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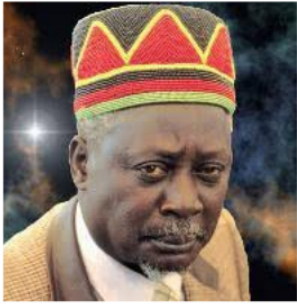
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INSIDE POLITICS

REMEMBERING A NATION'S PATRIARCH



Kenya's first Vice President Jaramogi Oginga Odinga died on 20th Jan. 1994

He left us Raila Odinga, but most importantly, he left us an independent nation, free from the shackles of our ruthless colonial masters. On Saturday, ODM boss led the nation in commemorating the life well lived, of one of our nation's patriarchs, who set the pace for modern era champions of democracy and politics hinged on loyalty and goodwill.

It all began with a memorial service at St. Stephen's Cathedral where men, women, boys, girls, leaders and people from all walks of life gathered to worship the Lord, and later on to reminisce the legacy of a first liberation hero, who is fondly remembered for many things, among them forgoing the colossal opportunity to become Kenya's First President, in solidarity with imprisoned independence fighters like Kenya's premier commander in chief Jomo Kenyatta.

"We must never be afraid to speak out against injustice and to stand up for what is right. We must always be willing to fight for the causes we believe in, no matter the cost." That was one of his characteristic quotes that by and large defined his political legacy

and personality. Jaramogi was a dedicated champion of social justice, who in the wake of ideological differences with Jomo Kenyatta, nobly tendered his resignation letter to the president.

In the letter dated 14th April 1966, Jaramogi tells Mr. Kenyatta that he was not ready to leave behind a legacy of dishonestly eating public money for job not done. He expresses his fear on the amount of shame that this could attach to his name in the eyes of future generations.

April 14, 1966

Dear Mr President,

You have not given any consideration to me as your number 2 in State matters. I have a conscience and this, in fact, does prick me when I earn public money but with no job to do. I consider this a waste of public money and I am worried lest the future generation questions my sincerity when they would learn that I allowed myself to hold a sinecure post in the midst of poverty and misery in our country. With this realization, I cannot continue to hold this position any longer and I hereby tender my resignation.

Jaramogi's resignation letter, addressed to Jomo Kenyatta

It is through such a strong will that Jaramogi was able to leave an immortal legacy, that even though he has been gone for three decades now, leaders of this generation still remember him as a man who made it his mission to leave a positive mark regardless of the cost. History they say, rewards and punishes in equal measure and the new generation of leaders that Jaramogi alluded to in his letter remembered him for nothing but the positive marks he made left to the society.

For instance, on Sunday, Siaya County Governor James Orengo wrote on X, "Yesterday we reflected on the life and times of a man who dedicated his life to the struggle for a better Kenya. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga was a giant on whose shoulders we stood; a true patriot and servant to this country."



James Orengo and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga in a Taifa Leo Newspaper Cover | Photo Courtesy



Kenya's First Vice President Jaramogi Oginga Odinga with founding President Jomo Kenyatta | Photo Courtesy

For as long as history exists, Jaramogi's political career will continue to inspire many generations of leaders, not because he was perfect but in the view of his strong will in the pursuit of what to him was right for the country.

INSIDE POLITICS

OGINA KIDI TAKES ON ROSA BUYU



Controversial Comedian & vlogger Ogina Kidi Kibudi | Photo Courtesy

Controversial city comedian and political vlogger Ogina has in the recent past picked a battle with Kisumu West MP Hon. Rosa Buyu on what he says a 'failure to deliver on her mandate' to the people as a member of National Assembly. Formerly a dedicated supporter of Buyu, Ogina said there is a lack of accountability from his former boss, who capitalised on the failures of erstwhile MP Olago Aluoch during her campaigns.

Via a video posted on his social media accounts, he argues that the one time Kisumu County women representative has since her ascension to office prioritized personal activities ahead of service delivery to the people.

Surprisingly, Ogina was among those who insisted on selling what they called Mrs. Buyu's self explanatory track record during the 2022 campaigns, insisting to the people that she was the exact type of a leader, that'd in one fell swoop right all the wrongs of retired long-term MP Olago Aluoch.

In response to these new developments, stalwart followers of the incumbent Kisumu West MP have branded Mr. Ogina's words as

utter tosh, meant to tarnish the reputation of their leader. To them, Kidi Kibudi as he's known, is just one dissatisfied attention seeker who will not stop the honourable member from doing her work

While talking to City Bite, one resident said; "Rosa is just a year into her tenure in office. Among the silent majority reigns an air of positivity. However, people like Ogina must exist for the society to be complete, we saw it with Thomas in the bible." She concludes.



Kisumu West MP Hon. Rosa Buyu | Photo Courtesy

However, in response to those criticising him, Rosa's antagonist accused her of paying some senescent ladies to blackmail him in the hope that he'd get intimidated into coiling his tail. Via a tiktok video, Ogina said in Luo dialect "This issue of reacting to the truth by hiring senile alcoholics to come and blackmail me, will not work. Right now, we do things the educated way" he said. "My main issue is poor roads. There will be no peace between us for as long as roads in Kisumu West are still poor and you're doing nothing about it," he said. "We won't allow you to hop from one party to another, to neglect the people

who stood by you and struggled for you to be where you are." Ogina said.

"You are a professional hairdresser and we all know that's what you did overseas. If by chance there's no money, go back abroad to get money for repairing roads in Kisumu West." He said.



Erstwhile Kisumu West MP Olago Aluoch | Photo Courtesy

In the comments section of the video, residents aired varied views, with some supporting his claims while others advising him to look for something that'd keep him busier and out of the affairs of the parliamentarian, who was once named among the best performing women representative, during her tenure in that capacity.

We are yet to get a direct response from Miss. Buyu on this. However, if Ogina's claims hold water, then she has a job to do, with regard to educating the public on her roles as an MP and her Key performance indicators since September 2022. 2.

INSIDE POLITICS

ACTIVE THREATS OR TYPICAL POLITICAL LANGUAGE?



Kisumu Central MP aspirant for 2022 Mr. Benard Aete| Photo Courtesy

Last weekend was awe inspiring for many people, save for Kisumu Central MP hopeful for 2027 Mr. Benard Aete, who angered a number of Kisumu County residents after a video in which he made outrageous remarks went viral across social media spaces.

In the video, Benard tells a batch of followers from Sakwa in Bondo constituency in Luo, "Only those who join me will receive any form of aid from me. But those who don't will be ground, just like a posho mill grinds cereals," he said. "I want you to note it down here in Sakwa, that in 2027, I will be sworn in in Kisumu," while standing up he said, alluding to an 'imminent' victory in the race to succeed Dr. Joshua Oron. "If that fails to happen, then anyone along the way will be killed as we move..." The video that City Bite accessed ends, as he sits down.

This is not the first time he gets into the heart of controversy, after breaking into the public face of Kisumu by donating a colossal Kshs. 200,000 in just one ordinary fundraising ceremony, something that has never been seen before.

However, since then, he has attracted criticism from all corners

and this time, his fiercest critics wasted no time pouncing on the opportunity to poke holes into his reputation, which many people in the fifth estate have for a long time been pejorative of.

For instance, in response to the video, a Facebook user, known as Wuod Siaya wrote "Careless talk by Kisumu Central Parliamentary aspirant Dume, who says if you take his money, there's no way out." He concludes his post, then adds the disclaimer ; "Sengwenyos-meaning bloggers - are in for it."



Incumbent Kisumu Central MP. Dr. Joshua Oron| Photo Courtesy

Under the post -from Wuod Siaya- commenters expressed both their anger and disbelief. One user in particular said ; "Dume is a passing cloud. If he gives you money, do not reject it. Eat it with the appetite of an expecting mother." Dume, is the alias for Aete, who was once told by controversial pseudo journalist Victor Charles that dishing out money would not win him any political seat in Kisumu. Via a video recording , Victor promises Dume that if he doesn't know who to talk to, then he's in a wild goose chase and his colossal donations can only amount to the proverbial hot air. To him, Aete, who is a lawyer by profession is not the right man for the

hotly contested seat and must consult certain people before he runs for it.

If his ambitions mature, Dume will be vying against Kakwacha chain of restaurant C.E.O and the renown mama Grace Onyango's grandson Mr. Edward Onyango , who alias



Kakwacha Chain of Restaurants C.E.O and Kisumu Central MP aspirant for 2027 Edward Onyango during a past public event| Photo Courtesy

Bob C.E.O, has a reputation of groundedness. Other key figures to publicly declare their interest in the same position include two time Kondele ward MCA Joachim Oketch Swagga with farfetched rumors appending senatorial hopeful Mr. Samwel Odoro into the equation.

INSIDE POLITICS

OPINION: FOR EDWARD ONYANGO, POLITICS IS JUST A MEANS TO AN END



Kisumu Central MP aspirant for 2027 Mr. Edward Onyango| Photo Courtesy

In the period running up to the 2022 general elections, I worked with many politicians of different strategies and ideologies. While it is safe to say that I made an array of quality networks, it is the lessons I learnt in that period that have stayed and will stay with me for as long as the age of time. One stand out lesson was from Elijah Oburu, the then Kisumu Central MP aspirant who said to us, those who lined up to support his ambition;"Politics, should not be an end, but a means to it."

While it took me days to digest this quote, I eventually related to it when recently, a friend unknowingly gave me an elaborated explanation of what it means, with the example of Kisumu Central MP hopeful Mr. Edward Onyango.

Alias Bob C.E.O, Edward is singled out not for his political prowess, but for the work he does without appending a political objective to it. "Politics is an intricate spectrum of life," he told me. "While many normal politicians look at it as an end, masters of politics, from the time and era of Alexander Hamilton and the ilk assume it to be a ladder to a broader vision of leaving immortal legacy among

your subjects, that'd be remembered for years and generations to come. Many people are forgotten because they never paid attention to this specific detail," he said.

"How then does someone leave an immortal legacy?" I asked. "It's not about inventing a lightbulb like Thomas Edison," he said. "It's about making little differences, that amount to a major thing," he said. "An example is Bob C.E.O. A very young man making little positive differences that if looked at



Incumbent Kisumu Central MP. Dr. Joshua Oron| Photo Courtesy

collectively, for a man his age can be a ready made legacy," he said. "By a way of illustration, the famous Hungover Kakwacha restaurants chain has silently provided employment for more than a hundred young people, not only in Kisumu, but also in Nairobi," he said. "These are people, who directly depend on him, to make ends meet. Isn't that changing lives?. In these restaurants, Bob mentors young leaders as well, some of whom are employed to oversee the day to day running of these hotels. These are people who will live to tell the story of how they grew stronger through the guidance of Mr. Edward. Isn't that a legacy?" He said."Right now you

have seen many eye the same seat as him, but follow their tracks keenly, you'll be risking to find out empty vessels with colossal promises but no history, with the sole vision of clinching power and revelling in the privileges it brings. However, Mr. Edward will be taking to the next step his self explanatory track record



Ken Odongo is a manager in one of the branches of Kakwacha Chain of Restaurants| Photo Courtesy

in changing the lives of the common man. That to me, is a leader who looks at politics as a means to an end but not an end in itself. " He concludes.

While responding to a question from City Bite, Ken Odongo, a manager for one of his restaurants said, "For as long as I have known Bob, he cherishes people's welfare, but cares less about the attention that helping people might bring. I'm proud to be his protégé. " he concludes.

INSIDE POLITICS

KISUMU YOUNG LEADERS CAUCUS LAUNCHED IN POMP

to come.

"The journey is on," an elated Valentine tells City Bite. "Kisumu young leaders caucus which I chair has started on a top gear. This young organisation works towards a just, equitable and progressive society in which young people fully enjoy social, economic and political rights and opportunities.

We are determined to champion issues to do with youth leadership, climate change, mental health, youth development, Gender based violence among others." She concludes.



Young leaders during the launch of the Caucus | Photo Courtesy

Valentine is eyeing to be the UDA treasurer for Kisumu County in the post UDA grassroots polls in April. In the organization, she is with Seth Okumu, the UDA youth Representative aspirant for Kisumu County, who is the secretary general for the new organization.

To Mr. Okumu, this organization is a breath of fresh optimism and hope. Via a telephone conversation, he tells us, "There's always optimism and hope whenever the youth come together. Their boundless energy and ideas when projected in unison will ensure that the challenges they face as young people are

exhaustively addressed. That is the exact goal this caucus intends to achieve."

At the end of the yesteryear, both Seth and Valentine made it to our final list of the top twenty five most influential young people in Kisumu County. Surprisingly, another one of the finalists, Miss. Jeronim Obwar is a part of this organization, and in



Seth Okumu is the Secretary General for Caucus | Photo Courtesy

a conversation with our team, Miss Obwar gave us her two cents, " We envision changing the mindset of the youth from Kisumu. We want to change the narrative that we are hecklers and stone throwers." She concludes.

Other notable members are Charles Osako, Festus Amimo, Emmanuel Opiyo, Jasmey Aela, Vincent Juma, Pastor Claudius Mbuya and others.



Kisumu Young Leaders Caucus Chairperson Miss. Valentine Aela | Photo Courtesy

In a pompous occasion, a section of young and vibrant leaders from Kisumu on Saturday launched an umbrella movement in a bid to consolidate and make more powerful the voice of the youth.

Named Kisumu Young leaders caucus, the organization led by 2022 women representative aspirant for Kisumu County Mrs. Valentine Aela is hoped to bridge a chasm of disunity that has for a long time impeded the complete attainment of youth inclusion in decision making tables.

"In the past, leaders were made from movements like this," a member tells City Bite. "Tom Mboya for instance is the attaboy in this context. If not, for trade unions, maybe we wouldn't have read about him to date. However, presently, many youth leaders overlook the importance of these organizations. We are too self absorbed, that our vision starts and ends with our own interests." He said.

To him, this organization is meant to remind the youth of how past leaders developed, to leave legacies that we read in books, and will probably be read by hundreds of generations

INSIDE POLITICS

IS THE JUDICIARY UNDER SIEGE?



CJ Martha Koome (centre) , President William Ruto (Right) and other leaders at State House| Photo Courtesy

The current happenings in the country between the judiciary and the executive arm of government has raised eyebrows on whether the independence of the judiciary is granted or could someone powerful "cartels " as they call them, be behind the recent exchange of words between the two arms of government? Or it could be a passing wind meant to draw boundaries in response to dealing with corruption ?, That is a matter of wait and see after the Chief Justice lead a delegation of the judiciary to state house to a closed door meeting whose agenda remains unclear to the public.

The visit elicited mixed reactions from both Lawyers and the Public with some seeing this move as a wrong one and uncalled for. The same sentiments have been shared by the Opposition who claims that the judiciary is no longer going to be independent but remote controlled from statehouse citing lack of trust from the public especially on the general election petitions.

However from an analysis point, if a Chief justice of country seeks dialogue with the head of state , who at one point may have pointed

fingers on the same judiciary , it raises several questions about the independence of the judiciary. This might appear as an attempt to improve the relationship between the executive and judicial branches of government, with an aim of having effective and unified legal system. A good case study is when Chief Justice David Maraga sought to engage in dialogue with President Uhuru Kenyatta following public disputes over judicial decisions.



Attorney General Justin Muturi bows to pray at State House | Photo Courtesy

This case highlights how efforts to maintain open communication between the judiciary and the executive branch can be crucial in addressing tensions and upholding judicial independence. However much of these depends on the context and implications of such dialogue in order to determine the state of the judiciary's independence.

Either way it could be , the chief justice's initiative to engage in dialogue with the president as an indicator of healthy democratic system, where the judiciary is open to constructive criticism and willing to work with the executive branch to address concerns such as corruption allegation directly attached to supreme court Judges which is an enhancer to positive

reforms and improvements in the judicial system, ultimately strengthening its independence.

On the other hand, the dialogue could also be seen as an attempt to appease the president or gain favor from the executive branch, which might undermine the judiciary's independence. If the dialogue is focused on silencing criticisms or avoiding accountability for past actions, it could signal a decline in the judiciary's independence and its ability to act as a check on the executive branch.

The independence of the Judiciary is a critical aspect of a democratic society, as it ensures that the judiciary can function impartially and fairly without biasness which is essential for maintaining the rule of law, protecting individual rights, and upholding the constitution.

However, when the judiciary is not independent, it may be susceptible to political pressure, favoritism, and corruption. This can lead to an erosion of public trust in the legal system, as well as undermine the fundamental principles of democracy something that is very common with Kenyan model of politics .A good number of the public have lost trust with the judicial systems and as Miles David puts it " Time isn't the main thing ,it's the only thing,we keep waiting.

THE CRITICAL EYE

LET'S FACE IT; AIR BNB KILLINGS ARE A DISASTER OF OUR OWN MAKING



By Odima Osure-Writer | Photo Courtesy

It is with a broken heart, that I put pen to paper, to talk about an issue that has been exhaustively talked of in both the social and mainstream media spaces. As a man with sisters so dear to, I'm left hopeless whenever I see women butchered in the fashion of the most recent airbnb murder.

However, I get beat every minute it dawn on me, that most of these killings, in another world or better still the past world are things that are, in black and white simply avoidable. I grew up in a reserved environment. Led a simple lifestyle, with my sole focus, a future in which I was a Doctor. Values and virtues were instilled in me by my parents, to always stand for what is right no matter the occasion. Breaking up from my parents into a worldn of freedom, I had the opportunity to do many thkngs, I had many alien experiences and was exposed new ways of life, then I realized things are not as they were in the past, upon which my childhood in the village was anchored.

With social media, new ways of life have broken through to the society and money has evolved to be the language of everything. Greed and avericce have been

whitewashed, while our young ladies put to peer pressure by the flashy lifestyles in both movies and social media platforms.

We have made comfort with money as the end game to friendships, relationships and everything else, to the extent that men kill and betray for it while ladies are killed and harrassed for it.

For instance, the most recent case, the heart-rending murder of Rita Waeni, is an illustration of how psychopathic levels of greed for money has turned some men into cold blooded animals that'd do



Slain JKUAT Student Rita Waeni | Photo Courtesy

the most unscrupulous things just to make it. For Ksh. 500,000, two men allegedly forgot about human life and respect for it, butchered an innocent young lady-whom interestingly-they met through social media- and incredibly enough, as if nothing happened attempted to fly out of the country.

Where have we gone wrong, to accommodate such inhumanity? Where are the principles that once bound people together? Where is respect to human life and where is humanity!

Surprisingly, Rita's death follows a

similar trend to the death of Scarlet Kanyari, this same month, sparking the #StopKillingWomen trend in social media. To me, this is a good thing, but not strategically effective.

The point is, let us redefine, through all possible ways the values that were once characteristic of the African culture. Let us look at life from multifaceted angles and let us not pedestalize



Murdered socialite Scarlet Wahu, who was Air BnB Killings Victim | Photo Courtesy

money or the lack of it. Money can buy gold, silver and all the good things we desire, but the quality of life, respect for human life and dignity and the value of a woman's life supercedes money and it's products.

Odima Osure is a Writer

C.S.O SPACES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE REGARDLESS...



John Keen is the founder and C.E.O of Wheels for Trees Organization| Photo Courtesy

Meet a young man making the difference in the civil society spaces in Kisumu County. A dedicated climate change champion, whose efforts in the planting of trees speak volumes, on his passion for seeing a green nation, safe from the adverse effects of climate change.

John Keen is the founder of wheels for trees, an organization dedicated to protecting and conserving trees, through the lens of people living with disabilities. With the organization that was officially founded in 2023, Keen is leading a team in demystifying the perspective that those living with disabilities are limited.

In an interview with Keen, City Bite is told; "Our organization is disability led. We are not only seeking to provide solutions for climate change, but also advocating for the rights of people living with disabilities. Assistive devices are a basic need for us. Without a wheelchair for example, Keen cannot move," he said. "However, it is perturbing that these devices are quite expensive, and the process of getting some of them so gruelling that many give up along the way. We need this addressed and our

organization is at the forefront , championing for it. We want a Kenya where everybody is comfortable, regardless of their backgrounds or physical status Climate change and Disability are both entrenched longterm challenges and this validates our course. For instance, it takes three years for a person living with disability to get an assistive device. This is ridiculous and needs to change."He concludes.

For Keen, despite the tremendous efforts by the government, there



John Keen meets President William Ruto at CIALA Resort | Photo Courtesy

exist major gaps to be bridged with regards to providing the right care for the disabled persons. "We are sensitizing the community on how to care for us. Sometimes, during disaster interventions, some rescuers forget that assistive devices are a part and parcel of a disabled person's life. It is something that wheels for trees address," he said.

We also call upon other public benefit organizations to accommodate programs that favour PLWDs. And on this note, I'd like to thank Young Women

Christian Association for heeding our plight. We need more partners, as our young organisation is still facing pecuniary challenges. " He said.

"Young as we are, we have already empowered around eight young women access basic needs for basic education. In the long-term, we want to extend our scope across East Africa and our purview to champion inclusion in the world."



Universal Symbol of PLWDs | Photo Courtesy

he concludes.

Wheels for Trees, since inception in October last year, has made remarkable steps in creating an empowerment platform for persons with disabilities. However, Keen calls on more partners to collaborate with them and advocate for easy access to assistive devices, while promoting the planting of trees.

C.S.O SPACES

TEEN PREGNANCY IN KENYA: A CHALLENGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY

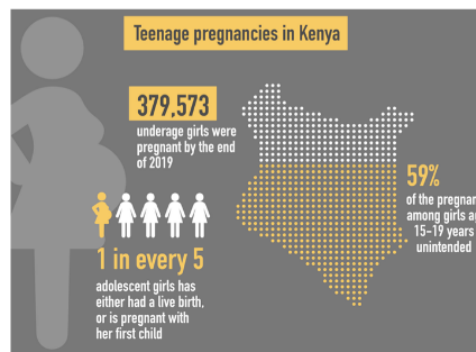


By Viola Adhiambo; *Climate Change and Development Specialist.* | Photo Courtesy

Teen pregnancy is a serious issue that affects the health, education and future prospects of young girls and their children. According to the Kenya Health Information Systems, a total of 110,821 pregnancies were recorded among adolescents aged between 10 and 19 in the first five months of 2023. This is almost half of what was recorded in 2022, which stood at 260,734. However, the rate of teen pregnancy in Kenya is still high compared to other countries, with 175.44 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in 2024.

Teen pregnancy has many causes and consequences, such as lack of sexual education, peer pressure, early marriage, poverty, rape, coercion, low access to health services, school dropout, maternal and child mortality, stigma and discrimination. Some counties in Kenya have higher rates of teen pregnancy than others, such as Meru (26%), Narok (25%), Tana River (24%), Samburu (24%) and West Pokot (24%). Migori county, which had a rate of 20% in 2023, is one of the counties that faces many challenges related to teen pregnancy, such as high rates of HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage.

However, Migori county is also one of the counties that has seen some positive changes in reducing teen pregnancy, thanks to the efforts of some organizations that work with the community to address the root causes and provide support to the affected girls and their families. One of these organizations is Lwala Community Alliance, a non-governmental organization that operates in Rongo sub-county of Migori county. Lwala Community Alliance runs a comprehensive program that includes sexual and reproductive health education, youth-friendly health services, school retention and re-entry, economic empowerment and mentorship for adolescent girls and boys



From CGTN Africa Website, A graphic of important statistics on Teenage pregnancy prevalence in Kenya as of June 2023.

According to a cross-sectional survey conducted by Lwala Community Alliance in 2017, the under-five mortality rate in Rongo sub-county decreased from 111 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2007 to 55 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017. The survey also found that the proportion of women who delivered at a health facility increased from 26% in 2007 to 97% in 2017. These indicators suggest that Lwala Community Alliance's program has had a positive impact on improving maternal and child health outcomes in the area.

Teen pregnancy in Kenya is a challenge that requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, religious leaders, parents, teachers and the youth themselves. By addressing the underlying factors that contribute to teen pregnancy and providing comprehensive support to the affected girls and their children, it is possible to turn this challenge into an opportunity for empowering young people to achieve their full potential.



A photographic illustration of an expecting young girl | Photo Courtesy

Viola Adhiambo is a Climate Change Specialist, EIA Expert, Passionate Contributor, Operations Professional.

BUSINESS

THE BEST PLACE TO HAVE TRADITIONAL DELICACIES -HANGOVER KAKWACHA



An interior of Hangover Kakwacha | Photo Courtesy

One of the outgrowing business in Kisumu County and specifically Kisumu Central is Hangover Kakwacha Hotels that encapsulates Executive suites for VVIP and Luxury Lounges. The Hotels owned by Mrs. Pauline Akwacha and family, is one of the most preferred hotels in The Lake City and Kisumu Metro at large.

This Hotel has also hosted several Prominent Leaders such as the Architecture of Second Liberation and the Father of Democracy, the Rt.Hon.Raila Amollo Odinga and the Azimio brigade who usually get served at the hotel. The Hotel boasts of a good number of well furnished Executive rooms splendid for a family retreat. The rooms are not only executive but also affordable.

It houses traditional delicacies and dishes such as black night commonly known as "Osuga", the spiderweb locally called "Dek/Akeyo", French Omallette, Fried Cabrito (Spanish name for Goat meat and Caporetto in Italian).



A dish is served at Hangover Kakwacha Restaurant owned by Pauline Akwacha & Family | Photo Courtesy



An interior of Hangover Kakwacha restaurant owned by Pauline Akwacha and Family | Photo Courtesy

According to Kisumu CIDP (2022-2023), Kisumu county population is estimated at 1,155,574, with 556,942 males; 594,609 females and the youth making 40%. Shockingly 61% of them remain unemployed. This means that unemployment rate is more than 50% with a high dependency ratio at 87% according to ; (Labour Force Report, 2019). While the issue of unemployment is a national crisis, it remains critical to understand how elected leaders are tackling the issue either through a policy based approach or direct approach such as creation of business and employment opportunities. This means that a good number of people can be able to sustain their livelihoods without living in the fear of the unknown.

Interestingly Kisumu Central Constituency an urban Constituency, covers 32.7KM² and has a population of 168,892 while the Independent Electoral Boundary Commission puts its voting population at 120,000 amidst boasting of huge business investments that has highly contributed to Kisumu's GDP and Own source Revenue in the past years. This factors indicates that Kisumu Central is the epitome of Kisumu County business growth index with heavy investments being initiated in the region.

The list continues with deep fried Tilapia, fresh cooked vegetables and silver Cyprinid known as Lake Victoria Sardine or Omena in local dialect. In the recent years, the hotel industry has experienced significant growth in Kisumu. This growth has been attributed to various factors, including local tourism and good services offered by the Hotel. Like during the past December Holidays the hotel was fully booked with customers scrambling for the few rooms that were vacant.

Lastly the hotel has provided hundreds of job opportunities to young people in Kisumu which is a positive index in reducing unemployment rate, with other branches domiciled in Nairobi.

For Bookings at Hangover Kakwacha kindly contact +254714484686 or +254 793 466660 (WhatsApp or you can call directly.)

CLIMATE CHANGE

WASTE POLLUTION: A CRITICAL BARRIER IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN KISUMU



By Viola Adhiambo; Climate & Development Specialist.

In the picturesque city of Kisumu, nestled on the shores of Lake Victoria, a formidable challenge looms large on the horizon – waste pollution. Amid the growing concerns surrounding climate change and its devastating consequences, it is imperative to shed light on how waste pollution has become a major impediment in the collective effort to combat this global crisis.

During the El Niño season of 2024, Kisumu experienced a barrage of heavy rains, exacerbating the waste pollution problem and leaving the city grappling with its consequences. The once recreational sites along the lake's picturesque shores were turned into dumping grounds, as floods carried tons of waste into the lake, threatening its fragile ecosystem.

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission reported a substantial increase in pollution levels, affecting the livelihoods of communities reliant on fishing and tourism. Local authorities scrambled to address the issue, but the magnitude of the waste problem made it a herculean task. The situation not only posed immediate health risks but also contributed to the long-term consequences of climate change, with waste decomposing and emitting potent greenhouse gases.

Waste pollution may not often feature prominently in discussions surrounding climate change, but its impact cannot be overlooked. The release of harmful greenhouse gases, such as methane, from decomposing waste significantly contributes to global warming and the alteration of our planet's climatic patterns. Additionally, the improper waste management practices observed in Kisumu exacerbate the release of these gases, making them a powerful driver of climate change.



An image of Kachok Dumpsite in Kisumu before Rehabilitation| Photo Courtesy

Furthermore, the dumping of waste, particularly plastic, poses dire consequences for Kisumu's delicate ecosystems. Plastics take hundreds of years to decompose, thereby persisting in the environment and infiltrating our waterways. The harmful effects are not limited to the pollution of water bodies but also extend to the destruction of aquatic life and, consequently, the entire food chain.

Addressing waste pollution and combatting climate change in Kisumu requires a multi-faceted approach. The collective effort should begin with raising awareness among the local population regarding the dire

consequences of improper waste disposal. Education campaigns can play a pivotal role in encouraging responsible waste management practices, with an emphasis on reducing, reusing, and recycling.

Moreover, establishing an efficient waste management infrastructure is crucial. Allocating adequate resources towards waste management facilities, procuring modern and sustainable technologies, and strengthening enforcement of waste disposal regulations are vital steps to counter the growing waste problem. The involvement of community-based organizations and the private sector can further enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of waste management practices.

In conclusion, waste pollution has emerged as a formidable challenge in the fight against climate change in Kisumu. Recent events during the El Niño period of 2024 have highlighted the urgency to address this issue. It is imperative that the local community, authorities, and stakeholders come together to develop sustainable waste management practices. By doing so, Kisumu can pave the way towards a cleaner and more resilient future, mitigating the adverse effects of waste pollution on the environment and ultimately combating climate change.

EDUCATION

NO TEACHERS YET, AS J.S.S EDUCATION KICKS OFF



CBC Learners in Class | Photo Courtesy

'No matter how strong you are, endless battles with will drag you down the path of misery,' a wily wise man once told his young son. As late as Wednesday, former education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha was still registered as a respondent in one of the many court battles against the novel competency based curriculum, which has faced seriate proxy-ish court battles since it was first adopted.

However, these gruelling court cases are not CBC's only demurer as it has now emerged that the Junior Secondary Schools are primed to face a shortage of qualified teachers or if there are any, they're novices to the new concepts in that level of education.

According to experts, implementing the Junior Secondary Schools curriculum will be a herculean task, regardless of the promise of CBC and its facets.

To begin with, there is a far reaching, long standing consensus among a section of Kenyans that the implementation of the new curriculum was rushed and without satisfactory consultation among those in situ at the state department of education, resulting into a half-baked education system that could imperil the futures of many young people.

By a way of illustration, some Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) candidates in the class of 2023 are yet to receive their results, which interestingly, the C.S for education once promised would be made available in the KPSEA portal.

Perturbingly, these kids are already in schools, where learning is either expected to begin or has already begun. How are teachers to handle this? Especially with the limited resources catered for by the government?



An instructor monitoring the learning of CBC learners | Photo Courtesy

Additionally, the shortage of teachers also threatens the success of JSS, as the employing body TSC is yet to recruit the over forty-six thousand instructors to facilitate the learning in those institutions.

This is so typical of an avant-garde concept. However, the challenges are aggravated by an understaffed education department against the backdrop of the transitioning of millions of learners from the 8.4.4 system. Either, questions have emerged on the capability of the curriculum to meet the objective of quality education in the absence of quality assurance

officers.

Another headache is about the number of teachers located per school with majority of them under contracts while there are so much cover. For example in a particular school only two teachers are available and are forced to take more than 5 subjects including those that they never specialized in. Nonetheless there are issues of more spacing to accommodate the growing number of JSS students, with some schools forced to learn under trees as some are asked to pay up to 5,000ksh to get new lockers.



The Late George Magoha's name was removed from the respondents' register in a court case challenging the CBC | Photo Courtesy

While the framers of CBC, had a vision to redefine the course of education in Kenya, it is clear that they either did not provide a fluid and substantive framework or that the implementers of it have not comprehended it.

HEALTH

WHY THERE IS HIGH RISE OF MOSQUITO POPULATION AND MOSQUITO BITES IN KISUMU



By Emmanuel Otieno Obwanga | Photo Courtesy

Over the past two months, Kisumu residents in the informal settlements and the peri-urban areas have decried increasing cases of mosquito bites that has contributed to the high cases of Malaria infection among the residents with pregnant women being victims, with the invasion of a newer mosquito species exhibiting paler striped characteristics. While we are all aware that mosquitoes only like darkness and dark places, these breed of mosquitoes are different and residents are afraid that instead of being scared by light they are attracted especially during night hours.

These are the characteristics of the Anopheles Stephensi mosquito which has the ability of spreading Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax Malaria parasites as indicated by Researchers.

Plasmodium falciparum is a unicellular protozoan parasite of humans, and the deadliest species of Plasmodium that causes malaria in humans. The parasite is transmitted through the bite of a female Anopheles mosquito and causes the disease's most dangerous form, falciparum malaria. It is responsible for around 50% of all malaria cases. Plasmodium falciparum is therefore regarded as the deadliest parasite in humans. It is also associated with the development of blood cancer (Burkitt's lymphoma) and is classified as a Group 2A (probable) carcinogen.

On the other end Plasmodium vivax is a protozoal parasite and a human pathogen. This parasite is the most frequent and widely distributed cause of recurring malaria.

Although it is less virulent than Plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest of the five human malaria parasites, Plasmodium vivax malaria infections can lead to severe disease and death, often due to splenomegaly (a pathologically enlarged spleen). Plasmodium Vivax is carried by the female Anopheles mosquito; the males do not bite.



A microscopic image of an Anopheles mosquito | Photo Courtesy

If you experience cyclical fever with chills, headache, weakness, vomiting, and diarrhoea then you are basically suffering from Plasmodium Vivax effects.

This means that Anopheles Stephensi is more dangerous because it carries the most lethal forms of plasmodiums. According to research conducted by J A Chandler et al. Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg. 1975., Kisumu county harbours 7 species of mosquitoes namely Anopheles gambiae, A. funestus, A. pharoensis, Mansonia uniformia, M. africana, Culex antennatus, and C. univittatus. Eight mosquito species were found to bite man and domestic animals in the outdoor biotope in large

numbers. These were: A. pharoensis, A. ziemanni, M. uniformis, M. africana, C. antennatus, C. univittatus, Aedes circumluteolus, and Ae. ochraceus. From an epidemiological point of view, species with a narrow range of hosts are most likely to be of importance as vectors of parasitic diseases such as malaria and into this category fall the major man biting anophelines. Kisumu city being a cosmopolitan city has urban, peri-urban and rural areas where the new breed of Anopheles Stephensi seems to thrive much with urban areas being the most affected. This type of mosquito breeds in open tanks, sewers, thrown tyres and underground tanks. Unlike other mosquito species Anopheles Stephensi are very adaptive to climate change and also difficult to control because of its migration strategy from one country to another especially countries bordering Kenya such as Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti. If you combine all these types of destructive mosquitoes then you can vividly understand why Kisumu county has recently suffered from the severe attack of Malaria disease.

However the responsibility of fighting Malaria doesn't stop with the government, it's a call for everyone breathing to take action and ensure stringent measures are put in place, like it goes in Swahili "Mbu nje Sisi Ndani" that responsibility starts with me, you and all of us and without forgetting that this is the generation that can end Malaria just like how Cape Verde got certification of a Malaria free country by WHO.

THE DIPLOMAT

ALCOHOL STORE FOR DIPLOMATS IN SAUDI ARABIA



Portraits of Saudi King Salman (R) and his son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) in Riyadh | Photo Courtesy

For the first time in over seven decades, there will be a liquor store in Saudi Arabia, City Bite has learnt. In a mouth wagging report that was first published by Reuters, the store will sell alcohol to non-muslim diplomats from across the world.

This new development does not, per reports in the public domain annul the law that illegalizes alcohol for Saudi Arabians. The ban, which indiscriminately forbade alcohol and alcoholic drinks in Saudi has existed since the 1950s and is in tandem with an Islamic tenet that outlaws the consumption of liquor.

According to a document on the liquor store, its services are restricted to non-muslim customers, who are only allowed to make purchases after registering via a specified application and seeking permission from the Saudi's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The customers are also to adhere to the monthly quotas.

Further reports indicate that the store is an upscale duty free shop, nestled next to a Supermarket in the capital Riyadh, where diplomatic quarters are domiciled and is seen at major international airports.

At the store, a buyer is to present Diplomatic Identifications while inside, the customers' mobile phones are to be inside pouches.

As uncharacteristic as it is of a Muslim state, this move is said to be

one of the many efforts by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to transform Saudi Arabia into a major business and tourism hub, which is a part of Saudi's vision 2030 initiative, with further sources branding it an effort to encounter the reports of improper exchange of special goods and alcoholic beverages received by the embassies of non-Muslim countries inside Saudi Arabia through new amendments that will allow and ensure that all diplomats of non-Muslim embassies have a special access to these special products and spirits within a specified quotas.



An image of a liquor store shelf | Photo Courtesy

The access to liquor products for non-Muslim Diplomats will be regulated by a process that prohibits illegal exchange activities.

Most, if not all Muslim States have strict liquor laws. For instance, Kuwait has since 1965 prohibited the sale and purchase of all alcoholic drinks within its boundaries. However, in nations such as Qatar, residents only purchase liquor after obtaining a permit while the law provides for punitive measures against anyone engaging in public drinking. UAE's Sharjah City do not allow selling of alcohol in hotels and restaurants.

A trailblazing move, the Saudi Arabian government is set to benefit in many ways from this new development, as it will open opportunities for more businesses and deeper Diplomatic bonds.



Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani is the current Emir of Qatar, Where Drinking alcohol in public is punishable by Law | Photo Courtesy

SPORTS

AFRICAN GIANTS KNOCKED OUT OF AFCON AS CAMEROON DRAMATICALLY SURVIVES



Senegal National Football Team Lifts the AFCON Trophy in 2021 | Photo Courtesy

After an entertaining opening week, the biennial AFCON tournament continued in a dramatic fashion after its group stages came to an end with the sacking of coaches and surprising exits, including African big dogs of football like The Black Stars.

Also known as the Ghanaian National Team, the black stars registered generally abysmal results since their opening game, garnering only two points of the possible nine. This was so uncharacteristic of a four-time winner of this specific tournament, which to a significant extent we can say had one of the most star-tudded teams, including West Ham prodigy Mohammed Kudus.

Nonetheless, Ghana's exit was not as shocking as that of Algeria, a team represented by former Manchester City star Riyad Mahrez. Like the black stars, they secured only two of the nine possible points.

Consequentially, both the Ghanaian and the Algerian football federations ordinarily sacked their respective head coaches in the immediate hours post-AFCON exit.

On the flipside, World Cup prodigy Morocco retained their sparkling form, recording 7 points of the potential nine, while defending champions Senegal were the only team to register a 100%

victory in the group stages after a 3-1 decisive win over Cameroon on 19th January and a 2-0 victory over Guinea four days later.

For Cameroon, it was an erratic end to a lacklustre campaign that saw them narrowly survive to the next round following a five-minute turnaround coming from a 1-2 losing position to a 3-2 victory at full-time, which secured them the second place position in their final game for group C.



Hakim Ziyech scored the only goal as Morocco eased past Ghana to seal their top spot in Group C | Photo Courtesy

Ivory Coast on the other hand only had Hakim Ziyech to thank, after scoring the only goal in their final game of group F vs Zambia, a result that saved the host Nation from an embarrassing exit after they qualified as one of the four best third-placed teams to proceed to the knockout stages.

Like the exits were shocking, there were also teams that surprised many by their decent run of form like Cape Verde which proceeded to the round of 16 after they topped the group

B, in which they competed with heavyweights like Mohammed Salah's Egypt, Mohammed Kudus' Ghana and Mozambique.

In group A, Equatorial Guinea beat Nigeria to the top position by goal difference after both tied on seven points each while Angola rests at the helm of group D, where 2019 Champions Algeria were competing with them. Mali outdid both South Africa and Tunisia to the top of group E while in group D, Morocco was the undisputed winner.



A photograph of the AFCON Trophy | Photo Courtesy

The group stages of AFCON have given the tell-tale hints that African football is fast evolving. Like in the Premier League, there is no underdog African team. All are there to compete, not just to participate.

As we wait for the next step to commence, football fans are hopeful of more entertainment and energy with the finals expected to involve either of Morocco or Senegal.

OPINION

PERSON OF THE WEEK; PROF. TOM OJIENDA



Kisumu County's Senator Prof. Tom Ojienda who is City Bite's Person of The Week |Photo Courtesy

This week, City Bite's person of the week is Prof. Tom Ojienda, the seating senator for Kisumu County. A leader without borders or limits, Ojienda makes it to our feature, thanks to his tremendous work of sponsoring scholarship programs for children who passed their exams, but for varied reasons could not afford to pay for their next levels of education.

This is a not the first time he makes such a remarkable stride in making a difference, as his name has become a household one in the recent past, after having indiscriminately initiated a series of development steps, launching and overseeing some like the building of dykes and bridges in flood-threatened areas like Ombeyi in Nyando Constituency.

Per multiple reports, Ojienda disbursed a sum in the north of Ksh. 4 million to assorted deserving children from across the County. This is not the first time he lends a helping hand, as a flashback one year ago and he does sponsor a vulnerable kid in Siaya County to school.

It is worth noting, that the senatorial position is one of the only ones without an allocation from the

government, meaning these are his personal initiatives, made successful through his resource mobilization skills, with the ardor for development notwithstanding.

"He has been a revelation," a smiling supporter tells City Bite. "We are so blessed to have him as our senator. Unlike others, he has worked without limits nor borders. A senator's role per the constitution are oversight and legislation, but here we are, a senator that does more than just the two," He said.



Kisumu Senator Prof. Tom Ojienda issues Bursaries to vulnerable students. | Photo Courtesy

"I've walked in many counties, never seen a senator supporting Agriculture. Ojienda brought farm tractors to Kano and the people are happy. Since December, he has overseen many education friendly projects that began with the back to school football tournament, in which winners were handsomely rewarded while all participants given a pack of stationery. This is an investment, for the future. Ojienda envisions a Kisumu County that produces world class footballers and academic giants." He said.

In the wake of ODM rebel Parliamentarians controversy, Ojienda was at the heart of it, representing a good number of the legislators at the tribunal, including Gem's Elisha Odhiambo and Langata's Phelix Odiwuor. Regardless of the annulment of these hearings by the court, Prof. Ojienda stood with courage, in the face of adversity that almost lost him his seat.



Kisumu County Senator Prof. Tom Ojienda poses with a number of the beneficiaries of his scholarship program | Photo Courtesy

Credible talk in the public domain indicate that from senate, his next step will be to succeed outgoing two-term governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o who has been reported to enjoy a quiet second term so far.

City Bite congratulates Mr. Ojienda and encourages him to continue making the difference.

FROM LAST WEEK

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL STEP THAT IS LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND



By Meshack Nzioka; Founder and MD at WAKA AFRICA |Photo Courtesy

This does not dignify or offer firm commitments to the parties.

Loss and Damage Fund

- Climate Altruism?

In a philosophical scenario, we can only expect that the commitments to slowing the GHG and carbon emissions is predicated on real commitments rather than on the superfluous appearance of commitment. If we take Climate Fund as a form of climate altruism, we ought to consider its basis, and rationale

Altruism must be based on a core standard, that the beneficiaries are identified, that there is a system of practice and approach that empowers the people. Common principles in global commons altruism demand that there is equitable distribution, and that there is optimal benefit.

In philosophy, the axis of utilitarianism and the high ideal of moral theory ought to be at par. For if in one hand the fossil fuel emitters say 'let's pay them out', while there is no sufficient inclination to the motive for which the loss and damage fund is created, it is likely to fall short of its expectations. In a way, it puts the climate affected nations to be portrayed consistently as victims rather than core actors with real economies, and ambitions just as the developed nations do. The motives thereby should not just be a public relations act

that is aimed at dissuading the public outcry or reticence that comes with being a fossil fuel industrialist while commenting on the status of the 1.5 degree reduction target by 2025.

I think these are the core questions that need to be addressed even as the Loss and Damage Fund propositions are brought to consideration. Among these is - what is climate reparation, what are the extents of climate reparation, and why climate reparation? Reparations are commitments given for a wrong done and is usually a usury to the persons to compensate the person for whom a given wrong had been done. It is often the financial commitment to show retribution for the wrong. In doing a reparation, the offender admits their mistake and the damages made to the persons. In often cases, such usuries are obligatory.

In view of this, the concept of Loss and Damage Fund, therefore, should act only to the extent of offering reparations and we ought to be careful that it does not become a license to continued pollutions. A similar dichotomy is made in the carbon credits markets, whereby the climate capitalists have to harness all the current efforts towards long term sustainability. Hence, all actors whether acting out of a seared conscience and having come to light pay back - anecdotally up to four times - of what they damaged or stole from the global commons; or having sought to embraced green industrialization and market based ecosystems, the bell tolls for real action. Otherwise, deprived of these commitments, all acts shall be vain. It is in the best hopes of climate devotees to witness the fruition of climate efforts and commitments even unto the restoration of the Shangri-La which has been destroyed in the Babel of our varied ambitions.

In addition, the element of what is being resolved by the fund, places a greater social economic responsibility on how it's developed, and the related architecture around it. Conscious that the global commons are under serious threat, from the loss of biodiversity to human displacement from their natural habitats to loss of entire species; the emphasis should be put on restoration efforts of these losses. As regards to human ecosystem damages, the general accountancy ought to be inclusive to consider the various variables that are damaged by climate crisis. In this respect, key questions arise such as - How can that loss be accounted for, is there a price that can be paid to quell it, and how is it accounted for, so on and so forth. It is apparent that the accounting for the losses that are made goes beyond the economic quantification that may often beguile us into thinking that enough has been done. In doing so, the conscience of the emitters or polluters is quelled while the non-emitters are derided as cry-babies who cannot cope with the 'natural disasters'.

While not explicitly stated, the loss and damage fund is likely to be misconstrued in diplomatic politic as a form of climate foreign aid.

NOTABLE QUOTES

THE VIEW POINT



PROUD MONKEY

”

In a comparative assessment between myself and my incumbent area MCA, I am more than capable to succeed him. In a matter of days, I can erase his legacy. Therefore, in 2027, I will be in the ballot running for MCA in my ward.



XAVI HERNANDEZ

”

Trust me, Barcelona have very good future and I'm not talking about myself. I'm talking about the youngsters. That's why I'm playing them, I really want them to be ready for the future. It's not about me being the manager or not. These guys are special".



H.E WILLIAM RUTO

The government's Plan must succeed so that our young people can thrive and our country can move forward. No vested interests will derail or delay Kenya's transformation.

”



NELSON HAVI

”

Justice Visram Aleem Alnashir of the Milimani Tax and Commercial Division of the High Court is a model Judge. He comes to Court having read the files, is efficient in the management of his causelist, is firm and courteous, and determines applications on the spot.



EKURU AUKOT

”

We have a government that says it will create jobs for Kenyans abroad but the acquisition of passports is a problem. Kenyans who applied for one paid Ksh. 4,500 or Ksh. 7,000 but are asked for a bribe; they are told there are no booklets, begging the question, how will they go?



ALINUR MOHAMMED / PHOTO COURTESY

The judiciary has been held hostage by the executive. This is an unfortunate development.

The move by Chief Justice Martha Koome to meet with President William Ruto at State House was a bad move.

”

GALLERY

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Kisumu Young Leaders Caucus Secretariat during a meeting on Thursday. |Photo Courtesy



Pastor Dorcas Rigathi prays before a Widows meeting in Migori | Photo Courtesy



Pres. Ruto, C.J Martha Koome,A.G Justin Muturi and Speaker Moses Wetangula | Photo Courtesy



C.S for Public Service Moses Kuria attends Jaramogi Oginga Odinga memorial at Ofafa Hall in Kisumu | Photo Courtesy



Gladys Wanga,Ndindi Nyoro,Anne Waiguru and Governor Sang pose for a photograph |Photo Courtesy



Gov. James Orengo & Margaret Kenyatta during Jaramogi's memorial at Ofafa Hall | Photo Courtesy



Senator Tom Ojienda with the beneficiaries of his scholarship program. | Photo Courtesy



President Ruto addresses a rally. | Photo Courtesy



Hakim Ziyech scores past Zambian goalkeeper | Photo Courtesy

ISSUE 2024 | METEORMEDIA | JANUARY

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