

MAILBOX

,-----,

I in banks Bill Nothing good THE The Bill to regulate bank ink six-year-old girl pamphlet containing a list of 200 matam rates, as proposed by legisla the intestines illustrated. registration number plates found at the scene Joe Donde, sounds enticing. pamphlet written one of the killings? Should we take it at should be music to the ears to devil worship value? prospective borrowers like me. worship. From road and rail accidents to mys-killers around the world However, I think the Bill is spokesman Peter have occasionally. thrown investigators off I suspected child thelf traill by leavlllg behmd deliberate clues conceived. A look at the prevl and symbols associated with Satanism. told of a ing economic conditions sho incidents. It came Although their acts are clearly Satanic, it is With the populace feeling helplessly that any bank willing to Ie not cults but serial killers that should be the besieged by such monumental forces, it is a money is taking an extraordim ambiguous suspects! :isk. The job market is volati the Freema- with the biggest number of religious sects. A When the Mungiki sect threatened to bum destroy it for majority of these thrive on their followers' down the Freemasons headquarters, they were .ing lay-offs (or retrenchmel Archbishop Nicode- merely following the trend of stigmatising that md with businesses experienci controversial particular sections of society over allegations

i

I(illings: Dont' blame the devil

Two weeks ago, the body of a the CUTTING I was found near a railway line - ripped off. Beside her was a of in st'veral languages, alluding face

in Kenya. A number of serial EDGE A few days later, police terious fires; from tribal clashes to drug abuse, Kimanathi Issued an alert on will always read the kidnapping in the city. The alert "devil-worship link" in the after two more bizarre murders. Newly converted to Islam, the By WATCHMAN Mur..giki sect recently stormed When sons headquarters, threatening to alleged "devil worship". It is not just in Britain mus Kirima, (a co-author of the the popular Nation

Televi-  
Uncertain times. report on devil worship in Kenya)  
last year Spiritual matters easily generate mass hys- that  
cannot stand scrutiny. sion comedy Redykyulass is  
A bank cannot be certain tl confirmed that "devil worship"  
was on the rise teria, as was demonstrated by Eastlands resi-  
Archbishop David Gitari aptly sums it up. being pirated. Not only are  
my money loaned will be rep: again.  
dents when thney recently arrested an inno- He says: "By constantly  
referring to the devil bootleg tapes on sale in Ken-  
that we might The trend emerging suggests we are  
not only according him undue attention ya, but some have even  
in a timely manner. Further, ' but also attributing our  
cent man and lynched him. To such a mob, the  
social and moral decay be headed for a disaster. The  
ue living in very uncertain poll existence of cults body of one of the victims appeared to have  
"poached" the name too.

to him. This only serves to enhance  
:al times. in Kenya is not in doubt, despite  
their amor- its tongue severed, despite reports to the con-  
pessimism. " At Huruma's Ngei  
II

Thus, any financial instituti phous nature. Some of their  
horrific and trary. Such is the potential of these weird mat-  
To quote a local journalist, "Our troubles estate, Nairobi, there's a bar  
willing to lend money ml immoral practices are well  
documented and ters.  
seem to be assuming it spiritual dimension." by the name Redykyulass.  
weigh the risks, both econon should be condemned.  
What if those poor children died in the Pray, when will they assume  
a realistic The question is: Between the  
md political Simple calculatic The greatest danger lies in  
the escapist atti- hands of a pathological paedophile or a group one?  
proprietor and the patron,  
tude Kenyans are so fond of  
adopting in the determined to cause mayhem? A group deter-  
George N. Nzioki. who is ridiculing whom?  
;how that a mere 3 per cent 0'

W akesho ofwonders why face of all manner of ill. This  
can be mined to leave behind false clues? What of  
Nairobi.  
the Treasury bill rates does I -  
!lelp. At the minimum, tht  
;hould be a 7 per cent cushion.  
Komarock,

Vernacular  
A good alternative would be Moi wrong on  
The Editor welcomes brief letters from readers on topical subjects.  
Nairobi,  
:oerce the Finance Minister a  
They will be considered for publication only if they carry the writer's  
the Kenya Bus Service with-

but as a sign of good faith. The paper reserves the right to shorten the Central Bank governor to fit Kaiser report signature and post office box number, not necessarily for publication radio a boon drew bus No 19C. The resident way of getting the donor commitments will give you as the

The recent presidential suggestion to shore up the Central Bank letters. Write to: The Editor, Daily Nation, PO Box 49010, Nairobi. When the Catholic

Church reason that some top KBS

tion to ban radio stations broadcast Bank so that the T-bill rates cut - managers own matijlUS ply-

decided to commemorate the killing

casting in vernacular brought to Je lowered to around 5 per cent Bias in WFP aid to the needy ing that route. N'Jmaolls

ing of Fr John Ant'IDYKaiser, it

the fore ~ language issue, namely 'fhi', way, the community complaints have done little to

did so "out of love and concern.

ly, our national language policy. .vm tinct it quite auradive to Ie life deviate several other buses

Fr Kaiser had devoted his

Unlike Tanzania, Kenya has ~t ~r"All 11 npr The World Food Programme has that go via Gikomba, taking ('"j(~ f'pnt

visit the affected schnob and ver- to the downtrodden and the

shown a consistent bias in its not made any significant attempt

ify the situation. too long. voiceless.

handling of Africa's famine dis- develop and promote a local

Unfortunately, the famine situ- to "Do we deserve this treat- Catholics are still asking

why language into a national one.

asters when compared with the ment when we have Meg-

ation might last longer than envis-

However, due to Kiswahili's

Fr Kaiser had to die. The assas-

way it treats European, Asian or ariders?" wails Wakesho.

aged and the WFP should be pre-

Revive stadium

sins, however, killed only the

wide use regionally, it assumes

American countries.  
"We. have to connect daily

pared to extend assistance. The  
body - not the soul

Although the method used this  
role of a national language.

reason for this is that if it is cur- the  
and risk being crushed by the  
It 'was, therefore,

disturbing  
Kiswhaili is aided by colonial  
This is a question to Mbeere peo-  
time in Kenya's famine-stricken  
many fast-moving vehicles

rently impossible for the families

history and international affairs,  
ple. Where is your once beautiful  
areas is better, it is still not good  
on Outer Ring Road."

that when the church asked for

coming sedcond only to English  
Mbugiru stadium?  
enough.

to buy a a tin of maize at Sh45,

justice, President Moi closed his

in Kenya.

how much harder will it be to buy  
ears but opened his eyes. He saw

Some time ago, before the  
The question is: Did the WFP  
Government gave us a district  
But local languages exist and

seeds at Sh 120?  
tribal ism in the statement.

The farmers have already pre-  
(Mbeere). We made full use of  
since officials sit down and decide that  
are dear to us. Their death might

It "hould be obvious that  
he National Bank risks

T

pared their shambas and the railis  
this stadium, We trained our  
four kilos of maize are enough to  
the long run be costly to the

the Government is the custodian  
in  
losing out on the next

have started. Challenge them with  
sportsmen there and used it to  
feed a family of five for a month?  
nation ..

of law and security, it should be

prepare for competitions with our  
This is what the starving people  
Although the President did not  
neighbouring divisions.

generation of clients, if this  
held respnsible for such crimes  
enough seeds and don't repeat the  
note from Steve Mmene,  
until it proves otherwise.

are getting. It has happened twice  
exactly ban the use of vernacular,

government's mistake of issuing  
aged nine, is anything to go

Why was ,Mbugiru stadium  
now, in late July and on Septem-  
his statement told volumes about  
forgotten in sports? Recently, I  
ber 29, at Ithanga location,  
what many of us think of such

When Bishop Cornelius Korir  
seeds when the rains are over.

by:  
was assigned the duty of reading  
Finally, thanks to the Catholic  
"My father opened an

was surprised to see sportsmen  
Kakuzi Division.  
tongues - primitive and of no  
using Siakago Primary School  
Why isn't the same done in  
national consequence. Yet they  
grounds while the district stadium  
Latin America, Kosovo or any  
are the vehicles through which  
lay neglected. Only cattle traders  
other disaster-hit country? Please  
our diversity in cultural heritage  
use it as a shed during market  
adjust your programme and dole  
and expression is promoted, pre-  
days.  
out relief food at least once a  
served and celebrated.

Could the district sports officer  
week. Add some beans and fat to  
I joined secondary school, he

Our national policy should rec-  
do something?  
Ndirang'u,  
tak- ognise that fact.

it. They make nutritious porridge.  
W. N. Nganya,

Nairobi  
and

A school-feeding programme  
Jonathan Mutie.

treating the famine victims as  
would be sending me a

is also needed, if not all year,  
Mwala.

then at least for the third and first sub-humans.  
birthday card every year.

TODAY IN HISTOIRY

terms. The WFP officials could  
I have been waited for four

Ithanga.

Effect colour

card! Is the money still in the  
Today is Friday, October 6, the  
rule for cars

It's a terrible time to be young  
die? If it is still there, can my  
280th day of 2000. There are 86

the church's report, nobody was  
Church and the lthanga parish for  
account for me with your  
intefl~sted in his tribal back-  
giving the people food. The  
bank in February, 1996.  
ground.

church gives at least 10kgs to  
He told me the money he  
All were concerned about the  
each person in need.

brought to you was put in a  
seriousness of the matter. Also,  
This should be a challenge to  
big pot and that it would

Bishop Korir is above tribalism;  
other churches: to deliver, redeem  
grow every year so that when  
he is learned and God-fearing.  
and do miracles to the dying spir-

J. N.  
its and bodies, as opposed to  
would use it to pay my

ing advantage of the situation  
school fees. He also told me

Siakago.

you

Steven M. Churu,

years but have received no

parade in Cairo.  
pot and growing or did it

o 1986 - The United States

Several years ago, the Government days left in the year. ment directed that all motor vehi-

The youth are the backbone of Highlights in history on this children's progress. since there are no cards?"

ate:  
any society. They are its social entered in their log books. The o 1918 - The French occupy fabric. An environment is, there- directive was even published in Beirut, Lebanon, in World War fore, needed conducive to pre- the Kenya Gazette.

Dr II. paring them for a responsible life. This was a good directive con- o 1951 Henry Gurney- sidering that carjacking w-s on Boyd, the Secretary of State for To achieve this, several groups nse and a single colour Colonies, says the British are in - specifically parents, elders, would h~lp in tracking down sto- Kenya to stay and nobody leaders and teachers - are len vehicles. But the policy should think otherwise. assigned the duty of moulding the appears to have been shelved. o 1954 - Church leaders in future generation. Many vehicles, especially mata-

Kenya assure Mr Lennox-Boyd The Government, too, has a big are multi-coloured-ome and t they will continue to reha- role. It should not cast shadows cha-ge their ~olours on a monthly hard.core Mau Mau the on the hopes of the youth, but baSIS, dependmg on the eccentric- rs. the should consider them a viable ities of the owner and the latest o 1955 - The Kenya colonial investment. For a start, it could music in town. Why is this so? Is government announces that remove the many burdens facing because many matatu owners

dad collect it and buy me a Defence Department says a disa- big IO-gorofa cake next year

bled Soviet nuclear submarine cles conform to the single colour

sank east of Bermuda. Rono K. Lazaruss,

o 1988 - Algerian President Nairobi.

CheCli Bendjedid announces a

Beware, says some Meme

state of emergency on the third \*\*\* people day of violent protests against infected with the HIV and austerity measures.

the know it are intentionally o 1992 - Serb troops capture These are terrible times to be spreading the virus to unsus- Bossanaji Brod, a strategically young and ambitious. On the one pecting youths. Shame on important Croatian-Muslim hand are the many economic them for using their high stronghold.

hardships, food crisis, sugar defi- positions in society, money o

1994 - A group of women cit, power rationing and wide- tus, and posh cars to spread HIV/ defends wife-beating during a spread famine facing the country. AIDS. They are all guilty of workshop organised by And on the other is the ongoing murder. He advises that National Commission on retrenchment.

before saying yes to a man Status of Women (NCSW) The latter is arguably the worst old enough to be your father organisation in Nakuru, saying of Kenya's problems. It is heart- it or grandfather or a woman

more than 230 Mau Mau fight-  
our children, such as poor educa-  
are police bosses?

ers were killed, 78 wounded and  
S.Kirimi, sister or mother, you should

tion, unemployment and health.

100 surrendered, while only  
Nairobi. know that you are most

These problems, if not tackled

eight security members, all Afri-  
likely getting more than you

early, will affect the Govern-

cans, were killed in September.  
QUotfOF THE DAY

ment's own economic,--social and  
o 1958 - Forty-five candi-  
"The decision to make pay-

political balance.

Kenya

dates are nominated for the 10  
ments to Goldenberg was the

The youth also need hope and

African representatives' seats to  
Government's. The Minister,

a share of the country's pride.

the Treasury ..• and the Civil  
be contested in Uganda's first

Many hope that the future will be

Leg;sJat;ve Councilj eJections,  
difficulties are now without a  
a cautious day, won't

o 1972 ~ A train carrying reli-  
one where merit and competence

you!

means of livelihood. How will we  
gious pilgrims derails and  
are the criteria fof ..career  
to the Treasury.

catches fire ne;t.r Saltille, Mexico,  
advancement. ..

\_ Write to Watchman,

sometimes they provoked their  
breaking. Those of us who are  
old enough to be your elder  
husbands into reacting violently.

jobless know how hard it is to  
o 1997 - The government

raise a family, feed, educate and  
refuses to register the Safina

clothe it, let alone cater for its  
party but allows. nine others,

bargained for. By the time

health and education.

bringing the totaf number of reg-  
you discover this fact, it will

The worst thing is that even  
istered political parties in

be too late.

those relatives and friends who  
to 21.

o 1998 - Lady Justice Joyce  
used to bail us out of financial

Aluoch proposes the establish-  
Service head were all aware." Have

ment of family courts to guard  
- Dr Wilfred Koinange, former  
against gender violence and  
survive? How will OUF children PS

expedite cases ranging from  
get proper education?

killing at least 208 people .  
It is clear that most issues  
THOUGHT FOR TODAY  
D 1976 - A. coup in Thailand  
affecting the youth will be solved  
"If you want work well done,  
results in a military takeover.  
only through pragmatic leader-  
select a busy man; the other  
o 1981 - Egyptian President  
ship. Role models are needed.  
kind has no time."  
Anwar Sadat is assassinated  
Let us all combine efforts to  
Elbert Huburd, America

child adoption to divorce.  
Will the Government ever be in  
. PO Box 49010, Nairobi.  
o 1999 - A motion calling for  
a position to fairly employ our  
Faxes: 214531, 213946.  
urgent measures to enhance the  
children, having laid off our par-  
E-mail: ...  
role of women in national devel-  
ents? We are very worried.  
nation@africaonUlll!! ..  
opment is passed.  
Pauline N. Kamau, -  
.. -."'" ~

Web site:

author (1856-1915).  
while reviewing a military  
remove the hurdles impeding our  
Page

<http://www.nationaudio.eorn>  
Compiled by William Karaoja  
Nvahururu.



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