

# CITY BITE

## THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

### SPECIAL FEATURE

....The atta boy statesman..

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"...a water shed moment await the city of Kisumu as Swagga Don is poised to be the Key artist during Festac Festival week..."



"...If Senghor was with us today, he'd be proud of what Festac is becoming!..."

## THE ATTA BOY STATESMAN

### RAILA ODINGA'S JOURNEY TO THE TOP : A STORY OF VALOR AND RESILIENCE.

What makes a father prouder than to bear a courageous son? If Jaramogi was awake today, he'd definitely hold his son in high esteem, not because of the wealth he has accumulated for himself but his positive contributions to the growth trajectory of Kenya, her democracy and her institutions.

Raila, an astute advocate of social justice represents all men and women of this country, whose journeys to the top were hinged on dedication, sacrifice and honesty, with meticulous attention to detail notwithstanding.

Today, as Kenya surrenders her *atta boy* statesman to be the custodian of Africa's interests, a rare opportunity presents itself to the day's adept writers to recount the history of of a Nation's Lion.

Born a blueblood, many have mistakenly credited his current status and rise to it with Jaramogi Oginga Odinga's legacy, thanks to a Vice Presidency somewhere in his, -Jaramogi's- résumé. However, ordinary wisdom tells of how a man makes his own luck and those with eye for detail can comfortably vouch for the idea that Mr. Odinga charted his own path, regardless of the resources in his background.

Until 1962, he was simply an intuitive young boy, but so full of life and a future so bright that many could sense an air of greatness in his presence. The genesis of his education was in Union Primary School, before he was transferred to Maranda Primary and then to Maranda High School, after which he flew to Germany, where he spent a biennial at the Herder Institution. He then received a scholarship that saw him join The Technische Hochschule [Technical College] of Magdeburg, an institution that is now a part of Otto Von Guericke University of Magdeburg in the GDR.



H.E Chief Raila Odinga | Photo Courtesy

While in Germany, Odinga, a student of voracious inquisitiveness, never ceased seizing learning opportunities whenever they presented themselves. As such, he also enrolled to the faculty of philology in the university of Leipzig. Philology, for context, is the study of language in oral and written historical sources; an intersection of textual and literary criticism, history and linguistics. In simpler terms, philology is the establishment of authenticity of literary texts, oral and written records. This accentuates Odinga's character and love for history.

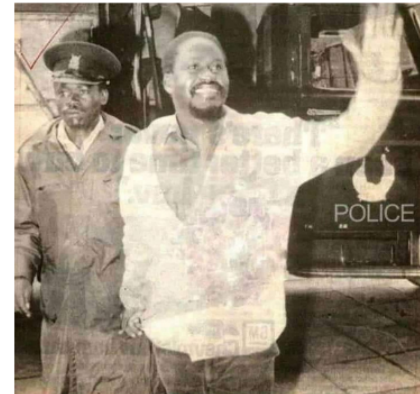
Character? True that. How? Mr. Odinga has the track record of probing situations and establishing the authenticity of their genesis. That is why today, even as he prepares to venture into active diplomacy, a preponderance of Kenyans still worry about whether his boots will ever be properly filled. To many, no one else can ever maintain a political flame as stable as Raila's was in the backdrop of



A young Raila Odinga at Leipzig University in East Germany | Photo Courtesy

authoritarian regimes, electoral injustices and such cateracts to democracy. When the Nyayo era was at it's nadir, he led the line for those who were being tortured on behalf of common citizens who held different opinions from the regime of the day.

Like a martyr, he was tortured for holding an opinion independent from the Government of the day, like a saviour he took the suffering as a step closer to a better society. He did not falter, he did not fret. He sacrificed his years for the love of the nation. His family? All left behind as he faced the chilling cold in the infamous Nyayo house.



Raila Odinga released from detention | Courtesy

Luckily for him, Mr. Odinga is a stalwart family man who was blessed with a loyal supporter of a wife. Ida, a teacher by profession stuck in her position regardless of the adversaries it came with. To be the wife of a revolutionary is to risk not only your life but also those of your loved ones. She risked it all, for a course to a better future, spearheaded by her strong willed husband.

In the wake of Amollo's struggle for the second liberation, Mama Ida largely took care of their kids, a role she played with equanimity. However, things would then take a sharp turn to the wrong direction when those in the ranks of power decided to go personal with their war against Raila, by expelling her from her job at Kenya High , in a classical show of callous ruthlessness by the reigning administration. First, they robbed her of the husband then they took

her job away, in an attempt to frustrate her and potentially deter her husband from opposing the totalitarian regime. However, to the dismay of the overzealous beavers of the infamous KANU administration, Ida's defiance grew stronger and her loyalty to Raila faced a quantum leap, as if to vauntedly say, 'what kills me not, makes me stronger.'



Ida Odinga after being expelled from her house in Kenya High School [Courtesy]

With courage, she would then raise their kids, including a young Raila Odinga Jnr, whom the ODM boss has in the past confessed to have first seen at nine years old. This was in the wake of a security apparatus restructure in the post 1982 coup era in which among others, he was detained without trial. For six years, he was put through nightmarish torture, with its nadir being the year 1984, when his own mother died and he was only informed after two months by those responsible. Painful it was, but his faith in a better future for the country did not waver. He kept believing that multiparty democracy was practically achievable.

On 6th February 1988, Odinga was released but in September that year, after barely seven months of freedom, he was rearrested in the backdrop of his pro-democracy crusades. At the time, the country was by law a one party state, while human rights violation was ubiquitous. These formed the pillars of his politics, regardless of the dangers they exposed him to. Kenya and her people were to him far much bigger than individual sufferings and after he was released, he did not tone down his demand for a free, democratic nation. This led to another related arrest in June 1989, only this time he was in what today I'd call an elite company. Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia were also arrested.

on 21 June 1991, two years later, the nation breathed a sigh of relief as one of her warriors was released. However, word has it that the Moi



"Democracy is not instant coffee; it is a process to which we remain committed"

**Raila Odinga**

IN THE YEAR

**1982**

AN UNSUCCESSFUL COUP LED BY THE LATE SENIOR PRIVATE HEZEKIAH OCHUKA TOOK PLACE AND LED TO RESTRUCTURE OF SECURITY APPARATUS BY THE THEN PRESIDENT H.E DANIEL TOROITICH ARAP MOI

IN THE YEAR

**2002**

RAILA ODINGA TEAMED UP WITH MWAI KIBAKI AND OTHERS TO FORM NARC THAT OUTWITTED PRESIDENT MOI.



A young Raila and Ida Odinga [Courtesy]

administration had at least once tried to unsuccessfully assassinate him, thereby informing his exile to Norway in October that year. However, his penchant for a democratic Kenya led him back to the country barely six months later to join his father, who was at the time leader of a certain Forum For the Restoration of Democracy, a movement formed to agitate for the return of multipartism. Out of merit and respect, he was elected the Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the party. FORD's leadership successfully spearheaded the repeal of section 2A of the then Kenyan Constitution, leading to a first multiparty election in over a decade in the year 1992. In his individual capacity, Odinga played a key role in the aforementioned achievement, while while at it winning the Langata Constituency parliamentary seat.

After Kenneth Matiba, he became the second father of multi-party democracy. When his father died in 1994, it was Kijana Wamalwa who took over as the new leader of FORD, via an election so controversial that Raila vehemently challenged his leadership and eventually resigned from the party to join NDP.

In 1997, he, for the first time ever vied to become Kenya's Head of State, but lost to incumbent Daniel Moi, who won and Mwai Kibaki; the first runners up. However, five years later, he joined forces with the latter to outwit 24 year President Daniel Arap Moi, in what to date is considered a water shed moment for Kenya's gradually maturing democracy.

Post 2002, he has had an ambivalent political career, which faced an all time low in 2007 when his victory was reportedly insolently stolen by the then incumbent president and second term aspirant Mwai Kibaki. However, his greatest high has been his association with the 2010 Constitution, which saw the inception of devolved government, presidential term limit among other policies for good governance like two third gender rule and affirmative action.

# SOCIALS

## HOT ON X

### SAFARI RALLY BEGINS IN NAIVASHA!



SS2 @SafariRallyWRC 🇰🇪

🕒 14:01.6 - 3rd fastest so far

💬 "The first stage is a reminder of how hard it will be this weekend. I was struggling with understeer particularly on the downhills. It's really difficult."

#WRC #SafariRally #HMSGOfficial

@thierryneville



Engines roaring and dust flying as drivers make their way to SS2 🇰🇪  
#WRCsafariRally2024 #EasterNaRally

@safirallywrc



President Ruto's involvement in WRC SafariRally 2024 reflects the government's dedication to fostering sports development and driving economic growth through the promotion of major sporting events. Tuko Vasha Karibu Kenya @fidel\_ke



We will combine efforts with the World Rally Championship to keep the Safari Rally as a world-class sport. This will boost our tourism and overall economic growth.

Flagged off the WRC Safari Rally 2024 at KICC, Nairobi.

@WilliamsRuto

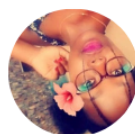


Pomp and flair as H.E. President @WilliamsRuto officially flags off the WRC #SafariRally 2024 at KICC grounds, Nairobi in the company of CS @AbabuNamwamba. #EasterNaRally

@moyasa\_Ke



As the 71st Safari Rally Edition kicks off, we look ahead to the best World Rally Championship especially now that it is being held on the traditional Easter Season. @rigathi



Mbona Safari Rally ya this time haijakuwa hyped kama ya last year @kanyi\_254



In your travels this Easter weekend, please drive safe.

For those who are going to safari rally championship, drive safe and enjoy safely.

#HappyEaster @Profundity\_101



Rally fans, the party has just STARTED! Oloiden is ON FIRE with the ultimate WRC Safari Rally afterparty. Join the Tumbler in the Wild experience, featuring Beat Nation DJs, Optiven Kenya, and Bila Shaka Breweries! Don't miss out on this epic Naivasha bash! #Twendevasha

@house\_swahili



Hii Easter, form ni Safari Rally. Twende rally. Happening this week in Naivasha from 28th to 31st March 2024. Ni free!

#EasterNaRally @ntvkenya

# YOUTH AFFAIRS

## FESTAC DEVELOPS YOUNG PEOPLE



At the heart of Kisumu City CBD, propinquent to the famous Kisumu Boys High School round-about, an ad shouts FESTAC Festival, with a myriad of partners' emblems perched on it. Among the partners is a certain little known City Bite Magazine, a young youth led media set up in the lake side city. Founded only in 2023, CBM represents the face of youth inclusion in the World's Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture, otherwise known as FESTAC.

In the past volumes of this magazine, we have elaborated, through stories how FESTAC promotes different themes of life. In this volume, however, we are giving an illustration, using our own story. First things first, we'd like to risk being redundant by putting emphasis on a repeatedly quoted line in many of our articles; "FESTAC is meant for the youth," at least according to Eng. Yinka Abioye, the overseer of the planning team.

When he first interacted with our leaders, he proudly told his peers; "I want you to mentor these young men," because to him and those he leads, that is the role of the festival. It gives opportunities to young people, it allows them to make mistakes and it links masters to their apprentices; a message we have passed more than twice, but still comfortably repeat, regardless of the risks that come with repetition.

We are aware of the importance of FESTAC to our development, thanks to an open minded Chief Executive and a ready-to-tutor Chairman, among other well wishing stakeholders.

"If you stay here, you will learn a lot," Mumo once told our leaders. "Just be ready to learn and you will be taught," she said. "How to become a leader, a businessman, a writer or even a dancer," she continued. "Take a look around you and see these dignified ladies and gentlemen," she stated. "Do you think they're here for themselves? No! If you think so, you are wrong," she said. "These are people with experience. They are trailblazers and have made their marks in their respective fields, so interact with them and ask them as many questions as possible because that is the easiest way to learn."



"Greatness will not look for you in a rabbit hole," FeSTAC C.E.O said. "You must toil and look for it every where," she stated. "Part of toiling is networking. At FeSTAC we bud greatness, but you must show the initiative."

From 20th May, conversations will be centered on the development of youths and youth-friendly policies. This is because the festival's key objective is to preserve growth and development in Africa, and the best people to carry forward the development trajectory of our continent are the youthful ones.

Platforms will be available for youth leaders to speak up on issues bedeviling Africa and her people. Opportunities for new ventures will be made available while young people will interact with achievers.

This is why, from a first hand experience, City Bite magazine implores everyone else, especially young people to see the blessing that is FeSTAC and grab the opportunities it will bring to the City of Kisumu and to Kenya as a whole.



### WITH ADGI, there is hope for Africa!

Afrikan Development Goals Initiative holds the key to the future of mother Afrika. Founded by Brig. Gen.Amb. Dr. Wallace Williams and Prof. P.L.O Lumumba, the initiative is the "afrocentric alternative" to the "eurocentric" UNSDGs. On the week of FeSTAC Africa Festival, A Kisumu Chapter of the Initiative will be launched, in a bid to spread positivity across the continent. "We cannot wait for 2063 when we can solve our problems now," Wallace has most recently told City Bite Magazine. "We cannot solve one problem for decades. Let's give focused attention to a particular Afrikan problem in a year," he said. "UNSDGs are hogwash white rhino policies used to continue impoverishing Afrika," Wallace said. "We must decolonize Afrika from all fronts. There is a grand plan to depopulate our continent, in a desperate bid to steal our rich resources. We must avert that. We must prevent that at all costs!"



### MUMO BECAME MUMO OUT OF HUMILITY, HARD -WORK AND MENTORSHIP

"Without guidance, our paths can only lead us to an abyss called nowhere," so said one of the world's most prolific writers Robert Greene. Popularly known for the 48 Laws of power, Greene has authored some of the best selling psychological and power books in the United States of America.

To him, if nobody shows you the way, there's a decent possibility your talents will lead you nowhere. That is the gap that FeSTAC Africa Festival bridges. Through the festival, guiding young adults are guided into the immaculate maturity of their potential. They are being prepared to take over from the senior members of the society and preserve their respective legacies.

# INTERNATIONAL

## ECHOES OF TRAGEDY

### Navigating International Partnerships in a Turbulent World

In a tragic turn of events, a devastating attack has shaken the community in Pakistan, leaving a profound impact on international relations and human lives. On a day marred by violence, five Chinese engineers, dedicated to the development of the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project, fell victim to a suicide bombing in Pakistan's Shangla district. The engineers were en route to the construction site when the incident occurred, halting not only their journey but also the progress of a project that promised to bring energy and prosperity to the region.

The attack has prompted the Chinese construction company to suspend civil works, leading to the layoff of over 2000 workers. This decision not only reflects the immediate shock and grief following the loss but also underscores the broader implications for the safety and security of international workers engaged in developmental projects in volatile regions. The incident has raised questions about the measures in place to protect those who venture into high-risk areas to aid in the advancement of infrastructure and the betterment of local communities.

The repercussions of this event extend beyond the immediate loss of life and disruption of work. It has ignited a conversation about the geopolitical tensions that simmer beneath the surface of such collaborative efforts. While no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, it fits into a pattern of targeted violence that has previously affected Chinese interests in the region. Just a week prior, Pakistani security forces thwarted an attack on a convoy carrying Chinese citizens near the Gwadar port, a critical node in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The response from both Pakistani and Chinese authorities has been swift and decisive. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and assured a thorough investigation, while also visiting the Chinese Embassy to express his condolences and solidarity.

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The response from both Pakistani and Chinese authorities has been swift and decisive. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and assured a thorough investigation, while also visiting the Chinese Embassy to express his condolences and solidarity. The Chinese Embassy, on its part, has demanded a rigorous inquiry and the strictest punishment for the perpetrators, reflecting the gravity of the situation and the urgency with which it is being addressed.

As the dust settles, the focus turns to the families of the deceased, who are left to navigate the aftermath of this senseless act of violence. Their loss is immeasurable, and their grief, a stark reminder of the human cost of conflict and instability. The international community stands in solidarity with them, offering support and calling for justice.

In the wake of such tragedy, it is imperative to reflect on the fragility of peace and the importance of fostering an environment where development and cooperation can flourish without the threat of violence. The attack on the Chinese engineers is not just an assault on individuals but an affront to the principles of international collaboration and mutual progress.

The international community must continue to stand united against acts of terrorism that seek to undermine the spirit of cooperation and progress.

It is only through collective resolve and a commitment to peace that we can hope to build a world where such acts of violence are relegated to the pages of history, rather than the headlines of our present.

The bombing in Pakistan that claimed the lives of five Chinese engineers is a stark reminder of the challenges faced in the pursuit of development and international cooperation. As we mourn the loss of these individuals, we must also look ahead to the actions that can be taken to ensure the safety of all who work tirelessly towards the betterment of our global community. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that their deaths are not in vain but serve as a catalyst for positive change and a more secure future for all.

While the attack is a setback and a source of grief, it does not seem to have fundamentally altered the trajectory of Pakistan-China relations. The shared economic interests and strategic objectives are likely to continue driving the partnership forward, with both nations working closely to navigate the challenges posed by such security threats.

The attack on the Chinese engineers highlights the complex interplay between international cooperation, security challenges, and the pursuit of development in volatile regions. While it is crucial to mourn the loss of life and address the immediate aftermath of such tragedies, it is equally important to recommit ourselves to the principles of peace, cooperation, and resilience in the face of adversity.

# THE CRITICAL EYE

## FESTAC IMMORTALIZES THE LEGACIES OF OUR FORE FATHERS



Odima Osure; Writer.

If Senghor was here today, he'd be proud, not because Africa has become exactly what he among our founding fathers envisioned, but because some of those initiatives they conceptualised to carry forward their respective dreams for the continent are still here. Need proof? FeSTAC Africa is enough.

Founded in 1966 by among others the man himself, the festival ensures that the good ideals of afrocentricism are passed across generations through arts.

As we edge towards the 2024 edition in Kisumu, it is imperative to acknowledge that the founders of the festival did it thinking about us, the challenges we contemporarily face and what the future could hold for us. For instance, our original values pedestalized family, as a basic unit of the community, which is contemporarily jeopardized by the increasingly ubiquitous gender based / domestic violence.

Among this year's key themes is purple the city movement, an initiative spearheaded by Portia Shipman from the United States. This theme is aimed at campaigning against gender based violence and it's detrimental impacts on our day to day living.

Another thematic area will be the Afrikan Development Goals Initiative, a brainchild of Brig. Gen. Amb. Dr. Wallace Williams. Here, FESTAC aims at kick-starting the journey of Afrika towards an intrinsically motivated delopment road maps.This is relevant because the time has come for Afrika to write her own story, just like Mr. Raila Odinga puts it in his address on Awakening the Afrikan Lion. The continent must explore it's full potential in all possible ways including through such trade fairs that will take place during the fifth world's black and African

Festival.

It goes without saying that African cultural diversity is a key pillar to our Intra-continental diplomacy and as such,culinary arts, afrocentric fashion, traditional films, dances, songs and poems will boost cultural understanding, thereby leading to strengthened cultural diplomatic ties, which were envisioned by our founding fathers.



Leopold Sedar Senghor



Festac 77

### THE FESTIVAL OFFERS TREMENDOUS VALUE TO AFRICA BY:

- Promoting cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.
- Showcasing African creativity and entrepreneurship.
- Empowering youth and inspiring future leaders.
- Fostering sustainable growth and environmental responsibility.
- Recognizing outstanding contributions to African culture, trade, and tourism.
- Celebrating Africa's unity, diversity, and cultural pride.

### OVERALL GOAL OF FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL

- The overall goal of FESTAC AFRICA Festival is to celebrate, preserve, and promote African culture, fostering dialogue , together, unity and trade within the continent and among the African diaspora. By doing so, it aims to establish a sense of pride in African heritage and build bridges that transcend national boundaries, contributing to Africa's social and economic development.

FROM FESTAC WEBSITE



# C.S.O SPACES

## SUSWATCH KENYA'S DRIVE FOR EFFECTIVE CLIMATE FINANCE INITIATIVES



Sustainable Development Watch (Suswatch Kenya) was established as a registered Non-Governmental Organization in March 2011. It operates as a network comprising Civil Society Organizations dedicated to diverse thematic issues contributing to sustainable development. Suswatch Kenya has actively engaged in holding the government accountable for its policy commitments concerning climate change and has executed numerous climate change projects across various counties in Kenya, including Kisumu, Homa-Bay, Migori, Nandi Kericho, as well as at the national and regional levels.

Presently, Suswatch Kenya is undertaking a seven-month initiative, known as Building Community Resilience through Transparent County Climate Finance (BCORT), which runs from December 2023 to June 2024. This project, supported by Christian Aid Kenya, aims to enhance the effectiveness of climate finance in Kisumu County. The primary goal is to reduce climate vulnerability and strengthen community resilience against the impacts of climate change. Since its inception, the project has been targeting both the rights holders, including local communities through Kisumu County Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs), and the duty bearers, such as the Kisumu County executive and the Assembly.

The BCORT project seeks to enhance the capacity of local communities, facilitated by operating CBOs and established WCCPCs, to contribute effectively to climate change finance mechanisms and county-level policy frameworks. In collaboration with the Kisumu County Climate Change Directorate, the organization has participated in developing the Climate Change Fund Regulation 2023, which has been passed by the Assembly.

Training sessions have been conducted for CBOs on climate change finance mechanisms, including Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) and Climate Change Funds (CCCF), followed by joint lobbying and advocacy forums between CBOs and county officials to allocate and implement these climate finances efficiently.

Furthermore, the project has focused on training CBOs on citizen participation in County budget-making processes to ensure the integration of climate actions into county plans, policies, and strategies. WCCPCs from five wards in Kisumu have undergone training to understand their crucial role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of FLLoCA funds.

Additionally, the project aims to develop Ward climate adaptation plans (WCAPs) for Railways and Migosi wards. These plans will be tailored to the unique environments of these wards, identifying sectorial adaptation needs and formulating specific sectorial action plans aligned with county budget-making frameworks. They will also identify potential implementing partners and indicative costs to manage climate variability and risks. These plans will serve as valuable guides for the communities and WCCPCs, enabling them to develop and implement adaptive strategies that are context-specific, inclusive, sustainable, and responsive to the evolving challenges of climate change.

Suswatch Kenya has been instrumental in enhancing the knowledge and understanding of CSOs on climate finance, locally led climate adaptation, and resilience building. Collaboration with like-minded CSOs in Kisumu County has facilitated the sharing and documentation of locally led adaptation and climate risk management best practices using ICT, such as participatory short-video and photo journals. Radio talk shows are planned to disseminate information on climate finance to all stakeholders, fostering citizen dialogues and experience sharing on climate change finance mechanisms and implementation of county-level allocations of FLLoCA, as well as citizen involvement.



Moreover, the project has been involved in the development and dissemination of policy proposals and advocacy materials. Quarterly Suswatch Kenya E-bulletins are produced and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, containing the latest information on climate change issues in Kisumu County, including updates on local climate change actions, achievements of community-prioritized climate investments, new publications, upcoming conferences and workshops, funding opportunities, climate change scenarios, and predictions. Additionally, the project plans to leverage climate finance scorecards to conduct social audits in Railways and Migosi wards, tracking the implementation of climate finances like FLLoCA.

The project has also engaged in robust social media outreach to disseminate and share project lessons and enhance awareness of locally led climate adaptation and climate risk management.



## C.S.O SPACES

### PUBLIC DEBT SENSITIZATION FORUM HELD IN KISUMU.



On Wednesday, a public debt sensitization forum was held at Jumuia Hotel in Kisumu. Organized by the Institute for Social Accountability's Okoa Uchumi Campaign team, the workshop had the goal of introducing Okoa Uchumi Campaign activities and also delving into the nation's debt crisis through a robust discussion on the status of Kenya's public debt.

The meeting brought together 50 civil society actors and representing various sectors and networks from Kisumu County. The Maseno Transparency and Integrity Club was equally represented by two members. This broad-based collaboration and involvement of various stakeholders not only broadened perspectives but also fostered meaningful discussions on crucial economic issues affecting our country.

During the event, experts and advocates of economic transparency and accountability engaged with each other. They explored the complexities surrounding public debt, its implications on national development, and strategies to mitigate potential risks associated with unsustainable borrowing practices.

The discussions didn't just stop at understanding the problems; they also focused on actionable solutions and ways in which grassroots movements can contribute to fostering responsible fiscal management. The exchange of ideas and experiences among participants created a rich learning environment, empowering members of the club to become informed advocates for economic justice and prudent financial governance. The experience also highlighted the importance of youth involvement in shaping economic policies and holding decision-makers accountable for their actions. By participating in such initiatives, the Maseno Transparency and Integrity Club demonstrated its commitment to driving positive change and promoting a culture of transparency, integrity, and fiscal responsibility within our society.

**Key highlights from the presentations were as follows:**

- **Government Policies:** The fiscal policies and decisions made by the government, such as borrowing practices, budget allocations, and investment strategies, play a significant role in shaping the debt situation.
- **Global Economic Factors:** External economic conditions, such as global interest rates, commodity prices, and economic slowdowns, can influence Kenya's ability to manage its debt effectively.
- **Corruption and Mismanagement:** Corruption and mismanagement of public funds can exacerbate the debt crisis by reducing the efficiency of investments.

### Organizational success observed in terms of:

- There was adequate representation from every ward and aspect of the community which gave room for a wide range of perspectives and concerns to be brought to the table. This inclusivity allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand, as different areas and sectors may face unique challenges or priorities. It also fosters a sense of unity and collaboration among community members as they work together towards common goals that benefit the entire locality. With adequate representation from every ward, it was a chance for us to include diverse ideas on the table of discussion.

- An open space for learning and equal participation gave everyone the opportunity to participate and share their views, fostering a sense of belonging and ownership among participants. It encourage active engagement and ensured that diverse voices are heard and respected. This kind of environment promotes learning from each other's experiences and insights, leading to more informed and collaborative decision-making processes.

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Engagement of diverse age groups allowed for a holistic perspective on issues and solutions. Each generation brings unique experiences, knowledge, and priorities to the table. Engaging across generations fosters intergenerational learning and collaboration, where older members can share wisdom and lessons learned while younger members bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. This synergistic approach helps in creating sustainable and inclusive strategies that resonate with different age cohorts within the community.



**This is an excerpt from a report done by Joy Achungo of Maseno University**

# C.S.O SPACES

## Stecy Bosse: Championing HPV Vaccine Advocacy in Kisumu



Stecy Bosse

Stecy Bosse, a prominent advocate for HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination in Kisumu, continues to make significant strides in raising awareness and increasing vaccine uptake among teenagers. Bosse's dedication to this cause is evident through her annual Stecy Bosse 10 km HPV Vaccine Run, set to take place every April, among other community initiatives.

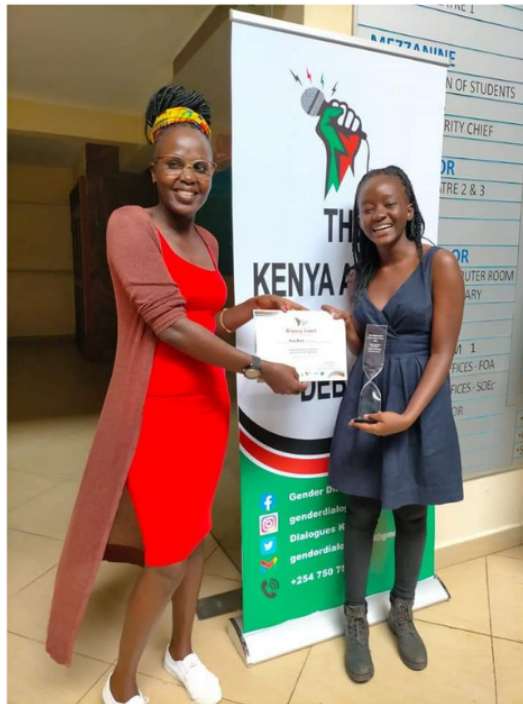
For the past three years, Bosse has been relentless in her efforts, reaching out to communities and schools to educate both parents and teenagers about the importance of HPV vaccination. Through partnerships with the government, she has conducted numerous health talks and sensitization programs, aiming to dispel myths and provide accurate information about the vaccine.

Over this period, Bosse has reached out to approximately ten thousand girls, offering vital information about HPV and its prevention through vaccination. Out of these, 546 girls have been fully vaccinated, marking a significant milestone in the fight against cervical cancer, which is often caused by HPV.

Despite her remarkable efforts, Bosse faces challenges in increasing vaccine uptake. One major obstacle is the lack of consent from parents, driven by misconceptions surrounding the vaccine. Sometimes being denied a chance to speak Addressing these misconceptions remains a priority for Bosse, who tirelessly works to provide evidence-based information to alleviate concerns.

The upcoming HPV Vaccine Run will once again serve as a cornerstone of Bosse's advocacy efforts, rallying the community to prioritize HPV vaccination and cervical cancer prevention.

Stecy Bosse's unwavering commitment to HPV vaccine advocacy continues to inspire hope and drive positive change in Kisumu. Through her tireless efforts and innovative initiatives, she is not only saving lives but also empowering communities to make informed choices about their health. As April approaches, Kisumu eagerly anticipates the impact of Bosse's upcoming events in the ongoing battle against cervical cancer.



Stecy Bosse receives The Brave Award during a past Annual Human Rights Debate [ Courtesy ]



A poster of Stecy Bosse's upcoming #MenAgainstHPV run.



## What are the most curable cancers?

Although there are no curable cancers, melanoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, and breast, prostate, testicular, cervical, and thyroid cancer have some of the highest 5-year relative survival rates.

Teresa Hagan Thomas, from Medical News Today

### \* KEY Facts on Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women globally with around 660 000 new cases and around 350 000 deaths in 2022.

The highest rates of cervical cancer incidence and mortality are in low- and middle-income countries. This reflects major inequities driven by lack of access to national HPV vaccination, cervical screening and treatment services and social and economic determinants.

Cervical cancer is caused by persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV). Women living with HIV are 6 times more likely to develop cervical cancer compared to women without HIV.

Prophylactic vaccination against HPV and screening and treatment of pre-cancer lesions are effective strategies to prevent cervical cancer and are very cost-effective.

Cervical cancer can be cured if diagnosed at an early stage and treated promptly.

Countries around the world are working to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer in the coming decades, with an agreed set of three targets to be met by 2030.

# LIFESTYLE

## TRIGGERED BY THE TOY

I was going to tell the story of 'my friend' but by twisting the truth I'd just be 'reinforcing' the 'outlawing' of sextoys which I believe to be absurd. So at my own risk, here's the story.

Whilst traveling from Mombasa to Nairobi recently, at the Mombasa train station, I was asked to put my bag back through the security scan a second time. 'Oh sorry, I have a glass water bottle.', I told the security officers. However the security lady pulled me aside and started to whisper 'Eh us lady's have to stick together', nice I thought m, 'you have a toy in your bag that is forbidden in Kenya'. A toy? She then whispered something about 'Bad women of the night being naughty with them on the train..', Oh, a vibrator she means.

'Maybe we want a soda', her male security partner said to me as he pulled my bag aside. He went on to explain that not many security agents see them but he is an expert.

They seemed shocked when I shamelessly shared with the male friend I was traveling with that I had been brought aside because of a suspected vibrator in my bag.

To be honest, I own a vibrator (or three) and so was genuinely concerned for a second - I know this can be a touchy matter at immigration. I offered to open my bag and give it to them. As I went to do so, I remembered that my tripod was in the front pocket, laughing, I pulled it out and said 'this is what you must have seen?'

No 'it's by your shoe in the bag', the security man insisted. I remembered that with absolute certainty there was no 'toy' in my bag. They continued to attempt to bribe me in familiar subtle ways, in Uganda a policeman once asked me for a Christmas present in February. I played dumb and said 'okay where can I get you a soda, which one would you like?'. They made it clear they did not want a 'soda' but some cash money. To which I responded (risky and untrue) that I work in anti-corruption so that there was no way I would give them money - but I would happily remove the toy and give it to them. There being no toy to give, they let me go.



Whether it was truly the tripod the security agent saw, or if he just saw a 'white muzungu lady' and thought he'd give it a shot - I will never know. It did however leave me questioning. Are sex toys truly illegal in Kenya? On what grounds and why? I've never seen more guns openly carried anywhere as much as I have in East Africa, yet a small vibrating object is feared? hazardous? harmful? (quite the opposite)

It leaves me with a headful of questions around women's sexuality, pleasure, freedom and rights; but also wondering how much men and women know about them and their use for personal and couples' pleasure.

Sharing this story but I've yet to find the written law about the legality of sex toys in Kenya?



## THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF SEX TOYS

Your sexuality is constantly evolving. Just like hobbies, passions, and lifelong friendships, your sexuality changes, grows and adapts with you. But, what if your sexuality growth is stagnant?

Considering most people today are intensely busy, overly stimulated, and perpetually stressed, nourishing your sexuality is often overlooked. Your sexuality is an important part of your overall health and wellness. New Year's is the perfect time to add "explore sexuality" to your list of resolutions!

Here are four ways that sex toys can help you explore your sexuality while making you happier and healthier:

1. Sex toys help you realize that sexuality is an integral part of your health

Every day more people are discovering the health benefits of self-care and self-love. Having regular orgasms may increase your lifespan since every time you reach orgasm your body releases DHEA, which is a hormone known to boost immune systems, improve cognition, and keep skin healthy-helping you look younger, longer. Estrogen, a hormone essential for healthy, smooth skin, is also released during orgasms.

Orgasms also produce a chemical called oxytocin, which works as a natural pain reliever and can help reduce headaches and muscle aches. And, orgasms can lead to better sex by strengthening muscle tone in the genital and pelvic floor area, which in turn creates more fulfilling intimate experiences and authentic sexual pleasure

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## KENYA'S STRIDE TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Viola Adhiambo.

In the heart of East Africa, Kenya stands as a testament to the resilience and proactive measures taken against the adverse effects of climate change. With its diverse landscapes ranging from the coastal shores to the Great Rift Valley, the nation has felt the full spectrum of climate impacts, from droughts to floods. Yet, it is in the face of these challenges that Kenya has emerged as a leader in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

the devastating effects of climate change are palpable across Kenya, with prolonged droughts taking a heavy toll on communities and livestock. the stark reality of climate-induced challenges is evident in the northern regions, where pastoralists face the brink of disaster due to the absence of rainfall, leading to severe food and water shortages. the famine early warning systems network has reported the worst short-rain season in decades, signaling a dire need for immediate and sustained intervention.

Amidst these challenges, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has drawn attention to the acute impact of drought on arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) in Kenya. With drylands occupying 90% of the country, the number of people forced to migrate due to drought could be as high as 286,000, affecting over 8 million Kenyans.

Recent years have seen Kenya secure significant funding to bolster its climate defenses. The government's commitment to mitigating climate change impacts was highlighted by the allocation of KSh 39.3 billion, aimed at enhancing the country's adaptive capacity and resilience. This move underscores the nation's dedication to safeguarding its environment, economy, and the well-being of its people.

The capital city of Nairobi recently hosted a pivotal Carbon Markets Conference, gathering over 200 experts to discuss the promotion of carbon trade within Africa. Musalia Mudavadi, Kenya's prime cabinet secretary, emphasized the potential to harness up to 600 million U.S. dollars annually through the sale of high-quality carbon credits by 2030. His statement, "Africa's contribution to global emissions is minimal, but the continent suffers disproportionately from climate change vulnerability. Yet, this is not a story of despair but one of untapped potential and opportunity," resonates with the optimism and determination that characterizes Kenya's approach to climate issues.

This proactive stance is further reinforced by the country's commitment to amend its Climate Change Act, aiming to regulate carbon markets and align national efforts with global climate goals. President William Ruto's assent to the Climate Change Amendment Bill, 2023, just days before the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, underscores the urgency and importance Kenya places on climate action.

Moreover, the country has faced severe droughts, particularly in the northern regions, pushing pastoral communities to the brink of disaster. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network reported the worst short-rain season in decades, with some areas receiving less than 30 percent of normal rainfall. This has led to devastating losses for pastoralists, with livestock perishing and food scarcity becoming a grim reality.

In response to these dire conditions, the Kenyan government and international partners have ramped up efforts to provide relief and develop long-term solutions. The amended Climate Change Act, assented by President William Ruto, is a significant step towards regulating carbon markets and reinforcing the country's climate legislation. This legal framework aims to facilitate sustainable economic growth and green industrialization, leveraging Kenya's rich renewable energy resources and diverse ecosystems.

Kenya's journey towards climate resilience is marked by challenges and triumphs.

The nation's proactive stance, coupled with international support and local ingenuity, paints a hopeful picture for the future. As the world watches and learns, Kenya continues to forge a path of sustainability, proving that even amidst the harshest of climates, growth and prosperity can bloom.

### From USAID Website

Climate risks pose serious threats to Kenya's sustainable development goals and development gains. With the largest economy in East Africa and a population of 54 million, Kenya serves as the region's financial, trade, and communications hub. The country's economy is largely dependent on rainfed agriculture, tourism, and natural resources, sectors that are susceptible to climate variability and change and extreme weather events. Although Kenya contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually, Kenya submitted an updated, more ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on December 24, 2020, with a commitment to reduce emissions by 32 percent by 2030 relative to the business-as-usual scenario and in line with its sustainable development agenda and national circumstances.

Kenya has put in place measures to pursue a low carbon and climate-resilient development pathway to help transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country. Kenya plans to reduce emissions by prioritizing the following mitigation activities: increasing the proportion of renewables in the electricity generation mix of the national grid to 100 percent by 2030, promoting energy and resources efficiency across all sectors, climate smart agriculture, and sustainable waste management systems. The country's priority adaptation actions include enhancing adaptive capacity and climate resilience across sectors and National and County governments, financing locally led climate action for climate resilient livelihoods, and enhancing the generation and use of climate information. These priority activities necessitate an increased demand for climate finance. The estimated total cost of implementing mitigation and adaptation actions of the updated NDC is USD \$62 billion.

# HEALTH

## MARKING WORLD MALARIA DAY



Emmanuel Otieno Obwanga

International days are known to be celebrated all over the world. They are usually dedicated to raising awareness, promoting action, and fostering dialogue on various global issues. They also provide platforms for advocacy, education, and mobilization of resources towards addressing critical challenges. They are deemed important because they highlight specific themes or causes that require attention at the international level.

Such days often involve events, campaigns, and initiatives to engage individuals, communities, organizations, and governments in collective efforts. World Malaria Day is observed annually on April 25th to emphasize the importance of combating malaria globally.

It serves as a reminder of the ongoing fight against malaria and the need for sustained investment and political commitment. The day aims to raise awareness about malaria prevention, control measures, treatment options, and research advancements. World Malaria Day also celebrates progress made in reducing malaria incidence and mortality rates worldwide.

There has been continuous advocacy both online and offline with intended efforts to influence policies, mobilize resources, and drive action towards addressing global challenges and Malaria Prevention at large.

Such days also fosters collaboration among governments, organizations, communities, and individuals to work together towards common goals. World Malaria Day has always brought different partners such as ALMA, End Malaria Council, Division of National Malaria Program, Amref, Civil societies together in a bid to addressing methodologies of achieving Zero Malaria and having Malaria free country.

World Malaria Day encourages innovation in approaches, technologies, and strategies to tackle complex problems effectively.

It also highlights the impact of collective actions taken in making a difference in people's lives around the world and the country .

It is an occasion to highlight the global efforts to end malaria and the need for sustained political commitment and continued investment for malaria control and elimination.

This year World Malaria Day is themed "Health Equity, Gender and Human Rights." This theme aims to raise awareness about the ongoing battle against malaria, particularly focusing on those most affected by the disease, such as pregnant women and children below the age of 5 years. It also highlights the various challenges faced by communities in malaria-endemic regions, including issues related to access to healthcare services and the emerging threats posed by climate change. The theme underscores the importance of addressing health disparities, gender inequalities, and human rights issues in the fight against malaria.

Kenya Malaria Corps have taken initiatives to Health equity ,Gender and Human Rights by investing in continuous advocacy ,imploring digital health technologies and underscoring need to effectively involve everyone in Malaria Prevention dubbed "the power of everyone campaign".



*Author is a Project Lead-Digital Health at Kenya Malaria Youth Corps/Member of Transform Health, Health Data Governance Working Group/Co-Founder CITYBITE MAGAZINE and Vice - Chair ; Association for the Welfare of The Boychild(AFTWOB).*

# THE DIPLOMAT

## SOAD FESTAC ROVING AMBASSADOR JAMEZANY JAMES TO WEDD IN KENYA



Jamezany James, FeSTAC ambassador and also the Coordinator for the film dubbed FeSTAC wood is set to hold his wedding here in Kenya during the Festac festival week to happen as from 20th -26th May.

Some of the great names like Oliver Lithondo, Cassie Kabwita, Raymond Ofula will be present during the festival together with the Kenyan Film Commission fully on board as one of the supporter willing to make FESTAC Festival a success in Kisumu Kenya.

On Friday, March 15, 2024, the Government of the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) adopted a decree on marriages that allows its citizens to legally marry. The text appears on the website, like all the other legal texts of the State; <https://thestateofafricandiaspora.com/decrees/>

The decree made included 5 main titles: Eligibility, Procedure, Ceremony, Marital life and Dissolution. The 25 articles of the decree regulate the modalities of the marital institution, as established in the legal framework of the State of the African Diaspora (SOAD).



This initiative is linked to the request of Ambassador Jamezany James. A few weeks ago, the Ambassador announced to the Prime Minister that he intended to marry soon, and that he wished this marriage would take place according to the rules of the State of the African Diaspora. In addition, Ambassador James requested that the ceremony takes place during FESTAC, the international festival of which SOAD is a partner, and which will take place in Kenya in May 2024. This is a positive notch for FeSTAC festival which targets Africans to come together and share their cultural diversity, beliefs and practices.

Dr. Louis-Georges Tin was buoyant when he had that major announcement by Ambassador James Jamezany noting that it would create future diplomatic ties between federal state of Nigeria and the Republic of Kenya.

Emperor Adjahouto Dodo and Queen Aïdji were the first couple to marry within the political and royal framework of SOAD; and now, Ambassador James and Atwine Allen will be the first spouses to be married within the legal framework of the State of the African Diaspora. The marriage will be historic since it will be taking place during FeSTAC week. The Ambassador appreciated SOAD for approving their marriage, which he says would open doors to many young people who would wish to follow suit.



# EDUCATION

## HELLO READER, HERE'S A CONTINUATION OF THE PREVIOUS TOPIC.

### *What is following instructions?*



### *Ms Odhiambo Ruth*

#### *What can I do to improve following instructions in my learner or child?*

- Eye contact: Get the child's visual attention before giving them an instruction.
- Single instructions: Give your child only one instruction at a time.
- Simple language: Keep language simple and direct.
- Break verbal instructions into parts: Instead of "Go and get your lunchbox and your hat and go outside", say "Get your lunchbox." Do not bombard the child with multiple instructions in one.
- Repeat: Get your child to repeat the instruction to ensure that they have understood what they need to do.
- 'First/Then': Use this concept to help the child know what order they need to complete the command.

#### *Why is the ability to following instructions important?*

- Visual cues can often be very useful to help the child to follow longer instructions as it provides them with something to refer back to if they are having difficulty remembering what they need to do.

#### *What activities can help improve following instructions?*

- Simon Says: Gradually increase the length of the command when playing this game (e.g. "Simon Says pat your head"). I personally use this a lot with my learners.
- Robot game: Blindfold the 'Robot' (listener) so the child must listen very carefully to instructions to find something (e.g. go 2 steps forward, then 1 step to the right).

This can be reversed so that the child has to give someone else the instructions. This improves the listening skills.

- Drawing games: Describe a picture that the child cannot see and they must try and draw a similar picture from your verbal instructions. Compare the two pictures at the end. Use previously drawn background scenes (e.g. a flower, a person). Take turns giving instructions about where to draw or stick on pictures of objects or people (e.g. 'put the plate on the blue table').

#### *Why should I seek therapy if I notice difficulties with following instructions in my child?*

Therapeutic intervention to help a child with following instruction difficulties is important to:

- Help a child to follow instructions within the educational setting (e.g. classroom instructions, academic task requirements).
- Help a child to follow commands within social situations (e.g. playing games with peers, engaging effectively with individuals during out-of-school activities such as playing sport).
- Help a child to understand and complete routine and unfamiliar tasks appropriately around the house or at school.

#### *If left unchecked what can these difficulties with following instruction lead to?*

When children have difficulties with following instructions, they might also have difficulties with:

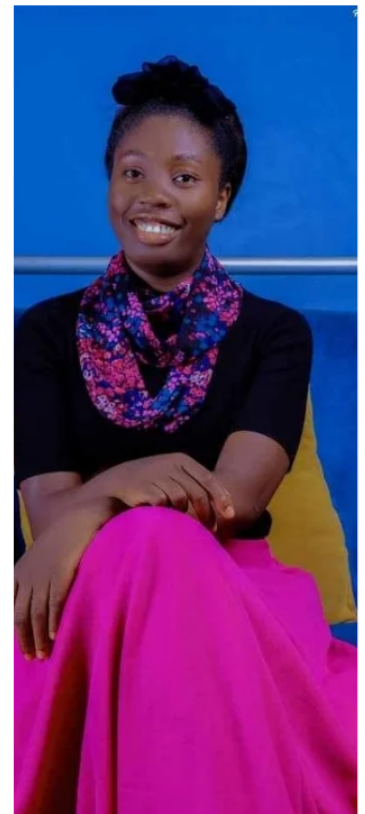
- Understanding instructions during social interactions with peers and unfamiliar adults.
- Comprehending commands within academic tasks in higher levels of education.

#### *What type of therapy is recommended for difficulties following instructions?*

If your child has difficulties following instructions, it is recommended you consult a Speech Therapist.

If there are multiple areas of concern (i.e. beyond just following instructions) both Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy may well be recommended to address the functional areas of concern.

*Ms Odhiambo Ruth is a teacher at Fairmonts International Schools; Kisii*





The canard understands that an unnamed self proclaimed youth leader has been recently left disappointed following a spat between a high ranking politician and themselves. According to those in the know, the youth leader on agenda had been heard chest thumping of his self professed high IQ & how he controls the leader in question. However, word has it that said politician got a hint of his bravado and has since refused to pick his seriate calls.

thecanard

### Stivo Simbo Boy Died of Love, resurrected!

Last week, Kenya's most controversial rapper Stivo Simbo Boy collapsed on live television during an interview.

This was in the wake of seriate mouthwagging photographs taken in public with media personality Mbetty Kyallo.

Since he first broke to the limelight, Simbo Boy as he'd be referred to by some from specific places in Kenya has his fairshare of controversies revolving around relationships and wome.

From Pritty Visi to Mbetty , he has enjoyed attention from some of Kenya's most talked of ladies and this could've contributed to his collapse.

What if his latest catch had earlier suffocated him with love. What if she made him breathless and he couldn't help but die, go to heaven, thank God and come back to continue with life and his many affairs.?

Kindly wake up, stop dreaming!



# PERSON OF THE WEEK

## ANGELA OKUTOYI

For her efforts in raising Kenya's flag high, City Bite's Person of the Week acknowledges Angela Okutoyi, who at a salad age of 20 years old has already stamped her authority as a master of her craft after bagging the gold medal from African games in Accra.

This was an icing to a cake that is her meteoric tennis career, after she broke the glass ceiling in 2022, at only 18 years old by becoming the first ever black African to win a junior Grand slam.

Reports indicate that the game was in the first place an escape from a sorry childhood that saw her twin sister and herself spend a part of their tender ages at an orphanage.

However, today, she stands tall among many athletes, regardless of the fact that for her age, her career is just getting started, and is with a whole future in her hands.

It takes discipline to be where she already is, but most importantly, it takes courage to rise from the misery of her childhood to become an international public figure, registering authoritative performances at such high-levels.

Unlike many a young public figure, Angela has kept her head low and desisted from allowing the fame that her victories bring get under her skin, crediting God for her on-pitch success. "ALL AFRICAN GAMES 🇰🇪🏆 First I wanna thank GOD for getting me this far 🙏 Second wanna thank my team , my federation, NOCK , my school , people back home and everyone who I haven't mentioned and my fan This just means so much to me a childhood dream coming to light participating at the @olympics . Hope this gives someone watching a believe that anything is possible #noweakness," she wrote on X after clinching gold from the Accra competitions.



Angela Okutoyi during a past match [Courtesy]

A throwback to 2013 and Okutoyi is invited to the ITF training centre in Bunjubmbura, alongside her sister Asumwa. That same year, she would go ahead to win Africa Junior Championship under 14s singles tournament, in a watershed moment of her then just kickstarting tennis career. She would then go ahead to win both a singles and a doubles at the ITF East Africa Under 18s Junior circuit.

All these were early glimpses of greatness that now seems about to transcend all borders. While Kenya has been famously associated with prolific athletes, sports have been an ironclad part of our cultural diplomacy and to have a tennis giant in our hands is to bolster our sports diplomacy. To give a name to the country on such a rare sport as tennis is to bear the responsibility of the 50+ millions of Kenyans in the international spaces.

Is she a reincarnation of Serena Williams? Well, Williams was such a good tennis player but Okutoyi is a whole different personality, who is charting her own path in her own unique way and speed. Most importantly, she is a Kenyan and she is ours. All sports stakeholders must cherish her, and the nation should build the future sports diplomacy around her, not because of her achievements but because she has earned that particular right, just like Victor Wanyama and other legends did.

It also goes without mentioning that as affordmentioned, Angela's age imbues hope to the future of sports in Kenya and should be treated as the face of new generation of sportsmen and women in the country.

If Serena Williams, world's most respected female tennis player was once a 20 year old 'rookie', then Kenya must be proud to have such meteoric talent as Okutoyi.



Okutoyi During a past match [Courtesy]

Even though more is yet to come, an air of confidence roams large among tennis fans across the country that we have a gem, to be cherished, protected and supported because with that, the sky will be the only limit for her.

City Bite Magazine congratulates Okutoyi and urges her to keep working hard for Kenya, not for the buzz but because someone her life's calling that is the tennis game is keeping many not only entertained but also hopeful of a brighter tomorrow.



A young Serena Williams [Courtesy]

# ENTERTAINMENT

**A WATER-SHED MOMENT AWAITS THE CITY OF KISUMU AS AFRIKAN AVATAR SWAGGA DON IS POISED TO BE THE MAIN ACT FOR FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL IN MAY.**



Afrostar Swagga Don will be the main artist during the week of Festac Africa Festival in the city of Kisumu, City Bite has been told. Popularly known as The Afrikan Avatar, he is the singer of Mama Afrika, the Festac Festival 2024 theme song, which is currently the talk of town in the lakeside city.

Born in one of the myriad of Islands in the Carribean and in a lineage of slaves, Swagga Don on Jul.9 2019 reportedly had a strange but eye opening experience involving a moment in which his soul left his body to orbit into the cosmos. For the particular moment, it is said that the Afrikan Avatar's body organs collapsed, then mysteriously started functioning again.

Via an interview with Elvis Joshua, he reminisces what he calls a miracle moment and credits ancestors's healing hand for his coming back to life. Since then, he has used music as a medium through which he communicates messages from ancestors to Afrikans. To him, music is not to earn a living but to communicate his palindromic messages with the continent.

Some of his notable songs include the Festac Festival 2024 theme song that has been doing rounds on social media platforms, majorly tik tok. Swagga Don has traversed the continent, but as Kisumu awaits the biggest ever festival, Afrikans have been rallied to give their avatar a coset welcoming, befitting of his status, passion for Afrika, her people and her resources.

As an experienced artist, young players in the industry have also been rallied to grab the opportunity of learning from a maestro of the game. This accentuates the role that Festac plays in safeguarding the future of Afrikan arts.

Join the May platform to participate in the week-long networking platform that links apprentices to their masters and vice versa. A plethora of opportunities for collaborations in music and art, business and trade, leadership and diplomacy.

**FILM IS THE MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH WE COMMUNICATE OUR CULTURE**



Film is the medium through which Africa preserves and communicates her culture, Terry Jerry A'Wase most recently told City Bite. Via a telephone conversation with our interviewers, Terry loquaciously highlights the role that Festac Africa plays in promoting African film, through blending it with culture.

Film proceeds culture," he said." Culture provides the narrative of film. Look at Hollywood, Bollywood, Nollywood, Korean Industry and others," he stated. " They exhibit their belief systems, their fashion, culinary arts et cetera," Terry told us. " The African film industry is though still emerging and we are not appreciated. During Festac Festival 2024, we will showcase the beauty of African film and elaborate why culture is the pedestal of the Industry."

"There's so many beautiful but untold stories about our beloved continent. If you look at other industries, their story lines are almost predictable. But you see, the stories of this world cannot be told without Africa. We are the cradle of mankind and we are the core of humanity," he said. " Sadly, even the name Nollywood was coined by foreigners to refer to African film industry," A' Wase said. "Hollywood has for a long time portrayed Africa in a dark light, and the perception has grown, because there were erstwhile no real models for African people. Festac therefore is trying to set up new models to promote African film industry," he said. " Putting up with overbudgeting industries has been herculean, a reason for our emasculation. However, we want to have a future where the world wants to hear the story of Africa. This is because around 77% of African population is youthful. This is in itself a rare opportunity for our film industry. Our future is secure, but only if we tap into the energies of you young people and available synergistic opportunities to grow," he said.

"In host nations, Festac directly benefits their respective film industries. The festival is a convergent point for people with experience in the game. For instance, in 2024, great film makers will meet in Kisumu, Kenya. Film making, in this context is a very broad concept involving logistics, musicals, film construction, fashion etc."

" The festival is providing a platform for the host country to sell itself and her ideals. It opens up film makers to do business in host country and for young film makers in the country to learn from those with a track record. It is only an African who can teach an African how to be an African Film maker and such is the importance of Festac."

# AGRICULTURE

## IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE; FARMERS' WORLD



Felix Oloo ; Agronomist

### DRIP IRRIGATION

Drip irrigation means timely application of water to the plant root zone, thereby saving water, time and energy while maximizing your yield. Farmers can use drip irrigation to irrigate their vegetables, fruit trees such as bananas, avocados, passion fruits, maize e.t.c. Crops under drip irrigation mature faster, are uniform and of top quality. Farmers also save on labour costs as compared with other methods of irrigation.

### Vegetable Drip Irrigation

This is a flexible system and can be wound through flower beds or borders, around trees or shrubs, run down rows or raised vegetable beds and can be used in container planting. It is an inexpensive and effective method for watering a variety of plants and gardens.

### Drip irrigation for mangoes, passion fruits, avocados and other fruit trees

We use button drippers to irrigate passion fruits, avocados, coffee, macademia and other fruit trees. This is because these trees are widely spaced and use of normal driplines will not be effective. The drippers are put exactly where the crop is, ensuring no wastage of water and nutrients.

The drippers are either the adjustable type, emitting 0-70L per hour or pressure compensated, which can either emit 4L, 8L or 16L per hour.

### Button drippers technology for orchards

Button drippers irrigation in Kenya is for orchards, biennials, perennials, hedge, and forest trees. Our on-line button drippers irrigate each tree according to its water requirement.

These drippers will be on the HDPE pipe at the base of the tree or other crops by making a perforation on the 16mm HDPE pipe.

### Types of button drippers in Kenya

#### Adjustable button drippers

The farmer has complete control over the volume of water emitted by these drippers. From zero liters per hour (complete shut off) to seventy liters per hour (completely open). They have color codes in red and come in various sizes according to the manufacturer. The discharge specs remain similar. The advantage of this adjustable button dripper is that a farmer gets to decide how much water to give to each plant. Adjust for a tree that needs more to receive as much, and vice versa. The downside is that one may under or over irrigate unwillingly.

Adjustible button drippers are the most commonly found tree crop irrigation emitters. They allow the grower full control over the amount of water each tree crop receives.

#### Non-adjustable on-line drippers

They irrigate according to the manufacturer's set water discharge rate. Every discharge type is color-coded for identification. They provide a uniform amount of water to each tree crop. On the negative, one cannot adjust to individual crop water needs.

### How to use Button Drippers

#### Crop type choice

In Kenya, drippers are on fruits, with the largest users being growers of; passion fruit, banana plantations, avocado, macademia, tangerine, orange, tree tomato, apples, and mango. The largest none fruit users are khat farm

#### Right drippers

Our technical team advises growers on the most appropriate type of drippers to use and the number based on; crop population, acreage, crop water requirement, and available water pressure. These button drippers for sale are available in our outlets countrywide.

#### Irrigation time

The drippers irrigation period is a factor of the volume of water available in the system and the pressure. This assumes that the pressure too. It will take longer if

both or one of them is low.



# FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL

## BELDINA AUMA WILL ATTEND FESTAC FESTIVAL



Beldina Auma is the Founding Chair and CEO of Lakewood Films, an international film production company headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Lakewood Films' mission is to tell compelling stories through film, for the global audience.

Ms. Auma is also the Producer of Lakewood Films' productions. She oversees all operational facets of Lakewood Films, including seeking and negotiating funding for film projects, with investors and major artists. She's also responsible for publicity and outreach for the company, image management for the company and its artists, as well as film distribution oversight. **Film**

Ms. Auma has many years of experience in film and theatre since the 1970s. She:

- ❖ Acted in the award-winning movie "The Bush Trackers" by Gordon Parks, Jr. 1980.
- ❖ Auditioned for "The Color Purple" by Stephen Spielberg in 1984 (was offered a part but couldn't take it due to conflicting schedules with her University academic program).
- ❖ Starred opposite Oliver Litondo in the play "Muntu" at the Kenya National Theatre in 1976.

Over the years, she has continued in the industry, working in the background as a Manager and Publicist for artists, one of whom is super star Oliver Litondo, of "The First Grader" (and several other movies).

### Network

Ms. Auma has a broad network which she brings to the movie industry in terms of perspective as well as investors. She was for 7-years (2007 to 2014) the Chair of the World Bank Group-IMF African Society, a 1,500 member organization of Africans working at the World Bank and IMF. She was the first woman elected to this position in then 40+-year history of the Society. As Chair of the Society, she spearheaded roundtable discussions on salient issues on Africa, engaging powerful constituencies such as the Congressional Black Caucus, African Diplomatic Corps, the African American Unity Caucus, US Congress (from both sides of the isle), and US State Department, among others.

### COMMUNICATIONS

For over a decade, Ms. Auma was a Senior Communications expert at the World Bank's Africa Region where she was advising the Africa region vice presidency on various communications aspects of the region's development work. She worked on a cross section of communications components, including: country, sector, outreach, strategic linkages and media. Her job with the World Bank included supervising the development and implementation of country communications programs in 20 African countries

Ms. Auma's additional responsibility at the World Bank was the development and implementation of communications strategy for the World Bank's African Diaspora Program, which entailed strategic linkages with key Diaspora groups and co-organizing the Diaspora Development Marketplace.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Auma has made significant contributions to the international communications and development programs, especially in Africa, having held visible positions of responsibility, including:

- Communications Director of the United Nations Fund for Women in New York (UNIFEM).
- Executive Director of Communications for Development International (CDI) in Washington, DC, where she was instrumental in expanding the operations in Africa by launching regional offices on the

continent and collaborating successfully with UNDP, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNIFEM, UNECA, UNFPA and various other United Nations Agencies in developing successful communications and media programs, networks and associations in Africa.

- Chaired the United Nations Committee that evaluated the Communications Component of the Beijing World Conference on Women's Platform for Action in the year 2000.

### HONORS and AWARDS

Some of the honours and awards bestowed upon Ms. Auma in recent years include:

- African Achievers Award in 2021 by the African Achievers Awards Committee
- "100 Most Reputable Africans in 2018" by Reputation Poll.com
- Received the University of Tennessee's "Accomplished Alumna Award" in 2009

### EDUCATION

Ms. Auma's academic career include:

- MA in Communications with a focus on Communications for Development from Howard University, Washington, DC, USA
- BSc in Communications/Journalism/Film from the University of TN, Knoxville, TN, USA.

# FESTAC FESTIVAL

## OLIVER LITONDO TO PLAY A PART IN THE KISUMU BOUND FESTIVAL

Oliver Musila Litondo is the President of Lakewood Films, an international film company whose mission is to tell compelling stories through film, for the global audience.

He is also the current President of African International Documentary Festival Foundation (AFIDFF), a global Organization tasked with changing the narrative of African content and the development of talented persons in the media space.

A multiple award-winning film star, Mr. Litondo has acted in several movies alongside Oscar winners such as Sidney Poitier and Michael Caine. He starred in the multiple award-winning film, The First Grader opposite Naomie Harris, from which he won a dozen awards including:

“Best Actor” Award by AARP Movie Awards 2012 in Hollywood; “

“Outstanding Actor” nomination by NAACP Image Awards, 2012 in Hollywood;

“Outstanding Actor” Award by the Black Reel Awards 2012;

“Best Actor” Award by the Black Film Critics Circle;

“Outstanding Actor” Award by the Black Reel Awards 2012;

“Best Actor” Award by the Black Film Critics Circle;

“10 Black Breakouts of 2011” Citation for performers that stood out in 2011; “Best Actor” Award by Milan International Film Festival in Milan; “Best Actor” Award by Kenya International Film Festival in Nairobi.

He has also acted in many other award-winning feature films including:

❖ The Truth About Stanley, 2011, focusing on the homelessness in the UK supported by the British Royal Family;

❖ The Ivory Hunters, with James Earl Jones, Isabella Rossallini and John Lithgow, in 1990.

❖ The Lion of Africa, with Brian Dennehy, Brook Adams and Kevin Connor, in 1988.

❖ Sheena: Queen of the Jungle, with Tanya Roberts, Ted Wass and Trevor Thomas, 1984.



❖ The BushTrackers, starring Oliver Litondo and Joyce Thom, 1980.

❖ The Wilbey Conspiracy starring Sidney Poitier and Michael Caine with Oliver Litondo as Lead Support.

Also, several made for TV series such as:

✓ The Country Queen TV Series, 2021, showing on Netflix

✓ Orzoweil il figlio della savana, an Italian hit series, 1976.

✓ The Search for the Nile, an Emmy winning BBC Series, 1971 among many others.

A full catalog of his movies are available on IMDb (please click on the link): <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0514411/>.

Mr. Litondo is a recipient of several professional and social recognitions, including:

• National Hero for Lifetime Achievement in Film, bestowed upon him by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta on Kenya National Heroes Day in 2018.

• The Riverwood Awards Hall of Fame in 2016.

• African Achievers Award in February 2014.

• Movie Wall of Fame by M-Net for Lifetime Achievement in the movie industry inducted in August 2013.

• Movie Wall of Fame by M-Net for Lifetime Achievement in the movie industry inducted in August 2013.

• National Hero for Lifetime Achievement in Film and Broadcast Journalism, bestowed upon him by President Mwai Kibaki on Kenya National Heroes' Day in 2011.

• Kalasha Award for Lifetime Achievement in Film and Broadcast Journalism from Kenya Film Commission in 2010.

### EDUCATION

Harvard University's Loeb Drama Centre, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, Theatre and Drama;

> University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA, Theatre, Film and Radio Production; Iowa Wesleyan University, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, USA;

> Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden, Radio Production and Theatre; and, > Swedish Radio and Television, Stockholm, Sweden, Broadcasting Internship



# WOMEN & LEADERSHIP

## UN WOMEN'S NEW WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY

### A Game-Changer for Gender Equality



Carol Nyagaki

In a significant milestone for the global gender equality movement, UN Women has unveiled its new Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy, setting the stage for transformative change in the economic landscape for women worldwide. This groundbreaking strategy is poised to enhance women's economic agency, autonomy, and well-being, marking a pivotal moment in the pursuit of gender equality and women's leadership.

At its core, UN Women's new strategy is a comprehensive framework designed to address the systemic barriers that hinder women's full participation and leadership in the economy. By focusing on enhancing women's economic agency, autonomy, and well-being, the strategy aims to unlock the untapped potential of women as powerful drivers of sustainable development and inclusive growth.

One of the key pillars of UN Women's strategy is to create an enabling environment that fosters women's economic empowerment. This includes advocating for gender-responsive policies and legal frameworks that promote equal opportunities for women in the workforce, such as equal pay for equal work, non-discrimination laws, and access to affordable childcare and parental leave.

By addressing structural inequalities and discriminatory practices, UN Women aims to level the playing field for women in the economy and create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Additionally, UN Women's strategy places a strong emphasis on promoting women's entrepreneurship and leadership in the business sector. Recognizing the significant contributions of women-owned businesses to economic growth and innovation, the strategy aims to provide women entrepreneurs with the support, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed. This includes access to finance, training, mentorship, and networking, as well as initiatives to promote gender-responsive procurement and supply chain practices.

Moreover, UN Women's strategy prioritizes investments in women's education, skills development, and capacity-building to equip them with the knowledge and capabilities required to thrive in today's rapidly changing economy. By investing in STEM education, vocational training, and digital literacy programs for women, UN Women aims to bridge the gender gap in technology and innovation and empower women to participate and lead in emerging industries and sectors.

In terms of implementation, UN Women's strategy emphasizes the importance of partnerships and collaboration with governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to drive meaningful change. By mobilizing collective action and resources, UN Women seeks to leverage the expertise, resources, and networks of

diverse stakeholders to scale up impact and accelerate progress towards gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

In conclusion, UN Women's new Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy represents a significant milestone in the global effort to advance gender equality and women's leadership. By prioritizing initiatives that enhance women's economic agency, autonomy, and well-being, UN Women is paving the way for a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future for women and girls worldwide. However, realizing the full potential of this strategy will require sustained commitment, collaboration, and investment from all stakeholders to overcome the entrenched barriers and challenges that continue to hold women back from realizing their full potential.



....At its core, UN Women's new strategy is a comprehensive framework designed to address the systemic barriers that hinder women's full participation and leadership in the economy...



Carol



### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

You can't go wrong by investing in the youths, youths are game changers, and creative thinkers.



GRACE MUMO; FESTAC C.E.O

Huduma Mashinani Forum County Edition. A citizen based accountability and dialogue forum. A honest conversation between the people and the government.



PROF. ANYANG' NYONG'O

In your early 20s? You might not know that the Affordable Care Act is the reason you can stay on your parents' health care plan until you're 26. Before the ACA, health care companies could kick you off earlier - sometimes right after college.



BARACK OBAMA

# OF IMPORTANCE...



## EXPERIENCE Africa in just 7 days!

Secure your spot in the FESTAC AFRICA Festival Marketplace today by completing our vendor application form [www.festacafrika.org](http://www.festacafrika.org). and see you on MAY 20TH - 26TH, 2024 in #kisumu, #kenya

Please note the visa requirements for Kenya through this link. <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en/en/roll/>

Book your discounted KQ flight here at 15% for the festival travelers <https://www.kenya-airways.com/en/promotions/festac-africa-festival-2024-offer/>

Book your discounted ET flight here at 15% for the festival travelers <https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/aa/book/trip/flight>

Book your discounted Safarilink flight here at 7% for the festival travelers [https://www.flysafarilink.com/?gad\\_source=1](https://www.flysafarilink.com/?gad_source=1)

Future Trends Africa Manifesto  
The Collective Peaceful Rise of Africa  
The Surprise Rise of Africa

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## FESTAC Trade fairs promote Africa's Intra-continental trade, nourishes relations.

International trade is a key pillar of both foreign policy and multilateral relations. Africa's steadily growing political economy relies heavily on good trade relations between her countries.

Multilateral Trade is a key contributor to the growth trajectory of the Continent's economy, which informs the theme for the 2024 Festival of Arts and Culture,- Sustainable Growth Trajectory For Africa through Culture, Trade, Travel and Tourism-.

During the FESTAC week in May, there will be afrocentric trade fairs aimed at strengthening intra African trade relations.

On such platfotms, concepts like Foreign Direct Investments, Foreign exchange, trade tarriffs, policies of protectionism and among others international capital market shall be debunked while their implications on country to country relationships will be elaborated. as a way to strengthen African bonds.

Zuhura is a FESTAC Africa Festival Board Member.



## SWAGGA Don communicates directly with ancestors!

After his soul left his body for an orbiting of the cosmos, Afrostar Swagga Don came back to life with the ability to communicate directly with the spirits of our forefathers.

He would then get the epithet Afrikan Avatar. A lover of music, Swagga Don's lyrics promote the values of AFROCENTRICISM and champions African independence in all realms of life. He has toured almost all countries in Afrika and will reportedly be the main act during the forthcoming regal FESTAC Festival in the city of Kisumu.

His song, Mama Afrika , will be the 2024 edition's theme song, which is already popular among the people of Kenya, thanks to an ongoing FESTAC Africa Festival challenge on tik-tok

Do not miss the opportunity to witness the man who died and resurrected with mysterious powers to communicate with those above us.



## FESTAC FESTIVAL 2024 THEME SONG

MAMA AFRICA BY SWAGGER DON

# NOTABLE QUOTES

## THE VIEW POINT



**SIR. JIM RATCLIFFE** ”

The only interest we have is in winning football matches. Competing for the Premier League and competing for the Champions League. That’s our only interest in being involved in Manchester United



**EZEKIEL MUTUA** ”

The Pessimist complains about the wind. The Optimist expects it to change and the REALIST adjusts his sails. But the JUST shall live by faith.



**SAKAJA JOHNSON** ”

DISHI inaMuok Embakasi North. More schools set to be enrolled after we broke ground in Dandora 1 Primary School this afternoon for our 11th Central Kitchen thanks to our partners @Food4Education.

Watoi Wadishi, Washibe na Wasome.



**GRACE MUMO** ”

FESTAC Trade fairs will promote Intra-continental trade relations between African countries. This will in turn bolster regional integration and promote development in our continent.



**HE CYRIL RAMAPHOSA** ”

The relationship between South Africa and the United States has received a great deal of attention recently.

Strengthening ties between the two countries was among the important issues that Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, discussed with US officials during a working visit to Washington last week.



**DR. WALLACE WILLIAMS** ”

There's a plot to depopulate Afrika and the United Nations is at the centre of the plot. We must not allow that to happen. We must rally Afrikans behind the ADGI. We want to solve Afrikan problems the Afrikan way.



**H.E WILLIAM RUTO** ”

The establishment of JW Marriott Nairobi – an iconic and award-winning multinational hotel – in Kenya signals the net result of our steady push for a facilitative business climate in our country.

It can only get better!

At the Global Trade Centre, Nairobi, officially opened the JW Marriott Nairobi that will directly employ more than 500 Kenyans



**BARACK OBAMA** ”

In your early 20s? You might not know that the Affordable Care Act is the reason you can stay on your parents’ health care plan until you’re 26. Before the ACA, health care companies could kick you off earlier – sometimes right after college.

It’s another reason why we need to keep building on the ACA – not repeal it. Because health care isn’t a privilege. It’s a right.



# GALLERY



WRC Safari Rally begins in Naivasha | Photo Courtesy



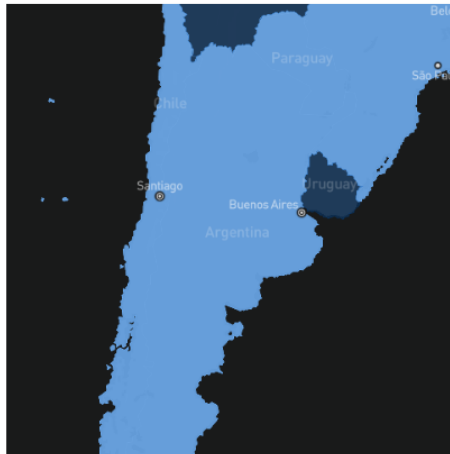
CS Ababu Namwamba visits Mercy Chepgeno, gifts her a full team Kenya kit | Photo Courtesy



Alejandro Garnacho in Action for Argentina National Team | Photo Courtesy



Afrikan Avatar Swagga Don who will be FESTAC Main act | Photo Courtesy



Starlink now available in Argentina | Photo Courtesy



Kobbie Mainoo in Action for England Vs Belgium | Photo Courtesy



Oprah Winfrey's latest photo that has got fans talking. | Photo Courtesy



U.S Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman visits Gearbox Europlacer workshop | Photo Courtesy



Gov. Joho donates food stuff to Kisauni residents in the spirit of Ramadan | Photo Courtesy

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