

CITY BITE

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

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Of the plot to replace Rigathi Gachagua with Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro in 2027

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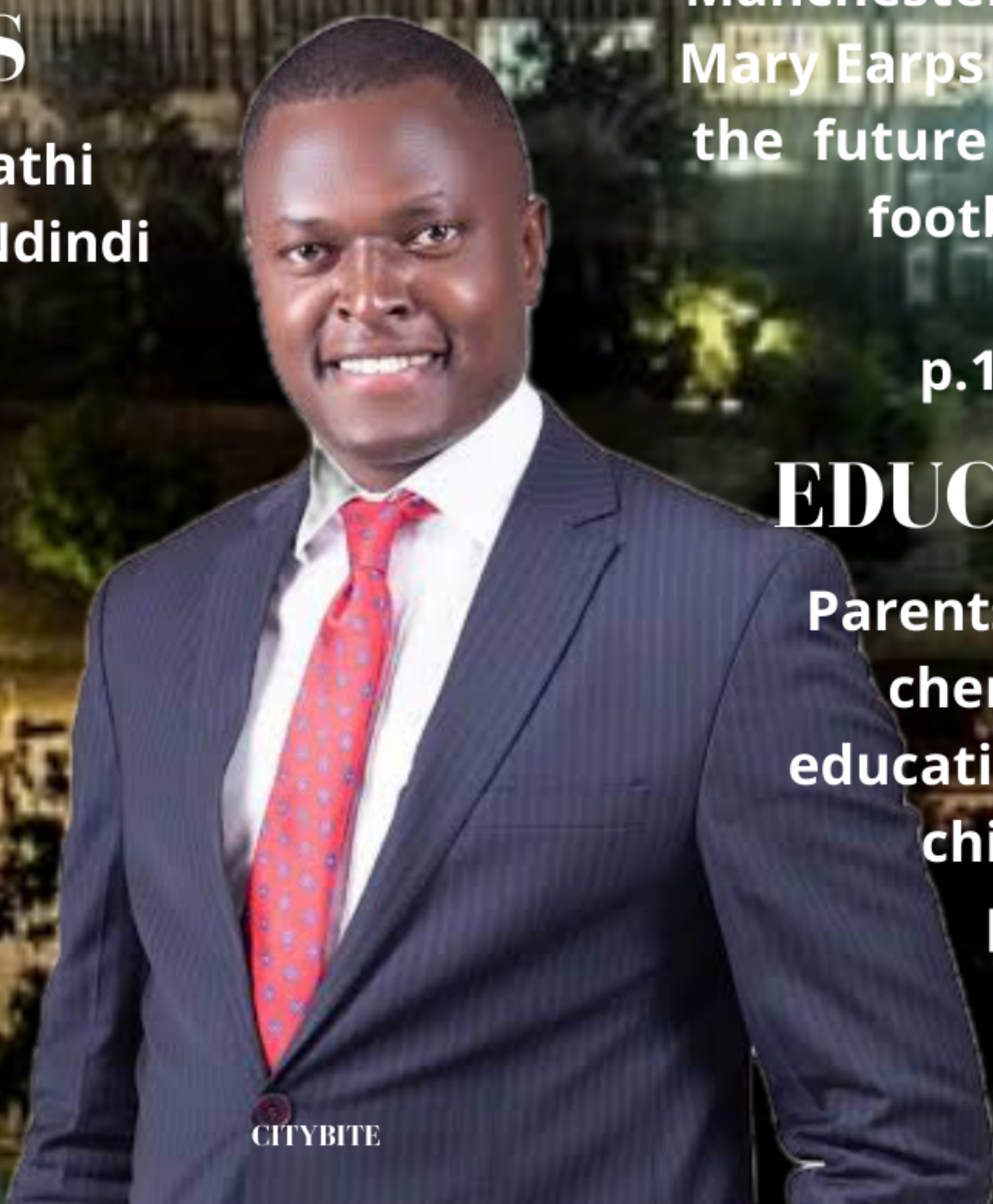
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INSIDE POLITICS

LOOMING BETRAYAL OR A MATTER OF CONVIENIENCE?



Kenya's sitting Deputy President Righathi Gachagua

From the time he was surprisingly picked by President Ruto as his would be runningmate in the run up to 2022 presidential poll, many political commentators casted their doubts on the feasibility of a potential ChaguaRuto administration, especially after it was earlier rumored and widely expected that Kithure Kindiki was William Ruto's preferred runningmate.

Nonetheless, it has been alleged by a section of internet users that the decision to settle on Mr. Gachagua was majorly premised upon his financial resourcefulness to UDA since it was first incepted in December 2020 and as such, the party leader was obligated to return that favor.

Regardless, expert political analysts at the time of the announcement insisted that this matrix was not firm enough to survive the checkered dynamics of power throughout a term and truthfully so, rumors of an 'Isolated' Gachagua started to do the rounds as early as when Musalia Mudavadi was sworn into office as prime cabinet secretary, and some of what were originally constitutional

roles of the office bearer in the capacity of a deputy president were given to this new office which for all we can remember, was not provided for by the constitution.

As time ages on, little aspects of a not so functional professional chemistry between the president and his number two have started to surface as a section of Mt. Kenya parliamentarians most recently publicly endorsed the idea of a Ndindi Nyoro-William Ruto joint ticket in 2027, in a move that weighs down on the Deputy President's shouder with his capacity to consolidate MT. Kenya voters and provide the necessary leadership being put to question by those who should comprise his basic support system.



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro is being fronted to replace Gachagua as Ruto's runningmate in 2027

Is it wrong? Maybe. Is it right? Maybe! but politics is not a game of morals rather convenience. Is it convenient for Gachagua to retire his Deputy Presidency after only one term? Maybe, but everyone wants more power and this could outrightly not be part of his plans- long term or short term. However, if claims of a plot to

replace him are true, they underscore a teething gap to be bridged with regards to political loyalty in the country.

A flashback to 2018 and you could see a sour Kimani Ichung'wa and the ilk on the roofs of SUVs crying about Uhuru Kenyatta's deception and what not in public rallies. Why changed their respective standpoints? Why turn on their own? . We are not to judge, especially when politics is involved and truth be told, mixed signals are an ironclad trait of politics but why such a swift change of heart?



Kikuyu MP Kimani Ichung'wa (Left) with President Ruto (Right)

Unlike UhuruRuto's controversial fall out in their second term, the indicators of Gachagua/Ruto split are gaining weight earlier than predicted by analysts which is shockingly so, given their campaign narratives. 1

INSIDE POLITICS

ONYANGO KOYOO TO REHABILITATE KEY ROADS IN MUHORONI



Muhoroni MP Onyango Koyoo with Muhoroni deputy county commissioner Stephen Emajong during the disbursement of Sh 3.5 million to students joining Form One at Chemelil CDF office on January 15, 2024 | Photo courtesy

pathetic conditions affecting the transportation of people and goods.

Muhoroni MP Onyango Koyoo on Wednesday said the roads will be repaired by Kenya Roads Rural Authority (KERRA) under 22 and 10 per cent routine roads maintenance levy fund.

He assured residents that he would repair the roads to ease movement and improve learning in schools despite the roads

'The poor state of the roads has forced me to source for funds to rehabilitate them because I cannot sit and watch my people suffer,' he said, adding that he wants to ensure that those roads are passable to ease movement of people and goods to various destinations," he said.

The MP additionally said that the pathetic roads are within the wards ergo the ward representatives should champion for their rehabilitation. He however absolved Governor Nyong'o over the state of the roads and instead blamed the MCAs for lack of proper representation.

"We were elected with them and they have abandoned me and the electorate in disguise that they were going to look for developments in the government. Not even a single road has been rehabilitated," Koyoo said.

Koyoo reprimanded some of the leaders who he said are hoodwinking the electorate that they join the government

to initiate projects which are not forthcoming.

"As members elected in the ODM party, we are not focusing on delivering to the people. We are doing this within the law devoid of witch-hunting," Koyoo said.

He was flanked by Muhoroni deputy county commissioner Mr. Stephen Emajong who in his address, called on the chiefs to ensure 100 percent transition of students in secondary schools.

"You need to comb the villages and ensure all students are taken to school. We must ensure no child must remain at home due to lack of school fees," he said.

Emajong said the government directive on 100 per cent transition of students to form one must be adhered to.

"I want to direct the chiefs and their assistants to go out there and start visiting homes of students who did their KCPE last year to ensure they're reporting to schools where they were posted," he said.

Residents of Muhoroni constituency have a great sigh of relief following an intervention by the government to address the plight of the bad state of key roads in the area.

The government through the office of the MP has launched rehabilitation of Masogo - Nyangoma, Ombeyi and Miwani roads.

Other roads that will be graded and murramed include the Nyakunguru - Omanyi roads, Ngere - Kagoro in Masogo and Nyangoma.

Further, the Yao bridge in Ombeyi ward which has been impassable will be constructed.

Speaking during the disbursement of Sh3.5 million to 66 students joining Form One in National schools at the Chemelil CDF office on Monday, Muhoroni MP Onyango Koyoo said that the roads will be repaired by Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA) under 22 and 10 percent routine roads management levy fund. The roads which are uner the county government, have been in

INSIDE POLITICS

SURVEA; MAURICE ORONDO WILL BE UDA CHAIRMAN IN SIAYA



Maurice Orondo is UDA Chairship aspirant for Siaya

As the UDA grassroot polls edge closer, local poll firm Survea statistics has now projected a potential landslide win for former mayor Mr. Maurice Orondo in the county chairpersons race.

In a multi-level survey conducted between 16th December 2023 and 13th January 2024, Maurice tops the popularity charts with a commanding 51% rating followed from a distance by Henry Ondeje, who according to the published survey findings is rated at 29%. At a distant third is former Ugunja Parliamentarian hopeful Dr. Fredrick Oyugi Dor who queerly doubles up as an aspirant for the UDA chairperson for his home sub-county Ugunja, with Millicent Olando tailing at 3% rating. Additionally, 6% of participants are either undecided and or are supporting other candidates without significant statistical figures.

While responding to the polls, a calm Maurice insists that the work is just getting started and that the ultimate goal is to popularize the ruling party, support the president and promote the ideals of the bottom up economic model. To him, the opinions do not matter if

if they don't reflect on the attitude with which the people of Siaya County embrace UDA.

THE CONSTITUENCY SURVEY

In the constituency Chairpersons survey, the results published by Survea indicate that there's still more work to do as evident in a number of cases where the percentage of undecided voters are higher than the rating of some aspirants, with Rarieda constituency registering what in statistical terms is referred as no significant data



Aber Dundee is vying for UDA Chairperson in Bondo Sub-county

Undecided voters, according to the Directors of Survea mean that either the participants are interested in voting but have not settled on a specific candidate, or that they have not decided on registering as UDA members or both.

However, certain names are unsurprisingly favorites to lead the UDA Party at the grassroot level with the famous Peter MacAchoch leading the race to be the chairperson for Alego Usonga constituency with an authoritative 57% followed by Mr. John Onimbo, who only has a rating of 29%.

At the third position is Joseph Obare with 11% while Jecinter Achiro tails with a lacklustre 3%

In Ugunja, Dr. Oyugi Dor stands tall at 72% rating followed by 9% for Dr. Joshua Wanga. In this constituency, 19% of participants were undecided.

In Ugenya Constituency 32% of voters were undecided, an indicator that the race is wide open, as the second and first candidates garnered 13% and 55% respectively.

The same applies to Bondo, where the disparity between the rating for the second candidate and the undecided voters is a whopping -30% in the findings where Mr. Fred Banja at 32% is the favorite followed from a distance by Aber Dundee at 19% and finally Undecided voters stand at 49%. While responding to the results, Dundee accepts the findings, but calls for another survey.

Finally in Gem, Mr. Phillip Oduol is unsurprisingly clear of the rest of the candidates. Standing at 47%, Phillip is authoritatively ahead of second placed Philemon Wachara by a 16% Gap with undecided voters standing at 22%

INSIDE POLITICS



Kenya's Chief Justice Martha Koome watches on during a court proceeding

In the wake of 2017 presidential petition ruling that infamously nullified for the first time in Africa a presidential election, the then incumbent head of state publicly impugned the judges of the supreme court of Kenya, in a move that kickstarted a lacklustre relationship between the executive and the judiciary arms of the government. Mild in the beginning, this fissure grew by the year, as the Judiciary got underfunded, with its nadir reaching a point where, the then chief justice and the president engaged in passive aggressive tendencies of aiming sly digs at each other during joint public forums.

As his regime waned, and the race to replace him grew strong, the wielders of power in the current regime used this loophole as a leeway to power, by reciting the promise of complete autonomy of the justice system, that was reiterated via a loquacious inaugural address and affirmed by the ratification of the appointments of the six high-court judges whose assumption of duty were recinded by the former president on the allegations of compromised integrity.

WHERE IS THE TRUTH?

Interestingly fast forward one year, a looming disagreement between the executive and the judiciary follows a familiar trend, only this one exacerbated by the fact that the same person who promised to save those in the corridors of justice is now promising to defy 'corrupt judges', without publicly providing what should define a corrupt judge. Without a doubt, the question that needs answering is whether our country will ever enjoy the stability of a good working relationship between all arms of government.



President William Ruto during the ANC NDC in 2022/ photo courtesy

While it is commendable to see bodies like law society of Kenya picketing in defense of the rule of law, this is something that for a lack of a better term CJ Koome would call a wild goose chase. Truth be told, nothing can be solved without the goodwill from the political class but in the face of the fact that a commander in chief is involved, these kinds of situations could be quite intimidating for interest groups that might attempt to address such.

For instance, in response to the President's infamous remarks, the

reigning CJ issued a statement in which she called for a dialogue—a move that to some could mean that her arm of the government is in fact truly corrupt. By a way of illustration, Koome, in her statement tells judges to exercise their duties without fear. So, the elephant in the room is; if her words hold water, why then a dialogue? Why not focus on her own work of making the justice system more autonomous?

If like the former administration, this one also finds the justice system untrustworthy, then where does the truth lie, given those in situ at the judiciary continue to persist on the credibility of their work?



Former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.

OPINION

GUMBO WILL BE THE NEXT GOVERNOR, BUT FOR NOW, WE WORK



Steven Charles Otada (centre) With Nicolas Gumbo (Left) and other leaders

Former Rarieda Parliamentarian and current Chief Administrative Secretary for Ministry of Roads and Transport Eng. Nicolas Gumbo Wajonya will be the next governor for Siaya County, City Bite has been told.

In a garullous conversation with our reporters, former Chairperson for RIAT college Students Association Mr. Steven Charles has described Gumbo's governorship post 2027 as a matter of when not if.

"Gumbo has won the election twice, but his victories were stolen by the enemies of development in Siaya County," Otada said in an assertive tone. "Let us be honest, the only leader with the charisma and the ability to transform Siaya is Wajonya. We have witnessed ten years of rancid mediocrity since the beginning of devolution, abeted by those people willing to go to the greatest extent, just to install their puppets. But the solution, like it has always been, is in the ballot," he said.

"2027 is another chance. We will go to the people, we will implore

them. If possible, we will seduce them, but most importantly, we will let them chose for themselves between a futurecentric mind and history lecturer." He concludes.

Gumbo is widely known for setting the pace for leaders in Rarieda, a constituency associated with progressive leaders like former jubilee party secretary general Raphael Tuju.

While public opinion on the former KNH board chairman has been positive since devolution, there have been far reaching rumors that



President William Ruto during the ANC NDC in 2022/ photo courtesy

some powerful cartels from Siaya County have insisted on subbotaging his ascension to power, sub rosa his ardor for accountability and transparency. As an example, in 2022, it was alleged that incumbent governor H.E James Orenge leveraged on his networks in the corridors of power to influence the outcome of the gubernatorial election.

"We were in polling stations and we witnessed the impunity that took place. Orenge did not have the oomph to win the election. Our

people were deceived and it reflects on the mediocrity we have witnessed in the day to day running of the county government," a former agent who requested anonymity tells City Bite.

"We have seen enough of this. But in 2027, we are coming back with advanced strategies, that we learnt from our past mistakes." A stalwart supporter says.

Asked about their roadmap, Mr. Steven Charles tells City Bite that at this moment, there is no time to politic, just work. "We are focused on serving the people and ssserving the nation," he says. "However when the time comes, we will show you what real political strategy is about. We will bend if



Siaya Governor James Orenge

that's what it takes to bring positive change in Siaya County. If walking is what it takes, we will walk. If dancing is the strategy, we will dance. But most importantly, we will win." He concludes.

OPINION

LET'S EMBRACE THE CULTURE OF FEEDING OUR MINDS



By Peter Aowa; Freelance Journalist

Gone are the days when we would spend hugely to feed our curiosity

Fujisankei Communications Group in 1989 paid Ronald Reagan, US 40th president \$ 1 million per speech. The Japanese company also requested the Ex-president to come to the country and tour. Reagan gave two speeches while there as well as speaking at media outlets and giving interviews making \$ 2 million making him one of the World's most expensive public speakers.

In 2006 and 2007 respectively, The Learning Annex, an American education company paid Former US President Donald Trump \$1.5 million per speech for a 17-seminar conference.

These are just a few examples of some of the most expensive public speakers globally, a justification to how much an individual can pay to have their curiosity fed

Some of the most influential business people in the global economy have spent millions of dollars to feed their curiosity. A typical example is the founder of

Microsoft Bill Gates who in 1994, before becoming world richest person, purchased Leonardo's da Vinci's "Codex Leicester" for \$ 30. 8 million. That's approximately Ksh. 4.5 billion for a 72 - page document.

American writer Rose Wilder Lane describes curiosity as the hunger of the human mind. This to me, is the most perfect description of the noun 'curiosity'

Like the human body, so is the mind and while we feed the body when we run out of energy so should be the case with the mind.

Most of us feed their mind just like they feed their body but the difference is in what we feed the mind. A highly nutritious food will yield a strong healthy body. On the contrary, unwholesome food will lead to a weak and unhealthy body. That's how it works with the mind.

Time when we would spend money in great proportion to learn and to unlearn is long gone

Like Alvin Tofler puts it, the illiterate of the twenty-first century will not be those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.

The new media has bridged this century gap and an individual, no matter what social class, proximity or religion is able to meet with the world's greatest men.

How would it be possible for a middle class individual in the Sub Saharan to book an appointment with Jack Ma or Warren Buffett?

How much would he spend on the flight? What about the accomodation? How much would he afford to pay for the minutes Warren Buffett will be spending to meet him?

It is without doubt very impossible to see such a dream come to reality. But guess what, it will cost you less than \$ 10 to have an audience with Warren Buffett through his autobiography The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life in which Buffet shares his life experience through Alice Schroeder (the writer of the book)

Platforms such as Amazon connect you to some of the world's greatest literature works. This is in addition to global networks which provide free PDF books.

In education, an individual is able to attain great skills at the comfort of their homes. Some of these skills are earned from global education networks like the Google Academy, Alison, Coursera and many others.

Coursera for example, networks learners to some of the most reputable universities in the world. An individual is able to pursue a certificate course, a Diploma Certificate or Bachelor's degree from any university globally.

THE CRITICAL EYE

PETER SALASYA WAS JUST THE TIP OF AN ICEBERG



By Odima Osure; Writer

Assaulting a local MCA was so low of Hon. Peter Salasya but in comparison to many such cases in the recent past, this was just a tip of the iceberg to an abysmal tradition among the political class that if not properly managed, will lead our country into a bottomless abyss called anarchy.

Sadly, some leaders, among them the hawkers-turned-MPs, have resorted to this despicable trend for reasons precisely known only to themselves. According to behavioral experts, everything in politics has its end game which for this case, is attention. We are living in times where the cheap dopamine rush brought about by a short-lived social media trend supercedes the principle values that the realms of society were once anchored upon. Many a time, we have witnessed public figures engage - with no reasonable cause - in reprehensible conducts, some that transcend the fundamental principle of respect to human life and dignity.

By a way of illustration, three years ago, a CCTV footage, in which an intoxicated parliamentarian left for dead a defenseless entertainer after spraying him with two live

in a city shisha joint.

To begin with, for as long as we can remember, Shisha is a banned substance in Kenya, while the supreme constitution of the land provides for guidelines of using or discharging a firearm which without an iota of a doubt, do not permit the shooting of a non-violent criminal, let alone a defenseless civilian like the victim in this case.

Where did we all go wrong? How did we come to normalize so much truculence that we are now the victims of those supposed to protect us? Surprisingly, for some reasons, these perpetrators never face the full force of the law.



Peter Salasya runs to slap a local Kakamega MCA

For instance, in the wake of the 2022 general election, an MP elect was arrested in the backdrop of far-reaching public rancor after allegedly shooting a man to his death. While his arrest was a good step in the right direction, the case ended up in the wind, as to date, the leader roams free in the corridors of power while the affected family still cry for justice. But that's not all. An overlooked fact is that anything that affects a person, affects an individual but that which affects the law affects an entire nation.

However and sadly so, greed for power, money and attention, has denigrated the authority of the law, with rampant corruption alleged to be the Achilles heels of our justice system.

Some politicians have paid so much attention to grabbing and maintaining power, that the rule of law is gradually becoming diminished. Nothing is right, nothing is wrong, just a bunch of charlatans with their stomachs to watch out for.



Shisha is a banned substance in Kenya.

Truth be told, bad behavior is good politics while good behavior is no politics at all, but everything has its elastic limit. We must set boundaries to our own conduct and those holding the instruments of power must know where and when to stop.

Odima Osure is a Writer.

HEALTH

POLITICAL STABILITY IS A FACTOR IN PREVENTION OF MALARIA



By Emmanuel Otieno Obwanga; Policy Expert

In the recent past there has been much focus on factors such as resistance to antimalarial, inadequate healthcare infrastructure/systems especially in low-income countries and Funding constraints to be the major barriers of Malaria Elimination. This has made us forget about the most critical part; Political Instability.

This year 2023, the WHO reported the following malaria statistics for the world, Africa, and Kenya:

Worldwide- 229 million cases of malaria reported in 2020

409,000 deaths due to malaria in 2020

91 countries with ongoing malaria transmission

67% of malaria cases and 78% of malaria deaths occurred in Africa

Africa
211 million cases of malaria reported in 2020
384,000 deaths due to malaria in 2020

49 countries with ongoing malaria transmission in Africa
Kenya

The disease is most prevalent in rural areas, where access to healthcare is limited.

The above statistics shows an already burdened country not forgetting the struggling economy and high standards of living. Even with the increase in investments such as Funding from Global Fund, Use of new diagnostic tools and increased advocacy on social Behavior change, increased use of Insecticide treated bed nets with people and some countries employing Elliott herd immunity theory of ; The more people from the community becomes immune to Malaria the number of susceptible individuals decreases, which most of the time is a rare case because of other underlying factors, political Instability crowns it all. Imagine people moving to rural areas where there is a lot of shortage in terms of Health services and the more people are displaced the higher the risk of getting infected with Malaria.

Just imagine living in a country where healthcare facilities are unoperational, Food and healthcare aid are cut with Gangs and Terror groups, community clashes and the country having more number of Refugees who are congested and exposed to Mosquito Bites. How much far will the consequence reach? Even if we have Funds from Donors, where is the possibility of such Funds being used effectively. From my point of view it will be a double Tragedy. This is why it's important to advocate for Political Stability from our leaders, it's a fundamental right for every Kenyan to enjoy Peace and receive good

Healthcare Services and Malaria Patients are not exceptional. The only way to fight the bite is to stop the fight (Political Fight), be the Change and Eliminate Malaria. It's like buying a cow in the market for a mega celebration from someone only for the cow to die the same night you are supposed to turn it into stew, will you still be happy? My opinion though, what are your thoughts?

Emmanuel Otieno Obwanga
Imara Fellow, Project Lead -
Digital Health at Malaria
Youth Corps, Zero Malaria
Ambassador and a member of
Health Data Governance
Working Group at Transform
Health Organization

C.S.O SPACES

HOMING THE HOMELESS OF KISUMU



Benson Abila is the founder of Homeless Of Kisumu Organization

Who homes them? Who cares for them? Who feeds them? Those were the three pedestal questions that inspired the inception of the Homeless of Kisumu, an organization that champions the welfare of vulnerable street kids.

Founded in August 2020, at the heart of the chaos brought about by COVID-19, the organization provides a wide-based platform for nurturing and mentoring the homeless street kids through talent promotion, rehabilitation and entrepreneurial mentorship.

To meet their objectives, the organization has initiatives like Sports for rehabilitation, a taekwondo club where the kids learn discipline and self defense. Another important program is music for change, that is meant to support their emotional growth by expressing their innermost thoughts.

Additionally, older boys have been taught to manage themselves both financially and mentally through a program named business club. Through these initiatives a number of nonage boys have outgrown the street life

to rent their own houses with some now running their own small and medium enterprises.

This organization has given an substantive alternative to the street kids by building a foundation, that not only provides social protection to the kids, but also a multifaceted platform for economic, financial, talent, emotional and spiritual growth and development.

In an interview with City Bite, an elated beneficiary confirms the immense positive changes that he experienced after he was taken under the wings of the organization, who's founder Mr. Benson Abila is said to have been inspired by his compassion and the passion to serve humanity.



Beneficiaries of Homeless of Kisumu Organization

"Homeless has changed my life," he told our writers. "I was just a young boy when they adopted me. My short period under their care was effective and the rehabilitation process I went through was revolutionary to my life. I am forever indebted." He concludes. Truthfully, there is an air of positivity among the people of korando community with regards to the project who's founder, in a zoom conversation with Better me insists that the hunger to make a difference remains insatiable in him.

"We want to give the street children another chance in life," Abila says. "As such, we are giving them psychosocial support and empowerment. To them, we are providing a safe space where they can feel valued, cared for and heard. Like us, they are human and we want them to feel like human beings."

From the age of time, street kids have been stigmatised as weirdos and psychopaths, a fact that glorifies the idiosyncrasy of this initiative. "It is an extremely noble foundation," an animated resident from Korando tells City Bite. "We are so proud of Ben and his team. Their brilliance are changing lives in many ways never seen before." He concludes.

Widely associated with the street kids, the work however does not stop there. The organization extends its purview to accommodate the support of vulnerable families and special interest groups and women with a long term objective of impacting at more than 500 families across rural areas of Kisumu County.

EDUCATION

PARENTS URGED TO CHERISH THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN



Maurice Orondo is the UDA Chairship aspirant in Siaya County

As the new academic calendar year begins, UDA chairperson aspirant for Siaya County Mr. Maurice Orondo has urged parents to pay meticulous attention to the education of their children Sunday.

Via a telephone conversation with City Bite, Mr. Orondo - formerly a mayor- decries the tepid attitude towards education in contemporary Kenya, urging a need to revitalize our frame of mind by quashing the entrenched belief system that going to school guarantees flamboyant career opportunities.

"There's a disparity between lessons learnt in class and those learnt in the outside world. However, to grow, one needs to apply these lessons complimentarily. Education, from time immemorial is not only meant for a job. It also prepares you for life in the real world, which to be brutally honest is not so kind. Without the knowledge acquired in school, an individual cannot be complete, regardless of their social status, financial muscles or success in any other spectrum of life. I am a product of quality education and I will forever

Among people in Siaya County, Maurice has the reputation of a stalwart proponent of academic excellence. "He loves school and he loves educating people," a resident describes him while responding to questions from our reporters. " In our community, he has a self explanatory track record of sponsoring school children and promoting good values of parenting."she concludes.

Early this month, the KCSE class of 2023 received their results where a good number qualified for direct placement in the various tertiary learning institutions. Via an effervescent message, Orondo congratulates all top performers and encourages them to keep their focus sharp and dreams alive.



Education C.S Ezekiel Machogu.

"Congratulations to all of them, not just the top performers but the entire class of 2023. To those who received good grades, keep your focus sharp, dreams alive and vision clear. A whole future lies ahead and I can confidently say it is full of promise. However, to those who missed out, an examination does not define your intelligence. This is not a matter of life and death. There's more to life than just books. Apply the knowledge you acquired for the 12 years in school and ensure to learn how to relate with people.

Make high value friendships and be the best version of yourself. You can excel in many varied echoleons of life." An equanimous Orondo appends to his remarks, a piece of advice for those who didn't attain what is conventionally regarded as satisfactory results.

It is a fact, that we have been wired to divide learners into categories like A students, average students and just students. What we haowever fail to take note of is the fact that there's more to life than just a remarkable academic prowess.

As we conclude our conversation, Orondo took the opportunity to urge the people of Siaya County to embrace what he calls political maturity-which means openness to accomodate new political parties and ideologies. "Let us all agree, change is the fulcrum upon which all forms of societal development are hinged. It is inevitable and we must adapt to that reality. UDA is the ruling party, and it has brought an alternative to our people. Novel or not, we must embrace it."

ENTERTAINMENT

KISUMU COUNTY TO HOST A REGAL FESTAC FESTIVAL IN MAY



An emblem of FESTAC Festival

FESTAC (Festival of Art & culture) Africa, the biggest and best known African art and cultural festival in the continent is back, taking place between May 20th and May 26th 2024 in Kisumu, Kenya. Kisumu is the city led by Hollywood actress Lupita Nyong'o's father Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o as the Governor.

For 2024, FESTAC's major partner is the famous State Of African Diaspora, formally abbreviated as SOAD which is a Pan African Government in the 6th region of Africa and will act as a bridge in bringing various businesses, entrepreneurs and talents from countries outside Africa to participate in the festival.

With this year's theme; "Sustainable Growth Trajectory For Africa through Culture, Trade, Travel and Tourism," the festival will feature diverse activities focusing on a plethora of topics, including but not limited to sustainable development, education, Trade, Banking and finance, women and youth empowerment, cinema and sports. Over and above that, the ceremony is geared at embracing the idiosyncrasy and diversity of African cultural identity.

Seasoned players in the African Film industry Jamezany James and Ralph Nwadike, who are also ambassadors of the SOAD -Nigeria will together co-coordinate with FESTAC, the Film and Cinema sector during the festival while other members of the SOAD will assist in the coordination of Restitution, Education, Tourism, Trade and the rest.

The organisers of the festival have promised seven days of boundless extravaganza and power-packed fiesta with a program that begins with the arrival of guests on the 19th and ends with cultural activations from various countries on the 26th.



An emblem of The State of African Diaspora

Those interested in participating, are to send e-mail those in charge via soadfestac@thestateofafricandiaspora.com or alternatively visit

<https://festacafricafestival2024.vfairs.com/en/> to get more information and make online application.

THE PROGRAM

On 19th, Guests from all over the world will arrive, in preparation to the commencement of the festival the following day. Regatta Show that'll be performed in the shows of Lake Victoria will mark the curtain raising ceremony from

1500hrs East African Time, followed by a flag oystering and culture emancipation as guest share a welcoming cocktail.

On the 20th, which is the official kick-off date for the event, the opening ceremony for business conference and exhibition will take place between 9am and noon. This will be followed by cultural activations from different countries, an activity that will run upto midnight. The events of the day will be conducted in the fashion of a Boma Village Experience while between 6pm and 10 pm East African Time, participants and guests will be taken through an African movie screening experience. Either, from the start of the program for this day to the end of the festival on 26th, there will be health screening activities, blood donation drive and culinary arts & experience throughout the day.

The rest of the program will follow the similar trend, with a touch of team building activities and sports competition, whose finals will be played on 26th.



From Right: Nollywood Actor Ali Nuhu, FESTAC Coordinator Amb. Jamezany James and Actor Raymond Ofula

SPORTS

SHAPING FEMALE FOOTBALL



Mary Earps with Her FIFA The Best Award

Manchester United's Mary Earps was crowned 2023's best female goalkeeper in the world during a pompous award ceremony hosted by football governing body FIFA on Monday.

Dubbed FIFA the Best Award, this ceremony is marked annually to acknowledge outstanding football players from both male and female teams for their immense contributions to the sport across a football season. Analogous to her male counterpart Ederson Moraes who won the prestigious treble with Manchester City, Earps enjoyed a massive success in 2023, that culminated in a remarkable run in the FIFA Women's World Cup tournament, which regardless of their 0-1 defeat to Spain in the final, she stamped her authority as a legend of the competition after keeping the Three Lionesses in the toe to toe match by denying Jenni Hermoso from the spot and later won the golden glove for the tournament.

To Earps, the period post the August world cup to date has been what those in situ at Manchester United describe as a "whirlwind few months" decorated by seriate individual accolades including this most recent one,

which crafts her legacy in the history of women's football as the award's only two time winner.

"It's s been a bit ridiculous really." A smiling Mary tells FIFA.Com and truthfully so, as as of 2020, she was not even eligible for a shortlist in the national team but three years down the line, she is a trailblazer, a women's world cup finalist, a BBC sports personality of the year and is named among the world eleven.

Notheless, Mary' s impact did not end on the pitch. In the yesteryear, she boldly criticised nike for controversially not making among others her replica shirt available for sale during the World Cup. Interestingly, within five minutes of a uturn by the sports apparel merchant, her national team replica shirts sold out.



Mary Earps with her BBC sports personality of the year award

Among other achievements, Mary is considered one of the standout females in the world of sport, who's impact in football will inspire generations to come.

Via an instagram post, Mary dedicates her achievement to her support system. "Such a special evening. So grateful.Thnkful for the incredible people I have around me, this is dedicated to you." Reads the post.

In the years to come, Mary will be talked about, alongside other remarkable footballers that have made a mark in in female football but for her, it doesn't matter. What matters is that she continues to produce high level performances for as long as she is fit enough to play.



Earps on International Duty

SPORTS

AFCON BEGINS EN VOGUE



Morocco shines in their opening match in AFCON

Africa's most competitive football tournament AFCON began in a classic fashion on Saturday the 13th of January.

Having been founded in 1957, this is the 34th edition of the biennial competition, which's current defending champions are Senegal.

Like all football matches and tournaments, the competition kickstarted with surprises as Egypt only salvaged a point from their opening match for group B against Mozambique, thanks only to Mohammed Salah's injury time penalty. Like Egypt, Ghana; a football heavyweight succumbed to an unexpected defeat to a Cape Verde side, in a match that the Black cats displayed a lacklustre performance.

For the hosts -Ivory Coast-, it was a dream start as they eased past group A rivals Guinea Bissau via a 2-0 victory, thanks to goals from Seko Fofana and Jean-Philippe Krasso.

For Nigeria, it was not business as usual as they were held to a soulless 1-1 draw by Equatorial Guinea.

Among the famous football giants of Africa, it was the defending champions Senegal that registered a satisfactory result as they chipped 3 easy goals past Gambia while Burkina Faso authoritatively sits at the helm of group D as the only team with three points, having secured a 1-0 victory over Mauritania whereas Algeria drew with Angola.

In Group E, Namibia surprisingly secured all three points in their match vs Tunisia while Mali convincingly thumped Hugo Broos' side South Africa with two goals to nil.

All group F opening matches were played on Wednesday, where the prodigious Moroccan team thrashed a toothless Tanzania with 3 goals to nil while Zambia held DRC to a 1-1 boring draw.

As the opening games end, there is an awe inspiring impression among football fans across the continent, who are now look forward to an entertaining competition. Will Senegal stamp their authority as Africa's football Kings or will Morocco reincarnate their world cup form to win it?



Jean Phillippe Krasso was on Target for Ivory Coast In their opening match.



Dean Hotto scored an 88th minute winner for Namibia in their Opening AFCON game vs Tunisia

THE DIPLOMAT

KENYA -TANZANIA TO COLLABORATE IN STRENGTHENING EAC



Kenya's PCS Musalia Mudavadi with Tanzania's January Makamba on the sidelines of NAM Summit

In the sidelines of the ongoing summit for non-aligned movement member states in Kampala, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs H.E Musalia Mudavadi had a conversation with his Tanzanian counterpart Dr. January Makamba where the former called on East African Community's member States to rally together and embody the vision of the intergovernmental organization, which relates to a prosperous, secure, stable but most importantly a politically united East Africa.

Per sources with reliable information, the two Ministers agreed to pursue wide reaching bilateral engagements as a good step in the necessary direction of strengthening the foreign diplomatic ties and goodwill policies between the two countries.

In a statement, Mudavadi, who is also the Prime Cabinet Secretary for Kenya said "Kenya and Tanzania enjoy long standing historical ties with close cooperation in key sectors of economic and cultural advancements. Being one of our key trading partners within the region, this collaboration extends beyond EAC and Africa as Kenya is known to have continuously

improved its foreign relations and diplomatic engagements globally."

This 'gentlemen's agreement' between the two countries came a day after the controversial aviation restrictions between the two countries were resolved following multi-sectorial dialogues involving both the foreign affairs and transport departments of the two countries.

Via his statement, Mudavadi goes ahead to urge member states to amicably and timely resolve emerging diplomatic altercations before they potentially mutate into crises, as the EAC has key aims that encompass widening and deepening socio-economic and cultural integration to improve the quality of life through competitiveness, foreign direct investments, trade and quality production.



Drought & hunger struck Somaliand

Additionally, both countries agreed to support the peace building and peace keeping efforts in the conflict hit Eastern DRC where there is a never ending threat to humanity. The conflict in Somalia was also a key area that the two ministers vowed to work with relevant stakeholders to address and restore a lasting peace in the horn of Africa.



From left: Uhuru Kenyatta, Yoweri Museveni, Paul Kagame and John Magufguli (Deceased) during a past EAC Summit

THE DIPLOMAT

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL STEP THAT IS LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND



By Wambua Nzioka; Founder and MD
WAKA AFRICA

One of the most significant accomplishments of the COP28 is the approval of the Loss and Damage Fund which came as a milestone within the climate finance, and as one of the core action steps in taking accountability of the negative impacts of climate change. The Loss and Damage Fund in all its intents is the first step to taking accountability – and acknowledgement that climate change has created disproportionate negatives impacts, with the least contributors to it being highly affected. In consequence, their economies are now crippled by rising dependence in foreign debt and foreign aid to meet the needs of their citizenry including high floods, extreme droughts, and general economic losses that are associated with adverse climate change.

The global conscious has since been increasingly seared with the ecological debt of the costs of fossil fuel dependence development on the global commons. In no small way, there should be a dedicated commitment to offset the ecological debt that exists. But the greatest woe is whether these efforts may be way too late to

the biodiversity that exists. Nevertheless, it is a most noble effort, and a far more useful resolve to use the loss and damage fund to create adaptation and resilience in the communities that have been adversely affected by this blight of climate change. At the same time, it is imperative to offer dedicated efforts to preserve our ecologies and environment the ice in the Antarctica for the well-being of the polar bears and for the wellbeing of our coastlines and coastal communities, and so forth and so on. For ultimately, we are codependent.



From UN Website; a graphic of the globe.

With the estimated annual losses per year being \$400 billion for the developing states, it is exciting to see the creation of the loss and damage fund. But more importantly, it is plausible to ask – where is the money? Fiduciary experts will state that the loss and damage fund needs real framework, targets and obligations. In its current framework it is inadequate to cater for the needs of the developing nations that are vastly affected by the climate crisis. It occurs that the current Loss and Damage fund only suits the overall parameter of commitment and in a way government-to-government corporate social responsibility.

Looking at the countries that are vastly affected, the Loss and Damage fund has the makings of foreign aid, and serves only as a drop in the ocean --- and if it is to be effective more structural aspects have to be put in place. As it stands, the current commitment amounts to roughly \$430 million. The UAE has committed \$100m, the UK \$75m, the US \$24.5 m, Japan \$10m and Germany \$100 m. The word that exists at the moment is hope other rich nations such as Australia shall join in. So, as the accounts stand, the Loss and Damage kitty is 1/1000 in effort toward meeting the \$400 billion loss and damage.

Further, there are other beleaguering questions such as whether the fund is a form of climate aid, or it is in its nature a dignified commitment to climate crisis. This distinction which often confers equal authority and obligations among parties is needed when making such commitments. Else, in the case of voluntary actions, on their own, the loss and damage comes off as a form of foreign aid to the world's poor. It is therefore necessary to provide the right measures and metrics that dignify the fund, and cast away all aspersions that are likely to be associated with aid. As with all forms of aid, donor fatigue is likely to kick in and reengaging on pledges made is a common thing experienced in the post Paris climate financing journey.

Continues next week...

PERSON OF THE WEEK

FRED ODUMO NYING'URO



City Politician Fred Odumo

This week, City Bite's person of the week is Fred Odumo Nying'uro, who spent a significant part of the week conducting community outreach programs in different parts of Kisumu County.

A senatorial hopeful for 2027, Mr. Odumo planned and financed a full day free medical camp in Huma, Kisumu West where screenings were done, and gynecological care established as a gap that needs urgent attention in the area.

On the sidelines of the free camp was a sensitization session for CHVs, invoking positive feelings from the public.

"We discussed a number of issues, including how to forge ways to collaborate and better service delivery in that community, connecting with citizens at grassroot levels and using them as ambassadors to propel Wakili Fred Odumo Nying'uro development agenda to the locals," said a participant in the meetings.

The key attribute of Mr. Nying'uro's diary this week was the massive sponsorship for over twenty students from

Kakola community, who were earlier stranded, in the backdrop of a rising cost of education.

While talking to Ramogi TV, Mr. Odumo said; "Our aim was to support vulnerable students, who were supposed to join the various secondary schools across the country." Additionally, Mr. Odumo, who was in the company of Kakola Welfare Self Help Group donated school uniforms and vowed to strengthen and expand the program.

"We are starting with five kids per school," he said. "However, by December



A beneficiary of Fred Odumo's school fee sponsorship program.

This program will be expanded to accommodate ten learners from ever school." He concludes.

While talking to reporters from different media houses, Parents were elated with this initiative In response to a question from a reporter, one parent said "We thank Mr. Odumo for paying school fees for pur children. Up until now, no one has ever done such a thing before but thanks to Fred, we have witnessed greatness."

A beneficiary on the other hand delightfully thanked God then tearily thanked his benefactor.

To one of the present teachers, this program was revolutionary and the Kakola community should cherish, not only the program but also it's sponsor.

City Bite commends Mr. Nying'uro's commitment to serving humanity.



A photograph of all beneficiaries of the Fred Odumo sponsorship program.

PERSON OF THE WEEK

THE VIEW POINT



VALENTINE AELA

It is such a shame that a man with the resumé of James Orengo could inite young people to denigrate our country's democracy.

”



MARTHA KOOME

Any allegations or complaints of misconduct or corruption by any judge or judicial officer will be dealt with firmly and swiftly in accordance with the Constitution.

”



H.E WILLIAM RUTO

The Government is committed to creating a decent environment for small traders such as Mama Mboga in recognition of their contribution to the growth of our economy. We will inject Sh100 Million to help complete the Masinde Muliro Market.

”



SETH OKUMU

UDA is welcome in Nyanza. Nothing will stop us from promoting the bottom up economic policy in the region and we will do so unapologetically.

”



RAILA ODINGA

Ruto wants to establish an absolute dictatorship. Kenyans know we have been here before. We have seen days when judges heard cases in the dead of the night, way past official working hours and sent opponents of the State to jail. Kenyans know we have seen days when judges got transferred, sacked or, even got poisoned for delivering rulings that did not favour the State

”

GALLERY

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Peter Salasya rains slaps on a local Kakamega County MCA



Sonko pays a courtesy call to Governor Sakaja



Jadon Sancho rejoins Borussia Dortmund



Beneficiaries of Fred Odumo's Scholarship program pose for a photograph.



President Ruto meets CIA Director William Burns at State House Nairobi



Mary Earps with her trailblazing FIFA The best Award



Form ones join schools



Aesthetic scenes in the AFCON Opening Ceremony.



En-Neysri celebrates with teammates after scoring for Morocco

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TAKING IN THE AWE-INSPIRING PANORAMIC

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