reigning world U-20 10,000m champion Rhonex Kipruto, former world cross country champion Irene Cheptai, reigning world U-20 5,000m champion Edward Zakayo, national 5,000m champion Michael Kibet, All Africa Games 5,000m champion Robert Kiprop and Cornelius Kemboi

Kouma debarred for slapping opponent

by Accra, Thursday @PeopleDailyKe

French tennis player Michael Kouame, who slapped his Ghanaian counterpart Richard Nii Ankrah after their match on Monday, has been disqualified from the ongoing International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior tournament in Ghana, local media reported. The Executive Board of the Ghana Tennis Federation (GTF) decided

in consultation with the ITF after reviewing Monday's incident. GTF executive Henry Boni Quarshie confirmed the decision to local media. After losing his match, 15-year-old Kouame took his frustration out on Nii Ankrah, slapping him at the net as he approached for the traditional post-match handshake. Players, guardians, and officials on the court rushed to separate the pair before the situation could escalate. -AFP



Covid-free Vettel keen to start F1 season at last



by Melbourne, Thursday @PeopleDailyKe

Sebastian Vettel said on Wednesday that it felt like "arriving late to school" as he starts his season at the Australian Grand Prix this week after missing the opening two races.

Germany's four-time world champion was ruled out of the Bahrain and Saudi Arabia grand prix last month with coronavirus. "After testing

positive and missing the first two races, it feels a bit like arriving late to school so I'm really keen to get going again," said Vettel, who has triumphed three times in Melbourne. F1's youngest world champion is now, at 34, in his 15th full season.

He first won at Albert Park in 2011 driving a Red Bull, then did so in 2017 and 2018 when at Ferrari. -AFP



Name: Paul Pogba
Age: 29 years
Nick name: La Pioche
Nationality: French
Sport: Football
Position: Midfield
Current club: Manchester United
Previous clubs: Juventus, France National Junior Teams
Accolades: Champions League, Serie A, World Cup, several Player of the Year awards.
Caps: 91
Hails from: Guinea



Athletes to undergo specialised training

France offers Kenyan team of 11 - seven males and four females - intensified coaching ahead of major global championships

by Amos Abuga
 @PeopleDailyKe

World Under-20 400m bronze medallist Sylvia Chelang'at is overly intrigued ahead of the upcoming specialised training in Miramas, France. Chelang'at is among 11 juniors selected by Athletics Kenya (AK) for the program planned in the

European nation that will culminate in several competitions next month. Before departing on Friday evening, the sprinter is ready to make good use of the chance and better her skills. "This is a great opportunity that has been presented to us, for me it is the first time to hear athletes going for specialised training and there-

fore to be part of the pilot program is pure joy," said Chelang'at who is among the team of sevens boys' and four girls' athletes in sprints and field events. AK's director of Youth Development, Barnaba Korir, said the collaboration would allow junior sprinters to train at Miramas Stadium in preparation for the World Under-20 Championships in Cali, Colombia from August 1 to 6. "I was in France recently and I had a chance to meet the mayor of Miramas and the president of Miramas Athletics Club.

Good facilities

Their idea was to have young Kenyan athletes, especially those preparing for World Under-20 in Cali, train there. It is very good, they have very good facilities for track and field events as well as middle distance," Korir said.

Korir noted that the athletes will also have competitions in early May which will be useful for those in search of qualifying standards for Cali.

"Most of the junior sprinters are yet met the qualifying time. We have instructed our coaches to use the track and field weekend meetings to pick prospective athletes for Cali and to involve them in this engagement," added Korir.

The juniors will be under coach Andrew Maritim who is equally excited about the partnership.

Athletes led Samuel Chebolei (357) Nicholas Kimiti(401), Micheal Kibet (365) battle muddy pool in a 10km men race during Memorial Agnes Tirop Cross Country Tour. PD/ DAVID NDOLO

Koeman set to take over as Netherlands manager

Hague, Thursday
 @PeopleDailyKe

Former Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman will take over as Netherlands boss from Louis van Gaal after this year's World Cup, the Dutch football federation said on Wednesday.

Van Gaal announced at the weekend that he had been receiving treatment for prostate cancer for the last two years but that he still hoped to lead the team at the finals that kick off in Qatar in November.

It will be 59-year-old Koeman's second time in charge of the Dutch national team after taking the reins from 2018 to 2020, when he left the post to become coach of Barcelona.

He was dismissed by the Spanish giants in October last year after 14 difficult months

in charge which included the departure of Lionel Messi to Paris Saint-Germain as the club plunged into financial difficulties.

"I am looking forward to working together again. When I left the national team a year and a half ago, it was certainly not because I wasn't happy," Koeman said.

Marianne van Leeuwen, the director of professional football at the Dutch federation, said: "We're very happy that Ronald is coming back next year. During his last term in charge as national coach, his work and his results were very satisfying."

The Netherlands will play the opening match of the World Cup in Qatar against Senegal. They also have the host nation and Ecuador in their Group A.

-AFP

Cheruiyot, Chespol to highlight Prisons Championship

by Amos Abuga
 @PeopleDailyKe

World 1,500m champion Timothy Cheruiyot and former junior winner Cephine Chespol are among star attractions at the Kenya Prisons Athletics Championships that begin at Kasarani Stadium on Friday. Cheruiyot who will be lining up in the 800m race is targeting to better his speed work during the two-day event.

"I started my season in Kisumu during the February meeting so this will be a continuation as I build up my season. There is a long season ahead so I want to be at my best going to the national trials in June," said Cheruiyot.

It will also be a sight to behold as Africa 10,000m champion Alice Aprot and Visiline Jepkesho, who competed in the Beijing World

Championships marathon line up in 10,000m.

New Kenya Prisons Commissioner General Brigadier (Rtd) John Warioba said his charges were ready to face any challenge this season.

"We want to set our destiny right from our championships and that's why the Prisons decided to beef up the team. We want to claim a sizeable number of slots in the national team for the World Championships. The event will also serve as an interactive platform for our officers," said Warioba.

Among the participating athletes are some of the most revered world-beaters who double as Kenya Prisons Officers. They include; Cheruiyot 2019 World 1500m Champion, Margaret Nyairera 800m bronze medallist in 2016 Rio Olympic and Silas Kiplagat 1500m Commonwealth Champion.



Commissioner General of Prisons Brigadier (Rtd) John Warioba receives sponsorship from CIC Insurance Marketing and Customer Experience manager Joseph Kamiri and Business Development Officer David Wambugu ahead of Inter-Regional Prisons Athletics Games. PD/DAVID NDOLO

Liverpool takes major step in semi-final bid

Reds trio of Sadio Mane, Ibrahima Konate and Luis Diaz give English club a 3-1 lead against Benfica in first leg while Darwin Nunez scored sole goal for Verrisimo's side

■ **Lisbon, Thursday**
@PeopleDailyKe

Liverpool took charge of their Champions League quarter-final against Benfica on Tuesday as Sadio Mane, Ibrahima Konate and Luis Diaz gave them a 3-1 lead after the first leg in Lisbon.

Konate nodded in his first Liverpool goal

from a corner before Mane tapped home to put the visitors in command at the Estadio da Luz.

Benfica made a game of it early in the second half when a Konate error allowed the lively Darwin Nunez to pull one back, but Diaz, who was superb all night, added a third to put Liverpool in sight of the semis.

"They fought for their lives. We opened

the door a little bit for them," said Jurgen Klopp. "We scored a third one and I think everyone agrees we could and should have scored more."

Liverpool will be confident of finishing the job at Anfield next week, with Klopp comfortable enough to take off Mohamed Salah, Mane and Thiago Alcantara after an hour.

Salah, in particular, was surely being preserved for Sunday, when Liverpool face Manchester City in what could prove to be the decisive match in the Premier League's neck-and-neck title race.

The only disappointment was that Salah was unable to get on the scoresheet, with the Egyptian missing a handful of chances.

"Every player in that situation wants to score and it's clear Mo wants to score as well," said Klopp. "It's a tough period, the boys came back from Africa and that's really not easy. Massive pressure. They need some time to settle, everything will be fine."

Benfica are dotted between a Liverpool-City league and cup double-header, with the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley coming after the second leg next week, before Klopp's team continue a crunch period with league games against Manchester United and local rivals Everton. **-AFP**

Liverpool's English midfielder Jordan Henderson (left) fights for the ball with Benfica's Argentinian defender Nicolas Otamendi during the UEFA Champions League quarter final first leg football match between SL Benfica and Liverpool FC at the Luz stadium in Lisbon on April 5, 2022.



Special Olympics Hockey team celebrates after taking gold in the finals at the 2017 World Winter Games in Graz, Austria. PD/FILE

Special Olympic team starts preps for Berlin Summer Games

■ **by Amos Abuga**
@PeopleDailyKe

Special Olympics Kenya has laid down a roadmap for next year's World Summer Games slated for June 17-24 in Berlin, Germany.

Sports Manager for Special Olympics Kenya, Vincent Mungai, said Kenya will be represented by up to 76 athletes categorized into 10 disciplines and will be led by 19 coaches.

They include football (girls), volleyball (both boys and girls), beach volleyball (both genders), basketball (3 X 3) boys, handball boys, athletics, golf (girls), Bocce, cycling, and badminton.

"Rules for special Olympics are unique in that for every four athletes, they must have a coach. Based on this, we will therefore take 19 coaches to the world show," Mungai said.

Regional trials will be done in June this year in the Western, South Rift, North Rift, Central, Nairobi, Eastern, North Eastern and Coast regions.

"Thereafter, the team will proceed to a residential training camp for between three-four weeks. Depend-

ing on the political climate, the national trials will be held before or after the General Elections," added Mungai who was speaking during a Special Olympics media workshop at the University of Nairobi grounds on Tuesday.

Mungai further revealed that the Special Olympics Kenya will in June hold a Law Enforcement Torch Run that seeks to sensitise inclusivity of persons with disabilities and peace across the nation.

The three-week event, which will run from 2nd to 25th June will be conducted in Nairobi, Kiambu, Nakuru, Eldoret and Mombasa. The Torch Run will also be used as a fundraiser for the global event.

Special Olympics will partner with National Cohesion and Integration Commission to preach for peace during the electioneering period. The group caters to people with intellectual disabilities. Kenya became the first African country to register for the Special Olympics in 1978 and boasts 70,000 registered special Olympics athletes in different specialties.

Maradona's 1986 World Cup 'Hand of God' jersey to be auctioned

■ **Nueva York, Thursday**
@PeopleDailyKe

The jersey worn by Diego Maradona when he scored twice against England in the 1986 World Cup, including the infamous 'Hand of God' goal, is to be auctioned off later this month, Sotheby's announced Wednesday.

The blue number 10 shirt has been owned since the end of the controversial World Cup encounter by opposing midfielder Steve Hodge, who swapped his jersey with Maradona after England lost 2-1. The quarter-final showdown, one of the most memorable in World Cup history, held particular significance for Argentina as it was played only four years after they lost the Falklands war.

The match became etched in football folklore for Maradona's two goals - one notorious and one sublime - in Mexico City's seething Aztec Stadium.

The first came shortly after half-time when Hodge, on the edge of the England penalty area, intercepted a pass and flicked the ball back towards goal.

Maradona, running into the box, rose with England's goalkeeper Peter Shilton and punched the ball into the net. England were incensed and complained to officials who, believing Maradona had headed the ball, allowed the goal to stand.

Maradona then stirred the controversy afterwards by saying the goal had been scored 'a little with the head of Maradona, a little with the Hand of God.'

Four minutes later, Maradona struck again and this time there was no doubt. Receiving the ball and turning inside his half, Maradona left five English defenders in his wake before gliding past Shilton and slotting home for a strike that was voted 'Goal of the Century' in a 2002 FIFA poll. Argentina won the final to lift the World Cup for the second time in eight years and Maradona, already a superstar became worshipped in his home country. After his death from a heart attack in 2020, Argentina held three days of national mourning.

Hodge, whose autobiography is titled 'The man with Maradona's shirt,' has for the past 20 years loaned the jersey to be on public display at the National Football Museum in Manchester. **-AFP**



Football legend Diego Maradona in his 'Hand of God' jersey during a football match. PD/FILE

DD SPORT

England vice-captain Stokes waiting on result of knee scan, can't make plans

DURHAM: England vice-captain Ben Stokes says he cannot make any plans for the summer until he has had a scan to assess the extent of a knee problem. The Durham all-rounder struggled with the issue during England's recent series defeat against West Indies. The County Championship starts on Thursday, while England's first Test of the summer against New Zealand is scheduled for the start

of June. "At the moment, no training until I get these scans," said Stokes. Speaking on the Round the Wicket podcast, Stokes added: "Then we find out what is going on, then hopefully can make a plan from there on." England endured a difficult winter that included a 4-0 Ashes humbling by Australia, before a 1-0 defeat by West Indies made it four series defeats in a row and extended their winless run to nine Tests. **-AFP**



Kenya records high number of viewers for eLigue on YouTube

NAIROBI: A record of 11 000+ Kenyan viewers have watched the eLigue1 Tour esports competition streamed on IndexG Esports YouTube channel. This is the highest number of views that an esports competition has garnered in Kenya. The record was previously held by PGS who garnered 37,000 views for their Mortal Kombat championship back in 2018. The eLigue1 Tour is an initiative of the Ligue 1 Uber Eats, aimed at connecting young soccer fans to the league. Played on PlayStation 4, using FIFA22 game, this year's edition is the second one that they are hosting after successfully hosting the debut edition last season. The broadcast of the Kenyan finals was a culmination of the tournament that began with 52 contestants, who were reduced to 8, after the preliminaries were held at Zetech University on 20th March 2022.

-Webster Nyandika

Hammers hope to recover lost glory against Lyon

■ **Augusta, Thursday**
@PeopleDailyKe

West Ham United host Lyon in the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final on Thursday with the Hammers' run in continental competition bringing back memories of the club's halcyon days.

They have not seen a European quarter-final in the east end of London since 1981 when second-division West Ham lost to eventual winners Dinamo Tbilisi in the last eight of the Cup Winners Cup.

Their best years came before that, with Bobby Moore captaining the team to victory in the 1965 Cup Winners Cup and a side featuring Frank Lampard senior reaching the final of the same tournament in 1976.

On that occasion, they lost to a brilliant Anderlecht team, but returning to another European final is now the dream, almost half a century later.

After ousting record six-time winners Sevilla in the last round, a meeting with Lyon will hold no fears for David Moyes's men, who are sixth in the Premier League.

"It's very exciting. I've been here a long time and seen the lows of relegation battles to being in the quarter-final of the Europa League," Aaron Cresswell told the club's website.

"That's what we want as a club, we want progression and as players, we want to play in those competitions against the best players in the world. It's fantastic." **-AFP**



West Ham United's Scottish manager David Moyes looks on as his team takes on Everton at the London Stadium, in London on April 3, 2022. **AFF**



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Tiger out of the woods

Legend American golfer eyes comeback after a tragic car crash last year that caused him severe leg injuries

■ **Augusta, Thursday**
@PeopleDailyKe

As Tiger Woods prepares to make an amazing comeback from severe leg injuries suffered in a car crash 14 months ago, he has the legend of Ben Hogan to serve as inspiration.

The 15-time major winner, chasing a record-tying sixth green jacket, said he could not have attempted his astonishing comeback in the era of Hogan, who won six of his nine major titles after a 1949 automobile accident.

"The treatments have gotten so much better and I'm very thankful for that," Woods said Tuesday, when he confirmed he planned to tee it up in the 86th Masters.

"Because if I had to go through with my accident, given what had happened to me, during his era, I

wouldn't be playing this week, that's for sure."

Woods suffered major damage to his right leg in a February 2021 auto accident in Southern California, spending weeks hospitalized and months unable to walk.

"The leg was pretty messed up," Woods said in December. "I'm happy it's still attached."

Woods has Hogan's comeback to serve as an example, with 70 years of advancements to help as well.

"What he went through -- obviously, he didn't have the technology that we have now," Woods said.

"The number of hot tubs that he would have to take pre-round, post-round, in the middle of the night, just to be able to get up and swing a club the next day, I certainly appreciate that," added Woods, who said his open preparation for and recovery from play is time-consuming enough.

Hogan, who died in 1997 at age 84 only three months after Woods won his first major title at Augusta National, was involved in a February 1949 car crash at age 36 and made a stunning recovery.

Hogan suffered a broken left ankle, a fractured collarbone, a double-fractured pelvis and a chipped rib when his car was struck head-on by a bus. He developed blood clots that jeopardized his life and led to life-long circulatory complications.

Doctors said Hogan might never walk again much less play golf, but he returned to start the 1950 PGA season, won his second US Open crown only five months later and captured six major titles after the accident -- including the 1953 Masters and US and British Opens.

After the accident, Hogan struggled to walk courses but managed to rise to a share of fourth on the all-time major win list led by Jack Nicklaus's 18, followed by Woods and Walter Hagen with 11.

Hogan, who won his first major at the 1947 PGA Championship at the age of 34, also joined the select few to win the career Grand Slam, capturing each of the four majors at least once, a feat only matched by Woods, Nicklaus, Gary Player and Gene Sarazen. **-AFP**