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Yunis Dekow Surpasses Kimiyu Of Daily Nation In Crime Journalist Association Race

By Said Osman

In a tightly contested battle for the coveted position of treasurer in the Crime Journalist Association of Kenya (CJAK), Yunis Dekow emerged victorious, outpacing formidable contender Hilary Kimiyu of the Daily Nation.

Mr. Dekow, known for his dedication and experience in crime and security reporting across numerous African Countries, is poised to bring a fresh perspective to as latest member of the governing council of the society.

Mr. Kimiyu a Tech, Entertainment, Crime and Human Interest Stories correspondent for the Newspaper received 7 votes while Dekow garnered 26 votes. The election of the body that boosts to have members drawn from across the country, held in November, mark a pivotal moment in the association's leadership landscape

"Dekow's victory highlights the commitment of the Crime Journalist Association to maintaining high standards of reporting and analysis in the industry," said Akello Odenyo, the Secretary General

She said his success reflects not only his individual capabilities but also the diverse expertise within the organization.

As the newly elected treasurer, Yunis Dekow is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the financial strategies and future initiatives of the association.

Yunis Dekow is a journalist with more than ten year's experience in news and media planning, production, managing, distribution, and monitoring for local and international media.

His media journey started as a hobby while in high school where he used to commentate the English premier league games on local radio station in Garissa, Kenya.

"I got quite successful at it and nearly 10 years later, I have further developed my cultural and creative skill sets to produce and lead on successful radio and television shows in Somalia and Kenya, on behalf of local and international missions in both countries," said Dekow.

He currently runs Royal Halann Creative and serves a senior communication adviser to M & C Saatchi, a London based international communications company, formed in May 1995 as an advertising agency. It provides fully integrated, end to end service, combining multi-discipline communications teams with subject matter experts, across the world.

The journalist is also award winning having been presented with a trophy of Service for his outstanding contribution in encouraging the media to embrace and integrate Swahili into more media local programs. The award was given to him by renown Kiswahili Professor, Wallah Bin Wallah in 2015.

He was appointed Program consultant for CNCPT Creative in January 2023 to steer staff working on Kenya projects in delivering and engaging, educating, motivating, persuading communication materials using audio/visual and design solutions to meet clients' objectives.

Mr. Dekow who earlier served as the Broadcast and Digital editorial director for Dalsan Media Group, Mogadishu's leading television news network is an alumni of the School of Journalism of the University of Nairobi.



As a team leader for the strategic communication organization, the broadcaster oversaw production and on-air anchoring of radio, television and digital newscasts and programs.

He also provided editorial decision making and guidance to ensure media organizations are compliant and accurate in their reporting and that deadlines are met in a fast-paced environment. Dekow Hussein worked with the Africa Union, United Nations, Information Support Team (IST) which implements the media and strategic communications agenda for AMISOM, ATMIS, UNSOS and UNSOM in Somalia as a public press information officer.

As a journalist, Yunis has written, analyzed and reported feature articles or radio pieces for: CBA TV, Star FM, Sahar Journal, Kulan Post, Nepjournal, STN TV, U report, Mail & Guardian, RTN, CNN, Dalsan Radio, Africa 24, The continent, Radio Tehran, Radio Midnimo, BBC Swahili, BBC Somali, Risala FM, Key FM, IFTIN FM, Shahidi News, Garowe Online, Somaliland.com among other publications and media networks.

Dekow who was born in Garissa is married to photojournalist Naima Mohamed from Mombasa and they have one child together.

The journalist joins CJAK Council chaired by seasoned Crime, Security and Investigative reporter Zaddock Angira of the People Daily, Akello Odenyo of Radio Africa's Star Newspaper, Vice-Chairperson, Judy Kanaitha, Ghetto Radio's Investigative Journalist and Producer and Manase Otsialo who is serving as Deputy Secretary General of the association.

CJAK was established in 2020, the Crime Journalists Association of Kenya (CJAK) is the premier group on Security, Governance and Human Rights: Seeking to promote Quality Journalism and Enhance Accountability.

It strives to uphold high standards in reporting and stimulate ethical behaviour in the practise of journalism while also advocating for journalist's welfare in Kenya.

Members of the organization consist of highly trained, ethical and acclaimed journalists with vast experience in their respective areas of expertise across Kenya's 47 counties.

November Events

November 20th

Hot Movie 🎬 : Freelance
<https://buff.ly/3tNksvB>

FYI 🔍 : Rawcoustic Christmas Festival
<https://buff.ly/40Mt1mL>

Editors Pick 📌 : Motown in Nairobi!
<https://buff.ly/46lrOUP>

Upcoming Event 📅 : The Nutcracker Ballet 2023
<https://buff.ly/3FHsuZT>

Now Showing in Cinemas 🎬



Wajir County Harnesses Community Mapping For Disaster Preparedness

Wajir – In the arid and semi-arid region of Wajir County, Kenya, where climate-related disasters such as droughts and floods pose persistent threats, an innovative approach is reshaping the landscape of disaster preparedness. The Community Participatory Mapping for Disaster Resilience project, implemented by the Kenya Red Cross Society in collaboration with the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HotOSM) and other key stakeholders, is exploring a community-led strategy to enhance the county's preparedness and response capabilities. Wajir County, predominantly relying on agro-pastoral livelihoods, faces recurring hazards that impact the lives and property of its population. To address these challenges, the project leverages open data and engages the community in mapping their surroundings. This strategy aims to provide real-time, up-to-date information crucial for disaster preparedness, with a focus on mitigating climate-related disasters. The project's cornerstone lies in the organization of mapathons, three of which were conducted during the project duration. These mapathons aimed to enhance the accuracy and currency of maps by involving the community in adding features like roads, buildings, dams, and other infrastructure to the OpenStreetMap (OSM) database. The mapathons, held both on-site within Wajir County and virtually in Nairobi, mobilized local stakeholders and volunteer mappers to contribute their expertise. The collective efforts resulted in an impressive addition of 50,000 buildings and 300 km of roads to the OSM database in Wajir County.

“Community and stakeholder engagement is key in ensuring project success,” emphasizes Abdikadir Mohamed of the Kenya Red Cross Society. Communities were placed at the center of the initiative, treated as experts capable of providing recommendations and solutions to address disasters in their locality. Trainings were customized to fit their needs, and data collection focused on hotspot areas for disasters, preventing duplication of efforts and ensuring effective resource utilization. The participatory mapping strategy has not only improved the accuracy of spatial data but has also fostered community awareness and comprehension of disaster risks. To further this, a training program on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) was implemented, building technical capacity and enhancing knowledge and skills in disaster risk reduction and management. The program engaged sub-county administrators, key decision-makers in disaster response and reduction activities. Through this community-led initiative, Wajir County is not only fortifying its disaster resilience but also creating a platform for informed decision-making based on real-time data. The project's impact extends beyond mapping, influencing various sectors such as youth empowerment and anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) efforts. Wajir County pioneers this community-driven approach, the positive social and economic impacts of open data initiatives become increasingly evident. The lessons learned from Wajir County's experience highlight the potential of participatory mapping to transform disaster preparedness.

By Nimah Abdi

GT Photos

The inaugural Garissa University Geospatial Innovation Center celebrated in Northern Kenya.

The Center will be officially Commissioned by Mr. Nadhif Jama, the Governor of Garissa County on Wednesday, 22nd November 2023.



Garissa County Deputy Governor Initiates Plans for Psychiatric Unit Amidst Ongoing Health Initiatives

GARISSA COUNTY EXPANDS ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES



Galbet - Garissa County Deputy Governor Abdi Dagane has conducted a rapid assessment of potential sites for the construction of a much-needed psychiatric unit.

Dagane noted the absence of structured mental health services in the region and the urgency of establishing a dedicated mental health unit to cater to the needs of the community.

During his assessment, Deputy Governor Dagane expressed the county's commitment to addressing the mental health needs of its residents.

The move by the local county government aligns with the broader goal of achieving Primary Health Care (PHC) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Sulomon Omodj a public health practitioner in Township said the situation warrants the necessity of improving the provision of comprehensive mental health services.

“The absence of such services has been a long-standing concern, prompting the County Government to prioritize the establishment of a mental health unit to bridge this gap,” he said.

He also visited the ongoing cardiology outreach clinic organized by Garissa County Referral and Teaching Hospital in collaboration with Coast General Referral Hospital.

This multidisciplinary effort has already proven successful, providing specialized cardiology services to numerous patients and contributing to the realization of UHC goals.

The Deputy Governor also toured the ongoing cataract eye camp program at Iftin Sub County Hospital.

This joint initiative involving the county government, the Centre for Health and Education Programs, the Medical Aid Alliances, and Charitable Trust aims to assist 200 cataract patients, addressing critical eye health needs in the community.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE UNVEILED: GARISSA COUNTY'S DEPUTY GOVERNOR SPEARHEADS TRANSFORMATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES

GT FOOD WORLD

VEGETABLE AND FRUIT



— HIGH QUALITY TOMATO

Tomatoes are juicy and sweet, full of antioxidants, and may help fight several diseases. They are especially high in lycopene, a plant compound linked to improved heart health, cancer prevention, and protection against sunburns.

Tomatoes, the versatile gems of the culinary world, aren't just about their vibrant color and juiciness. They elevate dishes with unique umami flavors, form the base for iconic sauces, and offer unrivaled versatility. Rich in vitamins and antioxidants, tomatoes are a staple ingredient that transcends cultural boundaries, making them indispensable in kitchens worldwide.



THE GREAT GREEN PEAS

Green peas, often underestimated in their petite form, emerge as delightful gems of sweet nutrition. Whether showcased as a side dish, blended into creamy soups, or added for vibrant color and texture in salads, their sweet, crisp flavor enhances diverse culinary creations. Packed with vitamins, minerals, and dietary fiber, green peas contribute not only to the overall flavor profile of dishes but also offer a nutrient-rich boost. These little green wonders are a testament to how small packages can pack a punch in both taste and nutritional value, making them a cherished addition to the world of wholesome cuisine.

MANGO THE KING OF FRUIT



Known as the "king of fruits," mangoes captivate with their heavenly sweetness. Beyond being a dessert delight, mangoes symbolize abundance in many cultures.

With versatility showcased in salsas and beverages, and a nutrient-rich profile, mangoes bring a taste of the tropics to diverse culinary creations, making them a seasonal delight worth savoring.



ALL ABOUT VEGETABLE & FRUIT



THE YUMMY BROCCOLI

Broccoli, a nutritional powerhouse, stands out for its nutrient density. Whether steamed, roasted, or added to salads, its robust flavor and firm texture make it a versatile addition to various dishes. Packed with vitamins, fiber, and cancer-fighting compounds, broccoli earns its reputation as a green superhero in the culinary world.

Brimming with essential vitamins, including C and K, along with fiber and potent antioxidants, broccoli not only elevates the dining experience but also contributes to overall health. Its potential cancer-fighting properties and digestive benefits solidify broccoli's well-deserved reputation as a green powerhouse in the culinary world.

THE FRESH APPLE

Apples, with their crisp texture and diverse varieties, maintain their status as a global favorite. From classic desserts like apple pie to being a portable snack, apples offer a delightful combination of sweetness and tartness. Rich in fiber, antioxidants, and essential vitamins, apples bridge cultural gaps, delighting taste buds and contributing to overall well-being.



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Garissa County Seeks Public Input on Modogashe Municipality Elevation



By Garissa Today Reporter

Tetu - Garissa County Government is inviting public participation on the proposed elevation of Modogashe Town to Municipality status on Tuesday. The initiative aligns with the constitutional mandate outlined in Article 196(1) of the Kenyan Constitution 2010, as well as Section 87(b) and 105(1)(d) of the County Government Act 2012.

The County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning, and Urban Development, Mohamed Hussein is spearheading the public engagement process. Members of the public, civil society organizations, special interest groups, and professionals are encouraged to attend a scheduled public participation forum or submit memoranda to express their views on the proposed Modogashe Municipality.

The decision to elevate Modogashe Town to Municipality status has received cabinet approval, marking a significant development for the local governance structure. This move aims to enhance service delivery, infrastructure development, and overall urban planning in the area.

The public participation forum is set to take place on November 21, 2023, starting at 9:00 am in Modogashe Town. This forum provides an opportunity for citizens and stakeholders to actively engage in the decision-making process and voice their opinions on the municipality elevation.

“Individuals and organizations interested in participating can make submissions either orally during the public hearing or by submitting written memoranda to the office of the CECM for Lands, Housing, Physical Planning, and Urban Development in Garissa County. Written submissions should be sent to P.O Box 563 - 70100 Garissa, and the deadline for submissions is November 21, 2023, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm,” said Mohamed.

He emphasized the importance of the public participation process in shaping the future of Modogashe Municipality.

“It encourages active involvement from the community, recognizing the diverse perspectives that will contribute to the success and effectiveness of the proposed elevation.”

The Municipality is set to become the Fifth in the County after Garissa Township, Masalani, Dadaab and Bura Municipalities.

The town will be able to get national and international recognition, which will in turn enable it to raise funds, even from foreign development partners. The Status will further attract investors and residents will enjoy more development in infrastructure, agriculture, drainage, education and other social amenities.

According to the Urban Areas and Cities Act of 2011, a municipality must have a population of 70,000 to 249,000.

Additionally, it should have an Integrated Development Plan and Demonstrable Capacity, to generate sufficient revenue, to sustain its operations.

It should have sufficient space for expansion, as well as the capacity to effectively deliver essential services to its residents, among other requirements.

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Kenya and Germany Strengthen Ties at G20 Compact Summit

By Newsroom

Kenya and Germany are reinforcing their historic ties, focusing on trade, investment, environmental conservation, and industrial promotion.

President William Ruto and Chancellor Olaf Scholz engaged in discussions during the "G20 Compact with Africa" conference in Berlin.

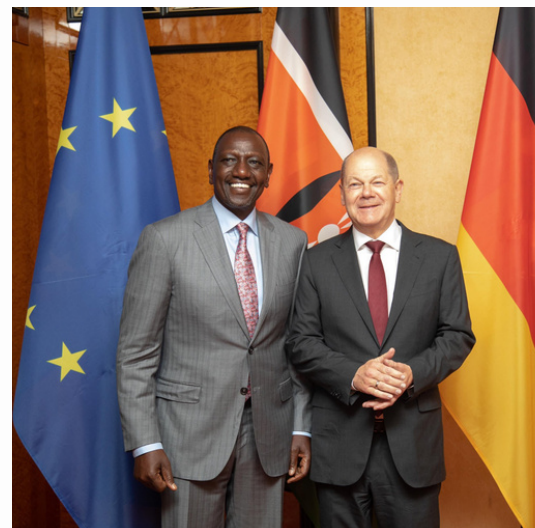
Chancellor Scholz pledged support for Kenya's mission to Haiti and peace efforts in the Horn of Africa.

The two-day conference brings together African heads of state and prime ministers to discuss economic cooperation with Europe.

Key topics include boosting private investment in Africa and collaborative sustainable energy projects. Launched by Germany in 2017, the initiative now involves 13 African countries. European leaders, including EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, EU Council President Charles Michel, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, are part of the summit.

The initiative aims to tap into Africa's potential while addressing challenges like the rule of law, human rights, corruption, and currency convertibility.

As Europe actively engages with African nations, the conference signals a strategic move to counterbalance global influences. The collaboration underscores a commitment to unlock Africa's vast potential and address shared challenges through meaningful partnerships.



Bolt Driver Foils Armed Robbery Attempt: Three Suspects Apprehended

Nairobi - The driver of the online taxi platform Bolt averted a potential tragedy as he sped to Kasarani Police Station, escaping armed assailants who attempted a robbery during a ride. The incident unfolded today around 12:00 PM in Juja Township, Kiambu County, when Peter Katheca, the Bolt driver, received a ride request from Kelvin Muriithi.

Kelvin Muriithi, accompanied by two other individuals, embarked on a journey to State House Road in Kilimani, Nairobi. However, things took a sinister turn when, in the vicinity of Githurai along Thika Super Highway, one of the passengers in the back seat brandished a makeshift pistol, ordering the driver to halt.

Undeterred, the driver accelerated directly to Kasarani Police Station, where the suspects were apprehended upon arrival. Two men and a woman attempted to flee but were swiftly chased down and arrested by vigilant police officers near Shell Filling Station along Mwiki Road.

Upon conducting a search, law enforcement recovered a man-made pistol, a pair of scissors, and a screwdriver from the suspects. The Bolt driver's prompt response in alerting authorities played a crucial role in the swift resolution of the incident.



The arrested suspects have been identified as Kelvin Muriithi Nyaga (22), Julius Mbithi (23), and Joy Mumbi Nyaga (19). All three are now in lawful police custody and are undergoing processing for court proceedings led by the DCI Kasarani.

The recovered items, including the makeshift pistol, scissors, and screwdriver, have been cataloged as exhibits in the ongoing investigation. The police are handling the case diligently, emphasizing the gravity of attempted robbery with violence.

This incident serves as a testament to the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between vigilant citizens and law enforcement in maintaining public safety. The swift response by the Bolt driver and the Kasarani Police showcases the dedication of those involved in ensuring the security of the community.

President Ruto Should Declare The Ongoing Elnino A National Disaster Before It's Too Late

BY SIYAD JIMALE

OPINION



Nairobi – Most part of the country is currently receiving an unusual rains for the past one week. The heavy rainfall and the flash floods have wreaked havoc, leading to the death of at least 15 people by Monday.

On Monday, Red Cross stated that as of November 5, 2023, 15,264 households have been affected while 1,067 livestock have died as a result of the torrential rainfall.

Red Cross also highlighted that the floods has destroyed 241 acres of agricultural farmland with the coastal region and the Northeastern Counties of Mandera and Wajir are the worst affected.

Kenya Meteorological Department issued an advisory in September, stating that the country would face heavier than usual rains during the short rainy season between October and December. A month later, President William Ruto contradicted the forecast, telling Kenyans that the experts had revised their advice and that "there would be no devastating El Nino flooding."

The worst floods were the El Nino rains of 1997-98, which displaced 1.5 million people. Drought, on the other hand, hit hardest in 2011, leaving 3.5 million people and 4.5 million people in 2022/23 affected by famine.

The mordancy in these disasters is that the country never seems prepared all the time. There are never enough water reserves when drought hits and no harvesting of rainwater on the other hand.

After seven years, Kenya is staring at and experiencing yet another El Niño phenomenon. This is after the World Meteorological Organisation on Wednesday, July 5, declared the onset of El Niño conditions. El Niño occurs on average every two to seven years, and episodes typically last nine to 12 months.

Dr David Gikungu, the head of Kenya Meteorological Department says that for instance, the 1987 October-December season was an El Niño event that did not result in heavy rainfall over the country.

The 1997 rainfall had a devastating impact on agriculture, water resources, transport, communications and health sectors due to its uniqueness, intensity and destructive power.

The rains, which started as normal rains in October 1997 in most parts of the country, slowly morphed into floods in November and continued in intensity into January the following year before subsiding slowly and ending in mid-February.

Widespread flooding led to the destruction of property in several sections of the country, mud/landslides and the destruction of dams and the siltation of rivers. Increased rainfall resulted in increased plant and animal diseases, and a reduction in yields while several cases of deaths of animals through drowning were also reported.

Several bridges and an estimated 100,000 km of both rural and urban roads were destroyed leading to a general paralysis of the transport system in most parts of the country.

Several health facilities were physically destroyed while an upsurge of disease epidemics and an increase in morbidity and mortality rates were witnessed.

Even though the meteorological department had issued an advisory early enough, it was received with scepticism due to alleged pre-forecast. This was observed in a research paper by a group of experts from the University of Nairobi.

Additionally, in 2015 the El Niño index was higher than that of 1997 but the country did not experience as much rainfall as it did in 1997.

The extreme heavy rainfalls experienced in most part of the country, especially in Northeastern region has resulted an extensive flooding that killed a significant people, caused destruction of properties and death of animals through drowning.

The transport systems in the region has been completely paralyzed. Both rural and urban roads in Northeastern part of Kenya are currently impassable, making the movement of drugs, goods and people a strenuous task. Tens of vehicles were swept away as raging floods charge through major roads including Garissa-Wajir-Mandera highway.

Apart from the main roads, frontage roads that links settlements along the way have also been rendered impassable, making the transportation of national exams, medicine and perishable goods hard to deliver. All this is happening at the backdrop of an impending water-borne diseases.

Several towns and villages including Elwak in Mandera South, Burdeer and Diff in Wajir South are marooned by floods. Schools and health centers were submerged and severely affected in Mandera County as the rains continued to be experienced. Over 5,000 households in the area were reportedly affected.

Most of the towns in Northeastern counties are waterlogged and others, which bore the brunt of this El-nino catastrophe of 2023, are at risk of a waterborne epidemic.

I urge President William Ruto to heed our call and act swiftly in declaring this crisis a national disaster to avoid reoccurrence of what happened during the last drought season.

At the height of the drought season, a good number of leaders from NEP counties and non-governmental organizations including Horizon analysts and researchers network made a call for the President to declare drought as National disaster but that failed to materialize causing the loss of estimated Sh226 billion due to the deaths of livestock in the recurrent drought according to NDMA data.

Challenges of food insecurity is also another emergency issue that need to be attended to at the soonest time possible lest we suffer losses of more lives and livelihoods in the region.

The region is at risk of waterborne epidemic, especially the waterlogged areas, a situation that needs the government to come up with urgent measures to avert the looming risk and

WORLD NEWS



UK-Somalia food summit opens in London

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has opened a Global Food Security Summit in London.

The conference is a joint initiative between Britain, Somalia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as well as organisations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Representatives from more than 20 countries are attending.

Mr Sunak announced a new virtual hub to link British scientists with global research into climate-resilient crops. As the summit began, the UN urged donors to urgently increase their aid and invest in long-term solutions to tackle what it called the root causes of hunger.

The conference is set to address food insecurity as one of the pressing global challenges, setting out how the UK will go beyond giving aid money and instead work in partnerships with countries to tackle extreme poverty and climate change.

"With your help, we can get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track, deliver a world of Zero Hunger and transform millions of lives for years to come," he noted.

He said taking action is necessary to address the underlying and often unseen causes of global food insecurity.

President Rajoelina takes huge early lead in Madagascar poll

Madagascar's incumbent President Andry Rajoelina has taken a massive early lead in last Thursday's election, boycotted by some parties, with votes from 37% of polling stations counted by Sunday evening.

President Rajoelina currently leads with 62.4%, trailed by Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko at 12.2% and ousted ex-president Marc Ravalomanana at 11.2%.

In the polling stations tallied so far, Madagascar's electoral commission said turnout was 43%.

Some opposition candidates who withdrew from the presidential contest have attributed the record low voter turnout to their calls to voters to boycott the election.

"The elections did not respect the required democratic standards and this was proven by the participation rate, which was the lowest in Madagascar's electoral history," opposition politician Hajo Andrianainarivelo said after Thursday's vote.



SA calls on ICC to issue arrest warrant for Netanyahu

The South African government has called on the International Crime Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by mid-December. Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said if the ICC did not do this, it would signal a "total failure" of global governance.

"The world cannot simply stand by and watch," she said. Israel says it is defending itself following the 7 October attack by Hamas which saw 1,200 people killed and more than 200 taken hostage.

It says it is trying to minimise civilian casualties but Ms Ntshavheni said the Israeli government was trying to "clear most of Gaza of Palestinians and occupy it". South Africa, along with Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti, submitted a referral to the ICC to investigate whether war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed in Gaza.

South Africa has long been a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause. The country has announced the withdrawal of its diplomats from Israel, and suggested that the position of Israel's ambassador to Pretoria was becoming "untenable".

