

# CITY BITE

## THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

### INSIDE POLITICS

...In it's first 15 months, Kenya Kwanza has borrowed a whopping 2.4 Trillion shillings, an equivalent of 35.82% of what Uhuruto regime borrowed in ten years...

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### SPORTS

AFCON enters the crucial stage. Who will win the final?

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### EDUCATION

... All services have been loaded to the government so that citizens can get services at the comfort of their houses; that is what the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology is doing to ensure that citizens' services are availed at the eCitizen platform...

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# INSIDE POLITICS

## IMPORTANT FIGURES AS KENYA'S DEBT MYISTERY INTENSIFIES

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### MYISTERY

A conjoined expression of the words Mystery and Misery.

Myistsery! Really? Forgive me for butchering the queen's language but there's no better term to describe the growing debt crisis in Kenya.

To begin with, in its first 15 months, Kenya Kwanza administration has borrowed a whopping 2.4 Trillion shillings, an equivalent of 35.82% of what the Uhuruto government borrowed in over a decade.

35.82%? So rich of an administration that campaigned on the promise of reversing the debt crisis and building an economy around domestic revenue.

A comparative analysis between each of his predecessors and himself and you realise president Ruto has already broken the record for borrowing in the first calendar/financial year into presidency.

For context, in his ten years as the President, Mwai Kibaki borrowed a total of Ksh. 1.2 Trillion, while retired Uhuru Kenyatta, Ruto's boss for ten years borrowed 6.7 Trillion in his decade long tenure. Assuming the borrowing spree continues in the same rate, the incumbent administration will, in 30 months time have appended 4.8 Trillion



President William Ruto with IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. | Photo Courtesy

to the readily filthy 11.1T debt, that's weighing down the shoulders, necks and pockets of patriotic Kenyans, who take soul crushing jobs, just to make ends meet while while at it, pay taxes, that keep hiking by the day.

Peculiarly, not a single Kenyan know the exact truth on the debt situation, as relevant documents have produced, inconsistent records of the funds, the procedures followed when applying for them and what they were used for.

As of Tuesday, one dollar trades at Ksh. 160.50. A flashback eight years ago, and a dollar trades at slightly above half this figure. The shilling is diminishing in value, taxes are hiking, debt is rising, government spending is getting more extravagant while the Commander in Chief is flying. In diplomatic terms, we are well en route to becoming a failed state.

The Sh. 6.1T External debt means we are at the mercy of International Financial Institutions & Foreign lenders while the fact that we do not know what was done by the borrowed money means we might be paying money that's resting in offshore accounts.

During a media workshop in Mombasa back in November, Auditor General

..."I've been approving payments for public debts and I have looked for what we have paid for and many of those things cannot be identified "...

MARGARET NYAKANGO; CoB

Nancy Gathungu told journalists that many of the things paid for were unaccounted for. "If there's no documentation to show what we are paying for then we have a problem there," she stated.

Sharing her view is embattled Controller of Budget Margaret Nyakango, who told the national dialogue committee that treasury borrows without a plan and with little to no explanation at all.

SH 6.1  
TRN

Total Kenya's external debt as of Tuesday, 6th Feb.

SH 5  
TRN

Total Kenya's Internal debt as of Tuesday, 6th Feb.

SH 11.1  
TRN

Sum total of Kenya's debt as of Tuesday, 6th Feb.

# INSIDE POLITICS

## A MENACING TWIST INTO NYANDIKO-RANDA RIVALRY

What followed was a shortlived turmoil, marred by an intense exchange of stones, which only took the intervention of police officers to quell.

History can be ruthlessly honest, and Mr. Ngadi has the history of rebellion against sitting presidents of the Council, having given the late Otondi a hard time throughout his tenure. However, inside sources have indicated that he, was infact on the verge of being crowned for the position, before those at the helm of power in Nyanza realized he was pro- UDA administration.

Nonetheless, according to the information at our disposal, this is not only a power struggle, as the land upon which The Ofafa Memorial Hall is nestled, is also a bone of contention, that has faced a protracted confluence of court battles.



Coronated Luo Council of Elders Odungi Randa | Photo Courtesy

For instance, it was only in December, when Nyong'o's administration reclaimed the Luo Clan Headquarter, but as we speak, there is an active court order against it's renovation, which had earlier begun.

"Ofafa is a resource for the Luo community," said Seth Ochieng'. "Odungi Randa is the rightful office bearer



Market Milimani Ward MCA Seth Ochieng' during a past event| Photo Courtesy

of the office of the president for the Luo Council of Elders. I'd like to thank the young boys, who stood up for the Luo community, by defending the sanctity of this office," Seth said, as a crowd of youth cheered him on.

In an interview with the Star, Ngadi said in December that one of the major roles of the Luo Council of Elders was to broker and ensure peace among clans in the Luo nation. However, the reality of what transpired yesterday violates all principles of peace and peace makers.



Self-proclaimed Luo Council of Elders Chairperson Nyandiko Ngadi| Photo Courtesy

There's never a normal day in Kisumu County and Monday was just a typical one in the lake-side city, after an office visit by self declared Luo Council of Elder Chairperson Nyandiko Ngadi was interrupted by angry supporters of recently coronated Chairman Odungi Randa who since the December enthronement has experienced seriate challenges, losing one of his own sons to suicide by a way of illustration.

"I am the rightful chairperson for the Luo Council of elders," Nyandiko said, as he addressed the media from Ofafa Memorial Hall. "I was chosen by Nyanza elders as the right custodian of the culture, traditions and the resources of the Luo community," stated Nyandiko, before being interrupted by an intrusion of the premise by angry youths who were led by the MCA for Market Milimani Ward Hon. Seth Ochieng' also known as Adui Nyang'.

# INSIDE POLITICS

## REMEMBERING PRIVATE SENIOR CAPTAIN HEZEKIAH RABALA OCHUKA



### The Late Hezekiah Ochuka

Hezekiah Ochuka was born in Koguta Village ,Nyakach Subcounty ,Kisumu county, on 23rd July 1953. Having been raised by a single mother ,he had three elder brothers and two sisters. He attended Naki Kabete Primary School and Mirogi Secondary School where he was later recruited into the Kenya Air Force on September 14 1976 while in Mombasa.

While at the Barracks ,he underwent eight months of military training at Lanet Army Barracks in Nakuru and was posted to Eastleigh Air Base. Between 1976 to 1978, he underwent basic trade training in electrical devices and instruments and later worked in hangars and bays.

From 30th October 1978-21 January 1980, Hezekiah attended a course in RAF Cosford, UK, after which he worked as a Senior Private Grade-1.

Hezekiah Ochuka was the centre of the 1982 attempted coup, which the then president Daniel arap Moi survived in less than a day. He was 29-years-old at that particular time with a Grade 1 Rank- the second lowest rank in the military. Hezekiah was an unapologetic individual who assumed the title of chairman of the so-called "People's Redemption Council" that planned to replace President Moi. Hezekiah's military knowledge and connections made it manageable for him to form a military heist on the Kenyan Government. He was however not successful in his attempt to completely overthrow his homeland's government; but he did manage to have control of the whole country of Kenya for six hours an announcement that was made on VoK (now KBC).

Working at the behest of Ochuka, corporal Bramwel Injeni Njereman was leading a plot to bomb the state house and the General Service Union headquarters from the Laikipia Air Base, Nanyuki. Corporal Bramwel Njereman forced three pilots (Major David Mutua, Captain John Mugwanja and Captain John Baraza) to fly two F-5E Tiger jets and a Strikemaster that would be used for the mission.

However, Major Mutua was aware that Corporal Njereman had never flown a jet fighter before and would likely not be able to cope with the G-forces. The pilots, while communicating on a secret channel, agreed to execute daring manoeuvres to disorient the captor.

The supposed 'trusted pilots' pretended as if they were listening to orders given to them by their chief at first, but instead, once in the air, they dropped bombs over Mt. Kenya forest and fled back to Nanyuki.

President Moi later announced that loyal army units had crushed an attempted coup on his civilian government. The putsch was quickly suppressed by forces commanded by Chief General of Staff Mahmoud Mohammed, a veteran military official. In his company were; Lieutenant General John Sawe .

(The Army Commander and Deputy Chief of General Staff), Brigadier Bernard Kilu (Chief of Operations at Defence Forces) and Major Humphrey Njoroge (a staff officer in charge of training at Army Headquarters).

The coup left more than 100 soldiers and at least 200 civilians dead, including several foreigners.

He latter escaped to Uganda before moving to Tanzania where Julius Nyerere the then Tanzanian President had promised him protection. He was later extradited to Kenya along with a few more in a political assylum exchange between Kenyan and Tanzanian Government which was highly criticized by International Bodies as a breach of human Rights to political assylum.

The failed coup saw all the organizers arrested and tried by court-martial at the Army's Lang'ata Barracks. Corporal Bramwel Injeni Njereman, who was an armaments technician was the second to be convicted of treason on 24th November 1984. He was found guilty of five overt acts and sentenced to death by hanging. Corporal Walter Odira Ojode was the first to be charged with the same offences, on 16th December 1982, and was found guilty, he also received the death penalty.

The death sentence of Hezekiah Ochuka and his counterpart Pancras Oteyo Okumuwere were carried out on the night of 10 July 1987 at Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. After his hanging, his dad Nyambogo OCHUKA collapsed and died of shock while his three brothers and two sisters died mysteriously .He left no family behind as he did not Marry Margaret the form six student at Nyabisawa Girls whom he was engaged to before the coup. To date, they are the last people to have been executed under Kenyan law. A total of 12 people were sentenced to death and over 900 were jailed. After the coup attempt, the entire Kenya Air Force was disbanded. The coup attempt was also a direct course of the snap of the 1983 general election.

# INSIDE POLITICS

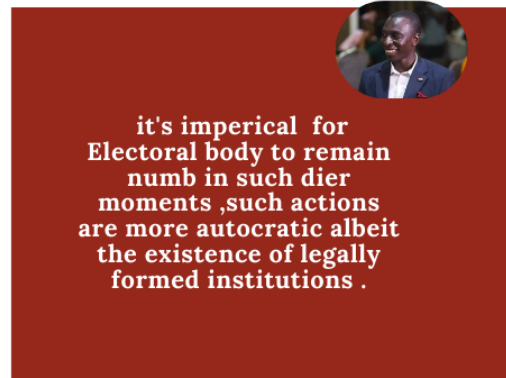
## DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA UNDER SIEGE? SIGNS OF INCREASED COUP D'ETAT AND CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION.



**Senegal president Macky Sall | Photo Courtesy**

(2015-2021) where democratic principles and constitutionalism was overlooked with the government cracking down on opposition parties, restricting media freedom, and suppressing political dissent. The trend continued with Cameroon's President Paul Biya in power since 1982, accused of eroding democratic institutions and suppressing opposition with the poor handling of the Anglophone crisis which lead to human rights violation.

term to two mandates of five years each and undermines the democratic process and the rule of law in the country. Having pledged and accepted the verdict of the people in regards to respecting the constitution and the will of the people, his recent actions however speaks differently with pundits warning that he could be closely moving towards extending his term limit in office.



Other countries such as Zimbabwe we're not spared either. Just in the recently contested general elections (2018 and 2023) Zimbabwe faced allegations of electoral fraud and political violence. The opposition claimed that the results were manipulated in favor of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, leading to protests and a crackdown on dissent. This has raised concerns about the country's commitment to democratic principles and constitutionalism. Elsewhere countries like Guinea decided to overthrow the government in September (2021) marking the end to the leadership of President Alpha Conde as Eswatini's Repression of Dissent (2021), has faced international scrutiny for its crackdown on political dissent and human rights abuses.

The latest entrant into such circus is Senegal's President Macky Sall who has decided to postpone the presidential election that was due to take place on February 25, 2024. This decision violates the constitution of Senegal, which limits the presidential

While all this is happening , ECOWAS has come under strong criticism from International Bodies and Human rights lobby groups for releasing a statement that has been termed weak and non consequential .In the statement given , ECOWAS has asked President Sally to set a new date for elections ,something that many Senegalese do not agree with .Many have expressed their displeasure with President Sally's actions citing a direct constitutional subversion. The postponement of the presidential election in Senegal is an affront to democracy everywhere. It is also an attempt of subverting the constitution and the will of the people yetthere is a constitutional term limit for one to serve as a president irregardless.

Nonetheless it's imperical for Electoral body to remain numb in such dier moments ,such actions are more autocratic albeit the existence of legally formed institutions .

The recent happenings in Africa in regards to Violation of the constitution and disobeying of court orders is not something strange .The trail started way back with several African head of state seemingly dissatisfied with the outline of the constitutional framework that dictates the presidential term limit and that of general elections. While other countries are enjoying the fruits of democracy ,some however appear to be in disagreement and opines to the 48 Laws of Power and Quote by Gloria Steinem: "Power can be taken, but not given hence the need to take power by all means even if it violates the constitution agreeing to Vladimir Lenin perception on Capitalism versus Socialism "There can be no real and effective 'freedom' in a society based on the power of money, in a society in which the masses of working people live in poverty and the handful of rich live like parasites." This implies that no matter how the larger population is ,without understanding their constitutional rights then democracy is meaningless and will continue to be salvaged at the hands of few opulents.

From Sudan's Military Coup (2021) In October 2021, that overthrew the transitional government that was established following the 2019 uprising to Tanzanian 's erosion of Democracy (2015-2020) Under President John Magufuli's rule

# INSIDE POLITICS

## THE SYSTEM BY BENNET MBATA



Bennet Mbata; Writer | Photo Courtesy

In our pursuit of national progress, it is crucial to recognize that sending our workforce masses to foreign countries and subsequently importing products for consumption is not a patriotic approach. Such a practice only exacerbates the poverty crisis faced by our consumer population, pushing them further into destitution with each passing day.

Running a country should not resemble a game of Monopoly where only one winner prevails. Unfortunately, increased trade deals, both domestically and globally, have set the stage for a similar scenario. These agreements often neglect the needs of labor forces worldwide, resulting in a growing class divide between the wealthy and the impoverished. This trend paints a grim picture, where the rich minority dwindles, and the ranks of the poor swell. However, it is important to note that this situation is ephemeral, for just like a Supernova, this unequal economic system will inevitably collapse upon itself.

As the privileged hoard wealth and investment capital, the average person's ability to consume products diminishes significantly. Unable to afford anything beyond basic necessities, they are unable to contribute to the economy through purchasing or investment. When the economy confronts a stalemate, where companies struggle to increase profits, they resort to drastic measures such as slashing wages, eliminating positions, and conducting mass layoffs. However, this further exacerbates the consumption decline as even more people are forced to restrict their spending, often making cuts to their most essential needs.

In their pursuit of protecting profits

at all costs, companies unknowingly lead themselves and the taxpayers into a cycle of debt. They fail to recycle wealth back into the system on which they rely, instead accumulating even more capital. It is unrealistic to pay meager wages to the workforce and expect them to purchase their products or even the goods they sell.

Taking most of the companies, their business model is a perfect illustration of how they blatantly exploit the Kenyan people on numerous fronts. By intentionally offering just enough work hours to evade providing benefits and offering some of the lowest wages in the industry, these companies systematically deny workers their rightful entitlements. Upon establishing a presence in an area, such companies engulf communities, becoming the sole option for purchasing essential goods and services. However, instead of fulfilling their obligations by paying taxes to local, state, and federal authorities for operating in these communities, they funnel profits into tax havens. Additionally, these communities are burdened with subsidizing workers through social services, enabling them to secure food for their families. Shockingly, the very food paid for by the government is often purchased at Walmart, where their employees receive a marginal discount. As a result, Walmart unabashedly pillages and leeches' resources from all levels of Kenyan society while evading accountability.

Society should not mirror the dynamics of a Monopoly game. Instead, it should embody a network of interdependent entities that assign comparable value to one another for survival. It should foster cooperation and collaboration, rather than being driven solely by competition and self-interest. Greed should not be the foundation on which society stands. Moreover, the success of any society lies in the quality of education provided to its youth. It is the responsibility of every individual and entity to contribute to and invest in the future growth of our nation. A free market can still flourish without excessive regulation if it inherently functions for the overall benefit of society.

True unity can only be achieved when we consider every individual as equally valuable. It is our collective responsibility, to the extent appropriate, to ensure that every human's basic needs are met. Only those who consciously choose to detach themselves from society, like hermits or secluded mountain dwellers, may opt out of this moral obligation to humanity. However, if one resides in any public community within our nation, they have willingly immersed themselves in a system that necessitates their active participation for its maintenance.

While individuals possess varying qualifications and levels of experience, each person has something valuable to offer to their communities. In cases where this might not be readily apparent, it becomes the community's responsibility to come together and help individuals find their purpose. Our society brims with countless opportunities and tasks that no one should be left without a means to contribute. As an interdependent society, we must ensure that every member, regardless of their level of contribution, can enjoy a reasonable standard of living that lifts them out of poverty.

By addressing these economic challenges and promoting social equity, Kenya can forge a path towards a more prosperous and inclusive future. It is time to shift our focus from the pursuit of individual gain to the collective advancement and well-being of all members of our society.

*Bennet Mbata is a writer and an Associate of Nuria Book Store*



# INSIDE POLITICS

## OUR CITIES CRY FOR A POLICY MIND WITH A HUMAN EAR



Nairobi City gubernatorial aspirants Sakaja Johnson & Polycarp Igathe during a Gubernatorial Debate held at CUEA on Jul 11th, 2022 | Photo Courtesy

pursuing their dreams. They have fewer concerns about whether the economy is socialistic or capitalistic or even communistic, their desire is to have a city they can realize their aspirations.

In the pursuit of these economic aspirations, it is evident that many of them face the strife that urban life portends. A ghastly sense of uncertainty. An increased sense of individualism, and an exceeding rise of defensiveness. These are to a great extent the marks of urban distress, and present themselves in worry, depression, and anxiety.



Kisumu City's governor Anyang' Nyong'o during swearing in for his second term in office | Photo Courtesy

It is within this context we seek to engage the citizenry in a manner that portends their wellness. We are not conceited about the extent of problems that the city offers, or its largeness, we realize that economic empowerment is one of the issues that is underdeveloped in many policy agendas.

Our approach considers that economic distress has its variabilities, and that is why we are keen on implementing caucuses or social groups upon which the urbanites can lean in. Not even, the most economically advanced person is saved from the distress that comes with ambition or the unexpected contexts of everyday life. The need to grind, meet deadlines and attain some sense of equilibrium. Many are resigned to the fact that equilibrium and

security are merely an illusion. Within such a cosmos, it is certain that even the successful end up feeling empty and unrealized.

On the other hand, to address the policy issues, we note that the private sector, both profit and non-profit organizations have to play an increasingly paramount role in reinterpreting socioeconomic issues.



Incumbent Mombasa County Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nashir | Photo Courtesy

After all, in a layered society, the biggest challenge among policy implementers is the dualism between what the policy anticipates and what the policy achieves. This underscores the necessity for governance experts to collaborate with the private sector in developing policies that are “for the people”.

...it is important to realize how the economic policies made by politicians impact our wellness in the urban cosmopolitans...



MESHACK NZIOKA;  
MD WAKA AFRICA

# THE CRITICAL EYE

## THERE'S A JUDAS AMONG US BUT C'EST LA VIE!



By Odima Osure; Writer

"But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table," the scripture reads in Luke 22:21. As curtains fell on his time on earth, Jesus Christ manifested betrayal by one of his closest followers, who infact according to stalwart bible adherents ate with him from the same bowl, on the night of the last supper.

Iscaiot, - his name - was the very first to ask the son of man to single out the evil man, who had a plot against the Messiah. While he died, rose and ascended to heaven thousands of years ago, the spirit of perfidy still lives large among us. Jesus or not, backstabbing is so normalised in the contemporary world that it is becoming onerous to build strong bonds with friends let alone organize movements that are strong enough to withstand the test of time.

Ah, movements? That's right! Youth inclusion is a penumbra in the Kenya's political sphere. While efforts exist to address it, the burden lies on our shoulders to ensure that we provide the right value to the society, enough to be regarded when requisite decisions are being considered, let alone being made.

While it is herculean to achieve

this kind of value as individual young leaders, I'm crestfallen by the anarchic manner in which whenever two youths or ten align to pursue a common goal, things fall apart via rancour and turmoil.

There is a Judas among us, there is a Judas within us and there are the Roman soldiers, waiting for the opportune moment to dial up his greed and oil up his palms, in exchange of one killer rock jenga move, that when made an entire stack could descend into chaos, marred by deadly ill will.

First, within us lies a Judas, goes by the name social atavism -the innate need to dominate others- ; it's corresponding Roman soldier? The verecundium fallacy. "I am a lawyer you can't teach me law"



A united youth fraternity will almost guarantee the realization of inclusion|  
Photo Courtesy

"I am a politician, you can't teach me politics," "I am a doctor.." blah blah blah!. First, nobody is teaching you a thing and two, who tells you if you study a subject there's nothing else to learn? This belief system as an enemy of the youth denigrates the quality of communication, demurs learning and impairs the capability to make stable relationships which are the pendulum upon which fluid groups swing. Aquestion of higher power, who tells you we are interested in teaching you?

Greed and averice is the second enemy. There's greed for attention,

and power, that narrows our thought processes to focus too much on our self-serving interest, forgetting the people who play the important roles in the running of the team.

Most recently,an acquaintance attempted suicide. Asked what transpired,he told us of how he and a couple of friends made arrangements for an organization, which they'd use to empower each other. However, per his own account, the friends turned on him in the nick of time, when good things were about to happen.

This story tells of how we are our own enemies. We complain so spiritedly of how senior leaders have refused to support our development but fail to probe our ownselves and ask the important question; who will help us if we can't help ourselves?

*...I am crestfallen by the anarchic manner in which whenever two or ten youths align to pursue a common goal, things fall apart ...*

ODIMA OSURE



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# C.S.O SPACES

## STOP KILLING US!



By Daisy Bartlett; Trilingual Consultant on Women's Health and Climate Resilience | Photo Courtesy



The increase in brutal murders of women, most recently those of Starlet Wahu and Rita Waeni, led hundreds of Kenyans to take to the streets, hoping to gain government's attention and, more importantly, action to end femicide. 'Femicide, or feminicide, is a killing of women and girls because of their gender.' Whilst some fight for women's rights, an emerging trend 'the manosphere' is cause for concern.

Amnesty International reports that between 2016-2023, more than 500 women were killed by men. Over a dozen femicides have been recorded in Kenya this January alone.

As Irūngū Houghton, Executive Director of Amnesty International Kenya, proclaimed during the marches, "I am here as a man because my country is not safe, my sisters are not safe, my wife is not safe, my children, my daughters are not safe." His apprehension materialised as video footage emerged of men openly issuing death threats to women marchers.

Simultaneously online, 'The manosphere' promotes an anti-feminist worldview and targets men feeling increasingly emasculated in an era of shifting social norms. In the UK, is exemplified by self-proclaimed misogynist and YouTuber Andrew Tate. In Kenya, Eric Amunga,

responsible for the hashtag #MasculinityStaurday on X harbors 1.5 million followers. He promotes marrying younger women who 'submit to you,' and states that 'Feminists are the most toxic and venomous humans on earth.' He promotes living 'away from your woman and children' and to 'detach emotions from your children.'

Celebrating aggressive masculinity and devaluing women's roles contribute to an escalation in gender-based violence (GBV). Moreover, a history of childhood abuse and neglect, witnessing parental violence, and insecure relationships with parents, particularly fathers are shared factors among perpetrators.

Despite some men feeling threatened by women affirmative action policies, and 'feminism' the World Economic Forum's recent report estimates that 131 years are needed to achieve global gender equality.

It will take wide-spread collaboration, strong voices, educating both men and women - and in my opinion an investment in mental health - for things to change. Increase in poverty, uncertainty, substance abuse, and conflict situations such as war have a direct impact on the increase of GBV cases. The latter are all said to increase as our planet faces climate shifts.

To quote Rupa Dash, CEO of World Woman Foundation, 'Accelerating the pursuit of gender parity is not merely a moral imperative; it is an absolute necessity for the prosperity and sustainability of our world.'



Celebrating aggressive masculinity and devaluing women's roles contribute to an escalation in gender-based violence (GBV). ”

DAISY BARTLETT

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Femicide Cases in 2023, The highest of such deaths in the past half decade according to Femicide Count, Kenya.

500

The number of women who were killed in Kenya between 2017 and 2024, According to Data Hub Kenya & Africa Uncensored

# C.S.O SPACES

## RE-DEFINING THE FIGHT ON MENSTRUAL SHAME & ILLITERACY



T4B Founder Aruna Varsani (C) poses for a photo with other dignitaries after winning the Indian Achievers' Award in 2023.



An emblem of Together For Better Foundation



Beneficiaries of Together For Better Foundation in Mombasa | Photo Courtesy

Menstrual poverty, menstrual shame and illiteracy are all ubiquitous & age old challenges that impede the general development of young girls. However, a silver lining is there for teenage females; thanks to Together For Better Organization.

Founded in 2010, T4B, as it's abbreviated has inspired positivity within and beyond borders of the capital city, and by extension, beyond Kenya.

In 2022, Ms. Aruna Varsani won Indian Achievers award for her committment to empowering women and philanthropy through this marvel public benefit organization.

A flashback to her student days and you see a future psychologist. However, she is a multitaled innovater, who has applied her confluence of skills to set up an industry that collects raw materials, tailors reusable sanitary towels and donate to vulnerable females as a way to simultaneously

fight menstrual poverty and menstrual shame.

However, to her, being talented or winning awards are all vanity, if the talent does not impact the community positively. This is why, after a triennial interaction with and identifying the challenges faced by the Maa communities in Kenya, she conceived an idea, that would, in bits, address the challenges faced by the Maasai Community.

One such challenge was that young girls lacked adequate information on menstrual health & hygiene. This, being a woman, stingingly pinched her soul.

Today, a quattuordecennial later, Together For Better is an organization, known among many, not for it's name but for it's impact and the values it represents. Young girls in the Maasai community have accessed wide information on menstruation, millions of reusable sanitary towels donated, libraries opened and

furnished with books, tailoring workshops opened to empower women while over forty thousand books on Menstrual health and hygiene distributed.

We can wax lyrical of people, but for Aruna, value beats fame, money, power or posh titles.

However, Varsani cites a need for more partners to ensure that the vision is fluid. Multisectoral collaboration is to her the only way to achieve an idyllic society, where every child has an equal opportunity to chart her / his way to greatness, with gender equality notwithstanding.

**10,635**  
Number of girls that were positively impacted by Together For Better Organization in 2023

# BUSINESS

## TOP 30 REAL ESTATES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FETED



*Peter Nyaga, MD at Certified Homes ranks highest among Valuable Brand's list of Top 30 Real Estate C.E.Os. | Photo Courtesy*

One month after celebrating the top ten female Chief Executive Officers in Real Estates, brand guru Valuable Brands on 31st January feted the top thirty male CEOs for 2024 in the business.

This list, according to those in situ at Valuable Brands, is meant to celebrate their incredible corporate achievements and diligence exercised in driving their companies to excellence. Noteworthy is the fact that coming up with this list is a painstaking process that involves an intensive review of various real estate companies in the property market that encompasses; among others, property development, interior design and property agencies.

Peter Nyaga, is at the acme of the list, which is premised upon parameters such as community

outreach, projects launched and services delivered, capital and profit volumes, among others.

According to Valuable Brands, Peter is a justified topper, having successfully transformed Certified Homes Ltd. into a market leader, by overseeing the launch of numerous projects across the country, including in upmarket places like Malindi's Diani beach throughout and post 2023.

"To come up with this list, a number of factors were considered," said Valuable Brands' Victor Wambani, in a telephone conversation with City Bite. "Having said that, Mr. Nyaga met the criteria to be top," Victor stated. "However, this does not downplay the achievements of all the other 29 shortlistees. They were, in their own unique ways exceptional in their work throughout last year, and by extension throughout January." He concludes.

Second to Nyaga is Myspace Property's Mwenda Thurania, who according to valuable brands, inspired the biggest growth of the company in 2023. During that year -2023-, Myspace delivered high value projects, including Mytown Mall in Caren, which many have described as their most alluring project.

Dr. George Wachiuri of Optiven, Sam Kariuki of Mi Vida homes and Kenneth Mbae of Centum Estates follow Thurania in that order, with Mbae also acknowledged as the youngest Chief Executive to a top tier real estate company in Kenya.

Andrew Gitau of AMG Realtors is at position six, followed by Ruben Kimani of Username Properties, Fanaka Real Estate's Moses Muriithi, Hezekiah Kariuki of comfort homes and John Mwaura



*Mwenda Thurania during the launch of the 27th branch of Chandarana Supermarket at Mytown Mall | Photo Courtesy*

of FINSICO Africa in that order.

At position eleven is Association of Real Estate Shareholders' founding Chairman Mr. Kinyua Mwaura, followed by Cleophas Nyagaka of Fine Urban Interiors, Abubakar Mkumbuka of Kombani Homes, Naftali Mwangi of Hysop Properties, Daniel Ojijo of Kenya Homes Expo, Victor Amollo of Iconprime Investments, David Mwangi of Westhill Shelters, Daniel Kamau of Fusion Estate Management, Ken Mugo of Madaraka Homes, James Macharia of Topcare Lands in that order.

Mentioned in the list also are; Prince Harrington of Kenya Homes, Kenneth Wamburu of Imara Land Investment, Solomon Wangwe of Goshen Acquisitions, Dominic Thuku of Homepoint Investment, Perminus Kariuki of Nyota Njema Real Estate, James Ileri of Bestlink Developers, Fred Kahure of Golden Dreams, Chris Mathea of Dagma Lands Investment, Dennis Ndururi of Liaison Homes and Peter Mbugua of Gredico Properties Africa LTD.

Valuable Brands continue to do remarkable work in exposing and promoting best real estate brands in Kenya and beyond.

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# CLIMATE CHANGE

## FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: MOBILIZING KENYAN YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE IN 2024



By Viola Adhiambo; Climate & Development Specialist.

The climate crisis is one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity today, and its impacts are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. In Africa, where more than 60% of the population is under the age of 25, young people are at the forefront of both suffering from and fighting against the effects of global warming. In Kenya, a country that is highly vulnerable to droughts, floods, landslides, and conflicts over scarce resources, young people are not only raising their voices for climate justice, but also taking concrete actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while pursuing sustainable development goals.

Kenyan youth are actively engaging in various platforms and initiatives to influence climate policy, advocacy, education, innovation, and entrepreneurship. For instance, in 2021, two young Kenyans represented their peers at the COP26 summit in Glasgow, where they presented reports on youth-led solutions and demands for decarbonization and climate finance. In 2023, Kenya hosted the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, where young people from across the continent shared their experiences and best practices on green growth and resilience. In 2024, Kenya will celebrate the fifth anniversary of its Climate Change Act, which was partly influenced by youth-led campaigns and petitions.

Kenyan youth are also taking action at the grassroots level, by implementing projects and programs that address the root causes and consequences of climate change in their communities. Some examples include: planting trees and restoring landscapes; promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency; developing climate-smart agriculture and agribusiness; creating awareness and education on environmental issues; empowering women and girls to participate in climate action; fostering social cohesion and peacebuilding among different groups; and creating green jobs and livelihoods for themselves and others.

According to the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal, Kenya's average annual temperature has increased by 1°C since 1960, and is projected to rise by 2.5°C by 2050. The country's average annual precipitation has decreased by 2.8% per decade since 1960, and is projected to decline further by 5-10% by 2050. These changes have significant implications for Kenya's water resources, food security, health, biodiversity, and economic development.



Kenya's environmental activist Elizabeth Wathuti with President Uhuru Kenyatta at COP26 in Glasgow | photo courtesy

Kenya's economy is largely dependent on rain fed agriculture and tourism, each susceptible to climate variability and change and extreme weather events. Agriculture contributes about 25% of Kenya's GDP and employs about 75% of its workforce. Tourism accounts for about 10% of Kenya's GDP and supports about 9% of its employment. Both sectors are highly sensitive to changes in temperature, rainfall patterns, water availability, pest infestations, and natural disasters.

Kenyan youth are not only aware of the climate crisis, but also determined to act on it. They are mobilizing for climate justice and sustainable development in 2024 and beyond, by leveraging their creativity, innovation, passion, and leadership. They are calling for more support and recognition from the government, the private sector, civil society, and the international community. They are proving that they are not just the future, but also the present of Kenya's climate journey.

**2.5** It's projected that by 2050; Kenya's annual temperature will rise by 2.5°C

# EDUCATION

## SUSPEND PAYING SCHOOL FEE VIA ECITIZEN; GOVERNMENT TOLD

"I laud the government initiative to have fees paid at the eCitizen. However, we just call for proper structures and proper information because children have reported to school and learning is ongoing," said Council of Governors' Education Committee Chairman Dr. Erick Mutai on Tuesday.

In his view, the newly announced obligatory digitized payment of school fee, via E-Citizen is not well organized as it could lead to disruption given the fact that schools have resumed and transition is complete.

"When we are somewhere half the term, we wake up in the morning and tell people we are supposed to pay school fees via eCitizen. In as much as it is a good idea, we need the ministry to be a bit organised so that they are not reactive. They should be able to provide information early enough so that people will not be in doubt that there is fraud behind it," Mutai said.

What's so wrong with this government that makes it so difficult to differentiate between those pro it and those con it is the actual bone of contention.

Mutai, a UDA governor is just the tip of an iceberg to a nation of high ranking members of the ruling party that via a second tongue criticise government decisions.

For instance, controller of budget Margaret Nyakango recently decried how the government is approving unjustified loans, while Auditor General Nancy Githungu cites conflicting documentation on the same.



We seem to be doing a lot of changes in the education sector that are not well thought out. Some of these things are almost unconstitutional

HON. ROBERT MBUI

In his view, MP for Kathiani Constituency Hon. Robert Mbui said there was a need for public participation before such critical decisions are made. To him, the furtive moves by the government regarding education are leading the sector in a ditch.

"Public participation must always be carried out so that we can ensure that whatever is being brought to the table is something that everybody understands," Mbui said.

Like a two tailed coin, the decision has been ambivalently reacted to. Unlike Mbui, his ilk and CoG, Chief Administrative Secretary Wilson

Sossion has called this move a right step to the right direction. In his view, this mode of fee payment will eliminate all the unnecessary levies that are not in the gazetted and approved fee guideline.

"All services have been loaded to the government so that citizens can get services at the comfort of their houses;" the former KNUT secretary general said. "That is what the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology is doing to ensure that citizens' services are availed at the eCitizen platform," stated Sossion. "Fee payment is one of the services loaded on that platform."

While reactions from various stakeholders continue to trickle in, it is to be noted that this is one of the many steps taken by the Kenya Kwanza administration to streamline the payment of government services under a common paybill number; 222222 or what Sossion would call an E-government, which to him is the future!

222222

The Government is looking to streamline payment processes under a common playbill number



1  
2 Go Digital Or Go home!

Education C.S Ezekiel Machogu with Interior P.S Raymond Omollo in a past media briefing

# HEALTH

## WHY DIGITAL HEALTH IS IMPORTANT IN MALARIA PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION



By Emmanuel Otieno Obwanga | Photo Courtesy

The advancement of Technology in the medical field is largely attributed to the increase in infectious diseases that carries mutating viruses and hence the need for further research/experiment. This is the reason why modern medical equipments have been designed to improve Universal Health Coverage in a bid to eliminate outgrowing diseases.

Digital health is the use of information and communication technologies to improve human health and healthcare delivery. It includes a wide range of technologies such as mobile health (mHealth), health information technology (IT), wearable devices, telemedicine, and digital therapeutics. In the context of malaria prevention, digital health plays a crucial role in surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, and public health interventions.



A major component of digital health in malaria prevention is the use of mHealth applications. They enable individuals to access information about malaria prevention and control, receive reminders for medication adherence, and seek guidance on seeking medical care.

Additionally, mHealth tools can facilitate the collection of real-time data on malaria cases and vector distribution, which is essential for effective surveillance and response. It makes it very easier to track and note the behavior of malaria infection and take immediate action which is very important in malaria treatment depending on the type of malaria Parasite such as Falciparum and Vivax which are regarded as the most virulent transmitters of malaria disease.



Furthermore, health information systems are integral to digital health in malaria prevention. These systems allow for the collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination of health data related to malaria. By leveraging electronic health records and disease registries, healthcare providers and public health authorities can track malaria cases, monitor treatment outcomes, and identify high-risk areas for targeted interventions which is very important.

Another component is Telemedicine which plays a significant role in malaria prevention by enabling remote consultations and diagnostic support. Through telemedicine platforms, healthcare professionals can provide guidance on malaria diagnosis and treatment to individuals in underserved or remote areas. This facilitates timely access to healthcare services and

contributes to early detection and management of malaria cases.

Moreover, digital tools such as geographic information systems (GIS) are valuable for mapping the distribution of malaria vectors and identifying environmental risk factors. By integrating spatial data with epidemiological information, GIS supports evidence-based decision-making in implementing vector control measures and allocating resources for malaria prevention efforts.

In addition to these components, digital health interventions for malaria prevention encompass behavior change communication through digital platforms, remote monitoring of patients using wearable devices, and the use of digital therapeutics for managing co-morbidities associated with malaria. For example we can use TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to do malaria Advocacy and key messaging and re-emphasize on social behavior change and accountability on malaria related resources.



...health information systems are integral to digital health in malaria prevention...

EMMANUEL



Emmanuel Otieno Obwanga is a Diplomat and Policy Expert/Co-Founder CITY BITE MAGAZINE; Project Lead-Digital Health at Kenya Malaria Youth Corps and a member of Health Data Governance Working Group at Transform Health Organization.

# THE DIPLOMAT

## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY; THE KEY PILLAR OF FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL



Amb. Jamezany James (R) poses for a photo with Amb. Powerful Steve (L) after a recent meeting| Photo Courtesy

is by nature and design, Africa's biggest Art and Culture Festival.

Throughout the planning, the quest to integrate the diverse cultures of Africa, is given a deserving priority. In the contemporary world, cultural diplomacy is emerging as a pivotal means through which States and Nation States communicate, interact and cement relationships, not only across the African continent but also between African countries, Western Countries and the far East.

FESTAC Africa Festival will take place between 19th -26th May 2024 in Kisumu, a City led by the father of the Award Winning Hollywood actress Lupita Nyong'o. Different nations will showcase their respective cultures in a bold quest to tell the world the story of black excellence

For instance, in a bid to cement their already flourishing relations with African countries, China introduced the Confucius Institute across universities in Africa, where the Chinese language, Mandarin and the Chinese cultural practices such as kung fu, culinary arts, fashion and history are taught.

Such is the aim of FESTAC festival. A glance at the program notes and you see the ubiquitous mention of these words. Cultural interactions is a bold way to tell the world a story of traditional African values, fundamental principles and the African way of doing things. This underscores the importance of FESTAC to the growth of diplomacy in Africa. Diversity, is one of the standout

components of the African society and will be displayed through culinary arts, exhibition of fashion among other ways.

"Kisumu has beautiful historical, cultural and tourist attractions. It is, first of all, situated on a plateau; it is by the lakeside and astride the equator. It is significant that Kisumu has one of the best and enchanting sunsets around the region. Within the environs of the area are also the Abindu caves and Kit Mikayi stone, both of which have intriguing narratives around them," said the Chief Executive Officer for the iconic Mama Grace Onyango Social and Cultural Centre Mr. Akech Obat Masira; in his justification for the venue of the activity.



"FESTAC AFRICA Festival has the power to transcend boundaries by building global bridges of togetherness through cultural exchanges, which will inadvertently impact the economic transformation of Africa. Through meaningful collaboration, we aim to foster connections, that stimulate economic & investment opportunities, and create a lasting positive impact on the perception of Africa as a top trade, travel and investment hub. "

ENG. YINKA ABIOYE;  
CHAIRMAN; FESTAC  
AFRICA FESTIVAL

”

## SPORTS

## AFCON ENTERS THE CRUCIAL STAGE; WHO WILL SUFFICE?



*Ronwen Williams was the hero of the moment as Bafana Bafana knocked Cape Verde out of AFCON | Photo Courtesy*

The stage is now set for the crucial semi-finals of African Cup of Nations 2024 edition, after a dramatic Quarter final stage that saw the exit of Angola, Guinea, Mali and Cape Verde from the competition.

After a humdrum performance in their opening match in group A, Nigeria makes it to the semi finals, thanks to a resilient discipline from the team and it's head coach, that guaranteed a complete turnaround in performances, registering direct wins from match day two, to their most recent match against Angola, the consensual surprise package of this year's edition of the tournament.

In the match, it was Ademola Lookman who emphatically converted a clean cut back from Nantes' left winger Moses Simon, four minutes before the break. Lookman, 26 has been instrumental in turning around the fortunes of the super eagles, after securing the place of Nigeria in the quarter-finals via a clean brace versus Rigobert Song's Cameroon and now, again, scoring the only goal to send them into the coveted semi-final stage of the tournament.

Potentially, Nigeria has the ceiling to go on and win the trophy. However, they will have to face an enthusiastic Bafana Bafana team, who secured their place through a penalty shoot-out, thanks to

Ronwen Williams heroics. In an obstinate fashion, the South African goalkeeper saved four of the five spot-kicks from Cape Verde as Hugo Broos' team, which went to Abidjan as one of the lower ranked sides eased to the next stage.

Unlike South Africa and Nigeria, D.R. Congo marches into the next stage, sub rosa a satisfactory victory after thrashing Guinea in an intense match of football, that uncharacteristically for a stage as competitive as the last eight saw a total of four goals scored.



*Brentford's Yoane Wissa was on target from the spot as D.R Congo Eased past Guinea | Photo Courtesy*

Three goals were scored by D.R Congo, to secure a classic come back after Guinea went ahead through a penalty, converted by Mohamed Bayo. However, their lead was canceled six minutes later by Marseille's Chancel Mbemba to end the first half of the game on level terms. A 65th minute penalty converted by Yoane Wissa and an 82nd minute clinically taken direct free kick secured Congo's place in the semi-finals.

In a turn of events that could be the highlight of the tournament,

Mali, was for the first time in the history of the times they have reached the quarter finals of the tournament knocked out.

Before this match, Mali were unbeaten, after topping their group. However, Adama Traore missed a penalty early on in the game, in what could've been the turning point of the match. After a goalless first half, Nene Dorogele thought he had given Mali the ticket to the next stage via a stunning goal early in the second half but it was astoundingly canceled out by Simon Adingra's late goal which kick-started a come back, that was completed in the dying moments of extra-time.



*Brighton's Simon Adingra scored a late goal to kick-start Ivory Coast's comeback against Mali | Photo Courtesy*

Surprisingly, Ivory Coast were fighting from a weak position, after first going a man down then a goal down.

On Wednesday, the first game of the highly anticipated semi-finals will feature Nigeria against S. Africa and will take place at 5 pm EAT while the second match will be between hosts Ivory Coast and D.R Congo. Who will suffice?



# PERSON OF THE WEEK

## DR. SIMON PETER



County Manager at the Kisumu senator office, Simon Peter during a past media address |Photo Courtesy

This week, City Bite's person of the week is Kisumu County Manager at the Senator's Office Dr. Simon Peter, who doubles up as the Director for Make Me Smile Kenya, an Organization that, according to their website "Helps people help themselves."

A reticent man, Peter is consensually known for his eye for detail, especially while executing his roles in the office of the senator. As the manager, he is mandated to ensure that the office is fully operational at all the time, and that members of the public lining up to seek different services are satisfactorily attended to.

Service, in the County Office of the senator in Kisumu, idiosyncratically begins with a decent cup of tea. Where else does that happen and who else oversees such?

Asked about why Peter would be the ideal personality for this piece this week, a respondent tells City Bite; "Two weeks ago, it was Tom, the senator. Yes, it was well deserved, for obvious reasons ; the senator is working and serving the people indiscriminately. However, often we forget the people

that work so hard behind the curtains, to ensure that Ojienda's projects are fluid," he said. "There's a gentleman called Peter. He has changed a lot in the office of the senator. People are served quickly and there's an organic connection between the office and residents, unlike before," he stated. "Try to convince me otherwise, but as far as I am concerned, he deserves to be there," via a smile, he concludes.

According to many, the mystique surrounding the senate had earlier seen many occupants of that office stay aloof. However, per credible murmurs from those in the know, the current office is a safe space, where all are treated equally, with default respect and dignity.



Young kids are served during a dental camp sponsored by make me smile Organization Kenya | Photo Courtesy

A flashback to August 2023, and I see a group of senescent ladies and gentlemen enjoying a cup of tea before being attended to.

However, managing the office is not Peter's only raison d'etre , as people have desribed him as a man, passionate of service to humanity.

For instance, through the Make

Smile Organization, he has impacted a lot of lives, not only in Kisumu but Kenya at large. "We have young adolescents benefitting from his projects at Make Me smile," UDA youth Representative aspirant for Kisumu Seth Okumu tells us. "I'm inspired by the way in which Mr. Simon seamlessly navigates both politics and the civil society," he stated. "Normally, these are two



Simon Peter hands NYS Confirmation Letters for training to beneficiaries in Kisumu County (June 2023) | Photo Courtesy

interdependent but heterogeneous spectrums. It takes a genius to manage both in one go," with a benevolent smile, Okumu concludes.

City Bite congratulates Mr. Simon on making it to our feature and encourages him to keep providing value to the community.

We have adolescents benefitting from his projects at Make Me Smile Kenya. I am inspired by the way in which he seamlessly navigates both politics and the civil society”

Seth Okumu on Simon Peter

# ENTERTAINMENT

## ART, CULTURE, TALENT AND POMP AWAITS KISUMU CITY



*The 5th Edition of FESTAC festival will take place in Kisumu City. Previously, it had been hosted by Zanzibar (2022) & Arusha in Tanzania (2023) |Photo Courtesy*

After becoming the very first Kenyan City to host the Africities Summit in 2022, Kisumu is once again up for a first, as it will provide a home to the big names of nollywood late in May during the much awaited fifth edition of the Worlds Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture Festival -FESTAC.

Spanning for a week, FESTAC is Africa's oldest festival,with a primary aim of bringing black people, -Africans and Decendants of Africa in the diaspora - together, to celebrate their diversity and excellence.Nonetheless, this festival provides a platform for networking, promotion of trade & tourism in the host city.

Art, music, fashion, dance, culture and the exhibition of other remote African practices & products like bead work,leather work and accessories,fashion and talent will be at the heart of the week-long festival.

Annually, this event happens in the month of May; otherwise referred as Africa month, to commemorate the founding of OAU, with the 25th as a culmination of the African week used to celebrate Africa Day.

Culture is a pedestal component of life in Africa and for Africans. As such, to have a full week of recognizing

and promoting the diversity of African culture, is to tell the world, in a vaunted fashion the pride with which we bear our heritage.

"Celebrating the rich uniqueness of our culture, art, and heritage, FESTAC AFRICA Festival is a vibrant showcase of Africa's diversity," said Grace Mumo, the CEO for FESTAC. "We invite you to join us on this extraordinary journey, where every moment tells a story, and every story adds a new color to the canvas of our shared heritage. Let's unite, celebrate, and create memories that resonate beyond borders - FESTAC AFRICA Festival is where the heartbeat of Africa comes alive," Mumo stated.



*Eng. Yinka Abioye; the Chairman for the FESTAC Africa Festival during a past event|Photo Courtesy*

"FESTAC AFRICA Festival has the power to transcend boundaries by building global bridges of togetherness through cultural exchanges," FESTAC Chairman Eng. Yinka Abioye equanimously tells City Bite."Such exchanges will inadvertently impact the economic transformation of Africa. Through meaningful collaboration , we aim to foster connections, that stimulate economic & investment opportunities, and create a lasting positive impact on the perception of Africa as a top trade, travel and investment hub,"Abioye concluded.

In his view, FESTAC is meant to promote the development in African societies in a multi-faceted approach.



*Grace Mumo is the Chief Executive Officer for FESTAC AFRICA Festival |Photo Courtesy*

As the city awaits a regal festival, scholars, artists, exhibitors et al are rallied to register for participation via [www.festacafrica.org](http://www.festacafrica.org). Alternatively, those who can access the Mama Grace Onyango Social and Cultural Centre are advised to visit and be put in contact with the Festival's secretariat.



*Amb. Jamezany James, an ambassador for FESTAC AFRICA Festival during a past award ceremony|Photo Courtesy*

*For inquiries re FESTAC:*

*visit: [www.festacafrica.org](http://www.festacafrica.org)*

 *+27 82 627 5466 Grace Mumo*

 *Festac Africa*

 *[info@festacafrica.org](mailto:info@festacafrica.org)*

# CULTURE

## KISUMU; A JUSTIFIED HOST FOR FESTAC FESTIVAL 2024



By Akech Obat Masira |Photo Courtesy

Kisumu is the host city for FESTAC, Africa, 2024. The 4th FESTAC was held in Arusha, Tanzania in May, 2023. Kisumu is a city with a robust youth and sports culture as well as a vibrant arts, intellectual and culture scene. The choice of Kisumu city is justifiable for a variety of reasons including the following:

- Kisumu city has an unquestionably rich cultural heritage. Indeed, it is a melting pot of different cultural backgrounds coming from the diverse ethnic communities that inhabit the region. Examples of such ethnic groups include the Luo, the Suba community, the Kisii, Luhya, Kalenjin, the Maasai community, the Somalis as well as the Nubians who have had a long history in Kisumu.

- Having played a pivotal role in shaping East Africa's cultural and economic landscape, the city is of historical significance. We note that the city, indeed, is at the epicentre of East Africa and is the gateway to the Great Lakes region. The city boasts of an international airport and port which places affords easy access into and out of the town. A robust road network has greatly made easy comfortable movement within and around the city.

- There is a vibrant and dynamic youth culture in the sports and other talent areas. The city is known for producing talented athletes excelling in national and international platforms. Such energy and enthusiasm should be tapped and harnessed for the good of the region. Ultimately, too, there should be more buttressed sports development in partnership with, amongst others, sports organisations, schools and other institutions.

- Being home to a thriving arts and culture populace, Kisumu is an arts and culture hub that has hosted numerous arts exhibitions, music festivals, dance performances and theatrical productions persistently and consistently. In showcasing such, the festival, thus, will further leverage this creative spirit which aligns well with the objectives of FESTAC.

- Kisumu has beautiful historical, cultural and tourist attractions. It is, first of all, situated on a plateau; it is by the lakeside and astride the equator. It is significant that Kisumu has one of the best and enchanting sunsets around the region. Within the environs of the area are also the Abindu caves and Kit Mikayi stone, both of which have intriguing narratives around them.

- The festival will enable community participation and engagement with the core objectives of FESTAC, inspiring local artists, musicians and cultural organisations to be part of the festivities. This enhances positive exchange and collaboration.

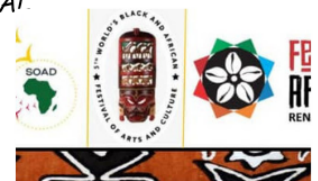
- The festival should provide the much needed youth empowerment, them being the future of society, as it is. Educational programmes, particularly shall be a great

inspiration to these youths and thus constructively shape the future of the youthful population. One notes that Kisumu has, indeed, been an intellectual hub conducting robust intellectual discourse including participants like Chinua Achebe, David Rubadiri, Austin Bukenya and Okot p'Bitek. This was inspired by the starting of Kisumu Arts Festival which, in turn, invited these renowned scholars. Intellectualism and scholarship manifest the FESTAC spirit.

- Considering the establishment of the Inspire Africa Academy in Kisumu, the festival is the perfect opportunity for undertaking an eternal legacy for the youth and the community in general. This is in terms of education, talent development, youth empowerment, as well as mental health and wellness.

- Finally, the choice of Kisumu, a global city, should enable FESTAC achieve its objectives, vision and mission including cultural unity, cross continental connections and promotion of African excellence. The anticipated FESTAC magazine, too, should boost this endeavour. It shall bring Kisumu to the world and the world to Kisumu.

*Mr. Akech Obat Masira is the C.E.O at Mama Grace Onyango Social and Cultural Centre, Where the week-long FESTAC Festival will be hosted. He is also the ambassador for the FESTIVAL!*



# OF IMPORTANCE...



**Euzhan Palcy to attend FESTAC AFRICA FESTIVAL in KISUMU**

The trailblazing filmmaker whose pioneering contributions to international cinema have left an indelible mark on the industry will lead several sessions sharing her insights on achieving global success, the importance of storytelling, womanhood, pioneering spirit, black representation, and more, drawing from her illustrious 40-year career.

Register today at [www.festacafrica.org](http://www.festacafrica.org). and see you on MAY 20TH - 26TH, 2024 in #kisumu, #kenya

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

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

#tembeakenya #TembeaKisumu #football #food #africanfood #africansafari #tourism #african #africansports #sports #Luo #kisii #Nyanza #kisumudala #kisumucity #kisumucounty #AFCON #culture #KenyaAirways



**KISUMU YOUNG LEADERS CAUCUS; THE MODEL UPON WHICH YOUTH MOVEMENTS SHOULD BE BASED.**

The Valentine Anyango Aela (Pictured) led movement is in running to dominate advocacy for youth inclusion.

Since It's inception late January, it's impact is being felt along the roads, up the hills, in hotels, along the shores of Lake Victoria and in households of Kisumu.

In his own words, the movement's Secretary General opines that for the first time in a very long time, the sound of the voice of youths is ringing in the ears of those in situ at the corridors of power. The movement's objects are hinged on the idea that 'We as youths are our own responsibility , ergo if we don't save ourselves, nobody will save us.



**Africa mourns a Pan Africanist**

Kenya's President William Ruto decreed the half mast raising of flags in solidarity with Namibia, who lost her President, H.E The late Hage Geingob, who died on 4th Feb. 2024.

Like Ruto, leaders from across the continent and beyond have condoled with Namibia in their own unique ways.

In his commiseration message, veteran Kenya's opposition Chief Raila Odinga eulogised the late as a "True Pan Africanist, who leaves behind a legacy of the liberation struggle and the architect of Namibia's constitution that will forever echo in the hearts of his people and across Africa. "

City Bite condoles with Namibians and the SWAPO party fraternity.



**New KIWASCO office block and their 4th strategic plan lauched in a ccermony presided over by ODM boss Mr. Raila Odinga**

# NOTABLE QUOTES

## THE VIEW POINT



**VALENTINE AELA** ”

ONE GENERATION ONE VOICE  
Kisumu Young Leaders Caucus  
( KYLC) are ready to champion  
community development  
agendas in our various villages.

Join us as a young and  
upcoming leader. Utilize our  
platform to advocate for your  
community development ideas.



**RAILA ODINGA** ”

Each family affected by last  
week’s fire caused by the gas  
explosion in Embakasi should be  
given a cash compensation of  
Kshs 500,000. This is pure  
negligence on the part of the  
Kenya kwanza administration.



**H.E WILLIAM RUTO**

Investing in Kenya will  
offer Japanese  
enterprises access to the  
East African Community  
(EAC), COMESA, the  
Tripartite Free Trade Area  
and Africa Continental  
Free Trade Area markets  
of more than 1.4 billion  
people and a combined  
GDP of \$3.4 trillion. A good  
return on investment is  
guaranteed, especially in  
our renewable energy,  
manufacturing,  
agriculture and  
technology sectors.



**DR. ERICK MUTAI** ”

When we are somewhere half  
the term, we wake up in the  
morning and tell people we are  
supposed to pay school fees via  
eCitizen. In as much as it is a  
good idea, we need the ministry  
to be a bit organised so that  
they are not reactive. They  
should be able to provide  
information early enough so  
that people will not be in doubt  
that there is fraud behind it.



**WILSON SOSSION** ”

All services have been loaded  
to the government so that  
citizens can get services at the  
comfort of their houses; that is  
what the Ministry of  
Information Communication  
and Technology is doing to  
ensure that citizens' services  
are availed at the eCitizen  
platform.



**JOHNSON SAKAJA** ”

The Office of The Governor of  
Nairobi is officially Africa’s first  
IFC EDGE Certified Government  
building. EDGE makes it easy to  
design and certify resource-  
efficient and Zero Carbon  
buildings of every type,  
everywhere. We are proud of this  
milestone as we seek to make  
Nairobi the continental leader in  
green solutions.



**ANTONIO GUTERRES**

Around the world, we are  
seeing communities divided by  
rising hate speech, extremism  
& human rights abuses.

Leaders have a responsibility to  
ensure that people feel  
represented; that diversity is  
recognized as a strength; and  
that communities enjoy a full  
place in society.

**CONTACT CITY BITE**

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# GALLERY

## PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Kanye West pictured with his wife on the streets |Photo Courtesy



Andrew Kibe meets Babu Owino |Photo Courtesy



President Duda of Poland (L) meets President Ruto of Kenya at State House Nairobi| Photo Courtesy



Man United Captains Bruno Fernandez and Katie Zelem during the Munich Air Disaster Memorial Ceremony in Manchester;England| Photo Courtesy



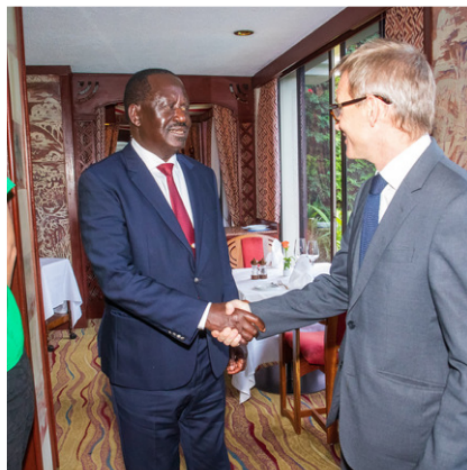
Mn United's Alejandro Garnacho, Kobbie Mainoo & Rasmus Hojlund celebrates Garnacho's second goal vs West Ham |Photo Courtesy



Railla Odinga launches new KIWASCO headquarters in Kisumu| Photo Courtesy



Phil Foden with a matchball after he scored a hattrick in Man City's victory over Brentford.| Photo Courtesy



Railla Odinga meets Neil Wigan, the UK High Commisioner to Kenya| Photo Courtesy



Nigerian Team Celebrating reaching finals of the AFCON| Photo Courtesy

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