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## FROM THE WEB

■ **Atwoli pleads with President Kenyatta to save Babu Owino; "...let not this young man be thrown out of Parliament while you are watching"**



■ **Frank Mshindi:** Leadership is not about name character matters. Let the court rule and Embakasi voters decide sir.

■ **Robert Nyakoe:** I am sure it's up to the courts and not Uhuru.

■ **James Mwadeghu:** Babu Owino should be very humbled at this gesture, it shows Mzee Atwoli sees something in you, so keep up the good work and calm the theatrics.

■ **Nick Adams:** He had the chance to prove to us that he can lead. Pride comes before a fall.

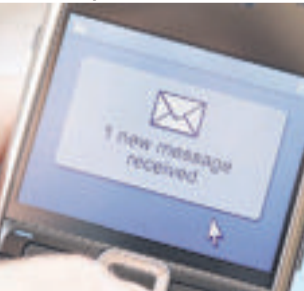
■ **David Jeremy:** Atwoli should advise Babu to apologise if he erred.

## SMS

■ **ODM leaders propose disbanding county assemblies**

■ **Brilliant Buzz:** Fact is, adding cogs to a wheel doesn't make a vehicle go faster. We need to evaluate the usefulness of our structures and cull wasteful units.

■ **Logan Gerolag:** We need a surgeon to cut off the fat and unnecessary layers in the devolved political structure.



■ **Alex Smith:** Thank you, ODM has thinkers.

■ **Mbugua Kamau:** The intellectual capability in the party is awesome. County assemblies should be abolished and replaced with regional governments whose representatives aren't the current crop of MCAs.

## Economy

## Mining companies should feel included in agenda

**President Uhuru Kenyatta recently announced his Big Four agenda, outlining his government's priorities for his second term and laying the foundation on which his legacy will be built.**

The four areas of focus are food security, affordable housing, manufacturing and health-care. At first glance, these priorities look very sector specific, potentially leading to stakeholders operating in other sectors feeling left out of the national development agenda. However, owing to their cross-cutting nature, the Big Four are also relevant to other sectors. For instance, it is difficult to have a conversation about universal healthcare without mentioning the insurance sector, or indeed agriculture without addressing the role of the banking sector in enabling sustainability. Another angle worth exploring is the role other more nascent sectors can play in enabling quick realisation of the Big Four agenda. Let us consider the mining sector. While it currently contributes just one per cent of the country's

GDP, its potential to spur growth across multiple sectors is invaluable for Kenya's growth agenda. A clear case in point is that of Kenya's largest mining operation, Base Titanium's Kwale Mine. The Kwale Mine was recently granted Vision 2030 flagship project status in recognition of the significant contribution it is making to the national economy and its transformative impact on the mining sector. The Kwale mine accounts for nearly 60 per cent of Kenya's total mineral output value. It is the largest source of exports by tonnage through the Port of Mombasa and the highest valued export to China. It offers a good example of how mining firms can align themselves with the Big Four agenda for inclusive growth. The mine consumes Sh3.7 billion worth of non-labour inputs annually, contributing significantly, not only to supply chain employment, but the economic output of the goods and services supply sector. More than 3,500 Kwale farmers are currently participating in Base



Titanium's agricultural programmes. These programmes are designed to enhance livelihood opportunities and many also act to address food and nutrition security. Crops being grown include cotton, potatoes, sorghum, cow peas, soy beans and green grams. A poultry and feed-stock programme is also being implemented. There is clearly potential for mining and many other industries across the economy to contribute to the Government's Big Four agenda. By working with stakeholders in these sectors and facilitating further investment, the Government can accelerate the accomplishment of its objectives while bringing about real and sustained economic development for all Kenyans. **John Ngumi, Nairobi**

## Letters.

## Culture of self discipline will deal with most issues

**Kenyans are quick to point fingers at the Government whenever a calamity occurs.**

I am not the Government spokesman, but I think sometimes we miss the point. To expect the Government to resolve all our issues is to stretch our imaginations too far. We forget that we are the Government. We cannot litter our streets and wait for the Government to come and clean and when the cleaning is slow or ineffective we are quick to complain. If we acted responsibly by not littering, the Government would spend its revenue improving our living standards. For instance, the money the county government will spend cleaning Nairobi River could have been spent constructing an additional nursery school or clinic. The money spent on road repairs as a result of bad use by motorists could be used to build a commuter rail line. You see, what we cheer as 'chap chap' drivers end up costing us dearly. Voting for leaders is not itself a justification to behave irresponsibly on grounds that they will sort out the mess you leave behind. The leaders do not owe you anything, instead, you owe them. You should abide by the laws. Remember leaders come and go, but our country remains. Blackmailing your leaders and the Government simply because you voted for them is self defeatist. We should all focus on leaving this country better than we found it by cultivating a culture of self discipline. **Ashford Gikunda**



## Ban on sugar imports good, but let's focus on production

**President Uhuru Kenyatta's speech read in Kakamega during the devolution conference restored hope in the survival of the sugar industry.**

Uhuru banned the importation of cheap sugar from Comesa, but with the current low cane production - partly due to the withdrawal of the Sugar Development Levy and late payments to farmers by millers - the latest move may lead to a sugar shortage. It is a pity that we have turned our attention to privatisation of sugar millers instead of cane production to explore ways to meeting market demands. Strategic investors will be keen to assess the state of millers' nucleus estates in addition to farmers' efforts in cane production. We have been receiving statistics from the Sugar Directorate on cane production, and they paint a grim picture of where the industry is headed. Production has not increased in recent history, and the Government, if President Kenyatta's speech is anything to go by, has recognised the role county governments from sugar belt should play to revive the ailing sector. **David Okello, Muhoroni**

## TALK OF THE DAY



## Raila Odinga calls an end to products boycott

**Who is stupid now? Why follow a politician to the extent of laying down your life because of him/her? I hope many have learnt one or two things from that. Alex Smith**

Did the boycott work? Raila lives in denial, his political calculations are only found in 'dream Canaan'. Old man hang your boots and look for your political successor, period. **Trevis Muriithi**

**The boycott was there in theory, practically, people continued to do business as usual. John Gitau**

If we were to be honest with Raila, we would tell him that there was no boycott at the grassroots. **John Peter Onyango**

**The resist plane never even took off in the first place. Otieno Ferdinand**

The financial figures for last year's final quarter and this year's first quarter can tell us whether the mentioned companies felt the effect of the boycott. I think there was a boycott only in theory. **Keter Kenneth**

**Whatever political future Raila is plotting for himself for sure does not involve Kalonzo and Wetang'ula, both of whom skipped Labour Day celebrations. Mudavadi is trying to get into the thick of things. But let's be honest, there was never a boycott in the first place. Abdul Muhammad**

*Which world do our leaders live in anyway? We forgot about any boycott because when I get home, we do what our families expect of us, provide. Mogaka Nyang'au*