

TODAY IN HISTORY



May 17, 1986: President Daniel arap Moi commissions the first of Kenya's A310-300 Airbus, christened 'Nyayo Star'. The sleek, 195-seater, wide body luxury aircraft touched down at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport from Toulouse, France, via London at 7.05am carrying government officials led by Kenya Airways staff and top officials from the aircraft manufacturer Airbus. The team was led by the Minister for Transport and Communications Arthur Kinyanjui Magugu (pictured). President Moi said the arrival of the aeroplane marked a turning point in the country's aviation history. "Kenya Airways will from now on, be able to operate one of the latest models in the new generation of wide-bodied aircraft," he said. COMPILED BY ANNIEL NJOKA

ays for helping Man

brate Kenya's National Donkey Day in Kisumu, Kajjado, Nakuru, Ki... Activities of the day in... information on donkey wel... and husbandry to owners and u... symbol and need to be cherished... mistreat these animals by ne... g, forcing them to haul heavy... and trafficking in drugs using... owners played their part in pro... care of the beasts of burden since... are the only means of transport...

out 'prophetic seeds'

d pastors of the New Testament (Pe... (D) forget the widespread teachings... raise or destroy altars or to break... How could Apostle Peter miss... -mining opportunity through sel... kerchets ('rmanies')? How could the... ven the later church Fathers (Apostle... Rome, Ignatius of Antioch and Poly... fail to emphasize the now-important... hetic Seed carried around by every... g and by the cunning 'men of God' in... cheming" (Ephesians 4:14).

all the media graduates

in Kenya face a lot of challenges in ex... uties, especially the upcoming journal... resorted to venturing into different ac... han their career paths. Upcoming jour... elancers have a rough time trying to... ation for their small media channels... identity. On the other hand, the Media... ya (MCK) is constitutionally mandati... the conduct of media houses and disci... alists. Being recognised by MCK is moti... as one a sense of belonging and con... credit jobless media graduates too.

rb postpartum depression

an suffer postpartum depression (PPD)... first year after giving birth. Also called... pression, it is a complex mix of physi... al and behavioural changes. It's triggered... of hormonal levels, particularly a drop... n and progesterone, motherhood stress... nger the more vulnerable), marital con... nter the pregnancy or delivery, limited social sup... y history of mood disorders and history of... a prior to the pregnancy. It triggers suicid... s and lowers self-esteem and confidence... ts include trouble sleeping, change in... severe fatigue, low libido and mood swings... ould speak up to avert stigma and create... ss. They should be screened during pregnan... necessary, counselled and given treatment... should set up funds to promote maternal... ealth through education and advocacy.

hugu, Kakamega

LETTER OF THE DAY
Kenyans must stop being lazy and work

The main reason why commodi... ty prices are high in Kenya is sim... ply our own laziness. It's common sense that all our... petroleum products have been... imported since independence. But due to laziness, we have... slowly added ordinary foodstuffs... such as maize, beans, eggs and... vegetables like onions, tomatoes... and fruits to the import basket, yet these are things we can com... fortably produce. For years, Kenyan maize farm... ers have grappled with an un... stable market for their produce yet successive governments had... even forgotten about national... grain reserves, which even now... are empty. The main purpose of the maize... and wheat reserves was to miti... gate against hunger and also sta... bilise grain prices nationally un... til the next local grain harvest... season. And so, last year, when ferti... liser prices shot up beyond the af... fordability of local farmers, with... the 'I-don't-care' attitude of the... then-government, acreage for... maize growing automatically re... duced. This, then, is the main reason... why we have high maize and... wheat prices: We have a situation... whereby a lot of money is chas... ing very little flour. The cheapest... maize meal at the moment goes... for Sh170 per 2kg packet. Beans are selling at Sh200 per... kilogramme. Eggs are retailing at... Sh15 apiece. The skyrocketing prices are al... so to be found in horticultural... products. Therefore, instead of donning... cooking pans on their heads, Ken... yans must embark on producing... foodstuffs and food products to... generate income locally. How demonstrations can re... duce food prices is not even logi... cal. In fact, those people demon... strating are directly denying... farmers extra labour force that's... needed to plant food crops on... more acreage and even have ex... cess produce, which will reduce... commodity prices. How on earth do Kenyans ex... pect Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia... and Kakamega counties to be the... only producers of maize? Nyan... za, Coast, Bungoma and South... Rift regions can produce enough... maize and export the surplus. Poultry farmers seem to have... given up. For months on end, egg... prices have remained high on... the market yet local producers... are yet to take advantage of the... situation and keep more birds. The dollar is exchanging at a... high rate because the value of... our exports is very low com... pared to the shilling. It's ironic and shameful that... Eugene Warnalwa, who once... headed the Ministry of Devolu... tion and was in charge of the in... famous Galana Kilalu maize irri... gation scheme that collapsed un... der his watch, is the one putting... sufuria on his head during dem... os demanding affordable maize... meal. Can he first tell Kenyans... why the scheme failed? To beat hunger and be food-se... cure, Kenyans must get back to... their farms and produce food in... abundance and stop participat... ing in these useless demonstra... tions. Robert Musanali, Nairobi



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