CHESS TEAM MAKES DAYSTAR PROUD PAGE 16



FILM CLUB LAUNCHED



Excellence in Student Journalism

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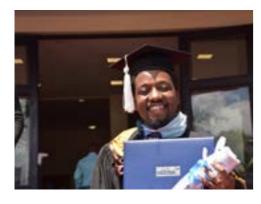
FEATURE



Daystar alumnus Moses Gitonga narrates how he maneuvered his way into owning an ICT company without an educatioal background in the field.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Lack of Confidence still looming as Dusa marks 100 Days in Office



Congress leaders pose for a photo after the first sitting at the Athi River campus. BONIFACE IRUNGU

BY EVELYNE SYOMBUA

The Daystar student government marks its fourth month in office this August 2021. Being the first fully constituted government after four years, some students acknowledge that it has been working and serving them while others

Four months after being sworn into office, "motherhood" seems to be taking a toll on them as their "baby" seems to still be at its premature

Incomprehension seems to be delaying and pulling back most of the leaders from delivering to students. This can be attributed to the fact that only a few of them understand their roles while the rest enjoy the laxity of their positions.

Although there is a constitution in which the duties of the specific office bearers have been outlined, the question of understanding and knowledge of these duties is still a concern. They seem to be a government on trial under the current DUSA constitution. Having been used from the start of this year, the constitution is yet to be critically reviewed, even after several concerns being raised by students on its loopholes and silence on important matters.

As they campaigned and aired their manifestos to students, their intentions were different, with some wanting to serve while others being there to enjoy the ride in the park. The alibi of "we are still settling and not all students are physically present" has made the leaders dormant and some sleep on their oaths of serving and carrying out their duties to students.

This has escalated emotions from students who feel their inclusion and the government serving them does not require them to be physically present and that the government should be flexible enough to serve both online and physically present students.

This has pushed some to even suggest the formation of an oversight committee for factchecking and holding the student government accountable. "Oversight committee is a mandatory body across different institutions {...}. So it's formation will make effectiveness onto supervise, inspect, and question the DUSA Council on specifics matters concerning students welfare and well-being," (sic) said a student who opted for anonymity.

During the Congress' first sitting held on July 28, the Communication Committee was not represented, raising questions over its existence. Tasked with publicizing the student body's affairs, the committee is key to the council's operations as it is also responsible for running opinion polls on issues of interest to the association.

As their clock ticks a lot is to be done and the query of whether they will deliver is yet to be answered. The rest is for students to watch, air their grievances and hope to be heard.

However, inasmuch as students continue to question their governmet's eligibility, it should be emphasized that success or failure in the first 100 days does not signify the way forward.

It is key to mention the success of a few leaders who have been putting in enough effort for students' sake. As they get a grip of their roles, there needs to be a cohesion between them and the students they lead for the purposes of a condusive environment that will benefit both

Students to Benefit from Machakos Film Festival



BY EVELYNE SYOMBUA

The 5th edition of the Machakos Short Film Festival is set to take place in December 2021, with the deadline for sending the entries being November 6.

The event is organized by the Machakos County through their Ministry of Sports, culture and Heritage to provide a platform for creatives to showcase their skills at no cost. The winner gets to walk away with one million Kenya shilling, with other rewards including cameras, Lenses, and Tripods set to be won.

According to the Director of the Machakos County film board Mr. Nick Njache, there are different entry categories from Tertiary Institutions, Documentaries, Schools and Animation.

"We expect a record number of entries for this year and the quality of productions to be very high. This edition might turn out to be the most competitive," said Mr. Njache.

The county has partnered with the Kenya Film Commission, Kenya Copyright Board, Chasing Dreams Inc. and the Mulleys Supermarket to bring together the event that will see students from different universities benefit.

This comes as an advantage for the Daystar Students having relaunched its film club on August 6. The club's last active participation was in the East African Film Festival in partnership

with the Kenya Film Classification Board. Mr. Njache, who is a former recipient of the best director award at the Kalasha festival was the guest speaker. He urged the students to maximize the immersion method used in the film industry to sharpen their skills.

"{...} It is not just what you got in high school that matters for you to get into a top grade school of film, theatre {...} but also your skill," said Mr. Njache.

Athi River campus governor Walter Nalwa has urged students to participate, stating that his office will be offering assistance to anyone interested in it

"Because we're based in Machakos, I think it will be of great milestone if we give it a shot. I've tired talk to Aaron [Kituku] who is good at films and recently when I saw a short film making rounds, it was quite impressive and I though we can deliver," said Nalwa.

The theme for this year's festival is water, with participants being given the chance to creatively use resources around the county to come up with content aligned to it. They are also expected to use their own ideas, to prevent cases of infringement and have been advised to give credits where necessary. The film should also be seven minutes long and as stipulated in the terms and conditions the piece should be specifically shot for the event and publicly screened first at the Machakosfest 2021 gala.

An approval for filming and classification of the film by the Kenya Film Classification Board is also required, for the purpose of meeting requirements stated in the Film and Stage Plays Act Cap 222. For the music used in the film, it should be original or have permission from the original creator before its use.

Acknowledgement of different cultures and languages among Kenyans by the Machakos County has been made by allowing the film to be shot in any of the Kenyan languages with English subtitles. This provides a platform for everyone to participate without feeling left out.

There have been four editions before the pandemic hit, which were held in 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019 respectively. The total number of entries for the previous festivals has been over 300, therefore with its return more entries are expected.

The vice chairperson of the Daystar Film Club Daisy Shireku, who also serves as a congress representative for the School of Communication promised many upcoming projects from the club.

"After the leadership in 2017, the next leadership did not have the same drive as the previous leaders therefore the inactivity of the club," said Daisy. "This [Machakosfest] is one of the projects planned for next semester as well as film week."

The club will be partnering with Amnesty International which is a human rights organization and Kenya Film club to do short films on drama and comedy. Under the guidance of patron Mr. Wanyonyi, the club is working n an effective plan for the formation and mobilising of teams to participate in both competitions.

Machakos county has been on the forefront in promoting youth talent through art, having formed Machawood that seeks to develop the film industry. The county has also hosted events to promote its youth including the Gengetone music festival that aimed at improving its music industry.

CAMPUS NEWS

Land Developers to Reap From High Intake



Kryptons Apartments located off Campus.PHOTO: MICAH NYAE

BY EVELYNE SYOMBUA

(issyombua@gmail.com)

Daystar University expects a high number of incoming students as they report for the orientation process on August 23. This is set to be the highest number ever since the pandemic hit in March 2020.

According to government statistics on this year's student placement, a total of 780 students have been approved to join Daystar through the government sponsored program. This tops up to the privately sponsored students whose numbers are set to be released today.

This projects an increase in the expected student intake, given the reduction in numbers following the pandemic's outbreak. Having recorded a slight decline in 2020's actual student population which according to the Strategic plan was 3,646, the institution looks to slowly regain its stand this year.

With the increasing number of student population, there is an increase in demand for student accommodation. This has attracted new hostels being built, old ones being renovated. adding facilities and being beautified as they

The gap between the students and accommodation has attracted housing investing companies such as Heri homes Limited, and privately owned hostels and apartments such as Kryptons Apartements, Burbs Aaprtments and Marsco hostels.

This has seen landlords step up their game in provision of quality hostel services. Hostels are opting on this to win over new and continuing students, with the addition of swimming pools, backup generators and boreholes becoming a trend. Some have opted to invest in solar panels, in a bid to keep themselves a notch higher than

Some hostels are expensive as compared to school hostels like DUPA where students pay a lesser amount for the entire semester.

Considering most hostels are bedsitters with a few being one or two bedroomed, many factors play a part when students want to settle in a hostel. Security, water, the rooms' space, and proximity to the institution are some of the factors, with good WIFI connection topping

Most students opt to live alone in off campus rather than sharing a room in the school compound while others feel it is cheaper to live in school.

"Some hostels are expensive as compared to school hostels like DUPA where students pay a lesser amount for the entire semester," said Daisy Marotso; an International Relations student.

With the University adopting blended mode learning for the August semester, most students will factor in a good and high speed WIFI for them to settle in a hostel due to online classes. This poses a huge challenge to hostels without a good Internet connection.

With the increasing number of student population and the construction of the road linking the main campus to Mombasa Road, investors are seemingly likely to earn big.

Students expected to report for physical classes are the main target. In a communication sent out by the DVC-Academics Prof. Faith Nguru, those expected to be around include nursing students. School of Science, Health and Engineering students and first to third year law students. This top ups to the first year students who are all expected to begin physical classes on August 30.

The student population is expected to keep on rising steadily, with the strategic plan projecting a 10 per cent growth rate in the next 5 years.

From this, topping up with the slow return to normalcy for businesses around the area, investors undoubtedly have a chance to reap big, but only if they play their cards right.

The Death of University Life and How to Avoid it



BY KEN ANDREW

(kenakikenyi@gmail.com)

The transition from high school to university in Kenya is usually one marked with a lot of mixed feelings. The thought of one having less supervision around school, meeting new friends and no national examinations at the end of his or her coursework is usually a cause for excitement for many joining university. With less supervision though, being responsible and disciplined is crucial. Most students join university with the goal of completing their course in a certain time period and moving forward with other things in their lives. Sadly, and unluckily, the number of those reaching their goals is inconsistent. Some drop out, others take years off because of various reasons and some just give up. It is important not to be quick to criticize why they

fall off but one has to understand where they are coming from.

The word stress usually pops up a lot amongst university students. The stress can mostly be attributed to the academic pressure from different factors around them, not only the school and coursework. In university, the academic pressure is still immense just like high school even though there are no national examinations at the end. Assignments can pile up if not worked on immediately, Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) will keep being thrown to students by instructors out of nowhere, and due dates keep moving closer when one keeps procrastinating. Following a strict schedule is the best way to try and keep focus on coursework while having times for other things. Having a personal timetable is highly recommended not just in school but in an everyday life set up.

Knowing where to be at a given time and being there can be hard for university students but pushing oneself to follow his/her schedule can have great results. Whenever an assignment is given or examination dates are announced, they should be scheduled for and given enough time to be worked on. Scheduling time for revision and going through notes before engaging school work is important. Plus, also scheduling relaxation and leisure times is important. Socializing and meeting people from different backgrounds and having fun with friends is refreshing and also crucial in a university student's life, in that, you learn new things and you get your mind of school and other problems you might be experiencing in life. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Scheduling can be a massive boost against academic pressure if properly arranged and implemented.

Aside from academic pressure, peer pressure is also a key factor in causing stress and worry amongst university students. Those around you can either uplift you or drag you down. Peer pressure is something one is taught about in every tier of school but can mostly be affected by it in university. Being easily influenced and shaky in decision making often drags one into things they intended not to take part in. You arrived alone in university and will leave alone thus only make decisions that are beneficial to you and will not take a toll on your mind. Being assertive and firm with high self-esteem at times when a non-beneficial decision is to be $\mbox{\sc made}$ is key in fighting peer pressure. Confidence in what one can do and in what one has is also a major thing in deflecting peer pressure. Being confident and content in one's financial capabilities, academic capabilities, talents and ability goes a long way in shielding someone not only from peer pressure, but also low self-esteem. Finally, picking the right friends and also sorting vour friends and colleagues out and knowing what each one of them offers is important so as to avoid mixing different groups with contrary thought processes and opinions.

Some students may be badly hurt and influenced by the said factors and this can cause them to fall into depression and fall off school work and disappear from the lives of others as they feel lowly. At the moment, depression is involved, schoolwork is not important but the mental health and wellbeing of the depressed person is. They are no longer just students but victims, and they need to be guided back to being in a good state of mind without being pushed too much. When you hear of someone suffering from depression, try to be their light and guide them out of that dark tunnel.

Aside from depression, truancy, negative behavioral changes and drug abuse or relapses by those rehabilitated might also hurt a vulnerable student. Whichever the case, they must be guided back to the right path and accepted rather than being regarded as misfits of society.

University is an important stage in one's life and education(for those who choose to go through it), but at the end, once one graduates, the highs can be really high and the prospect of having achieved something great will make all the problems and pressure experienced feel like nothing.

The Youth should spearhead the fight against corruption



BY TOLA MUHANGUZI

The sustained fight to free Kenya from corruption and political violence must be led by the youth, especially college and university students. They must recognise that on their tender shoulders there lies a great responsibility and the integrity of this great country. Last year, US Ambassador to Kenya Kyle McCarter dared the youth to stand up against looting, urging the youth to bring transparency to public funds using technology. Much as this can be vouched for, it would require strengthening of the youth service system.

The war against graft is still a mirage, with fewer actions taken against perpetrators. The unvarnished truth is that corruption has been an intergenerational problem, its effect-poor services.

The youth languish in unemployment, with most suffering from protracted social and economic exclusion. Corruption hampers employment prospects of young Kenyans. For a solution to be arrived at, the youth need to demand for better services from leaders, more so given their state as the largest demographic group in Kenya. There is need for youth inclusivity. To bring them together would require really good motivation, given that most have opted to venture into the business world, to find alternative ways of dealing with the harsh effects of corruption The youth need to form networks, work together to identify their needs and develop suitable support measures. Political leaders in this bracket - for instance Nairobi Senator Johnson Sakaja, should be the pillar of these networks. These leaders must spearhead youth- related topics, and demand elaborate policies from the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. For any young person looking to take up leadership, it is key that they be intentional, and be well-enough prepared. They must take initiative, because $% \left(-1\right) =-1$ there is never a short-cut to finding the solution.

The technological advancements that brand us a 'global village' have eased interactions and sharing of ideas. With an ability to reach a huge audience, these platforms could create the needed awareness, recruiting youth in the process. These platforms attract a huge portion of the youth, hence the need of investing in them.

For a proper solution to be found, there have to be strategic plans laid out, with the youth ready to interact with different people to achieve this. They should get insights from experts in the political fields and leaders from other fields. It's time the young generation comes up with innovative solutions through collective intelligence. Minds have to be put to action.

Empower Youths

Echoing the words of Daystar University VC Prof. Laban Ayiro during the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) multifunctional youth forum, the destiny of this country is in the hands of the youth. It is now paramount that there be increased sustainability of youth programs, for the sake of empowering the young generation.

For there to be a re-birth of the economy and nation at large, the backbone (youth), has to be properly mended. It is key that the youth are given platforms that will develop their thinking and build an interest in nation building activities. The Big Four agenda should inculcate means through which the youth benefit directly from the plans, placing them on a position to access all important services.

Corruption is not a 'political topic' to be left to those interested in the politics of the nation- it is one which requires the involvement of every Kenvan citizen.

The government, under President Uhuru Kenyatta's stewardship needs to progressively and steadily employ initiatives from the youth that could foster the required change. It should adopt policies that not only encourage youth participation, but create avenues through which their voices are heard.

The youth are key agents of transformation and their role in national development is indispensable.

BRIEFS

BY EVELYNE SYOMBUA

UON Maintains Top Position in University Rankings.

The University of Nairobi has maintained its top position in Kenya's university rankings in the latest analysis by webometrics. The university has been ranked 13th in Africa, with South Africa's University of Cape Town leading the charts.

Kenyatta University is second in the ranks, with Egerton University closing the top 3 list.

It is Time to Safeguard the Future



BY KEN ANDREW

The 2010 constitution of Kenya defines the youth as being individuals between the ages of 18 to 35 years, even though the United Nation's definition of youth as being persons between the ages of 15 and 24 is still universally accepted.

Whichever way, the youth of Kenya represent a group of individuals who are vibrant, colorful and energetic. With the world ever changing and new trends popping up every now and then, many young people show their versatility by being able to swiftly switch from old to new trends, or merge them into something better. When their full potential is unlocked, they can come up with ideas that are game changers and can greatly help in solving current problems.

What are some of the current problems facing the youth in Kenya? And can they be solved by the youth or do they need guidance from an old wise head? One may ask. Think of an ever-rising public debt that already is a burden to the youth and will surely be to the younger ones in future. How about lack of proper sporting facilities for the youth to utilize their energy and prime body conditions to showcase their talents, and use them to make a living.

Look at how Inflation and taxation are both rising and hurting the pockets of many young people. And what of the lack of proper guidance and leadership from those who the youth consider superior? The latter can be said to be the biggest problem of all. In this country, there is a clear lack of proper leadership that can better the state of the country for current and future generations. One key way the youth can solve these and other problems is learning from the mistakes of those who came before them especially in how they select leaders. Clearly, what this country lacks are competent leaders.

Leaders who have no pride and acknowledge their role in transforming Kenya for the better. Leaders who are selfless, ethical and who share the desire to see Kenya excel as a country in all aspects. Leaders who are willing to help the youth and clean up the mess brought by those who are currently in power. Visionary leaders, and most importantly, leaders who understand the importance of safeguarding the constitution.

Yet to identify such a person requires a bold move of getting rid of certain beliefs, beliefs such as inclining the leadership of this country to a particular gender, tribe or age. Above and beyond all these, what matters is finding a competent person who will not facilitate the replication of the same problems being experienced by the youth currently.

This critical role calls for the collective involvement of the youth. To carefully vet and scrutinize those interested in these leadership positions before being elected or selected to ascend to power. They must also select leaders in relation to their past track records and not on the basis of popularity and lifestyle. And even after elevating them to power, the youth

population of this country must continuously ensure that these leaders do not feel comfortable. They must continuously hold them accountable for incompetence and demand accountability.

Indeed, many are confident that a competent leader with a proper track record and outstanding leadership skills can help steer the country away from jeopardy. Such a person would not only help the young but also the old. The youth, being the majority and in their prime age should keep coming out of their shells and not only take up these leadership positions, but also massively and willingly perform their constitutional duties to vote in numbers. Turn up in numbers to campaign against rogue politicians. The young generation must realize that the power to shape their future solely lies in their hands and must use it to ensure the leaders they select safeguard and protect their future and the futures of those to come

CS Magoha Issues 30 day Notice for Switch of Courses

The Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. George Magoha has given 30 days to students awaiting to join University who wish to change courses.

The same will apply to students who wish to transfer from institutions where they had been placed.

To enable successful applicants to further align their courses, I am directing Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service to conduct the inter-institution transfer process online from September 1 to 30," said Prof. Magoha.

Involvement

EDITORIAL

The Council is For the **Students, not Against**

The new Daystar University Students Association (DUSA) was sworn into office this year and they recently marked their 100 days in office. However many have been quick to point out that they have not been representing student's grievances to their best of their

Before we begin criticizing and pointing fingers that the council and the congress are not doing their work, do we actually know what their functions and responsibilities are? According to the constitution of Daystar University Students' Association, the association is meant to facilitate communication between the students and the administration, the academic staff, and the non-teaching staff. It is a body that is crafted to mainly address issues pertaining students and their studies and to represent them in matters concerned.

This means that they have to ensure students' interests, from academics, school fees and general welfare are taken care of. They basically have to look into and facilitate the social and physical welfare of the students while they continue their quest for knowledge here in Daystar.

Despite being in power for a short period of time, congress representatives were able to organize a 'Baraza' for the school of communication where various matters were raised to the forefront. This is just but one example through which the association is working towards ensuring issues pertaining students reach the required heads. According to Nairobi Campus Governor Brian Achoka, the association plans on holding constant students Barazas starting next semester for students to air out their grievances

The reason why people believe the government is not working and serving them is because in most instances we do not see action being taken by the required officials on matters raised. Issues such as high fees during online mode of learning and the preferred mode of learning for the coming semesters are yet to be addressed.

Students are major players in the running of a university and only themselves know the problems they face, how to solve them and how to make a difference and their experience in campus better. This is the reason why we have an elected student body, governed by a set of constitution, to represent our grievances.

We should be able to hold the leaders accountable, only, and only if we know what to expect from them. We can hold them accountable when they fail to perform but this can only happen when students know what the duties and responsibilities of DUSA and Congress are.

TOLA K MUHANGUZI - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ATIHA SHABIR- NAIROBI BUREAU CHIEF WINFRED WACERA- MANAGING EDITOR EVELYNE SYOMBUA - ONLINE & NEWS EDITOR RIGHA SEDELLAR - SWAHILI EDITOR FRANKLINE OYOSA - FEATURES EDITOR **NICHOLAS KWEYU- SPORTS EDITOR** ADETOLA AKINPELU - REVISE EDITOR
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> **COPY EDITOR (ACT.)** TOLA K MUHANGUZI

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Fees, Looming Student Exodus and **Apparant Nosedive: UON Reality**

BY FRANK OYOSA f.oyosa@gmail.com

It is by all means the oldest university in Kenya and going by the student numbers, the second largest university across the country. Standing tall almost at the center of Nairobi City, the University of Nairobi (UoN) is known to have produced and continue to produce some of the best brains across all sectors. Yet amid all that glory, it equally continues to suffer its fair share of controversies with the most common being the frequent student protests characterized by rampant looting and destruction of property in the CBD. However, while previous protests may be purported to taint the image of the university for all the wrong reasons, the motives that led to the demonstrations on the 14th of July 2021 might just pass as overly legitimate!

Indeed, the actions that preceded the protests and other sharp reactions from different parties paint a clear picture of a university in shambles, a remarkable and respected institution of higher learning, nose-diving to collapse! A sad reality indeed. The drastic move by the university's Vice Chancellor to more than double the fees for its postgraduate and self-sponsored programs was not only outrageous but unreasonable as well. Of course, it cannot be denied that most, if not all, public universities are facing a serious financial crisis, but to think that the University of Nairobi administration would pull such a stunt! And at a time like this, with the apparent economic impact of covid-19 being felt down to that struggling parent and hustling student! In all honesty, this decision wouldn't have come at a worse time as this.

Not even the argument that the fee increment was meant to salvage the university from its financial crisis can justify the timing! In any case, raising the fees while covid-19 continues to wreak havoc means that a lot of parents and hustling students would not be able to raise the money, hence the university would experience massive reduction of enrollment which then would translate to reduced financial income. How then would this have solved the problem? Anyway, thank God, it took the undying spirit of the students to stay on the streets for as long as it takes coupled by concerted efforts from other disturbed parties, and a bold move from one individual to revoke this decision.

But still we cannot run away from some serious questions that the VC's move raises, one of them being how did such an important public government institution come to find itself here? Well, I bet that is a question to be answered another day, remembering that the question on how the land on which the country's iconic landmark, KICC stands became private property is yet to be answered! Or just maybe, some questions are better not asked, right? But some are unavoidable, like who actually controls the universities? Who makes the decisions of such government institutions? Are there consultative meetings between the government, the senate and the management on sensitive matters pertaining the universities or such decisions are entirely left to the discretion of the VCs?

One would expect that before such a decision is made, leave alone finding its way to the public domain, a substantial amount of time ought to have been invested in consultations with all the stakeholders, most importantly parents and learners, seeing as they are the most affected by such decisions.

Nevertheless, clearly this was not the case. The "boss" might just have decided to take his powers a little bit too far going by the confessions of the University Education PS Simon Nabukwesi, that the university's action was internal and the ministry did not authorize nor support the plan. A clear evidence of nonexistent consultation or broken communication for that matter!

A section of government leaders led by Embakasi East MP Babu Owino decried the move by the institution's administration, requesting President Uhuru Kenyatta to rescind the decision. Their concerns helped put an emphasis on the struggle students would go through, with the former student leader terming the decision as "absurdity". The lack of consultations between the administration and students is also an issue of concern, as questions on the type of leadership adopted by the institution being raised.

Whichever the case, the fate of UoN entirely lies NOT in the hands of few self-seeking individuals, but ALL stakeholders headed by Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha representing the government. The hope is that within his jurisdiction, he will at least bring sanity to our much-coveted institution and salvage it from the looming shutdown. Otherwise, the apparent reality is that whether the university increases the fees by 500% or not, it is still headed downwards, and unless ALL stakeholders are brought to the table and engage in a serious discourse on problem solving with practical solutions, the question is not a matter of IF but WHEN! I need not remind them that the 2017 auditor-general's public universities assessment already placed it among universities that are insolvent. This is the fate of all other public institutions of higher learning.

The saga is also a reminder to other higher learning institutions on the importance of a good relationship between the administration and students.

To send: Feedback, complaints, story ideas and demands for corrections send an email to; invo.feedback@ gmail.com



Jamvi la Kiswahili



WANGU AMEKIPIGANIA NA ATAZIDI KUKIPIGANIA!



Wangu Kanuri.PICHA | Mtandad

NA RIGHA SEDELLAR

Katika maisha ya mwanadamu kuna kitu ambacho mtu hupenda na kukienzi sana.Huenda ikawa shule,kazi,aina ya chakula ,vinywaji na hata lugha.Kwake kidosho Wangu,Lugha ya Kiswahili ni lugha tamu sana ,lugha iliyo pata nafasi kubwa sana moyoni mwake. Binti wangu ambaye ni mwanafunzi wa mwaka wa nne chuoni Daystar anakienzi lugha hii na sitakuwa nikiwapaka mafuta kwa mgongo wa chupa nikisema kuwa,Wangu amekipigania Kiswahili ili kiweze kutukuzwa na kwa kweli kimetukuzwa!

Wangu ambaye alikuwa mhariri wa Kiswahili wa jarida la Involvement chuoni Daystar alifanya kazi kwa bidii ya mchwa kwani alielewa fika kuwa,wahenga hawakuwa wanacheza kayaya za chini kwa chini walipolonga na kunadi , chanda chema huvishwa pete. "Niliipenda na kuipigania Kiswahili sana nilipokuwa mhariri wa jarida la Involvment,." Wangu alisema. Hata hivyo,alipokuwa akifanya kazi hii ya uhariri chuoni Daystar, Wangu alikumbwa na changamoto nyingi sana kama kukosa waandishi wa Kiswahili,kukosa kuungwa mkono kukipigania Kiswahili,na hata kupigwa vita na watu wasiokipenda kiswahili na mara nyingine angekufa moyo na kutamani kujipoga kalamu lakini,alielewa fika kuwa ,mchumia juani hulia kivulini.

"Nilipata changamoto sana kwani watu wengi hawajivunii Kiswahili kwa sababu wanaona lugha hiyo ni lugha ya watu wachochole na ikawa vigumu sana kuwa na waandishi wa kiswahili au wanafunzi wanaopenda kusoma Kiswahili." Wangu alisema.

Hata hivyo ,Wangu alifurahia cheo chake sana na nakala iliyomjaza furaha mpwitompwito baada ya kuandika ilikuwa nakala ya kuzinduliwa kwa kisima chuoni Daystar.Amini usiamini,nakala hii ilifanya bendera yake Wangu Kanuri ipepee

sana chuoni Daystar.Si kwa wanafunzi,walimu,wazazi na hata waandishi bora waliokuwa wageni wa heshima katika sherehe ya kuhitimu shuleni.Ama kwa hahika,ni nani ambaye anaweza kujawa na simanzi baada ya kupongezwa kwa kazi nzuri aliyofanya?Ititoshe,hivi majuzi binti Wangu alishiriki katika mashindano ya kuandishi ya chama cha wanahabari wa Kenya na akawa mshindi na kuzawadiwa shilingi laki kumi (Ksh 10,000) kwa sababu ya kuandika nakala nzuri kuhusu vita vya kijinsia kwa lugha ya Kiswahili.Amini usiamini,sadiki usisadiki,Wangu Kanuri ni mwanafunzi aliyeelewa fika kuwa,mfuata nyuki hakosi asali.

Wangu anatazamia kuwa mwandishi na mtangazaji bora wa lugha ya Kiswahili.Nyota yake Wangu iling'aa na akaweza kupata fursa ya kukutana naye marehemu Profesa Ken Walibora. Nilipata fursa ya kukutana na marehememu Profesa Ken Walibora na kifo chake kiliniuma sana kwani Marehemu Ken Walibora alikuwa amejitolea mhanga kunifunza na kunikuza katika lugha ya Kiswahili.Hata kabla ya kifo chake,mimi pamoja na waandishi wengine,tulikuwa tunaandika hadithi fupifupi tukiwa na matumani ya kuchapisha hadithi hizi ziwe zikitumika katika silabasi nchini."Wangu alisema. Pasi na marehemu Ken Walibora, Wangu ana adinasi wawili aneyewatazamia sana katika safari hii ya Kiswahili kwa sababu hawa waja wamebobea sana katika lugha na wana ukomavu wa hali ya juu katika lugha ya Kiswahili na hiyo ndiyo sababu kuu ya kutamani kuwa kama Faustine Ngila mwandishi stadi wa gazeti la Taifa leo na Shisia Wasilwa wa redio China au hata bora zaidi.

Zaidi ya hayo,Wangu anatamani sana siku ifike ambayo,ataweza kuona lugha ya Kiswahili imepewa kipau mbele kama lugha ya kiingereza ama ukipenda kimombo na ana matumaini kuwa siku hii kitafika iwapo watu watajivunia zaidi lugha hii na hata kuwafunza watoto wadogo wnapoingia shuleni lugha ya Kiswahili. Nina matumaini kuwa Kiswahili kitazidi kupaa na kutukuzwa nchini Kenya miaka zijazo na kitakacho wafanya watoto wachanga wanaosoma shuleni kukipenda lugha hii ni kama watoto wadogo wataanza kufunzwa lugha ya Kiswahili wakiwa shuleni ili wakuavyo,waendelee kukitukuza Kiswahili na watupilie mbali mchipuko kwa kijilugha la sheng.' Wangu alisema.

Kaditama,Wangu anazidi kuwashawishi waja wote wapendao lugha ya Kiswahili,wazidi kujikuza katika lugha hii kwani Kiswahili ni lugha tamu sana na ina usawa na lugha ya Kiingereza.Si lugha ya uchochole wala lugha isiyo na hadhi ya juu.

Kupitia mazungumzo yangu na Bi Wangu Kanuri,nin wazi bayana kuwa Kiswahili ni lugha tamun sana na ikiwa mtu amejitolea mhanga kujifunza lugha hii anaweza kujifunza na hata kupata nafasi nyingi sana za kikazi si nchini Kenya pekee bali pian katika nchi zingine duniani.Ama kwa hakika ,Kiswahili kizidi kutukuzwa na aisee! Kitapaa!

DAYSTAR YAUNGA MRADI WA KUKUZA VIPAJI



NA TOLA MUHANGUZI

Chuo kikuu cha Daystar kimetia saini makubaliano baina ao na kampuni ya Swahilipot yatakayosaidia kukuza ubunifu,

vipaji na maadili ya vijana jijini Mombasa.

Mkataba huo utaangazia jinsi ya kuleta maendeleo kwa kukuza vipaji vya vijana wanaotumia ubunifu wao kukidhi mahitaji yao. Naibu chansela Profesa Laban Ayiro alitia saini mkataba huu akisaidiwa na Mkurugenzi wa masomo ya waliohitimu Prof. Agnes Lando huku Swahilipot wakiwakilishwa na Mkurugenzi mkuu Bw. Mahmoud Noor.

Akizungumza katika hafla ya kuadhimisha makubaliano hayo, Naibu chansela Prof. Ayiro alisisitiza umuhimu wa dili hii, akiashiria ukuzi wa vijana kisaikolojia na kidini. Mswada huu utatatua shida wanazozipitia vijana kwa njia itakayobadilisha jinsi ambayo itabadilisha maadili yao na kuwafanya wawe watu wanaopea ukuzi wa jamii.

"Tunataka kuleta maadili, dini na ukuzi wa akili kihisia. Hayo ndiyo tutakayoyapa kipaumbele huku tukiazimia kukuza vipawa na vipaji vya vijana wetu," alisema Prof. Ayiro huku akisisitiza umuhimu wa kutangamana na kuungana kwa jamii kufanikisha mswada huu.

Prof. Ayiro alihakikishia wageni waliohudhuria hafla hiyo akiwemo naibu gavana wa kaunti ya Mombasa Dkt. William Kingi kuwa chuo kikuu cha Daystar kiko tayari kuwasaidia vijana kuweza kutimiza ndoto zao.

Dkt. Kingi aliwapongeza wanaohusika huku akisema kwamba mradi huu utakuwa nguzo katika ukuzaji wa vipaji si jijini Mombasa tu bali pwani nzima. Aliwahakikishia vijana kwamba watakaohusika watapata kazi baadaye, huku akimshukuru Prof. Ayiro kwa kutilia maanani swala la maendeleo ya vijana.

Mwenyekiti wa shirika la Swahilipot alisisitiza umuhimu wa kuwapa vijana mafunzo na usaidizi wanaohitaji huku akiwapongeza wote waliohusika katika maandalizi ya hafla hiyo. "Njia mwafaka ya kuwekeza katika vijana wetu ni kupitia elimu na kuwapa fursa. Mkataba huu utawafungulia njia vijana na kuboresha siku zao za mbeleni."

Mradi huu utafuatilia mpango wenye sehemu tatu kuu kwa minajili ya kuwafikia vijana kwa njia mwafaka. Sehemu ya kwanza itakuwa ya kuwachagua watakaohusika kwa kufuzingatia ujuzi wao maalum kwa kuangazia vipaji vyao. Vipaji hivyo, kulingana na James Ndungu ambaye ni mojawapo ya wanaharakati wanaosimamia mradi huu vinapaswa kuambatana na mfumo wa ajira uliopo hivi sasa.

Sehemu ya pili inahusu mafunzo kutoka kwa watu katika nyadhfa maalum. Hii itahusisha mafunzo ya moja kwa moja ili kuongeza ubunifu wa vijana hao. Mwisho, kutakuwa na mpango wa kuwatayarisha vijana kiakili na kikazi. Chuo kikuu cha Daystar kimepewa mamlaka ya kuidhinisha sehemu ya kwanza ya utafiti na ukuzaji wa vipaji.

Mwenyekiti wa chama cha kuendeleza amani mjini Nyali Mama Shamsa alisisitizia umuhimu wa mkataba huu, akiangazia swala la dini ambalo limepewa kipaumbele na chuo kikuu cha Daystar. Akizungumza katika hafla hii Mama Shamsa aliweka msimamo wake wazi akisema kwamba yuko tayari kuungana na watu wanaotia fora kuona mabadiliko katika kaunti ya Mombasa.

"Watoto wetu wana upungufu wa maadili na mafunzo ya kidini na ikiwa vitaekezwa katika mradi huu, nina uhakika kuwa tutakuwa na mabadiliko katika jamii yetu," alisema Mama Shamsa. "Tuko na zaidi ya vijana mia nne ambao sijui tuwapeleke wapi, ambao wamedecide kuperform na mradi kama huno utawasaidia"

MUNGU WA MAAJABU!

NA RIGHA SEDELLAR rsedellar@gmail.com

Jalali ajaliye,yaani Rabuka na ukipenda Maulana,aliumba vitu vingi sana vilivyo na uhai na visivyo na uhai.Kati ya vitu vilivyo na uhai kuna wanyama mbalimbali wa majini kama dagaa,tilapia,chura,papa, koche ,taa,mkunga ,pweza na nyangumi ambao huishi majini na hivi leo ningependa tujijuze mengi kuhusu mnyama mmoja kati ya orodha niliyopeana .

Amini usiamini,sadiki usisadiki,kuona kutizama filamu ya wanyama hawa ilinifanya nitamani sana kujijiza mengi kuhusu wanyama wa baharini haswaa nyangumi.

Je uliwahi kujua kuwa nyangumi ndiye mnyama mkubwa zaidi duniani?Nyangumi ni mnyama wa majini,anayekaa samaki lakini ni mnyama anayeweza kuzaa mtoto na hata kumnyonyehsa mtoto wake kama vile binadamu au ng'ombe. Nyangumi anaweza kula,kushiriki kimapenzi,kubeba mimba,kumzaa kikembe chake ,kumyonyesha na kumlea mtoto wake majini maisha yake yote. Mnyama huyu huishi majini maisha yake yote isipokuwa saa

chache ambapo mnyama huyu hutoka majini ilia aweze kuvuta hewa kisha arudi majini.

Nyangumi mkubwa zaidi ana karibu ya kilo 150,000 na urefu wa futi 90 na nyangumi mdogo zaidi ana kilo 420 na urefu wa futi 9.Vilevile, Nyangumi ana meno zaidi ya 240 na hula samaki wadogowadogo na hivyo basi huwa na mafuta mengi mwilini. Zaidi ya hayo,nyangumi wa kike hushirikiana kimapenzi na nyagumi wa kiume mara moja kati ya miaka mitatu na endapo nyangumi wa kike amepata ujiauzito,yeye huumbeba kikembe chake kwa miezi kati ya 10 na 18 Sawa na mwaka moja unusu kulingana na familia ya nyangumi hawa.Kikembe anapozaliwa, mama yake hukaa naye na kuhakikisha kuwa anaweza kujimudu maishani,kama vile kuogelea mwenyewe na kutafuta chakula mwenyewe.

Aisee!Kupitia nakala hii ni wazi bayana kuwa Mungu kweli ni wa ajabu kuumba wanyama kama hawa kwani maisha ya wanyama hawa inafurahisha mno ama kwa hukakika,kuishi kwingi ni kuona mengi na ukistaajabu ya Musa utayaona ya Firauni



Jamvi la Kiswahili



UKAGUZI WA SINEMA: BLACK WIDOW



Filamu ya Black Widow. PICHA| MTANDAC

NA WANGUI NJAU (niaucatherine@gmail.com)

'Black Widow' hatimaye yuko hapa. Miaka kumi (10) baadaye. Ingawa ilichukua muda mrefu sana kwake kupata filamu yake ya pekee, yeye hujipa wakati wake katika matumizi mazuri, akilipua mfumo dume kwa mtindo mzuri.

Na asilimia 80% kwenye 'Rotten Tomatoes' na 7.0 kwenye IMDB, 'Mjane mweusi' sasa ni mojawapo ya sinema chache za wanawake wanaojitokeza kama shujaa.

Katika tamasha la kupeleleza la Marvel Studios, Natasha Romanoff anayecheza kama 'Black Widow' anakabiliana na sehemu nyeusi za kitabu chake wakati njama hatari na uhusiano na mambo yake ya zamani yanafichuliwa. Akifuatwa na nguvu ambayo haitaacha chochote kumshusha, Natasha lazima ashughulike na historia yake kama mpelelezi na uhusiano

uliovunjika uliondoka kwake muda mrefu kabla ya kuwa Mlipiza kisasi

Matukio ya awali ya kuondolewa kwa nguvu kutoka kwa wazazi wao, (mabinti wanapigwa sindano na kuchukuliwa) na kuwekwa kati ya watoto wengine wa kike wanaosafirishwa. Cha kusikitisha zaidi ni kuwa baba yao mzazi ndiye aliyepanga njama ili biashara ile ifanyike. Kuna picha nyingi zilizoangaza ambazo kimsingi ni usafirishaji wa wasichana wadogo walioonyeshwa katika wimbo wa 'Nirvana' ambao ni wa kusisimua sana. Inasonga mbele zaidi kuonyesha mfanya biashara huyo mwenye nguvu akichagua wasichana maalum wa kufundishwa jinsi ya kuua na kupuuza kasoro. Kulingana na maarifa ya usafirishaji haramu wa watoto na wasichana wadogo, mazingira haya yanaweza kuwa ya kutatanisha na kukasirisha kwa watazamaji wadogo.

Pamoja na mazungumzo madogo kuangazia shida halisi inayokabiliwa katika ulimwengu ambayo inajumuisha usafirishaji wa picha hiyo ilikuwa ya kweli; kwani pia inaashiria shida ambazo watoto wengi wanakabiliwa kila siku ambayo ni hatari ya kutekwanyara kutoka kwa wazazi wao.

'Black Widow' hufanyika kwa wakati wa 'Captain America: Civil War' na 'Avengers: Infinity War', wakati Natasha anakimbia kutoka kwa General Thaddeus Ross (William Hurt).

'Black Widow', ambaye aliongozwa na mtengenezaji wa sinema wa Australia Cate Shortland (Lore), ni kwaheri ya kumuaga Natasha ambaye pia hutumika kama mhusika mkuu kwa mbadala wake, Yelena (Florence Pugh). Yelena alitumia miaka mitatu ya utoto wake akiishi kisiri huko Ohio, pamoja na Natasha na "wazazi" wao, Melina (Rachel Weisz, aliyetumiwa kihalifu) na Alexei (hammy David Harbour).

Yelena anaonekana kuwa na matatizo ya kibinafsi, huku akionyeshwa kuwa mwenye kutafuta nuru yake kando na kuwa muuwaji. Anajaribu kurudisha uhusiano baina yake na wazazi wake na dadake.

Sinema hii inaashiria ujasiri wa wanawake katika kupigania maslahi yao na kujiondoa katika vifungo vya aina yoyote ile. Inawapa wanawake motisha ya kuwa wanaweza kufanya chochote na kuashiria nguvu wanazokuwa nazo pia.



Ingawa kuna kiwango kizuri cha shujaa, hadithi na uigizaji ndio hufanya sinema hii iwe ya kushangaza. Studio za Marvel hazingechagua mkurugenzi bora. Cate Shortland aliongeza kiwango kamili cha vitendo, ucheshi, na moyo kwa filamu hii ya 'solo' iliyosubiriwa kwa muda mrefu. Mjane mweusi ana mwongozo wenye nguvu wa kike na ujumbe mzuri kuhusu uwezeshaji wa kike. Kuwa na mwanamke katika kiti cha mkurugenzi hakika kulikuwa na faida zake. Wakati tulitambulishwa kwa mara ya kwanza kwa Natasha katika Iron Man 2, alikuwa akijamiiana sana. Miaka 10 baadaye hii imebadilika kabisa.

Ikiwa wewe ni shabiki wa Ulimwengu wa Sinema ya Marvel na unapenda hatua, basi hii ni mojawapo ya filamu zitakazokusisimua kwa muundo wake. Filamu hii inatumia ucheshi kupeana mafunzo kwa mashabiki.

JINSI WAISLAMU NCHINI NA KWINGINE WALISHEREHEKEA EID



Waumini washiriki kusali pamoja katika sherehe za Eid. PICHA | Mtandao

NA TOLA MUHANGUZI

Maadhimisho ya sherehe ya Eid al- Adha yalifanyika mnamo Julai 20, huku maelfu ya waislamu sio tu hapa nchini bali kote duniani wakikusanyika misikitini kuswali na kutoa shukrani.

Talha Khan, ambaye ni mwanafunzi chuoni Daystar anaelezea kwamba ni sherehe muhimu sana katika Uislamu. Jijini Nairobi, anaelezea kuwa ilikuwa vigumu kuchinja mnyama yoyote lakini nyumbani Kisumu, kulichinjwa mbuzi kama inavyopaswa.

"Ni sherehe ya kuangazia matendo ya Nabii Ibrahim ambaye alikuwa mtiifu kwa Allah. Waislamu huja pamoja na kuchinja mnyama ambaye atakuwa kama sadaka kwa Mwenyezi Mungu," anasema Talha. Waislamu katika nchi na maeneo mbalimbali walisheherekea sikukuu hii kwa kuangazia kanuni za dini huku wakitangamana kwa minajili ya kueneza umoja. Jijini Nairobi, waumini walikusanyika katika uwanja wa Sir Ali huku wenzao jijini Mombasa wakikusanyika katika uwanja wa Tononoka kuadhimisha sherehe hii. Vilevile, Wakenya walitoa shukrani kwa serikali kwa kuwapa fursa ya kukusanyika katika maadhimisho haya huku wakihimizwa na viongozi wa kidini kufuata kanuni zilizowekwa kudhibiti virusi vya corona.

Virusi vya corona vimekuwa tatizo na kero kuu si hapa nchini tu bali ulimwenguni. Serikali zimelazimika kuweka kanuni na sheria za kuvidhibiti zikiwemo kupigwa marufuku kwa mikusanyiko ya aina yoyote, kusitishwa katikhuli za kawaida (lockdown) na amri ya kutotoka nje miongoni mwa zingine. Mwaka jana, kanuni hizi zilisitisha utekelezaji wa sherehe za kidini maabadini, huku waumini wakilazimika kuadhimisha sherehe hizi nyumbani. Hata hivyo,kanuni zingine bado zipo hadi sasa ikiwemo kutofanyika kwa sala ya mapemma asubui katika kaunti kama vile Migori kwa sababu ya kupigwa marufuku kwa mikusanyiko.

Nchini Saudi Arabia, Wizara ya Afya ililazimika kutoa amri ya kupokea chanjo dhidi ya virusi vya corona kwa yeyote aliyetaka kuadhimisha hijja mwaka huu.

Gavana wa Mombasa Hassan Joho aliwahimiza waislamu wenzake kuishi kwa umoja huku akisema kuwa ni muhimu kupendana, kusameheana, kubebana ili kuwa kitu kimoja.

"Ndugu zetu ambao wamesimama Hajj, wengine walioko hapa tuombeane Mungu tusikubali kuwa tutagawanywa kwa siku gani ambayo unaswali ama husheherekei," anasema Joho.

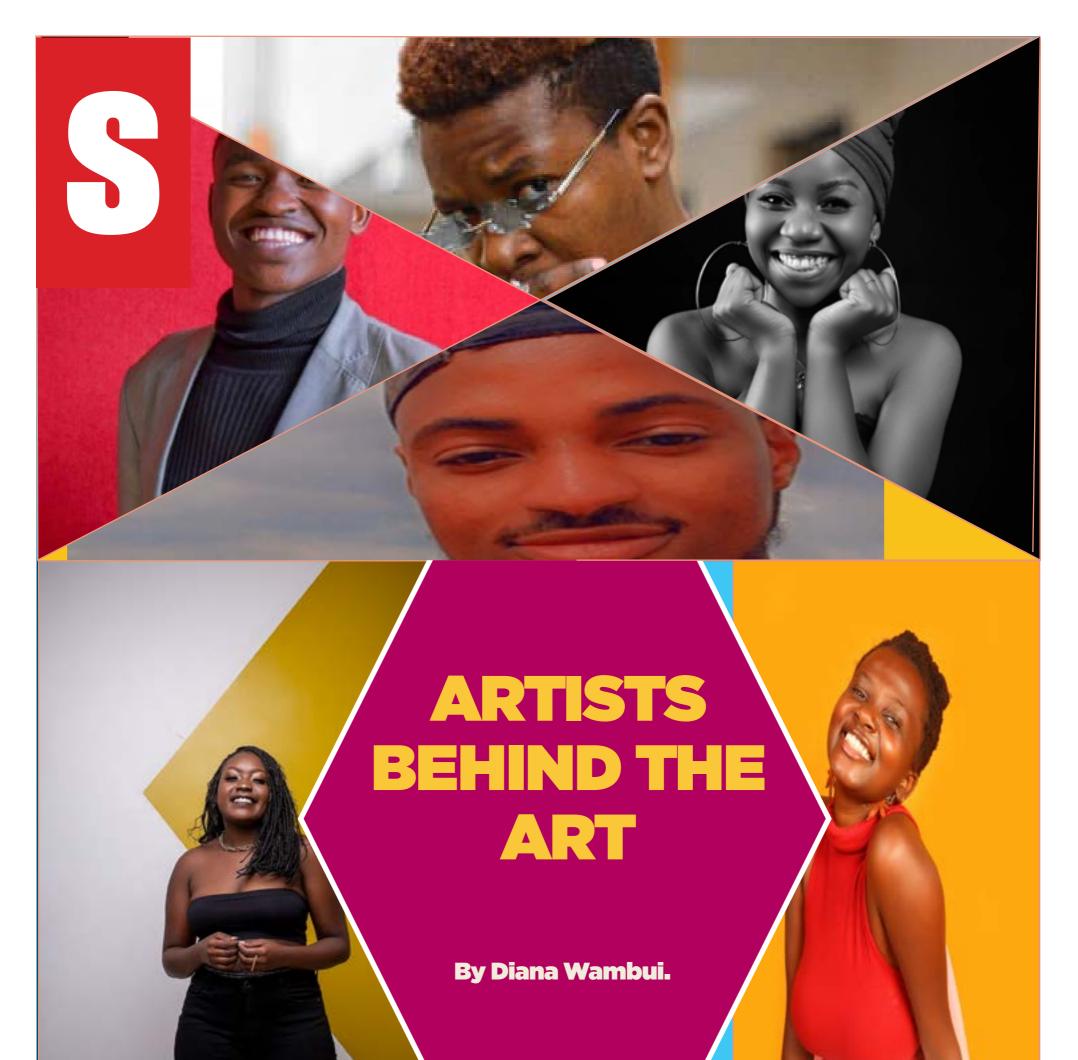
Sikukuu ya Eid huadhimishwa kwa kuchinja mnyama halali kama ishara ya kutoa sadaka. Nyama hiyo hugawanywa kwa sehemu tatu; ya familia, sadaka na wasiojiweza na sehemu ya majirani na marafiki. Ni maadhimisho ya kitendo cha Nabii Ibrahim (Abraham) ambaye alipoamrishwa na Mungu kumchinja mwanawe Ismail, hakusita. Kulingana na maandiko ya Quran, mwenyezi Mungu alimtolea nabii Ibrahim kondoo amchinje kwa niaba ya mwanawe.

Katika kalenda ya mwezi wa Kiislamu, sikukuu ya Eid al-Adha hutukia siku ya 10 ya mwezi wa 12 (mwezi wa Hajj). Ni mwezi unaowaleta Waislamu pamoja mjini Mecca kuadhimisha Hijja, ambayo ni mojawapo ya nguzo tano za Uislamu. Kila muislamu mwenye uwezo hupaswa kuitimiza angalau mara moja maishani mwake. Hata hivyo, kwa sababu ya virusi vya corona, Saudi Arabia imepiga marufuku wageni kutoka nchi za nje. Kutamatika kwa ibada ya Hijja huadhimishwa kwa sherehe ya Eid. Ibada ya Hajj huanza siku mbili kabla ya Eid ambayo huendelea kwa siku nne.

Sherehe ya Eid al-Adha ni tofauti na ile ya Eid ul-Fitr ambayo huwa sikukuu ya kumaliza mfungo wa mwezi mtukufu wa Ramadhan. Waumini hukusanyika misikitini na katika viwanja vya wazi muda mfupi baada ya macheo kwa minajili ya sala. Kabla ya maombi, sadaka hutolewa kwa maskini ili kutimiza Zakat, ambayo ni mojawapo ya nguzo za Uislamu.

Kuzingatia kanuni za sherehe hii kunaaminika kumuondolea mwamini dhambi zake alizozitenda kabla ya wakati huo, na kumweka safi kiroho. Talha anafafanua kwamba ni muhimu katika sherehe hii kumkumbuka Mungu na mafunzo yake kwani uhai unatoka kwake. Kuifuata sheria ya sherehe hii ni njia ya kumpa Mungu shukrani kwa baraka zake.

"Mwenyezi Mungu yupo na ni muhimu kumuabudu na kuwasaidia waja wake kwa kusheherekea kwa umoja. Ni wakati wa kutoa shukrani kwani kila kitu kinatoka kwake Mungu," anasema Talha.



SOUVENIR

Art is simply the expression and application of human creative skill and imagination. What makes it interesting is that it can be created in any way, shape or form with any materials. It is expressed in a visual form such as music, literature, dance, painting etc. The artwork is a reflection of the artist's life; simply and directly. Art is as old as history

In Kenya, art pays peanuts and is least appreciated. However, these young talented artists have decided to take the bull by the horns and pursue their passion. In a brief interview, they venture into what makes their hearts beat faster without holding anything back.

1. How would you describe yourself to strangers?

SHARON LIBOI ALIAS LIBOI

My name is Liboi. I am a singer, songwriter, photographer, videographer and a content creator based in Nairobi, Kenya. I am basically a creative who loves storytelling for the purposes



of educating, giving hope and entertainment.

JOEL MUMO ALIAS JOEL_ POET

My name is Joel Mumo. I am a performing Poet, writer, actor and a show host.

CHRISTINE WAMBUI ALIAS CHRISTAR

I am a photographer, a content creator, and actress and an entrepreneur. I started my YouTube channel (Christar Official) back in 2018 when I was a freshman in Daystar. I wasn't sure why I started it but as time flew I grew and became sure of my content.

CHRISTINE MBURU

I am Christine Mburu; Podcaster, Content Creator and I love music so I would say aspiring Musician. I love talking about random things with people I know and also with strangers hence the podcast. I get to hear what people's point of view on something is and it fascinates me how people think so differently. I create content on Instagram mostly about where I go; like nice new places and what's on my mind. So short life talks. I'm



also really into Formula 1.

ISRAEL AKAPERA ALIAS RAÉ! (RAYEL)

I'm Israel, professionally known as Raé! (Rayel). I'm a singer, songwriter, entertainer and mix master engineer born in Nigeria but currently based in Nairobi, Kenya. I have predominantly released rap/hip-hop songs but I'm working to infuse that sound with



afro beats.

JESUDIYIMI ARE ALIAS D'IYI

I am a miscreant. What Buhari would call 'lazy youth'. A young person who may be counter cultured but very much aware and conscious of the world and life I live. I make music that reflects that awareness, internally and externally. I am blessed because my art will always describe me better than I could. It has less lies. It is the true expression of my realisations and stories. Yes, less lies.

BRIAN WATHERU ALIAS BMXX

Well I am an easy going kind of guy who loves music, acting and performing - can't leave that out. I am an artist, mixing up different genres in my own sense of style to create good music, one that you can listen to years later. But not because the song was a hit, but because the song spoke to you. Acting is a way of expressing myself.

2. When and how did you discover you had an interest in your artistry

I discovered that I had an interest in artistry back in high school, Form two. I was in the "having fun" phase when my friends kept cheering me up anytime I sang for them. They played a very big role in it because they pushed me to perform in school during entertainment and festivals and that is just how I found myself in the industry. It was also during this time when our journalism club was really booming. They had news anchors who would report news in front of the whole school, organize trips outside the country and I thought what a better way to enjoy high school than this, so I joined and that was the beginning of my filmmaking and journalism career.

JOEL_POET

So I began writing while in high school but back then I was a rapper. Later after high school I felt like there was a gap between what I did(rap) and the older generation so I decided to venture into poetry so as to relate with all. About acting, I have been acting since I was a kid around seven years but professionally I started in 2019.

CHRISTAR

Since I was a child, I have been very outspoken, outgoing and extroverted. I knew exactly that I did not want office jobs. I wanted to venture into the art/entertainment industry. I discovered all these when I was still in high school through the drama and music festivals that we used to attend annually. I knew books were not my thing so I never forced them into my life. Entrepreneurship was a wise decision for me. I own a company known as THRIFT ME COLLECTION. We started off by selling clothes like socks and now we have expanded our expertise to doing tenders and production (photography)

CHRISTINE

I discovered my love for media first in Form 2. I watched a lot of TV and I wanted to present the news on international TV and also locally. In school, I joined the journalism club so I got to read the weekly news for guys at school and that gave me so much joy. As I thought of a university, I knew only one school was good at media studies; so I joined Daystar. My goal was and still is TV but I did not know how to do TV related stuff while in campus. I opted to try everything in the media industry hence the podcast (due to covid and limitations of where I could be at a time), YouTube and Instagram. I use all these spaces to say what is on my mind.

I can't remember the exact time but I've been in or around a band at different points as a kid. Now my interest in rap started from eight or nine years old, my brother and I would spend nights studying rap lyrics instead of our books!

D'IYI

I always loved music since I was young. I guess I do not know the exact point in time; it just felt like a natural progression to me and before I knew it, it grew into a calling.

BMXX

Ever since I was a child, I always loved watching movies and would see myself acting the scenes out. And music was something I loved and in primary school people would often come to ask me the latest songs. I would sing almost the same as the artists of those songs. We had talent shows and I would go to perform songs from the likes of Kenrazy (back then he was really making moves) and TI. Later in high school, I formed a team of five guys and we wrote our songs saying we would hit the studio but eventually after school we went our separate ways. However, I managed to meet up with one of the guys and we hit the studio for the first time ever in 2015.



3. What are some of the highs and lows?

It has been a rollercoaster. There has been some ups and downs just like any other job. Of course, as a woman in the creative industry I have to fight for my spot and prove that I can do it. Just as much as men can, so I face quite some challenges as I work towards breaking the glass ceiling. For instance, some promoters, producers or just individuals who should be there to help, are instead asking for sexual favours in exchange for their services or help and that is quite frustrating. Another challenge is how art is not that big of a deal here in Kenya. It is considered as a part-time job hence making it hard to make a living out of it; opportunities and appreciation are not enough.

A big thanks to my ancestors because I have also had some high moments and the biggest ones include studying media in Sweden, studying music in Norway and having musical tours in Norway and Spain.

JOEL POET

Some of the advantages are; opportunities to make money and networking. You also build your brand for portfolio purposes. The challenges are so many starting with; getting shows, delayed or no payment at all from event organizers.

CHRISTAR

There are so many challenges that are in the art industry especially as a lady. First, getting an acting or a photography gig is quite challenging. Just because I am a lady, they tend to think I can't deliver to the best level like a man. But it is quite to the contrary. We do great jobs just like any other person. Then there is the aspect of being forced to offer sexual favours for a position in the industry or else your work can not be recognized. But other than those two challenges (among many) being aggressive and letting my voice heard has helped me a lot. I tend to go out of my way and run towards a dream that I want. No one has ever stopped me. When I fall, I pick myself up and start a fresh. Till we make it!

CHRISTINE

My highs are the moments I am recording the Podcast episodes or singing on YouTube. I also like it when people give me compliments on my content and mention that they follow or listen to me. My lows and challenges are mostly about me; procrastination is my biggest problem. I also struggle with imposter syndrome whereby I feel like I'm not good enough to do some of these things. It really hinders my creative process and this is usually the reason why my music is struggling.

Knowing that there are people who know my songs inspires me to help them through certain situations is the main advantage I have had so far. My lows are; not being taken seriously by my family or friends because of chasing music, writers block, difficulty in penetrating into the industry – it is the most frustrating.

Dealing with uncharted territory is always hard because not a lot of people have done what we are attempting to do. That is a big blow because I always feel unsure of everything. The best part of the job is when everything is progressing clearly.



BMXX

Some of the highs for me was releasing my first song, Throne, we did a launch for it and damn, it was all love plus littyness for luck of a better word. Also, getting to perform in Bomas of Kenya was remarkable When I first got on stage, I could not help but get shocked by the sheer number of people present.

Some of the challenges I have faced as an artist is lack of the means needed to do what I want due to lack of capital. I do what I can.

4. Who do you look up to the most in your line of artistry?

LIBOI

I look up to Winyo, Cheikh Lo, Sara Tavares and the late Oliver Mtukudzi because their music inspires me in every aspect. Their style, message, originality and just how much they embrace their culture. I grew up listening to a lot of West African music and that is where I mostly draw my inspiration from.

Locally it is King Kaka, he has really mastered the Kenyan market in terms of art and he is very good at what he does. Internationally it is Propaganda. He has been doing poetry for like 10 years now and he keeps on getting better and better. He is so amazing. I also look up to my future self.

CHRISTAR

Oh my goodness, I Love You Wambui. She is my inspiration in everything. From how she is organized to how she lives her life. She is a show host, a content creator and an actress. She is very confident, young and focused on her path. I know our paths will soon cross and I cannot wait for that moment.



CHRISTINE

In the podcast industry, it is definitely Adelle Onyango. She is such an icon and I love how real she is. She mentions the struggles and reminds me that it is not always easy. For TV it's Janet Mbugua. She is so calm, collected and super into what she likes and does the very best while making it look easy. In content creation, I look up to Joy Kendi. In Music, it is Nikita Kering' she is so young and talented. She makes it work and has continuously done what she loves.

RAÉ!

Burna Boy I love that guy. He has the ginger of an upcoming artist, plus I learn something whenever I listen to his songs. I had a long J Cole phase too but since I started listening to Afro beats I have not gone back!

I would say Wizkid, Chronixx, Childish Gambino and Teni. I love how they communicate their messages through their brand and art. Everything they do is very meticulous and the brands they have developed in the market are very strong.

Well I would not say I look up to the most.... but more so that I like how some artists do their craft. Just to name a few. Eminem, Drake, J Cole, NYASHINSKI.

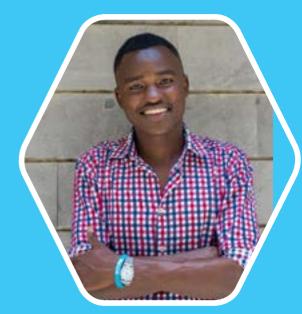
5. What would you say to someone else who would like to do what you do?

I would tell any other creative out there that art requires

patience and it doesn't matter if things are not working out at the moment because they will, eventually. So go out there, work on your craft, give it your all. Do not change your art for anyone, people will adjust to it and if you love and believe in it, others will.

JOEL_POET

First, they need to have a passion and as well as put in work. Just start and be consistent.



CHRISTAR

You will never know if you can do it unless you try. Take a leap of faith and start. Use what you have to start your journey and everything else will fall into place.

CHRISTINE

I would tell anyone trying to do all the things I do to just start. I struggled with telling myself that I need so much equipment and this held me back for the longest time. So just start and believe in exactly who you are. Because you bring the magic!

RAÉ!

I would say you need Ginger! (Perseverance+Work rate+Patience). It is not something you rush. You never know how, when or if. There are ups and downs but if you love what you do you will find a way to make it work.

Find Your Centre. Get used to its company and let it guide you or else you will get lost.

To anyone who wants to be an artist I would say first and foremost- start. You have to start to get to your destination. Second, you have to be patient and persevere, always keep going. As I say #alwaysaimingforthethrone.

What does art mean to you? Is it a business, a hobby, a journey, a passion - all of the above? Art is like compulsion; WE SIMPLY MUST CREATE. It is a way of seeing the world, an expression, a teaching, a learning and a total rush! Lest we forget, it can be both frustrating and rewarding leading to a sense of accomplishment and determination.

FEATURES

BEATING THE ODDS- A Sitdown with Moses Gitonga



GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR - ROYAL MEDIA SERVICES (CENTRE WHEN THEY PAID A COURTESY CALL TO THE VC.PHOTO: COURTESY

BY RAPHAEL MUTUKU

Q1. TELL ME BRIEFLY ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR EDUCATION BACKGROUND?

Am Moses Gitonga Kiritu, turning 40 later this year. I'm the Founder of Digital Oasis Ltd. an ICT company that aims at bringing inclusiveness in ICT solutions, which include SMS platforms, Web platforms, ICT supplies, Security solutions, Mobile applications, Networking, International ICT links etc.

I joined Daystar University in 2001 and graduated in June 24th 2006 with a B.A in Community Development. I am currently doing my M.A in Monitoring and Evaluation which I started in 2019 but I have set it aside because of my schedule but will be continuing soon. Q2. WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY?

After completing my high school with a B- of 63 points which at the time could not render me admission to a public University because the pass mark was 64, I got an admission letter to Oxford University but unfortunately even after fundraising, the money was not enough to secure me a place in the university. The only option now was to choose between these 4 Kenyan private universities; Nasere University, USIU, Strathmore and Daystar University. So, I consulted Linda Kendi who was a Daystar Student then and she assured me it is the most credible university and that is how I ended up there.

Q3. HOW HAS DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY IMPACTED YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER?

Daystar has impacted me spiritually since its where I drew near to God and grew spiritually to knowing God's word. Daystar has also instilled some virtues in me such as servant leadership. I learnt to serve others regardless of my position and through this, I have been able to influence the society positively and even be a servant leader at my work place. For instance, when any of my staff comes to work late, I certainly don't scold them but take time to talk to them and find out why. By doing this, I get to motivate them to work hard not because I need them to, but because they are being noticed and appreciated.

Q4. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACED WHILE STUDYING?

My school life at Daystar was not a bed of roses. The funds we had raised only lasted for one semester and since I come from a humble family, my dad could only afford paying one or at times two units per semester. He ended up taking loans and borrowing money in order to pay for the fee. I had to move from living in the hostel to renting a house I could afford outside the school since my dad only gave me two thousand shillings. I had to pay one thousand shilling for rent and survive with the remaining one thousand for food and essentials. Sometimes I could go for up to 3 days without eating. I remember this one time I survived on water for 6 days until my body could not take water anymore. I lost self-esteem because of the many debts I owed friends. Imagine sitting in the same class with the likes of Lilian Muli who you see drive to school when the only dinner you are sure to have is water.

Luckily, two lecturers who am very grateful of; Madam Mabel Odima and Dr. Kennedy Ongaro who was like a brother to me noticed my condition and came to my aid with food and other essentials. Later in 2005, I relocated to Kibera in order to be near Valley Road Campus since I had two units being offered there.

With my one thousand shillings as rent, the house I moved in to had no toilet, so if I did not finish my business in school, I would use the famous "flying toilet", not to mention I would walk daily from Kibera to Valley road campus and back. At times I would beg for a free ride to Athi River in school buses in order to attend one unit class that was offered there. And on the eve of the exam, I had to walk from Kibera to Athi River. I remember leaving my house at 6 am and arriving in school at 3 pm. My legs were swollen and I was very exhausted, so I spent that night at a friend's house then did the exam the following day.



Q5. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Four days after my graduation, I was called for an interview at K-rep bank (now Sidian bank). I applied for this job back while I was in my second year. I got the job and I was posted to work in Mtwapa branch as a microfinance officer. My role was to mobilize groups, recruit, lend and collect loans from microfinance clients. The problem was that my heart was not into micro-financing but in Production (camera works, editing etc). One day on November 2006, I remember walking into the banking hall and seeing customers staring at the TV watching videos that had nothing to do with the bank. This is when an idea struck me. With my salary, I bought an affordable analogue video camera and recorded the success stories of two clients then loaded all the images in the windows movie maker software. which I taught myself how to use and navigate. I then put the edited work on a DVD and sent it to the then Bank Manger together with a proposal to be recording such success stories which could be played on the Bank's Tv. Until getting a transfer to Nairobi after requesting for it, I never received any response from the Manager.

Then one day on the January of 2008, I was called by the bank, went and was received by Caro Musyoka who had just moved from Barclays Bank to K-rep Bank as the new deputy manager. She recognized me and asked if I could do an Intranet to which i confidently agreed despite having absolutely no idea what that was. Apparently, she had landed on my proposal. I went and researched what that is, consulted and self-taught myself and in the end, I came up with a vibrant Intranet which was launched in March 27, 2008. I was given a triple raise in my salary from 25k to 75k.

This was my turning point into ICT. In 2009 I studied 3D animation and in 2010 I officially started doing animation. The same year, I was hired as part of the team that built the Kenya National Examination Council SMS platform, Again, together with my team, we were able to create a 6-minute 3D animation that helped Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) fight poaching, and for this, the KWS honored me with an award. In 2011 I registered my Company Digital Oasis.



4r. MOSES GITONGA (CENTRE) RECEIVING THE CITTAWARD, TO MADAM NDUNGU THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK (LEFT) AND MADAM JOYCE ANN THE CEO OF CITI BANK (RIGHT) In addition to this, i have won six other awards in ICT including the overall award winner of the Citi bank as the best entrepreneur and the overall East Africa award. I am now an IT consultant with

many institutions including Daystar University, Meru university

and Kenya Institute of Development studies.

My company serves over 80 different companies in varied ICT services.

Q6. BEING A DAYSTAR ALUMNUS WHAT MAKES YOU STAND OUT FROM THE REST?

The fact that through Daystar, my relationship with God was strengthened through knowing and practicing His word. As such, they way I interact and address arguments and miss understandings are totally different. I always leave it up to God, even in the most complicated of cases.

Q7. THROUGH THE VIRTUE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP **HOW HAVE YOU IMPACTED THE SOCIETY?**

When you are not serving yourself but others, you are actually serving God. To me serving others made me discover my potentials. When you serve people and especially if you are in a higher position, those you serve get influenced positively and you get to impact their lives more than you could imagine. In 2011, the brother to one James Wanjiru handed him to me to mentor after completing his studies at KCA University. So, I had just started my company and James would come and sit with me in the office and I would share with him a lot about ICT software, business and generally about life.

One day James came to me and told me he had got a job and that Is how we lost contact. Then out of the blues, I receive a call from him in 2019 and he tells me he has been looking for me the whole year. He says he has these investment ideas he wants to talk about, and although there are investors interested in them, I am the only person he can work with. James is now a co-director in my company and he invested a great chunk of money in the business.



Mr. MOSES GITONGA (CENTRE) WITH HIS FATHER (RIGHT) AND PATRICK NGUGI NJOROGE THE CURRENT GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA (LEFT). PHOTO: COURTESY

Q8. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST FACTOR THAT HAS HELPED YOU BE SUCCESSFUL?

God gets all the credits since I acknowledge that it is not by my power but God's power. Secondly there is Persistence. I sometimes send up to three proposals at the same time in order to get projects and I also keep my online website consistent. Thirdly, I always take the initiative, think outside the box and take on different challenges without being contended with where I am. And fourth, I am more of an online reader. I get more of my knowledge from reading e-books since all my knowledge on IT is self-taught.

Q9. WHAT IS THE BEST ADVISE YOU CAN GIVE TO STUDENTS WHO WANT TO VENTURE INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP BE SUCCESSFUL?

First you need to be connected to your maker since He is the one who knows your purpose and by staying connected to him, He will reveal to you your purpose. Secondly, you need to have a mentor who is successful in the same field you want to pursue. Lastly and most importantly you should not be in a hurry to chase after money since money comes after service.

Q10. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH PRESSURE?

I always dedicate my work to God and in such times, I always seek God's power to guide me because that's the source of my help all through.

Q11. WHAT IS YOUR PARTING SHOT?

The road to success was never smooth but with focus and persistence in both prayers and hard work you will get to the top.

FEATURES

How to deal with Insecurities and regain your self confidence



BY DANIEL NYAGA (danielnyaga.dn@gmail.com)

Self - Conscious Vulnerable Turbulent

These three words best describe many people's situations. They feel inadequate- like they are not good enough. Good enough to get love or to give love, good enough to contribute to a discussion with friends, good enough to have a life they dream about, or good enough to go about their days.

Insecurity!!! It is an enemy most people have to deal with. It creeps up on you like a hungry lioness stalking an antelope. Out of nowhere, it attacks and you are left feeling helpless. It does not matter what you have accomplished. how you look, or how much money you make.

You will always end up feeling weak! With millions of thoughts streaming through your mind, you try to find a balance, a moment to breathe and retract into your perfect world. In this world, weakness does not exist. Your insecurities do not exist, they are only strengths. In this world, you are always in control and

nothing can knock you off your game.

However, reality will kick in again... And again... And again! Each time the sequence continues and gets more intense. It's like a fire, the more you ignore it, the more it grows. Why not put it out you wonder? Well, it's not that simple! You see... For one to first deal with

insecurity, they need to accept that it is a problem they face. Accepting that you feel inadequate is not easy.

It is a long journey... One that may not have a specific time frame. BRACE YOURSELF!! YOU ARE ABOUT TO GET HURT! That's right... You are about to go back in time in pursuit of the source of your feelings of inadequacy.

Could it have been comparisons you made or were made? Did you lack something you desperately craved for and u were left feeling small and empty? Feelings of inadequacy will always be there if you do not address them. They will always pop up to remind you who you are! They are shadows of your past that you try to keep buried in the dark.

Besides that, feelings of hate, bitterness, regret, and anxiety cloud up most of your days. There's nothing that can ever fill this void and distract you from feeling inadequate. It is a feeling you

have to deal with if you are to overcome it! Otherwise, you shall always be doing the most, not understanding your real value and potential or trying to prove you are worthy of it when you don't need to. Dealing with emotions is a challenge. You can always try to run from reality, but it will always catch up with you. On the other hand, Comparison is a killer. It is a killer of confidence, a killer of dreams, a killer of hopes, a killer of self. Comparison is a killer! When you compare yourself with others, you lose a part of yourself. You see, what comparison does is that it makes you feel less than the thing or person you are using as a basis for your evaluation. We are all unique people, and it is unjust to compare ourselves with others. We can never be like anyone else. Everyone has their journey, and you should be zealous to experience yours.

In this world, weakness does not exist. Your insecurities do not exist, they are only strengths.

Lastly, letting go is an art that you need to learn. With time you will be in a better place. It would be best to let go of friendships, habits, emotions, and moments weighing you down. The journey is all about the experience, and this experience is full of growth. Therefore, purpose to be more alert. P.S - Take time to answer - What or who makes you feel inadequate/Insecure?

Refinding Myself: Letter to Me

BY BARAKA MBOYA

Dear me.

I have lived for 18 years. I've seen a lot, read a lot, been taught a lot, but what have I really been able to give out? What decision have I made that I stood by and said, I'm right? In my 18 years, I've followed words from people, lived by other people and sourced from others. We agree with others. Most of what we know is sourced from others. But what knowledge have we brought forth to others that we have sourced from deep within ourself?

It's not about being a rebel, but it's all about who you are as an individual. Would you be able to identify yourself in a lineup, or do you look like the rest. What is your truth? What do you believe in that took you time to realize. It's not about your religion and beliefs. It's about you.

I love the bird Phoenix. It symbolizes immortality, resurrection and life after death, and in ancient Greek and Egyptian mythology it is associated with the sun god. According to the Greeks, the bird lives in Arabia, near a cool well. Every morning at dawn, the sun go



would stop his chariot to listen to the bird sing a beautiful song while it bathed in the well. Only one phoenix exists at a time, and so when the bird felt its death was near, every 500 to 1,461 years, it would build a nest of aromatic wood and set it on fire. The bird then was consumed by the flames.

A new phoenix sprang forth from the pyre.

It embalmed the ashes of its predecessor in an egg of myrrh and flew with it to Heliopolis, the "city of the sun," where the egg was deposited on the altar of the sun god. In Egypt, it was usually depicted as a heron, but in classic literature as a peacock or an eagle.

And so, in this world, I realize you have to die a little inside to be reborn. Rise stronger and wiser than before. This is the truth that I am ready to live by. Being ready to sacrifice what I hold as absolute truth. This goes with what I see myself as. Is my image projected by the belief and norms of the people around me, or by myself. Seeing yourself through your eyes. Accepting yourself as one, and no one else. Being ready to accept that you are no replica. Not breaking laws for identity, but being in union with the universe in you. Create a universe in you that will project you on the outside.

Listening to others and being able to discern what you will plant inside is absolute genius. So get in there and find your root source. Plant your roots, weed out the trauma and establish your universe. You are your own teacher, preacher and healer. Be the universe and the universe will find you.

The Inevitable

BY EVELYNE SYOMBUA

We watch series and movies knowing they will end

We listen to music knowing it will end But still we listen We sit through the whole movie We binge watch the series

We vibe to the music And add some to our playlist We analyse and enjoy the movie

And we add them to our to watch or watch later list

We look forward to the next season of the

We buy books

Read them knowing well they will end with "The End '

But still we follow the story page by page From the acknowledgements to the epilogue We anticipate what will happen next

And in some cases we hope for a sequel or continuation of the book

Then if we do all this..... Why do we give up easily? Why do we quit early? When it comes to life Why do we get to this point? Where say we are done before the end?

Just like music We vibe to some parts And some parts of life are boring Others are fun

Just like movies and series We bank on the next part of our life And some parts of life are thrilling And other parts we want to relive

Just like characters in a book We lose friends We lose everything And sometimes life is all about loses

Just like books, music, movies and series, Some parts of life euphoric As we transverse life each day Let us keep in mind.... Just like books, music, movies and series, Life has an end

We also have an end

BLOOM



Like flowers Find your habitat And explore your beauty Then bloom and gloom

> BY EVELYNE SYOMBUA (issvombua@amail.com)

Covid's Sting on the Film Industry



BY ASHLEY KAGIO

(ashleynk45@gmail.com)

When the first case of Coronavirus in Kenya was announced last year, we knew things were about to change, but were not aware of the extent at which it would bite us. The pandemic felt like a long sentence of house arrest with wavering periods but with no ending.

Many businesses that provided us with services were forced to shut down. The film and entertainment industry being social were not spared. The cinemas and theatres in Kenya were closed in order to adhere to the set mitigation measures. Although they opened six months later when things began to ease up, many were rendered jobless

Brian Alitsi is one of those that were forced to shut down their operations. He had been working with the Kenya National Drama and Music festivals as a scriptwriter and director for the past decade, prior to the pandemic. In his ten-year chapter he had also mentored many young aspiring artists in the art of film production as a way of earning a living.

"With no people coming to watch our plays we were forced to cut the number of staff we had in our team by nearly three quarters because there was no money to pay them," says Brian.

The rest of the staff remained behind on the basis of a contract. Unfortunately, even he was not spared during this period and was so soon put out of work. Like many of us, it was not easy for Alitsi to adapt to the new way of life and found himself depressed.

Since then, he has been receiving phone calls from his former students and other struggling young artists crying for help. Seeing as he was not the only one being bent over backwards due to no source of income, he decided it was up to him to innovate a way that would help him bear the blow of the pandemic and help some of those that had been made redundant in film production.

'Rieng' was the fruit of his innovation, a program whose main aim was to cast a light on some of the struggles the youth and families were enduring during the pandemic. His aim was to not only highlight the struggles of these people but also provide a safety net for them. In order to earn a profit, he designed a platform in which one had to pay a small fee of Ksh 100 in order to gain access. The program operated much like many other foreign popular platforms such as Showmax and Netflix only that this is "pay per view".

The Film industry has proved resilient by shifting to digital media to survive the pandemic, with many Kenyan films and Television series being added to these digital platforms. Movies such as Sincerely Daisy, a romantic comedy film have found their way to Netflix. It was filmed and produced by favored actor Nick Mutuma, starring Ellah Maina, Mbeki Mwalimu and Foi Wambui among others. Crime and Justice a television series streaming on Showmax starring Sarah Hassan and Alfred Munyua as the Nairobi Metropol Police detectives as the core of the show is another that has succeeded from the same.

The film and entertainment industry seems to be recovering from the heavy blow. With the new ways of digital media and the theatres and cinema opening up, it is only a matter of time till it is roaring back to life.

How to Style Mom Jeans



BY JESSICA NYAWADE

Mom jeans are my favourite style of denim. They are cool, laid back and trendy in this season. During this Covid -19 pandemic, most people stay home often. It turns out to be the most comfortable jean to throw on. For those who are new to this type of styling, mom jeans are high-waist jeans, with wide-cut hips and crotch, that have straight-cut legs and sometimes an elasticized waist. One of the reasons why I love them is because they fit almost all body types. Particularly the hourglass figure because it sits on the waist accentuating the shape of your bum and shrinking your tummy. They are the trend now taking over skinny jeans.

Here are 5 ways to style your mom jeans.

Boho Casual

This style goes well with a white vest or crop top, together with white sneakers and a beige fedora hat. All can be accessorized with a slim classy golden neckless. The lesser the colours, the better the look. A sling bag can be a plus

Chilled out weekend

This is one of my favourite of looks since I own countless blazers. What a better way to look smart casual and cool at the same time. This look is best for brunch after work or class. Style it with a beige or black blazer, white sneakers and your favourite bag. Avoid monkey bags with this look. Keep it simple with the jewellery.



This style goes well with a baggy shirt. A useful trick can be cutting out an old T-shirt that you no longer use and tucking it in at the front. They go well with high- heeled ankle -high black boots or white sneakers.

Let your hair down look

This look is for when you are invited for a party with little to no information about the dress code or the type of crowd. This can go well with an off shoulder or cold shoulder body suit, and a fedora hat. For the shoes, go with wedges or sneakers. A chocker can be the cherry on top.

Oversized baggy sweater

This is a plus with this cold weather or when you're heading to campus. Tuck in the front part as not to look too comfortable. Remember, the key is to look chick, stylish and cool. You can carry your monkey bag or a cute sling bag. Sneakers are a go to with this look. Try to accessorize with a long necklace when carrying the monkey bag and with a chocker with the sling bag.

Just like Coco Chanel once said "A girl should be two things: Classy and fabulous.

Cracking the Fashion and Culture Code

BY ROZANNE NTHAMBI

Fashion is constantly changing. Many times, the ugliest of trends get popular in a certain region. People generally pick up fashion trends from the media. They try to imitate their favorite actors, actresses, or models in terms of dressing and style. Otherwise, they may notice what their friends are wearing and try to adopt the style in their lives, as well. This is how a certain trend gets popular in a region. They cannot wear anything completely outcast, even if it looks good.

Anything that the prevailing culture accepts and is enough to make an impact becomes the fashion in that region. Thus, culture has a huge role to play in deciding the fashion of a particular region. A good example is the Emu bird which is a native of Australia and can be found in many areas of Australia. Australian fashion includes headwear made out of emu feathers. Light Horsemen used to carry this headwear and the Australian millinery is also inspired by its flora and fauna. Associating its scenic and natural beauty with everything including fashion has remained a part of the culture of this country.



Fashion trends in society are just a mirror of its culture. As the culture changes, fashion changes! It can also be said that fashion can impact a culture of a region to a certain extent, but a majority of the time, it is the other way round!

Designers and manufacturers produce clothing and accessories in accordance with the culture of a particular region. It then becomes the fashion of the region. People adopt a trend in clothing only if it is in accordance with the culture of that area, like the Christians in Mombasa who love wearing "deras". The attire is from a Nubian culture but since Christians live there, they have become accustomed to wearing it. You may hardly find Muslim women clad in miniskirts. They always dress in burqas. The Muslim community is majorly known for its dress code. Their fashion sense has been unique for generations. To them, it's a way of life- women with hijab and buibui; men with kanzu. They also have amazing henna designs that have a great fashion sense.

Great philosophers have come up with different definitions for fashion. But all of them hold one concept in common, that of looking and feeling good! If you are fashionable, you are confident with your looks. You are sure that you are conveying the right impression of yourself in front of other people. Being fashionable will certainly help you in taking the first step towards your goal.



Fashion has a long history of trials and errors. What was considered fashionable a few decades back might be synonymous with killing fashion in modern times. Similarly, what is considered fashionable in modern times may be like a fashion suicide to others and other cultures. Nothing is constant except for a change! Fashion is nothing but a constantly changing trend. This term is associated with clothes and accessories a majority of the time. People relate fashion to what they wear. Though fashion is a wider concept, it has narrowed down to the fabric, apparel, and accessories in modern times...

Why You Should be Intentional About Raising Children



BY HILMELDA TENKEU

Intentional Parenting! What is that even? According to their book Intentional Parenting: 10 ways to be an exceptional parent in a quick-fix world, Dough and Cathy Fields define this term as "the opposite of quick-fix parenting. Intentional parenting is a way to raise children to become healthy, independent young adults. It's based on solid principles which, applied over time, actually result in less-stressed parents and happier, better-adjusted, and more successful kids. Intentional parenting means vou've got more than good intentions; you've got a plan." I could not agree more.

The society is sick and I think the solution is found in the way people are brought up. If a child grows up knowing "I can have anything I want, my parents will always provide for me", he has not learned to be independent and fend for himself. He has not learned hard work because life is not a walk in the park. This translates to the pool of lazy youths we have in our society. People who do not want to put in effort during a long period of time (patience) in order to harvest success or wealth.

They've been nicknamed "the microwave generation". Guys who will do anything and everything to wear that latest Gucci shoe or own the trendiest apple product. This brings us to what is called "phenomene de porte-monnaie magique" (magical purse phenomenon), in Cameroon. A trend that has young boys signing pacts with the devil in order to live an affluent lifestyle. The trick is that they are not always able to fulfill their end of the bargain and like it is commonly said, "when the devil gives, he takes a hundred times what he gave".

We also have a lot more mannerless people in this society.

Crime rates are higher today than ever in the history of mankind. Instances of rape, juvenile delinquency, indecent dressing in the name of "my body, my choice", drug abuse, amongst other immoralities are permanent stories in the news and it does not seem to move anybody. How is it possible that someone approaches you in the streets and the first sentence that comes out of their mouth is "excuse me, can you show me ..."? You begin to wonder where the "good mornings, hi, hello, how are you?" disappeared to. If we say that's for the "white man", what about sasa, jambo, habari yako, uko aje? What is the excuse now ey?



Singing and Dancing at an Swaziland village home. PHOTO :MOUNT MADONNA SCHOOL

Let us not get started with the new trend, having ladies dress up half naked to parade the whole of Nairobi. When I talk, I'm told "it is the 21st century... we live in a free world". Human rights bla bla! We need the U.N to redefine Human Rights and tell us what exactly that means.

These are but a few consequences of unintentional parenting. It is much more real in our day-to-day lives. We need to ask ourselves the right questions. If you are a young person about to get married and have kids (because that is the natural order of things right? We are not advocates of single parenting or fornication. Let's pretend for a minute that we are keen and serious followers of Jesus), do you know why you are having these kids? What sort of persons would you like them to be in the future? What sort of contribution would they bring to the society? Have you thought about the parenting style that you want to "administer" to them? With this parenting style, will vou be proud to be called their parent?

We spend at least 15 years of our lives studying to become

NECKLINE

"something", 19 for serious people and 22 and above for more serious people. We also spend 1 to 6 months going through marriage counselling, depending on your denomination or belief system. Where is the school of intentional parenting? Because anyone can parent. But how do we do so intentionally?

My mother usually tells me she does to me what was done to her. If my grandparents brought her up to dress decently, she will teach me the same. If they did not teach her to say "thank you", chances are she might not teach me to be courteous unless other factors came to play. This is an example which shows that every family has a personalized parenting style. There is no uniformity. Well, this can be good or bad. Since we cannot gamble with such matters, we need to learn to parent intentionally.

If each upcoming parent asks themselves the right questions before bringing a child into this world, we can be sure that the next generation of citizens will be more of builders and achievers. It will mean parents will stop spending their entire time looking for money to send their kids to the best schools, surrendering their education to the streets and their classmates. It will mean we will have parents that are keen on instilling values in their children because as Billy Graham said "a child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anvone".

On a final note, I call upon every parent or upcoming parent to be intentional about having children. That is the only way you will be intentional about parenting them.

We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future. - Franklin D. Roosevelt.

I urge you to listen to "Fire on the Mountain" by Asa, a multiaward winning Nigerian artist. It speaks to the topic of Intentional parenting



FUN AND GAMES

BY WANGUI NJAU

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SPECIAL

POETRY

THE EMPEROR ARTS

You said how I make you feel Therefore, you wanted it forever I laid my back to the ground I was just fourteen, changing to a woman's body

Your basic gifts, so I did it repeatedly In my books, my pen wrote your name I felt like a woman enough in my mother's house Something will kill you in the dark, she cried in tears

I wish I knew my fruits were not ready enough Before I knew it, the hungry hunters were on me They are so clinical and charming as if they were starving And the shadow of regrets in my head

However, the passenger is innocent I cannot burst it out Though rejected by the society, just a teen May be all shall be gone, and the sky shall be blue again When the midwife says, what a beautiful baby

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Resilience and Pride: Falcons' Fight to Reach the Top



Daystar City, the Nairobi Campus football team, lines up for a prematch photo. PHOTO| SADIQSNAPSHOTS

BY KEN ANDREW

(kenakikenyi@gmail.com)

The Daystar University sports teams represent a vibrant, positive, and most importantly, hardworking group of sportsmen. Despite the numerous hardships and hurdles they come across, all Daystar University athletes remain focused on their goals and wanting to improve at all given times and stages.

The Falcons men's football and basketball teams play fixtures across two leagues. Regardless of where they are to play, who

is available for selection to play, and when they should play, the teams show up for the matches ready to fight for the university. Travelling to matches in the Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) League, Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Division two league (for the footballers) and Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) alongside the KUSA League for the basketball players is

tough in terms of the distance and time taken, but that never deters the willingness to play.

Why do players enjoy playing in different leagues and even at times four games in a weekend? For one, the exposure and experience attained playing in different leagues is crucial in building a player's career. One might be spotted by scouts or even pulled in for trials for professional teams. Additionally, the level of performance also increases from continuously playing. A player's conditioning and ability to outlast the ninety minutes in a football match, for example, also improves.

Throughout the tough COVID-19 pandemic era, the sportsmen in the university remained eager to get a green light on the resumption of sporting activities across the country. When this finally happened, no time was wasted in getting the teams back to training.

Daystar was amongst a handful of universities who were set for the resumption and all teams were registered for their respective leagues in good time. As always, the goal remains that at least one Daystar team should clinch a title in the leagues. A title that has been elusive for a couple of years despite the hard work put in by coaches and players. It is never going to be easy in sports. Patience is important, not only for the coaches and players, but also amongst the administration and management who will also be eagerly waiting for a Daystar team to bring in a league title.

Ever since the resumption of sports activities locally, the teams have pushed themselves this season. They will need to build up on the performances of this season in the next season to be able to seriously challenge for the leagues they participate in. Playing competitive fixtures during the pandemic will only have a positive follow through on the players and they will have an added advantage the following season. Winning a league title brings not only praise but also pride and extra motivation to try and retain the title the following season.

The plans and preparations that all Daystar University sports teams have taken throughout the year could pay off as soon as next season. The football and basketball teams will be at the forefront to try and bring home a league title. They are two of the biggest sports in the world and a trophy even at the lowest level is welcomed by all.



Daystar City, the Nairobi Campus football team, lines up for a pre-

All the sportsmen and athletes from Daystar University will always work hard and show up. Hardships come and go but resolve remains if one is strong in the mind. One day, not far in the future, the Falcons will be the teams to beat across all disciplines. The inbuilt foundations have to be strengthened and more equipment and services should be availed to them to help them in their journey to the top. Once everything is straightened out and focus is not deflected onto other things, a title will be delivered. Football might even come home! (Home being Daystar University- not England).

Invest In Youngsters to Unlock Kenyan Football Potential



Harambee Stars players training during an internationa

beneficial for their cohesion in a team. The equipment available to many teams are few and of poor quality.

Balls and marking cones are the key parts of the equipment that they possess and at times they are few and often reduce with successive training sessions. Given the number of children who are interested in playing football, the available teams often take a big chunk of available players and that is where many lose their way. This is because the number of coaches and staff available is usually not sufficient to give adequate attention to the whole team.



Players celebrate at a past Odibets Womer

A solution to help Kenya elevate its childhood and youth setup is for the top clubs to invest more in them. Not only will proper investment ensure a constant supply of good players drilled with the clubs' values beforehand, it will also offer proper training regiments for youngsters and will give them a better chance of being scouted by a bigger professional club. This would be a win-win situation for all involved. Also, more emphasis should be put on girls joining football teams and structures; top clubs should also own their own female teams.

The women's league in Kenya is far from what the men's league is because of lower amounts of money and little to no attention dedicated to it

Many would blame the government for the poor state of football in the country but Football Kenya Federation (FKF) and the top clubs themselves are to take the majority of the blame. The responsibility falls to the clubs to search for funding from corporates that will benefit from the advertising on their kits for example. FKF as the regulator should find ways to ensure the government offers tax rebates to those investing in football or even buying football clubs. FKF should also try to find lucrative television deals that ensure not only that the clubs are well remunerated, but that the exposure and viewership is of high level.

Solving problems at the top of the Kenyan football pyramid and getting more money in will see it trickle down the pyramid to the lower levels and grassroots thus uplifting the youngsters.

For those who are coaching youngsters, it is highly advised to encourage them and push them to be solely focused on football if possible. It is a sport that requires proper commitment and consistency to give results thus being constantly encouraged to give it one's all is important. Parental or guardian support is also crucial. They should also invest in the dreams of their children by paying for academy fees if needed, buying boots and other training material and most importantly, showing up physically for support during matches. With proper financial support, the youngsters will be well set up to succeed.

BY KEN ANDREW

(kenakikenyi@gmail.com

Many children in Kenya grow up with dreams of one day playing professional football in some of the biggest leagues in the world. As they grow and learn more about life, this dream seems harder to achieve. The investment and development of grassroots football in Kenya has stalled over the years thus making it harder for young boys and girls to unlock their full potential and get better chances of becoming professionals. The top clubs in the country do not have proper youth set-ups or academies that start at the younger ages to early teens. The lack of investment in children and youth football is a huge hindrance to the dreams of many young boys and girls.

Very few grassroots teams have enough equipment to assist in the training of two teams- for boys and the for girls. This mostly affects the girls because even though there are no sex specific exercises, having girls train by themselves as a unit is more

FASHION AND CULTURE

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RAISING CHILDREN INTENTIONALLY ON PAGE 14



INUSports & Common

Ethiopia Dominates Men's 3000m Finals as Under 20 Championships start off



Tadese Worku (right) and Ali Abdilmana celebrate their 1-2 win in the 3000m final at the Moi Stadium, Kasarani PHOTO| Erick Barasa

BY NICHOLAS KWEYU (nicholaskweyu99@gmail.com)

Tadese Worku and Ali Abdilmana from Ethiopia won the gold and silver medals in the 3000m race at the World Under 20 Championships (WU20) on Wednesday in Kasarani.

Worku finished with a time of 7:42.09 while Abdilmana finished with a personal best time of 7:44.55. Finishing in third place- and also with a personal best time (7:52.69)- was Eritrea's Habtom Samuel.

Worku's race went pretty well for him as he grabbed the lead from the second lap and held it until the finish line

Kenya was unable to snag a medal in this race on this first day of the championships. Representatives Daniel Kinyanjui and Bernard Yegon finished in seventh and ninth positions respectively. Their times were 8:09.40 and 8:09.9.

Speaking on their disappointing performance, Kinyanjui mentioned that the race did not go according to plan.

"Even though we were running at home, we didn't get the results we wanted. However, we live to fight another day. We want to thank our coaches, Robert Ngisirei and Willy Kiplangat," he said.

Yegon, on the other hand, lamented that the weather affected his performance.

"The weather was not good for me today. I struggled a lot in the race. I want to wish my teammates the best when they compete tomorrow up to Sunday. I want to go back home and train for the World Cross Country Championships next year," said Yegon.

Having topped the medal standings in the 2018 WU20 championships in Finland with 11 medals, Kenya is keen to maintain a good standing on home soil.

In the only other track final on that day, the Nigerian quartet (John Nnamani, Imabong Uko, Oyemi Oke and Bemidele Ajayi) won the gold medal in the 4X100m mixed relay. They just narrowly beat Poland's team which had led into the final leg of the race. With a time of 3:19.7, Nigeria also broke the championship record they had earlier set in the heats in the morning session of the games.

Despite the rocky start for Kenyans, it is still fortunate that we are able to host the games this year. The event was postponed last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Athletics Kenya president Jack Tuwei, the under 20 Championships are

crucial for the transition of athletes from the junior to the senior ranks.



walk race comprtition at the World U20 Championship
PHOTO: WORLD ATHLETIC

In a speech read by Principal Secretary Joe Okudo, Sports Minister Amina Mohammed said that the successful holding of the event shows that Kenya is ready to host other major international events. In a similar spirit, the World Athletics President Seb Coe said that he looks forward to coming back to Kenya for other international events.

Falcons Chess Team Shines at Nakuru Open Chess Tournament



Falcons Chess team . PHOTO: COURTES

BY KARAN CHRISTIE (karanchristie@gmail.com)

Daystar's Falcons chess team emerged as the top university scoring 19 points at the Nakuru Open Chess Tournament held at Waterbuck Hotel. The tournament was held on July 31 and August 1. It featured more than 120 players from Kenya and had 7 universities present.

It consisted of 7 rounds and was, in fact, the largest competitive tourney in the past two years.

Daystar sent a team of 8 players (6 men and 2 ladies) under the guidance of Karan Christie and captained by Brian Ngetich.

"I would like to thank Daystar management for giving us the opportunity to participate in this prestigious event. This has been a good performance especially after resuming over the board Chess in Kenya and we look forward to improving our games and win more tournaments in the future," said Brian.

The top scorers were Weldon Ngetich (former captain) and Glen Kingoina with 4.5/7 points respectively. The other players representing Daystar were: Carlos Musungu, Jackline Wambugu, Olive Sang and Vincent Muthuiya.

In 2020 the team shifted to online chess due to the pandemic. This took away the thrill and general feel of the game. The Nakuru Open 2021 brought back a more positive vibe and allowed our chess players to really immerse themselves. Daystar now looks forward to hosting the 6th Daystar Chess Open soon.

Involvement





visit our website at involvement collect

Website Relaunch

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