

Analysts speculate that Uganda is seeking better trade deals and wants to be in Trump's good books.

US-Uganda

Uganda is the latest of several countries to strike a deportation deal with the United States :



What will Uganda gain from accepting US deportees?

By: Shola Lawal

Uganda is the latest of several countries to strike a deportation deal with the United States as President Donald Trump ramps up controversial efforts to remove migrants from the country. In a statement on Thursday, Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Kampala had agreed for Washington to send over third-country nationals who face deportation from the US, but are unwilling to return to their home countries. The ministry said that the agreement was made under certain conditions.



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni gestures as he speaks to the media at a joint briefing with Kenyan President William Ruto (unseen) at the State House during his two-day state visit in Nairobi on May 16, 2024 [Simon Maina/AFP]

Contd Page 10

Unlocking the Opportunities of Kenya's Boda Boda Economy

Technology holds the key to professionalising Economy



Page 12

Dozens more UK Afghan data breaches uncovered

Mammoth data breach UK



Page 16

Former Thai PM Thaksin acquitted in royal insult case

Bangkok court Asia



Page 18

Kenya's Nuclear Revolution

Igniting Energy Security, Healthcare Transformation, and Scientific Excellence for a Sustainable Tomorrow

Kenya



Page 20

Only by Taking History as a Mirror P 4

Motivation Page 8

Radio queen Cess Mutungi tapped to host NBO reunion

News Backpage

Fierce war of words keeps Thailand and Cambodia on edge



"The Diaspora Times Global"

Breaking Barriers: Young Women Leaders Transform Uzbekistan Through Revolutionary "EmpowerHer" Forum

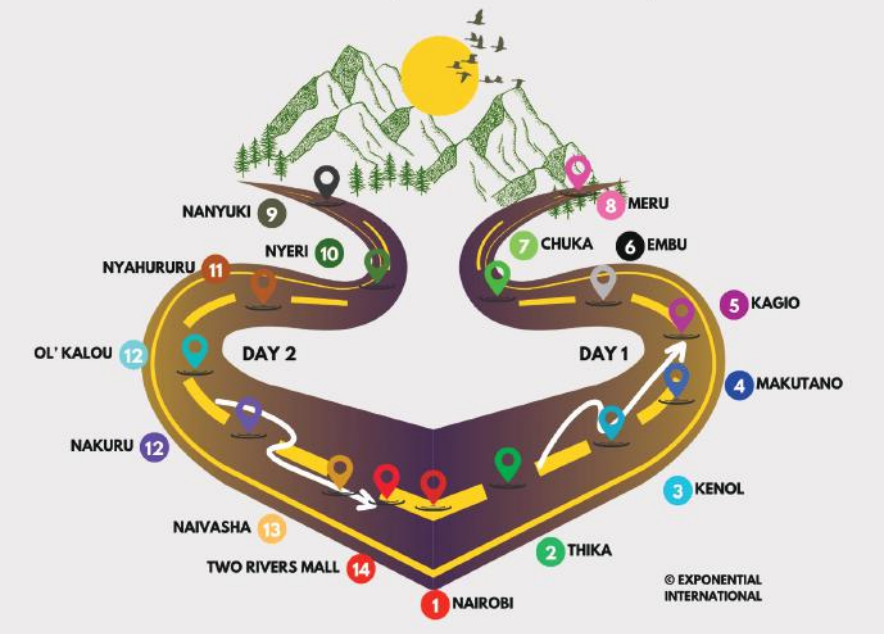
In a groundbreaking initiative that connected 150 young women across Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan, the "EmpowerHer: Republican Women Leaders Forum" has emerged as a catalyst for unprecedented change in female leadership development. This three-day online forum, spearheaded by the "Community Changers" club, addresses a critical gap that has long hindered the region's progress: limited access to leadership development opportunities for young women.

Tackling the Root of Gender Inequality

The project directly confronts three fundamental challenges plaguing young women in Central Asia. Geographic isolation prevents talented women from connecting with peers and successful role models across different provinces, creating isolated pockets of untapped potential. A systematic information gap about international scholarships, prestigious university programs, and global opportunities further exacerbates the situation.

Contd Page 14

NAIROBI - MT KENYA CIRCUIT ROADSHOW ROADMAP (17-18 SEPT 2025)



© EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL

SCAN TO REGISTER



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW

Gala Dinner

WHERE: TWO RIVERS MALL - NAIROBI

WHEN: 17-21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 712 642 274

+254 713 318 438 / +254 721 461 431

conference@exponentialinternational.com

exponentialinternational.com

It's time to awaken the sleeping East African giant on trade

By: Tobias Alando
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The dream matters because there is power in size and solidarity. The EAC is the largest single market for its members. For manufacturers, it promises larger demand, greater competitiveness, shared stability and collective bargaining power globally.
- Yet we have fallen far short of that potential. Intra-EAC trade stands at about 14%. Set against the European Union—where internal trade flows reach roughly 69%—the gap is impossible to ignore. Instead of a seamless market living up to the promise of One People, One Destiny, we have a patchwork of competing silos, where non-tariff barriers and protectionist policies chip away at shared prosperity.

One November afternoon in 1999, three presidents—Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania, and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda—met in Arusha to sign the Treaty establishing the East African Community (EAC), reviving a partnership that had collapsed in 1977 amid mistrust and economic rivalry. When it came into force on 7 July 2000, under the bold motto One People, One Destiny, it signalled a renewed era of regional co-operation, promising freer movement of goods, services and opportunities across borders—a second chance that business owners, traders and citizens hoped would finally turn proximity into prosperity. The symbolism was powerful in both big and small ways. A Nairobi manufacturer should trade with a partner in Dar es Salaam as easily as with one in Machakos. A farmer in Dodoma should sell to Kampala without feeling they were crossing into a foreign market. And then there was the sky-blue EAC passport—issued alongside, not in place of, national passports—embossed in gold with the holder's country beneath. It promised visa-free travel across partner states, easier business trips, and stays of up to 90 days without extra paperwork. The region, it seemed, was finally walking the talk. Regional integration follows deliberate, ambitious steps: from preferential trade area to free trade area, customs union, common market, monetary union, and ultimately political federation. The EAC has come further than most African blocs. Today, on paper, we are a common market. In reality, that seamless trade remains elusive. The dream matters because there is power in size and solidarity. The EAC is the largest single market for its

members. For manufacturers, it promises larger demand, greater competitiveness, shared stability and collective bargaining power globally. Yet we have fallen far short of that potential. Intra-EAC trade stands at about 14%. Set against the European Union—where internal trade flows reach roughly 69%—the gap is impossible to ignore. Instead of a seamless market living up to the promise of One People, One Destiny, we have a patchwork of competing silos, where non-tariff barriers and protectionist policies chip away at shared prosperity. This is especially troubling in today's volatile global trade environment. From shifting geopolitical alliances to rising tariffs and supply-chain disruptions, the message is clear: we must diversify our markets to sustain growth. Strengthening sourcing within the EAC offers a strategic shield against unpredictable global shifts, building resilience and stability for our industries. According to the EAC Secretariat, partner states have lost about 30% of potential trade to these barriers. Put simply, third-party countries benefit more than EAC members, enjoying over 60% of regional trade once petroleum imports are excluded. Consider, in this context, recent measures by the United Republic of Tanzania. Through the 2025/2026 Finance Act and amendments to the Excise (Management and Tariff) Act Cap 147, the Import Control Act Cap 276, and the Exports Tax Act Cap 196, Tanzania introduced restrictions affecting roughly 80 products across steel, dairy, meat, sausages, food, automotive and hygiene sectors. Applied to goods originating from EAC countries, including Kenya, these mea-



Tobias Alando is the Chief Executive of Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

asures touch products that account for approximately 26% of Kenya's transfers to Tanzania. This is not an isolated incident. In the past, several EAC states—including Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda—have taken protectionist steps that shut out fellow partners. Tanzania's latest actions echo these moves: unilateral measures without regional consensus that deepen fragmentation and undermine the very purpose of our common market. Imagine the impact on a steel manufacturer who has spent years building a customer base in Dar es Salaam, only to find their products suddenly more expensive at the border than steel imported from Asia. Or a Tanzanian dairy processor that depends on Kenyan-made packaging machinery but now faces delays and higher costs due to retaliatory measures. Such barriers frustrate businesses, raise consumer costs, limit choice and stifle job creation. While protectionist policies may offer short-term relief to local industries, they ultimately erode trust, invite retaliation and weaken the region's global competitiveness. They also run counter to the spirit and letter of our agreements. Article 75(6) of the EAC Treaty and Article 15 of the EAC Common Market Protocol commit partner states to refrain from laws or administrative measures that directly or indirectly discriminate against like products from other partner states. The WTO's National Treatment principle says the same: once a product has entered your market, it should be treated no differently from a domestically produced good. The EAC has the institutional tools to fix this. The Summit of Heads of State—our highest decision-making body—can set the tone for compliance. Ministerial and technical meetings can iron out specific disputes. But this requires political will: partner states must give EAC law primacy over national law in matters of regional trade. Reported non-tariff and technical barriers should be resolved within clear, time-bound frameworks. And we must embrace a genuinely regional definition of "domestic": products made within the East African Community should count as local across the bloc. With new members such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, the EAC now spans over 300 million people and boasts a combined GDP of roughly US\$313 billion—a vast economic force if we choose to harness it. Sometimes the reminder of what is possible comes from unexpected places. Last week at Kasarani Stadium during the African Nations Championship (CHAN), as Kenya triumphed over Angola, thousands of Kenyan fans sang along to Bongo Flava—a vibrant Tanzanian sound that fuses hip-hop, R&B and traditional rhythms. In that moment, the music transcended borders and belonged to all of us. That is the East Africa we should build: a community sharing markets as freely as melodies, where trust flows like music in a stadium and opportunity is not blocked by artificial borders.

The writer is the Chief Executive of Kenya Association of Manufacturers and can be reached at ceo@kam.co.ke.

Reach Editorial Team on:
diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Diaspora Times Global

Editor's Desk

Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson
Shashi Court, Ring Rd, Westlands
P.O Box 101 675-00101 Nairobi,
Kenya.
Tel/WhatsApp: +254720 918 828
Email: dan@mtkenyatimes.co.ke
Adverts: ads@moutkenyatimes.co.ke

Associate Publisher & Senior Editor UK & G. Britain
Shamlal Puri, London
E: media@adlinkinternational.com
(advertising inquiries only)
shamlalpur14@gmail.com
(editorial)
Phone 0044 330 606 1438.
WhatsApp 00447432220184

Senior Editor Botswana & S. Africa
Paula.O.M Otukile
Africa Plot 15215, Tshikinyega, Mahalapye, Botswana
P.O Box 20392 Mahalapye, Botswana
Tel/WhatsApp: +267 77 458 029
Email: paula200500293@gmail.com

Senior Editor India & Asia
Sakshi Agrawal
10, Balughat Main Road, Near Shubham Poultry Farm, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India. Pin Code: 842001
Tel/WhatsApp: +91 74882 30902
Email: agrawalsakshi684@gmail.com

Senior Editor India & Asia
Nilanjana sarkar
Red Carpet Vogue
Tel/WhatsApp: +91 95936 49888
Email: thequidditchink@gmail.com

MT KENYA BUSINESS

CONFERENCE CIRCUIT



NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE, 10TH ANNIVERSARY ROADSHOW

Gala Dinner

Nairobi Edition

Exhibit | Dine | Engage | Directory

Roadshow

17-18

SEPTEMBER
2025



**Nairobi
Mt. Kenya
Central Rift**



8.00 AM - 5.00 PM

Exhibition

19-21

SEPTEMBER
2025



**Two Rivers
Mall
Nairobi**



8.00 AM - 5.00 PM

Gala Diner

21

SEPTEMBER
2025



**Muthaiga
Golf Club**



7.00 PM - 10.00 PM

Contact Us:



+254 720 918 828 / +254 712 642 274
+254 713 318 438 / +254 721 461 431
+44 7432 220184 - UK / Europe
+27 82 702 5203 - South Africa
+264 81 260 3654 - Namibia
+267 77 458 029 - Botswana



exponentialinternational.com



conference@exponentialinternational.com

Register Now

<https://t.ly/U30xm>

**Scan Here
to Register**



Exhibition



Dinner



Roadshow



Directory



Close Deals

**Don't miss this opportunity; 'Where Great
Business Minds Connect and Grow'**

Sponsorship package:

Names shall appear in our Daily ePaper, Websites, Event Main banner, Panel Discussions & Keynote Speech, Adverts on local radio and TV stations

Platinum:
KES 2M

Gold:
KES 1M

Silver:
KES 500K

Bronze:
KES 250K

Brass:
KES 100K



Gala Dinner Charges:

KES 10,000/-
Per Person

VIP: KES 13,000/-
Per Person

VVIP: KES 15,000/-
Per Person

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

FacebookK: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Intagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

China's War of Resistance

Only by Taking History as a Mirror Can We Avoid Repeating Tragedies

By: ZHAO QIAN
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression was the main battlefield in the East. Beginning with the September 18th Incident in 1931, the Chinese people waged a 14-year-long struggle for survival.
- More than 35 million soldiers and civilians were killed or injured, while economic losses reached staggering levels. At the height of the conflict, the Chinese front tied down the majority of Japanese forces, buying precious time for other anti-fascist campaigns. Chinese troops also fought alongside the Allies in Myanmar and contributed to the opening of the Ledo Road, linking China and India.

Recently, China Media Group Africa hosted a commemorative event, "Echoes of Peace", at the National Museum of Kenya. The programme featured screenings of historical documentaries—including The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru—alongside a photo exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.

The film documents a little-known chapter of World War II. In October 1942, the Japanese cargo ship Lisbon Maru—secretly transporting more than 1,800 British prisoners of war from Hong Kong to Japan—was torpedoed off the coast of China's Zhejiang Province. As the vessel sank, local Chinese fishermen risked their lives to rescue over 300 prisoners, braving gunfire from the Japanese army. Their bravery embodied the universal spirit of compassion amid the cruelty of war. Through rare archival footage and survivor testimonies, the film tells a story of solidarity that transcended national and enemy lines.

The screening served as a powerful reminder of shared histories. Both China and Africa endured immense suffering under fascist aggression, and this shared memory is especially poignant as the world commemorates the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. China's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression was the main battlefield in



the East. Beginning with the September 18th Incident in 1931, the Chinese people waged a 14-year-long struggle for survival. More than 35 million soldiers and civilians were killed or injured, while economic losses reached staggering levels. At the height of the conflict, the Chinese front tied down the majority of Japanese forces, buying precious time for other anti-fascist campaigns. Chinese troops also fought alongside the Allies in Myanmar and contributed to the opening of the Ledo Road, linking China and India. On the African continent, resistance was no less fierce. When Italian fascists invaded Ethiopia, the Ethiopian people—armed with little

more than bows and arrows—mounted a heroic defence. Even after the fall of the capital, guerrilla warfare continued until the occupiers were expelled, making Ethiopia the first African nation to reclaim independence through its own efforts during World War II. In North Africa, African soldiers fought in Commonwealth ranks against German forces, while civilians in Morocco, Tunisia, and elsewhere organised guerrilla units that disrupted enemy supply lines and laid the groundwork for Allied victory at El Alamein. Though separated by oceans, China and Africa shared the same struggle: weak nations facing formidable enemies, yet prevailing through resili-

ence and unity. Eighty years on, the screening of The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru in Nairobi has brought this history to life once more. It reminds us that peace is never guaranteed; it must be safeguarded by every generation. Today, the world still faces threats of hegemonism and unilateralism, making the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind more vital than ever. China continues to draw lessons from history, actively supporting UN peacekeeping operations, advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, and promoting peace and development through concrete action. Kenya, too, knows the scars of colonialism and the tri-

umph of self-determination. Today, its partnership with China spans infrastructure, health, cultural exchange, and skills development—modern embodiments of the wartime spirit of unity and cooperation. As we look to the future, let us take history as a mirror. Let us inherit the courage, solidarity, and commitment to justice forged in the anti-fascist struggle. And let us move forward together in safeguarding peace and fostering development—so that justice and conscience may forever illuminate humanity's path.

Zhao Qian
China Media Group (CMG)

The Diaspora Times Global

To advertise in Diaspora Times Global, read by the diaspora worldwide contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives.
Special introductory incentives available to new advertisers



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

Digital **MARKETING** **EXPERTS.**

Grow your business
with us

SKYVIEW
Smart Solutions



OUR SERVICES:

- Digital Marketing
- SEO Campaign Strategies
- Web Design & Development
- Brand Build Business Strategies



Call us on

+91 811 576 6421 +966 53 879 2285



Visit our website

www.skyviewads.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Predictable Progress: What Kenya Can Learn from China's Economic Mastery

By Stephen Ndegwa
xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

In an age of policy whiplash and headline-driven markets, China's economic story under President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China is a masterclass in steady, strategic statecraft. Over the past decade, Beijing has fused long-range planning, massive public investment, and tolerance for experimentation to engineer transformation at scale—lifting hundreds of millions from poverty while building industries and infrastructure that anchor a modern, consumption-driven economy.

For Kenya, still wrestling with turning Vision 2030 into lived reality across counties, China's playbook offers practical, transferrable lessons. First is predictability. China's annual growth rates over the last decade reflect both shocks and resilience, underpinned by five-year plans, industrial roadmaps, and state-directed finance that give investors, local governments, and firms a common script. Growth that is steady and deliberate is no accident—it is designed.

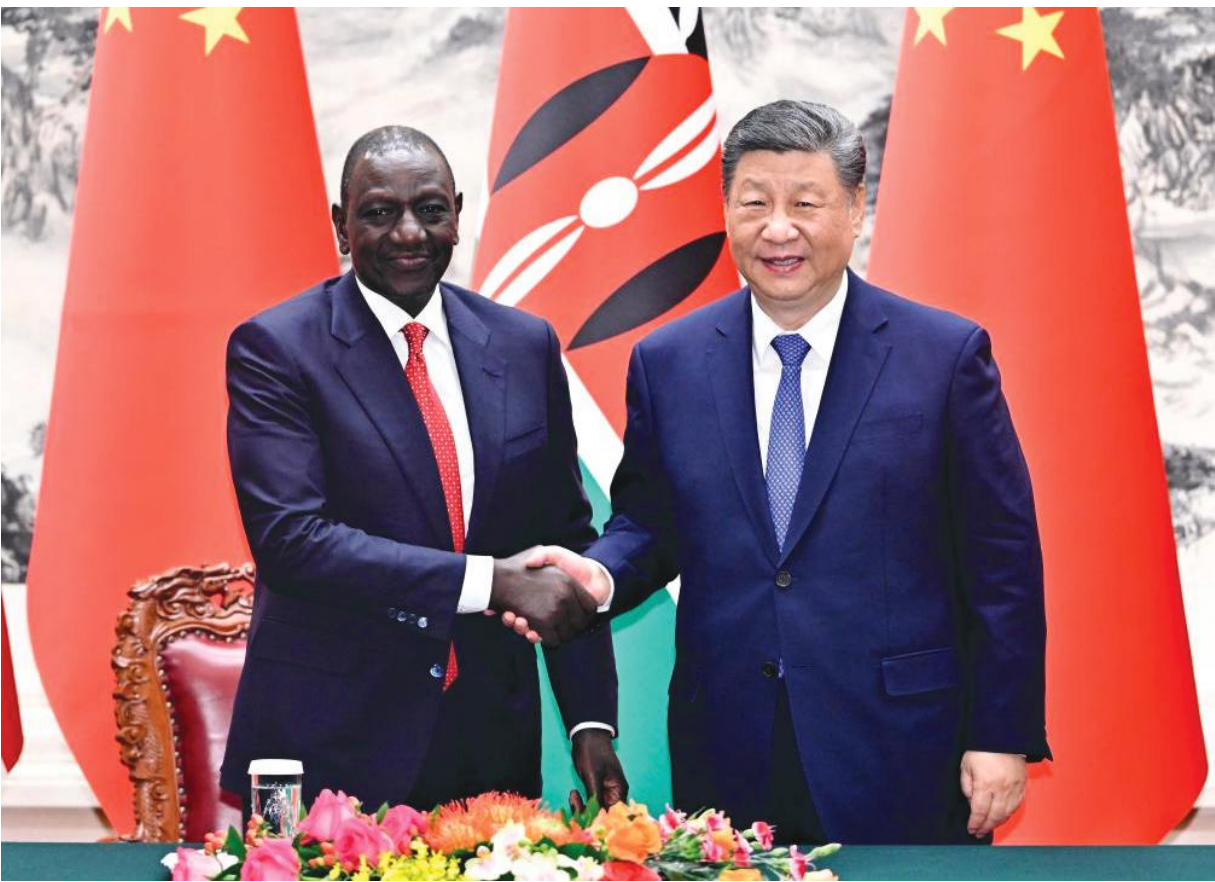
Second, China invests where transformation happens. In green industries alone, the country poured over

USD 625 billion into clean energy in 2024, according to the International Energy Agency. That kind of scale has reshaped global supply chains, created clusters of jobs and suppliers, and produced exportable technologies. Kenya, with its solar and wind resources, can emulate this by aligning industrial policy, finance, and skills training.

Third, infrastructure in China is more than transport—it is industrial policy. High-speed rail, ports, and digital corridors have shrunk distances and connected regional economies into functioning market systems. The result is scale: firms can tap into labour, suppliers, and consumers with efficiency. Kenya's own flagship projects must move in this direction, prioritising catalytic infrastructure that unlocks enterprise clusters rather than prestige alone.

Fourth, China's anti-poverty drive shows how inclusion can fuel growth. The World Bank credits targeted rural development, transfers, and job creation with driving down poverty in ways that expanded domestic demand and stabilised communities. Poverty reduction was not a by-product—it was strategy. Kenya can achieve the same by embedding inclusion into Vision 2030 through skills training, micro-finance, housing, and rural investments.

By contrast, the United States illustrates the hazards of policy volatil-



Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Kenyan President William Ruto at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, April 24, 2025

ity. Election-driven swings in fiscal, trade, and regulatory policy complicate long-term planning for firms and governments. Kenya must avoid this stop-start trap by treating Vision 2030 as more than paperwork. Multi-year budgets, accountable

county coordination, and pilot projects that scale only after proven success are the hallmarks of a discipline Kenya can adopt. China's record is not merely one of scale but of consistency, finance, and public-private coordination. For Kenya, the lesson is simple: ambi-

tion matters, but discipline matters more. Predictable policy, catalytic investment, and inclusive growth can turn Vision 2030 from aspiration into Kenya's next chapter of transformation.

Kenya

Kenya Issues Over 500,000 Passports as Service Delivery Reforms Gain Pace

By: Bruhan Makong
xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

The government has announced major progress in the issuance of travel documents, disclosing that 514,152 passports have been issued over the past three years.

According to the State Department for Immigration and Citizen Services, reforms have also cut the backlog of uncollected passports from 90,000 to 56,000 in just three months, underscoring ongoing efforts to streamline service delivery.

The update was delivered after the 12th meeting of the Governance and Public Administration (GPA) Subcommittee of the National Development Implementation Committee (NDIC) held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

The session was chaired by Internal Security and National Administration Principal Secretary Raymond Omollo and co-chaired by Parliamentary Affairs PS Aurelia Rono. "As the Kenya Kwanza administra-

tion approaches its third year in office, efforts are being intensified to accelerate the implementation of key government priorities and reforms in governance and public administration," NDIC said in a statement.

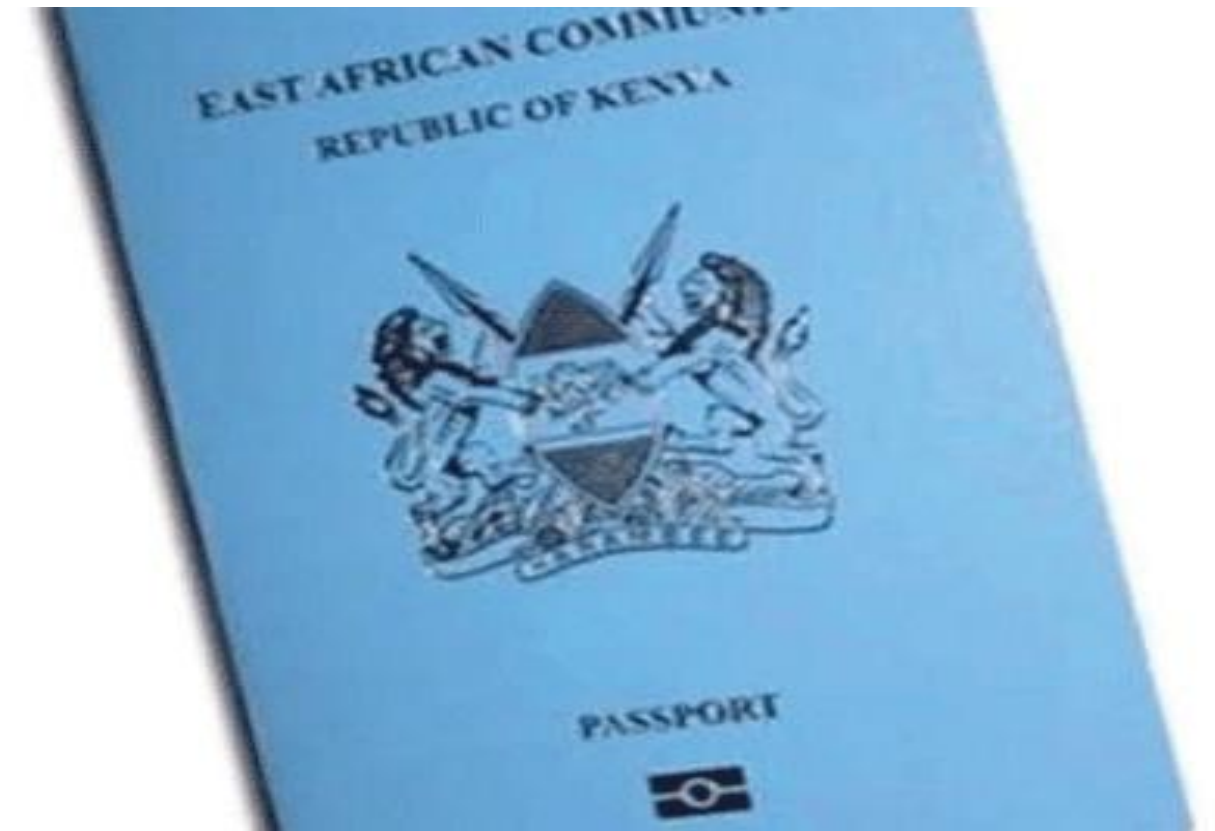
Omollo described the meeting as an opportunity for self-assessment and reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to efficient service delivery.

Digital identity rollout

The State Department also reported significant progress in the rollout of the Unique Personal Identifier (Maisha Number), with more than 90,000 numbers issued across Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos, and Kajiado counties.

The Maisha Number is intended to serve as a lifelong digital identity by integrating multiple personal identifiers—including birth certificates, national ID, KRA PIN, and Social Health Authority number—into a single record.

At the same time, more than 22,000 government services have been digitized and placed on the e-Citizen platform, while 48 agencies have



been connected to the Maisha Integrated Database.

The GPA Subcommittee stressed that the reforms are part of the wid-

er government agenda to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency across public service. It further noted that digitization will

continue to ease access to essential services for Kenyans both at home and abroad.

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



[www. gotyou.co.ke](http://www.gotyou.co.ke)

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

FacebookK: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Motivation

Radio queen Cess Mutungi tapped to host The Mommy Club NBO reunion

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- A veteran of the airwaves, Cess was the powerhouse behind Classic 105's Drive Show and Capital FM's Jam 98.4, which she co-hosted and produced, cementing her as one of Kenya's most iconic radio presenters. Known for her infectious laughter, signature husky voice, and a larger-than-life persona, Cess has built a reputation for being unapologetic and never shying away from the tough conversations – qualities that made her the perfect choice to helm the reunion. She will be tasked with navigating the season's lingering feuds, unanswered questions, and explosive moments, sitting down with the cast to unpack all the drama.
- “I have always believed in women speaking their truth – loudly. We will be tackling everything everyone is thinking but is too afraid to ask. My role will be to hold everyone accountable and get the answers the Mommy Club fans have been waiting for. Rest assured, no stone will be left unturned,” Cess said.



Veteran radio presenter and media personality Cess Mutungi is set to host the two-part reunion of The Mommy Club NBO, streaming on 29 August and 5 September 2025. The Mommy Club NBO just dropped its finale, concluding an 11-week run that has seen the show top streaming charts week after week and dominate online conversations. The reunion will see Cess have a sit down with the five moms – Jackie Matubia, Ofentse Tsipa, Lynne Njihia, Pierra Makena and Carey Priscilla - as they rehash the drama from the season.

A veteran of the airwaves, Cess was the powerhouse behind Classic 105's Drive Show and Capital FM's Jam 98.4, which she co-hosted and produced, cementing her as one of Kenya's most iconic radio presenters. Known for her infectious laughter, signature husky voice, and a larger-than-life persona, Cess has built a reputation for being unapologetic and never shying away from the tough conversations – qualities that made her the perfect choice to helm the reunion. She will be tasked with navigating the season's lingering feuds, unanswered questions, and

explosive moments, sitting down with the cast to unpack all the drama. “I have always believed in women speaking their truth – loudly. We will be tackling everything everyone is thinking but is too afraid to ask. My role will be to hold everyone accountable and get the answers the Mommy Club fans have been waiting for. Rest assured, no stone will be left unturned,” Cess said. Eugene Mbugua, executive producer at D&R Studios, affirmed Mutungi's hosting duties, saying: “Having Cess Mutungi host the reunion is the perfect full-circle mo-

ment. She is bold, dynamic, and unapologetically real – exactly what The Mommy Club NBO stands for. Viewers should prepare for a reunion that is every bit as compelling as the season itself.” The Mommy Club NBO is the fifth instalment of the record-breaking Mommy Club franchise following successful editions in South Africa and Tanzania. Produced by D&R Studios, the team behind The Real Housewives of Nairobi, the show follows the lives of five affluent Kenyan mothers as they navigate the unique blend of parenting, ambi-

tion, and glamour in Nairobi. The Mommy Club NBO also made its TV debut on Maisha Magic Plus last Saturday, bringing all the glitz, realness, and mama-drama to even more Kenyan households across the region. Ahead of the reunion, binge all the 11 episodes of The Mommy Club NBO, exclusively on Showmax.

DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?

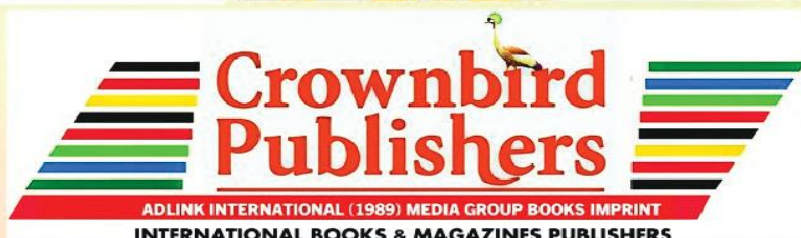
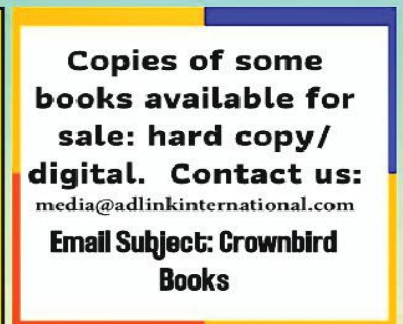
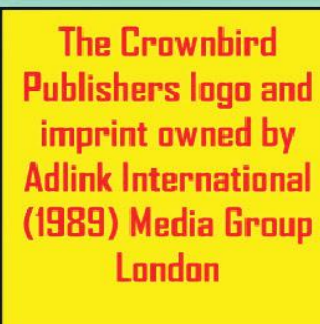
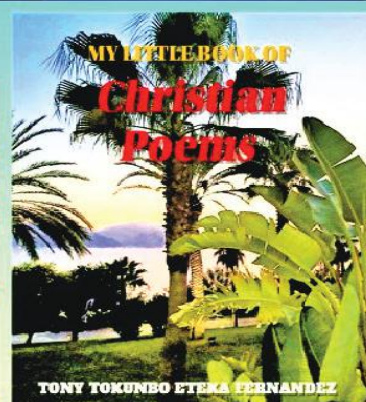
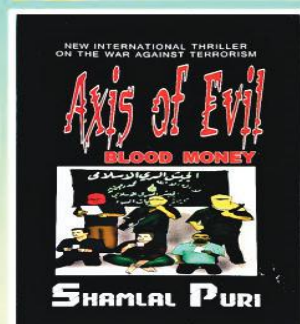
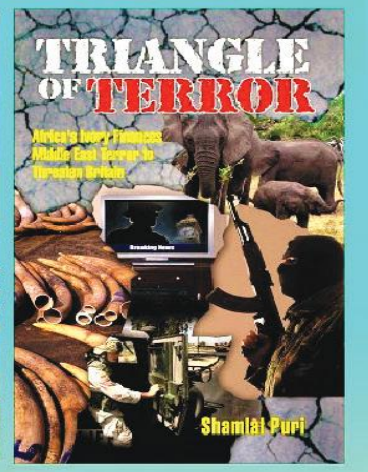
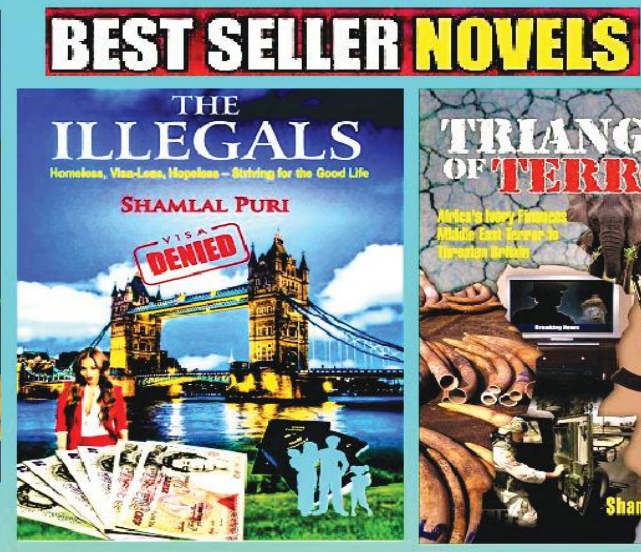
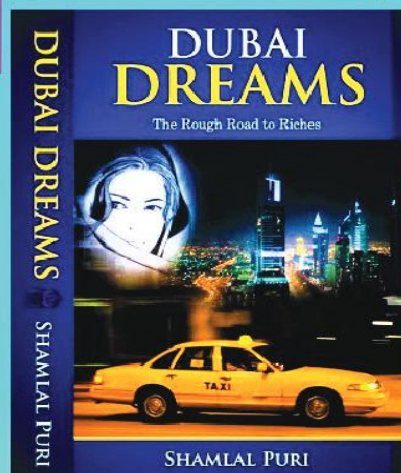
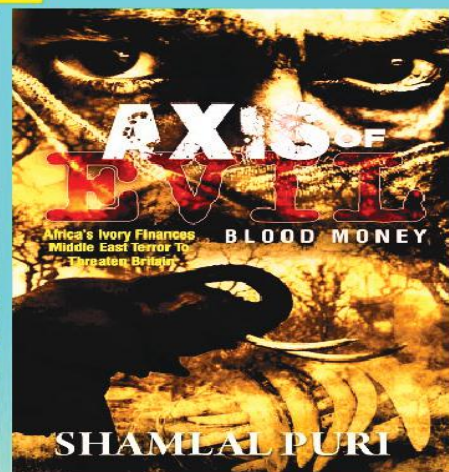
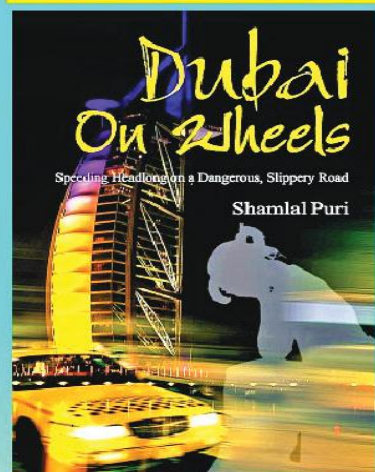
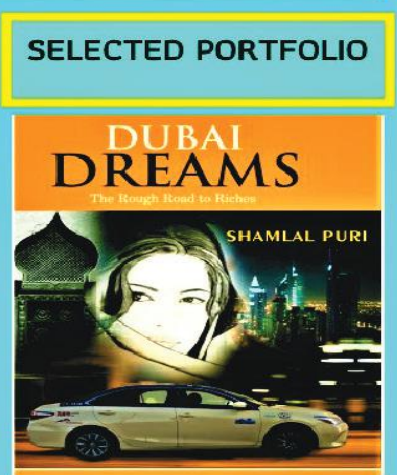
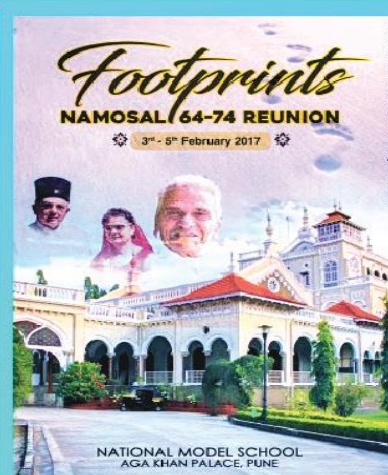
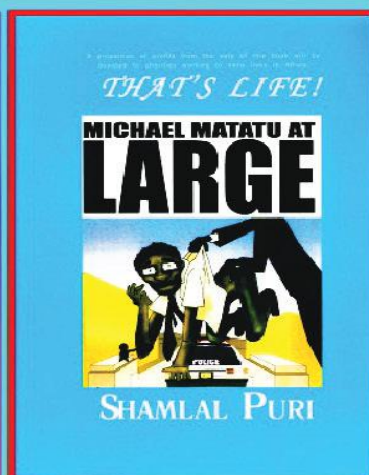
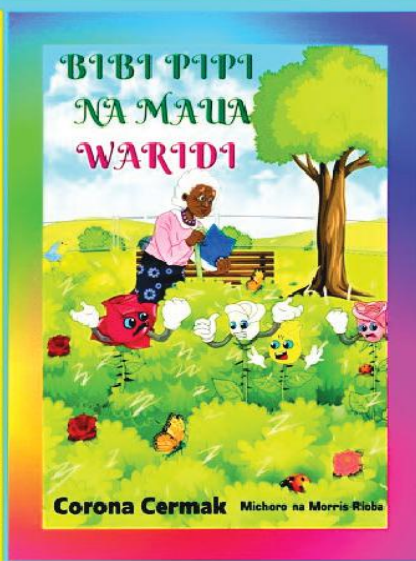
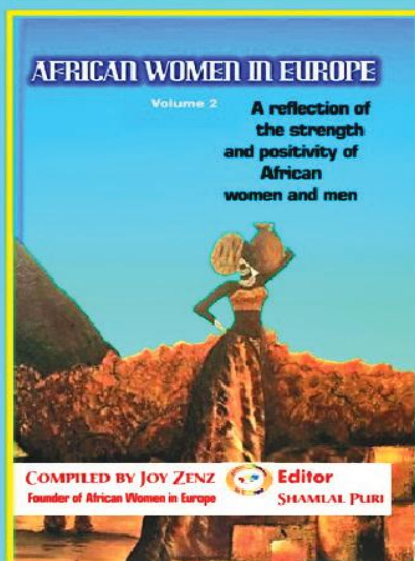
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FICTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs.

We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

FacebookK: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

African News

What will Uganda gain from accepting US deportees?

By:Shola Lawal
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- In a statement on Thursday, Uganda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Kampala had agreed for Washington to send over third-country nationals who face deportation from the US, but are unwilling to return to their home countries. The ministry said that the agreement was made under certain conditions.
- Rights groups and law experts have condemned Trump’s controversial plans to deport millions of undocumented migrants. Those already deported include convicted criminals and “uniquely barbaric monsters,” according to the White House.
- African countries, such as Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, have accepted similar deals, reportedly in exchange for lower tariffs. The US’s actions are exploitative and tantamount to treating the continent as a “dumping ground,” Melusi Simelane of the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) told Al Jazeera, adding that Washington was especially focusing on countries with weak human rights protection.

Rights groups and law experts have condemned Trump’s controversial plans to deport millions of undocumented migrants. Those already deported include convicted criminals and “uniquely barbaric monsters,” according to the White House.

African countries, such as Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, have accepted similar deals, reportedly in exchange for lower tariffs. The US’s actions are exploitative and tantamount to treating the continent as a “dumping ground,” Melusi Simelane of the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) told Al Jazeera, adding that Washington was especially focusing on countries with weak human rights protection.

Here’s what you need to know about the Uganda deal and what countries might be getting in return for hosting US deportees:

What did Uganda agree to?

In a statement posted on X on Thursday, Bagire Vincent Waiswa, the permanent secretary of Uganda’s Foreign Ministry, said the country had agreed to a “temporary arrangement” with the US. He did not state the timelines for when the deportations would begin or end.

There are caveats regarding the people who would be transferred, the statement continued, including that Uganda will not accept people with criminal records or unaccompanied minors and that it “prefers” that Africans be transferred as part of the deal.

“The two parties are working out the detailed modalities on how the agreement shall be implemented,” the statement added.

A US State Department statement confirmed that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had held discussions over the phone regarding “migration, reciprocal trade, and commercial ties”.

The deal’s announcement came after weeks of speculation in local Ugandan media regarding whether the East African nation would accept US deportees.

On Wednesday, Foreign Affairs Minister Henry Okello Oryem denied the media reports, saying Uganda did not have the facilities to accommodate deportees.



President Donald Trump



Drivers of motorcycle taxis, known locally as boda-bodas, ride with passengers on a street of Kampala, Uganda, on July 18, 2024 [Hajarah Nalwadda/AP]

Speaking to The Associated Press news agency, Oryem said Uganda was discussing issues of “visas, tariffs, sanctions and related issues” with the US, but not of migration.

“We are talking about cartels: people who are unwanted in their own countries. How can we integrate them into local communities in Uganda?” he told the AP.

A day later, Uganda’s narrative had flipped.

What might Uganda gain from this?

The Foreign Ministry’s statement on Thursday did not

state what Uganda might be getting in return.

Other countries, including Eswatini, have reportedly accepted deportees in exchange for lower tariffs.

Uganda has been hit with 15 percent tariffs on goods entering the US, as part of Trump’s reciprocal tariff wars. Senior government officials in early August told local media that the tariffs would disrupt Ugandan exports, especially in the agricultural sector, and that Kampala would enter negotiations for a better deal.

Coffee, vanilla, cocoa beans and petroleum products are

some of Uganda’s key exports to the US. Kampala is particularly keen on boosting coffee exports to the US and competing with bigger suppliers like Colombia.

The US, on the other hand, exports machinery, such as aircraft parts, to Uganda, which imposes an 18 percent tariff on imported products.

The US and Uganda have historically enjoyed friendly ties, with the US routinely sending aid to Kampala. However, after Uganda passed an anti-homosexuality bill into law in 2023, relations turned sour, and the

US accused Uganda of “human rights violations”. The law proscribes punishment, including life sentences, for same-sex relations.

Washington thereafter cut aid funding for HIV programs and issued visa restrictions on Ugandan government officials “complicit in undermining the democratic process.” The US also banned Uganda from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a trade programme that helped

Contd Page 11

African News

What will Uganda gain from accepting US deportees?

xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

Contd from Page 10

Worth Noting:

- A US State Department statement confirmed that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had held discussions over the phone regarding “migration, reciprocal trade, and commercial ties”.
- The deal’s announcement came after weeks of speculation in local Ugandan media regarding whether the East African nation would accept US deportees.
- On Wednesday, Foreign Affairs Minister Henry Okello Oryem denied the media reports, saying Uganda did not have the facilities to accommodate deportees.
- Speaking to The Associated Press news agency, Oryem said Uganda was discussing issues of “visas, tariffs, sanctions and related issues” with the US, but not of migration.
- “We are talking about cartels: people who are unwanted in their own countries. How can we integrate them into local communities in Uganda?” he told the AP.



Jasmin Ramirez holds a photo of her son, Angelo Escalona, at a government-organised rally protesting against the deportation of alleged members of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang, who were transferred to an El Salvador prison, in Caracas, Venezuela, on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 [Ariana Cubillos/AP]

African countries trade tariff-free with the US, but that Trump’s tariffs have effectively killed. The World Bank additionally banned Uganda from its loans for two years, although the restriction was lifted this June. Rights activists say the deal on deportees could make the US administration more favourably inclined towards Uganda, but at the expense of those deported. “The proposed deal runs afoul of international law,” human rights lawyer Nicholas Opiyo told the AP. He added that such an arrangement leaves the legal status of deportees unclear as to whether they are refugees or prisoners. “We are sacrificing human beings for political expediency; in this case, because Uganda wants to be in the good books of the United States,” Opiyo said. “That I can keep your prisoners if you pay me; how is that different from human trafficking?”

Does Uganda already host refugees? Yes, Uganda is Africa’s largest refugee host country. It already hosts some 1.7 million refugees, largely from

neighbouring South Sudan, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which are all dealing with armed conflict and unrest. The United Nations has, in the past, hailed the country as having a “progressive refugee policy” and “maintaining an open-door approach to asylum”. However, opposition activists are sounding the alarm over the government’s dismal human rights record. Uganda has been ruled by Museveni since 1986, with his party winning contested elections in landslides. Opposition members and journalists are often targeted in arrests. Some report being tortured in detention. Speaking to the AP, opposition lawmaker Muwada Nkuningi said the US deal could give Museveni’s government further Western legitimacy ahead of general elections scheduled for January 2026. The deal was struck to “clear their image now that we are heading into the 2026 elections,” Nkuningi said. He urged the US not to ignore what he described as human rights issues in Uganda.

What other countries has the US sent people to?

Eswatini, Rwanda and South Sudan have struck similar agreements with the US. Eswatini, in July, accepted five unnamed men from Vietnam, Jamaica, Laos, Cuba and Yemen. Tricia McLaughlin, Department for Homeland Security assistant secretary, described them as “individuals so uniquely barbaric that their home countries refused to take them back”. She added that they were convicted of offences ranging from child rape to murder, and faced up to 25 years in jail. The men are presently held in detention facilities and will be sent back to their countries, according to officials who did not state a timeline.

Activists accuse the Eswatini government of engaging in the deal in exchange for lower tariffs from the US. The tiny country, which exports apparel, fruits, nuts and raw sugar to the US, was hit with a 10 percent tariff. “No country should have to be engaged in the violation of international human rights laws, including breaching its domestic laws, to please the Global North in the name of trade,” Simulane of SALC, who is leading an ongoing court case challenging the

Eswatini government’s decision, told Al Jazeera. The move, he said, was against the country’s constitution, which mandates that international agreements pass through parliament. “What we want, at the core, is for the agreement to be published for public scrutiny, and for the public to understand (if) it indeed is in line with our national interest,” Simulane said. “We further want the agreement declared unconstitutional because it lacked parliamentary approval.” South Africa, which borders Eswatini on three sides, summoned the smaller country’s diplomats earlier in August to raise security concerns about the arrangement. Similarly, the US sent eight “barbaric” criminals to South Sudan in July. The DHS listed them as being from Cuba, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Mexico and South Sudan. They were convicted of crimes such as first-degree murder, robbery, drug trafficking, and sexual assault, the DHS said. The men were initially diverted to Djibouti for months pending a legal challenge in the US. However, in late June, the US Su-

preme Court approved the move to South Sudan. Rwanda, too, has confirmed that it will take 250 deportees from the US at an unnamed date. According to government spokesperson Yolande Makolo, the deportees will enjoy “workforce training, health care and accommodation”. The country previously struck a controversial migrant deal for a fee with the United Kingdom. That deal, however, fell through when the new Labour government was elected in the UK in 2024. Outside Africa, El Salvador has taken in 300 migrants, mainly from Venezuela, for a \$6m fee. Costa Rica accepted 200 asylum seekers from Afghanistan, China, Ghana, India and Vietnam. While many have been repatriated, some 28 people were still in detention by June. It is unclear what the US offered in return. Nearly 300 people from countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and China were sent to Panama in February

Economy

Unlocking the Opportunities of Kenya's Boda Boda Economy

By: Imran Manji
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The potential of Kenya's two-wheel economy is immense, yet it remains largely untapped. This is not just about moving people from point A to B; it's about fostering economic empowerment, enhancing urban efficiency, and creating a sustainable future for mobility. Unlocking this potential requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond traditional views of the boda boda sector and elevates it from an informal necessity to a professionalised, respected, and thriving industry.
- The perception of boda bodas often falls short of their true value. They are not merely a last-resort mode of transport; they are the capillaries of urban and peri-urban life in Kenya. Their agility allows them to navigate congested streets and reach areas inaccessible to larger vehicles, making them indispensable for last-mile logistics and connecting communities. It is this kind of efficiency that positions them as a key solution to the growing challenges of urban sprawl and traffic congestion.

Each day, millions of people across Kenya rely on boda bodas to weave through traffic on the way to work, to move goods, access health-care, and bridge the last mile. These fast, affordable motorcycle taxis power urban mobility and support economic inclusion, but they operate in a sector that remains largely informal. Many drivers navigate these roads with little training, oversight or protection.

And yet, the sector is a critical part of Kenya's economy, contributing over KSh 660 billion annually, which is around 4.4 percent of the country's GDP. More than 2.5 million people depend on this sector for income. It fuels last-mile delivery, supports e-commerce, connects farms to markets, and sustains a wide network of service providers. Many drivers use motorcycle taxis to supplement other income, support families, or save for rainy days.

The potential of Kenya's two-wheel economy is immense, yet it remains largely untapped. This is not just about moving people from point A to B; it's about fostering economic empowerment, enhancing urban efficiency, and creating a sustainable future for mobility. Unlocking this potential requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond traditional views of the boda boda sector and elevates it from an informal necessity to a professionalised, respected, and thriving industry.

The perception of boda bodas often falls short of their true value. They are not merely a last-resort mode of transport; they are the capillaries of urban and peri-urban life in Kenya. Their agility allows them to navigate congested streets and reach areas inaccessible to larger vehicles, making them indispensable for last-mile logistics and connecting communities. It is this kind of efficiency that positions them as a key solution to the growing challenges of urban sprawl and traffic congestion.

However, this vital role is often overshadowed by concerns around safety and professionalism. Many drivers lack formal training, leading to a higher incidence of accidents. The absence of comprehensive insurance and social security nets leaves drivers vulnerable to financial hardship in case of injury or vehicle damage. Addressing these fundamental issues is paramount

to building a sustainable and respected boda boda sector. Technology holds the key to professionalising and modernising the boda boda sector. Digital platforms can bring structure to a largely informal industry, offering tools for better organisation, improved safety, and enhanced earning opportunities. By integrating features such as transparent pricing and direct feedback mechanisms, these platforms can foster a greater sense of accountability and trust between drivers and riders.

For instance, app-based services like Uber Boda demonstrate how technology can elevate the sector. Through such platforms, drivers must undergo background checks every year and receive training in road safety and customer service. According to the Uber Kenya Economic Impact Report, 87 percent of drivers reported that they felt safer if there was such app-based support, and riders shared similar feedback.

Features like in-app GPS tracking, "Share My Trip," and emergency buttons significantly enhance safety for both drivers and riders. This shift from informal arrangements to structured, app-driven operations not only provide drivers with consistent earning opportunities but also establishes clear standards, leading to a more reliable and professional service for consumers. The transparency in upfront pricing removes uncertainty and builds trust, changing the perception of boda bodas from an unpredictable option to a dependable mode of transport. In 2023 alone, app-based platforms enabled KSh 2.2 billion in additional income for drivers. Drivers attributed KSh 1.6 billion of that to the value of being able to choose their own schedules.

Beyond ride-hailing, technology can also democratise access to financial services. Mobile money platforms, for example, enable flexible loan repayments and credit access for drivers, even those without formal banking histories. This financial inclusion empowers them to transition from renting to owning their motorcycles, a crucial step towards long-term economic stability and wealth creation.

The conversation around the boda boda sector must also include its environmental impact. The adoption of electric motorcycles (e-bikes) is a game-changer,



Imran Manji, General Manager, Head of East Africa & Head of Business Development for Africa at Uber

with significant cost savings for drivers due to eliminated fuel expenses and reduced maintenance. In 2024, electric motorcycles (e-bikes) accounted for more than 7 percent of new bike registrations in Kenya, up from 3.6 percent the year before. This shift is projected to create over 300,000 new jobs over the next five years.

The rising number of registered e-bikes in Kenya is a promising sign of progress in sustainable transport. However, adoption remains uneven, especially in rural areas where charging infrastructure is still limited. To make e-mobility more inclusive, targeted investment in local assembly, service centres, and widespread charging infrastructure is essential.

Electric mobility presents a fantastic opportunity for Kenya. Our electricity grid is powered mainly by renewable sources, hy-

dro, geothermal, and wind, which generate a surplus every night. The wind is still blowing while we sleep! Directing this excess energy to power our transportation requirements will cut our foreign exchange needs and strengthen our balance of payments. By embracing electric mobility, we can transform our natural advantages into a cleaner, stronger, and more self-reliant Kenya.

While technology offers powerful solutions, it cannot solve all the challenges. Issues like financial literacy, crime, lack of comprehensive insurance or legal protection remain significant hurdles. The path forward lies in public-private collaboration. Government bodies, civil society organisations, and businesses must work together to create an incentivising policy framework that balances formalisation with the entrepre-

neurial spirit of the sector. Programs that offer training in road safety, customer service, and digital tools, are crucial for professional development and instilling business discipline and financial literacy.

Kenya has a unique opportunity to lead Africa in modernising two-wheel transport. By recognising the boda boda sector's vital contribution, investing in its professionalisation, and embracing technological advancements, the nation can deliver safer rides, create better jobs, improve service quality, and foster cleaner cities. It is about cultivating a thriving ecosystem that respects its entrepreneurial spirit while protecting everyone on the road.

The writer is the General Manager, Head of East Africa & Head of Business Development for Africa at Uber



NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Intagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

WORLD

Breaking Barriers: Young Women Leaders Transform Uzbekistan Through Revolutionary “EmpowerHer” Forum



By: Madina Furkatova
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- The project's success lies in its comprehensive components. Expert speaker sessions feature accomplished women leaders including Khurshida Rakhmonova, Chief Coordinator of Girls' Voice Club; Saida Abdunazarova, winner of the US KECTIL and Aspire Leaders Program; and Gulnur Esova, a UK University Master's student. These sessions provide participants with real-world insights from women who have successfully navigated international opportunities while maintaining their cultural roots.
- Skill development workshops cover essential areas: personal development, financial independence, CV enhancement, startup creation, and leadership discovery. The networking platform connects participants from various provinces and Karakalpakstan, creating unprecedented cross-regional collaboration opportunities. A certification program provides official certificates valuable for scholarship applications, while a talent registry creates a “Talented Girls List” for ongoing support and project tracking.

al career pathways has left countless capable women unaware of opportunities that could transform their futures. Most critically, the absence of structured leadership development programs specifically designed for young women has meant that practical skills in entrepreneurship, financial independence, and professional networking remain largely inaccessible.

We identified that talented young women remain underrepresented in key leadership roles across government, business, and civil society organizations due to lack of preparation and networks. The consequences are far-reaching: promising female talent either emigrates without contributing to local development or remains underutilized, missing opportunities for both personal growth and national advancement.

A Comprehensive Solution Taking Shape

The EmpowerHer forum operates through a systematic two-phase approach that has proven remarkably effective. Phase One involves a rigorous 20-day application and selection process, ensuring committed participants are identified through careful screening. Phase Two delivers an intensive three-day forum featuring expert speakers, interactive workshops, and crucial networking sessions.

The project's success lies in its comprehensive components. Expert speaker sessions feature accomplished women leaders including Khurshida Rakhmonova, Chief Coordinator of Girls' Voice Club; Saida Abdunazarova, winner of the US KECTIL and Aspire Leaders Program; and Gulnur Esova, a UK University Master's student. These sessions provide participants with real-world insights from women who have successfully navigated international opportunities while maintaining their cultural roots.

Skill development workshops cover essential areas: personal development, financial independence, CV enhancement, startup creation, and leadership discovery. The networking platform connects participants from various provinces and Karakalpakstan, creating unprecedented cross-regional collaboration opportunities. A certifica-



tion program provides official certificates valuable for scholarship applications, while a talent registry creates a “Talented Girls List” for ongoing support and project tracking.

Addressing Global Sustainability Goals

The forum directly advances multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, primarily SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). “Research shows that when women lead, there is significant positive impact on students' academic performance and overall well-being.” “Our empowered participants will contribute to

educational excellence in their communities.”

The project also connects to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through entrepreneurship training, SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by providing equal opportunities across different regions, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through international networking and collaboration opportunities.

Measuring Real Impact

The forum's success is measured through both quantitative and qualitative metrics. All 150 participants completed the program and received certificates, achieving a 100% completion rate. More importantly, the project tracks long-term

outcomes including scholarship applications, career advancement, and startup initiatives launched by participants.

Success benchmarks are ambitious yet achievable: Year one targets 90% participant satisfaction with 50% pursuing new opportunities and establishment of an active alumni network. By year two, the program aims to expand to 300+ participants with secured international partnerships. Year three envisions regional recognition as the premier women's leadership platform with a 500+ alumni network and measurable SDG impact in participant communities.

Building Sustainable Networks

The forum's vision extends far beyond a single event. To establish EmpowerHer as the premier leadership development platform for young women in Central Asia, creating a generation of confident, skilled, and internationally connected female leaders who drive sustainable development in their communities.

The EmpowerHer forum represents more than professional development—it embodies a fundamental shift toward gender equality.

Contd Page 15

WORLD

Breaking Barriers: Young Women Leaders Transform Uzbekistan Through Revolutionary “EmpowerHer” Forum

Contd from Page 14
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The forum’s vision extends far beyond a single event. To establish EmpowerHer as the premier leadership development platform for young women in Central Asia, creating a generation of confident, skilled, and internationally connected female leaders who drive sustainable development in their communities.
- The EmpowerHer forum represents more than professional development—it embodies a fundamental shift toward gender equality and sustainable progress. As these 150 young women leaders return to their communities armed with new skills, networks, and confidence, they carry with them the potential to transform not just their own futures, but the trajectory of Central Asia’s development.
- Through partnerships with the Uzbekistan Youth Union Samarkand Provincial Council and Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, with future collaboration planned with the Uzbekistan Volunteer Association, EmpowerHer demonstrates that sustainable change requires comprehensive, culturally-sensitive approaches to women’s empowerment.



ty and sustainable progress. As these 150 young women leaders return to their communities armed with new skills, networks, and confidence, they carry with them the potential to transform not just their own futures, but the trajectory of Central Asia’s development. Through partnerships with the Uzbekistan Youth Union Samarkand Provincial Council and Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, with future collaboration planned with the Uzbekistan Volunteer Association, EmpowerHer demonstrates that sustainable change requires comprehensive, culturally-sensitive approaches to women’s empowerment. The revolution in female leadership has begun, one empowered woman at a time.



UK

Dozens more UK Afghan data breaches uncovered

By: BBC
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

Worth Noting:

- The MoD has refused to provide any details of the nature of each breach but incidents which have previously been made public include officials inadvertently revealing the email addresses or other personal details of applicants to third parties.
- Adnan Malik, Head of Data Protection at Barings Law which represents hundreds of Afghans affected by the biggest of the breaches in February 2022, said: “What began as an isolated incident, which the Ministry of Defence initially sought to keep from public view, has now escalated into a series of catastrophic failings.
- “We urge the Ministry of Defence to be fully transparent with both those affected and the wider public. Victims should not be forced to learn the truth through legal action or news reports.”



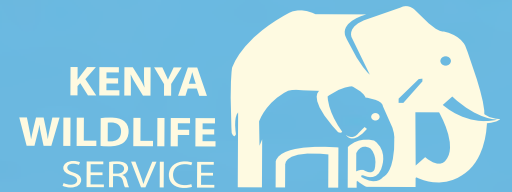
The Ministry of Defence has admitted there have been 49 separate data breaches in the past four years at the unit handling relocation applications from Afghans seeking safety in the UK. Four out of the 49 breaches were already publicly known – including the leak in 2022 of a spreadsheet containing details of almost 19,000 people fleeing the Taliban. This mammoth data breach, which led to thousands of Afghans being secretly relocated to the UK, was only revealed last month after the High Court lifted a gagging order. It was described by the UK’s information watchdog as a “one-off occurrence following a failure to [follow] usual checks, rather than reflecting a wider culture of non-compliance”. However, lawyers representing Afghans affected by data breaches said the new figures, released to the BBC under the Freedom of Information Act, raised concerns about a culture of lax security among those working on the resettlement scheme. The MoD has refused to provide any details of the nature of each breach but incidents which have previously been made public include officials inadvertently revealing the email addresses or other personal details of applicants to third parties. Adnan Malik, Head of Data Protection at Barings Law which represents hundreds of Afghans affected by the biggest of the breaches in February 2022, said: “What began as an isolated incident, which the Ministry of Defence initially sought to keep from public view, has now escalated into a series

of catastrophic failings. “We urge the Ministry of Defence to be fully transparent with both those affected and the wider public. Victims should not be forced to learn the truth through legal action or news reports.” The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) was set up in April 2021 to help people who feared their lives were at risk because they had worked with British armed forces in Afghanistan and to resettle eligible applicants and their family members in the UK. It was closed in July this year. The scheme has been dogged by revelations about poor data security, potentially putting the lives of Afghans who worked with British forces at risk. In September 2021, BBC News revealed that more than 250 Afghans seeking relocation to the UK were mistakenly copied into an email from the Ministry of Defence, putting them at risk of reprisals. A total of 265 email addresses were shared in this way across three separate incidents that month, which ultimately led to a £350,000 fine from the watchdog. The breaches were “intensely difficult and embarrassing for the government handling publicly”, one defence source said. Ben Wallace, the then-defence secretary, expressed his personal anger at what had occurred, telling MPs: “I am very keen that it is not just the poor person who drafts the email who is held to account, but the chain upwards, to ensure that this does not happen again.” Two months after the incidents, in November 2021,

the then Conservative government announced “significant remedial actions”, including new data handling procedures and training as well as a new “two pairs of eyes rule” requiring any external email to an ARAP-eligible Afghan national be reviewed by a second member of staff before being sent. The government said the measures were taken to “prevent such incidents occurring again”. Instead, data breaches continued including, in February 2022, a potentially catastrophic leak which saw a soldier at Regent’s Park barracks send a spreadsheet with what they believed to be a small number of applicants’ names to trusted Afghan contacts. They did not realise that hidden data in the spreadsheet in fact contained the names, contact details and some information about family members and associates for nearly 19,000 people. When the leak was discovered some 18 months later, in August 2023, the then-Conservative government sought a gagging order to prevent details of the error being made public. The government successfully argued that lives were at risk and the Taliban would be alerted if an injunction wasn’t granted. The super injunction which was imposed was not lifted until July this year. Jon Baines, a senior data protection specialist at the law firm Mishcon de Reya, said the new figures uncovered by the BBC show a “remarkable number of data security incidents in relation to the ARAP scheme”. “It is difficult to think of any

information more sensitive than that which is involved with the scheme, and it baffles me why there were not better security measures in place,” he added. Seven of the 49 data breaches were sufficiently serious to require MoD officials to notify data watchdog the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). This includes three breaches – one in 2021, and two in 2022 – that have not been made public before. The ICO said it was limited in the amount of information it still held on those breaches and why it didn’t take further action but that its work with the MoD was “ongoing”. “We continue to engage with the MoD, so we can be assured that they have made the required improvements,” a spokeswoman said. The watchdog has not taken any action against the MoD over the large spreadsheet data breach which was previously subject to court-imposed reporting restrictions, arguing “there was little we could add in this case that would justify the further allocation of resource away from other priorities”. Jon Baines said there were “serious questions firstly as to whether the ICO should have conducted more in-depth investigations previously, and secondly, whether there is now an urgent need for more investigation. “What assurance can we all have now that the MoD are properly protecting the highly sensitive personal data it is often entrusted with?”, he added. A Labour government source blamed previous Conservative adminis-

trations for inadequate data protection measures and said new software has been introduced and other changes made since Labour came to power last year. “Current ministers repeatedly highlighted the Tory mismanagement of data around the ARAP scheme while in opposition,” the source said. “Since last July, we’ve brought in a host of new measures to improve data security and we’ve made public the largest Afghan data breach which occurred under the previous government, to allow for parliamentary scrutiny and accountability.” A Conservative Party spokesman said: “This data leak should never have happened and was an unacceptable breach of data protection protocols. The secretary of state for defence has issued an apology on behalf of the government, and Conservatives joined in that apology. “When this breach came to light, the immediate priority of the then-government was to protect persons in the dataset.” An MoD spokesperson said: “We take data security extremely seriously and are committed to ensuring that any incidents are dealt with properly, and that we follow our legal duties. “All incidents that meet the threshold under UK data protection laws are referred to the Information Commissioner’s Office, and any lesser incidents are examined internally to ensure lessons are learned.”



Lake Nakuru National Park

A Beautiful Wildlife Haven



EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE • CONSERVE

   Kenya Wildlife Service | www.kws.go.ke



Karibu, Tutunze Pamoja!

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

FacebookK: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Diaspora

Former Thai PM Thaksin acquitted in royal insult case

A Bangkok court has acquitted controversial billionaire and former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was accused of insulting the monarchy.

By: BBC
xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

Worth Noting:

- The verdict came as Thaksin’s daughter, suspended PM Paetongtarn , faces a Constitutional Court decision on whether or not she should be removed from office. These cases pose a threat to the Shinawatra clan, which has been a dominant force in Thai politics for decades.
- Friday’s verdict has brought some relief to the family and their supporters.
- Winyat Charmontree, a lawyer acting for Thaksin, told reporters that after the verdict was read out in court, his client had smiled and thanked his lawyers. He had also said he was now able to work for the country’s benefit.
- The charge against Thaksin was originally filed under the then-military government in 2016, when he was in exile, and re-activated last year after his return to Thailand.



Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra

A Bangkok court has acquitted controversial billionaire and former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was accused of insulting the monarchy. The charge related to an interview he gave to a South Korean newspaper ten years ago. He would have faced up to 15 years in jail if convicted. Thailand’s lese majeste law forbids insulting its monarchy. But critics say it is often used to target activists and political opponents. The verdict came as Thaksin’s daughter, suspended PM Paetongtarn , faces a Constitutional Court decision on whether or not she should be removed from office. These cases pose a threat to the Shinawatra clan, which has been a dominant force in Thai politics for decades. Friday’s verdict has brought some relief to the family and their supporters. Winyat Charmontree, a lawyer acting for Thaksin, told reporters that after the verdict was read out in court, his client had smiled and thanked his lawyers. He had also said he was now able to work for the country’s benefit. The charge against Thaksin was originally filed under

the then-military government in 2016, when he was in exile, and re-activated last year after his return to Thailand. At first glance the case against him seemed weak. In the South Korean newspaper interview, the former prime minister said he believed the 2014 military coup which deposed the elected government of his sister Yingluck – just as he had been deposed by a previous coup in 2006 – had been instigated by “some people in the palace” and members of the privy council, the 19-member body which advises the Thai king. Technically the privy council is not covered by the lese majeste law, which states that it is an offence to defame only the king, queen, heir to the throne or anyone acting as regent. However, in recent years the law has been invoked to criminalise any action or statement which might reflect negatively on the monarchy as an institution. In the past people have been prosecuted for making unfavourable comments about the late King Bhumibol’s dog and about a Thai king from the 16th Century. More recently, a young woman was sentenced to

five years in prison for placing a banner criticising the budget to help those affected by Covid close to a portrait of King Vajiralongkorn. The interpretation of the law has become so broad that human rights groups view it as a political tool, which can be used to intimidate and silence those who challenge the status quo. Many believed this was what was happening to Thaksin. However, the judges chose to interpret the wording of the law literally, and said that as the defendant had not named names, he should be acquitted. This verdict comes exactly two years after the former prime minister’s dramatic return from 15 years of exile. At the time it was assumed there had been a grand bargain struck between Thaksin and his long-time conservative adversaries, so that his party Pheu Thai, which in the 2023 election had been relegated to second place from its usual number one spot, could form a coalition government and keep the young reformists who had actually won the election out of power. The terms of that bargain have never been made public –Thaksin has always insisted there was no deal –

but it is likely they included an agreement that he would keep a low profile and stay out of politics. But a low profile is something completely alien to the flamboyant, wealthy and ambitious tycoon. He is still believed to be the largest funder of Pheu Thai and makes all of the main decisions for the party. When his first choice of prime minister, businessman Srettha Thavisin, was disqualified by the persistently interventionist Constitutional Court a year ago, Thaksin’s inexperienced daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra took the helm, becoming Thailand’s youngest ever prime minister. A self-described “daddy’s girl”, she said she would happily take his advice. As she took office Mr Thaksin announced his “Vision for Thailand”, including a controversial proposal to legalise casinos; much of that subsequently became official policy. The parliamentary opposition has accused the Shinawatra family of running a “dual leadership”. Thaksin’s business ties to the Cambodian strongman Hun Sen also raised concerns over how firmly his government would defend Thailand over

the border dispute between the two countries. This came to a head in the private phone conversation leaked by Hun Sen in which Paetongtarn was heard referring to him as “uncle”, and criticising her own army commander on the border, for which she has now been suspended by the Constitutional Court, which will decide whether she is dismissed in a week’s time. Losing another prime minister after just a year, at a time of great global uncertainty, might be judged as too risky. It is not clear who would replace Paetongtarn. Thaksin faces another court case next month, over his transfer to a hospital to serve a previous jail sentence. The price for him being allowed to stay out of jail may be that his party has to call an early election, at a time when its poor performance in government could result in it losing many of its seats in parliament.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

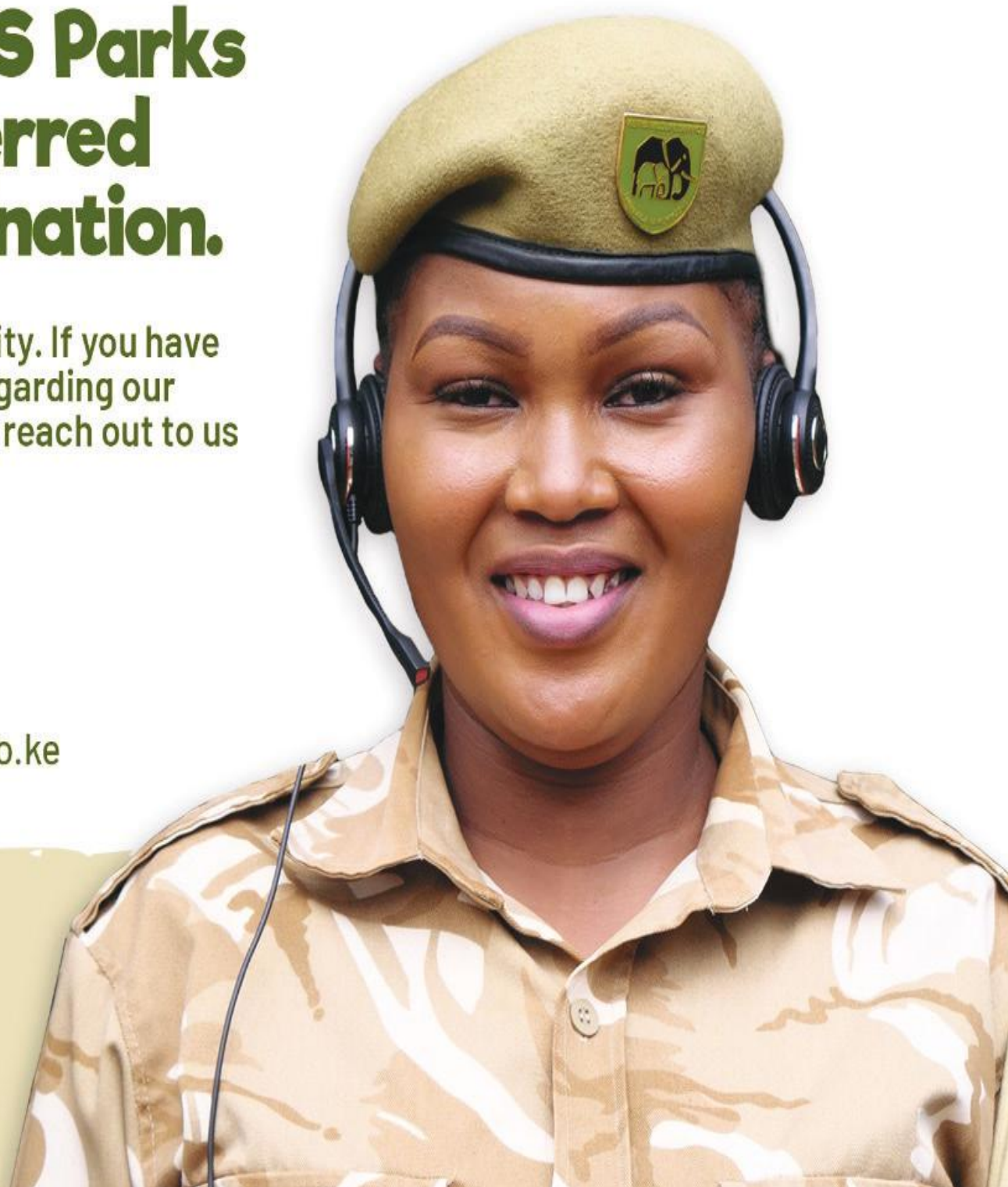
**Thank you for
choosing KWS Parks
as your preferred
tourism destination.**

Your satisfaction is our priority. If you have any concerns or feedback regarding our products or services. Please reach out to us via

☎ 0800 597 000

📞 0726 610 509

@ customerservice@kws.go.ke



For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Kenya's Nuclear Revolution: Igniting Energy Security, Healthcare Transformation, and Scientific Excellence for a Sustainable Tomorrow

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Kenya's nuclear strategy is also a beacon for health sector transformation. Nuclear medicine services have expanded dramatically with advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technologies now available within leading hospitals. The introduction of molecular imaging centers equipped with PET/CT and SPECT/CT scanners marks a leap forward in cancer care, facilitating early diagnosis and more effective treatment regimens.
- Locally produced radiopharmaceuticals, enabled by recently commissioned cyclotron facilities, have enhanced the country's capacity to provide uninterrupted, affordable care. The integration of artificial intelligence into nuclear medicine diagnostics is revolutionizing disease detection accuracy and enabling personalized medicine approaches, particularly crucial for oncology. These advances not only improve patient outcomes but also reduce the need for costly overseas treatments, making healthcare more equitable and accessible.

Kenya's unfolding nuclear revolution is poised to redefine the contours of national development by weaving together energy security, healthcare innovation, and scientific excellence in an integrated vision for sustainable progress. The recent inter-agency preparatory meeting chaired by Mr. Alex Wachira, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Energy, ahead of the 69th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna, conveys a profound narrative: Kenya is decisively embracing nuclear science and technology as cornerstones of its future.

Energy demands in Kenya continue to surge amid rapid population growth, urbanization, and industrial expansion. The planned development of the nation's first commercial nuclear power plant—scheduled to launch construction in 2027 at Siaya County—reflects Kenya's strategy to diversify its energy mix with a clean, reliable, and scalable power source. This ambitious 1,000 MW nuclear facility is designed to complement the country's abundant renewable resources, securing the consistent base-load power essential for modern industries. Beyond merely powering homes and factories, this nuclear infrastructure promises to be a catalyst for socio-economic transformation, creating jobs, fostering technology-driven industries, and attracting foreign investment. Importantly, it signals Kenya's commitment to meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement by significantly lowering carbon emissions and combating climate change.

Kenya's nuclear strategy is also a beacon for health sector transformation. Nuclear medicine services have expanded dramatically with advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technologies now available within leading hospitals. The introduction of molecular imaging centers equipped with PET/CT and SPECT/CT scanners marks a leap forward in cancer care, facilitating early diagnosis and more effective treatment regimens. Locally produced radiopharmaceuticals, enabled by recently commissioned cyclotron facilities, have enhanced the country's capacity to provide uninterrupted, affordable care. The integration of artificial intelligence



Inter-agency preparatory meeting chaired by Mr. Alex Wachira, Principal Secretary of the State Department for Energy

into nuclear medicine diagnostics is revolutionizing disease detection accuracy and enabling personalized medicine approaches, particularly crucial for oncology. These advances not only improve patient outcomes but also reduce the need for costly overseas treatments, making healthcare more equitable and accessible.

Robust regulatory oversight by the Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA) ensures that as nuclear technology expands, safety remains paramount. The KNRA, in collaboration with the IAEA, continually updates safety protocols and deploys modern radiation detection technologies to protect workers, communities, and the environment. Transparent communication and public engagement efforts have been intensified, fostering trust and acceptance of nuclear initiatives. Further, the agency's capacity-building initiatives aim to cultivate a cadre of highly trained regulatory professionals, enabling Kenya to maintain international safety standards as nuclear activities grow.

Scientific research and innovation form another dynamic dimension of Kenya's nuclear agenda. The proposed establishment of a research reactor at Konza Technopolis signals Kenya's ambition to become a hub for advanced nuclear research, isotope production, and high-tech innovation. By encouraging homegrown solutions in agriculture, environmental sciences, industrial applications, and food preservation through irradiation, Kenya seeks to harness nuclear science for broad-based socioeconomic benefits. The hosting of Africa's inaugural Small Modular Reactor (SMR) school demonstrates Kenya's fore-

sight in embracing emerging nuclear technologies that prioritize safety, modularity, and environmental stewardship. These initiatives integrate science, technology, and industry, helping to diversify the economy and expand high-value job opportunities for Kenya's youth and professionals.

International collaboration is a cornerstone of Kenya's nuclear advancement. The country's active participation in IAEA forums ensures access to the latest technology, safety frameworks, and training opportunities. Bilateral agreements, particularly with technology leaders like China, facilitate the transfer of expertise and infrastructure development needed for nuclear power plant construction and operation. These partnerships not only provide technical and financial support but also enhance Kenya's global standing as a responsible nuclear nation committed to peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Kenya's vision for nuclear science is deeply interwoven with its national develop-

ment aspirations, including the Kenya Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. Nuclear technology is embraced not merely as a technical solution but as a transformative catalyst—driving climate resilience, healthcare accessibility, scientific discovery, industrial competitiveness, and economic inclusion. The coordinated leadership across multiple government agencies in the recent preparatory meeting exemplifies Kenya's holistic, collaborative governance model essential for managing the complexities of nuclear advancement. Financial strategies blend public funding, international donor support, and public-private partnerships, underscoring a commitment to long-term sustainability. Meanwhile, investments in education, technical training, and research infrastructure ensure that Kenya develops the human capital required to operate, regulate, innovate, and lead in the nuclear sector, reducing dependence on foreign expertise and inspiring the next generation of nuclear

scientists and engineers.

In conclusion, Kenya's nuclear revolution is a multi-dimensional journey toward a sustainable, healthier, and prosperous future. It embodies the country's resolve to harness nuclear science responsibly, safely, and innovatively for the collective good. By strengthening energy security, revolutionizing healthcare, fostering scientific excellence, and promoting environmental stewardship, Kenya is charting a bold path forward—one that will inspire Africa and the world. The foundations laid in the inter-agency collaboration preceding the 69th IAEA General Conference are a clarion call: Kenya is ready not only to participate in the nuclear age but to lead with wisdom, courage, and vision.

This is more than a strategy—it is Kenya's promise for a brighter tomorrow powered by nuclear innovation.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication practitioner.



Group photo

Diaspora

“In the Land of White Lilies” – The Country of Wonders

“Fate placed swamps and rocks in our way, but we cultivated them and built a civilized country.”

By: SHAHNOZA Ochildiyeva
xxxxxxxxxxxx

.....

Humanity often reflects only on the present moment, on what it sees today. Unfortunately, we sometimes fail to balance the positive and negative aspects of an issue—or, in pursuit of the present, we forget the past. Grigory Petrov’s book “In the Land of White Lilies” tells the story of Finland, now regarded as one of the happiest nations in the world, and how it emerged from its dark and difficult past into the bright present we know today.

First, let us pause to consider the title. Why “the land of white lilies”? The lily is known as a symbol of grace, beauty, and purity. Finland, in turn, is compared to a lily blooming in the swamps—because geographically it lies in an inhospitable land, deprived of nature’s abundance. Its terrain was long covered with marshes and rocks, with very little fertile soil. Much of its grain had to be imported from abroad. Yet the people strove tirelessly to survive amid these swamps, bringing fertile soil to the rocky lands, and creating for themselves the conditions of a dignified life. Today, Finland is recognized worldwide, yet it is, in fact, a young state—barely 70 to 80 years of independent history. For centuries, the Finnish people endured the pain of colonial rule. At first, under Swedish domination, they were considered ignorant and backward. Children of the Swedish nobility who were unfit even for modest education and worthless at home were sent to Finland to occupy high administrative posts. Naturally, these shallow rulers continued their lives of ease here as well. The misery of the people under such leadership is not hard to imagine. After Finland was ceded to Russia in 1816, the country’s condition improved somewhat. True national heroes arose—leaders we might call the Finnish “Jadids,” who called their people to enlightenment, to education, and to a dignified way of life. Among them, J. Snellman holds a special place. He awakened in the Finnish heart a deep sense of homeland, nation, and belonging. Finnish officials gradually replaced foreign administrators, and special emphasis was placed on education to



SHAHNOZA Ochildiyeva

nurture new, capable generations. At Snellman’s initiative, old books were collected and distributed to rural and remote areas. When Napoleon’s defeat brought a wave of imitation of America and Britain—especially in football, which glorified brute strength—Snellman reminded the youth that without intellect and wisdom, strong legs were worthless. Just as the ball is kicked upward to move forward, he said, so too must the nation be lifted upward by thought and knowledge. The people united! From within its swamps, Finland blossomed into a graceful and cultured state. As the book highlights, one cannot help but be amazed at how Finland resolved social issues. There are no homeless people. Problems like poverty and unemployment are approached with practical solutions. I

was astonished to learn that Finland is also among the most “online” nations in the world, with unrestricted internet access, 100% coverage, and even free usage. The book also sheds light on Finland’s unique approaches in many spheres, especially education. Finnish education is a subject in itself—a system based on a fresh vision and beautiful national values. Petrov describes Finnish schools so vividly that you find yourself longing to enter one. Single-story buildings, spacious gardens, glass-walled classrooms, and freedom in learning—such features are truly astonishing! There are no rigid examinations or strict grading systems. Yet, classes are regarded as sacred, and teachers hold the highest respect in society. Finnish education seeks to nurture free thinking, broad perspectives, responsibility,

and the sense of happiness in children—through lessons harmonized with values, music, and play. This “land of lilies” also ranks high on the global happiness index. According to Petrov, one of the secrets of Finnish happiness lies in reading. Finland is recognized as the world’s most book-loving nation. The Finns consider their very existence a blessing. For them, happiness lies not in wealth or luxury, but in cherishing small and simple things. The book also tells the stories of remarkable figures such as the “King of Confectionery” Jarvinen and the pirate Karokep—individuals whose lives, achievements, and contributions to the nation’s progress and welfare deserve recognition. Dear friends, never accidentally pick up “In the Land of White Lilies”! Otherwise, like me, you might fall in

love with its title. Do not read it, my dear peers—otherwise, you will find yourself longing to travel to Finland, to embark on a beautiful journey there. Of course, I am joking! Indeed, you must read it. For it teaches us to love our people, to recognize the power of a nation, and to learn how an awakening people can progress. And most of all, it invites us to reflect—by comparing Finland’s path of development with our own present day.

SHAHNOZA Ochildiyeva
2nd-year student, Philology and Language Teaching: English, Faculty of International Relations and Social-Humanitarian Sciences, University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan.

Worth Noting:

- Today, Finland is recognized worldwide, yet it is, in fact, a young state—barely 70 to 80 years of independent history. For centuries, the Finnish people endured the pain of colonial rule. At first, under Swedish domination, they were considered ignorant and backward. Children of the Swedish nobility who were unfit even for modest education and worthless at home were sent to Finland to occupy high administrative posts. Naturally, these shallow rulers continued their lives of ease here as well. The misery of the people under such leadership is not hard to imagine.
- After Finland was ceded to Russia in 1816, the country’s condition improved somewhat. True national heroes arose—leaders we might call the Finnish “Jadids,” who called their people to enlightenment, to education, and to a dignified way of life. Among them, J. Snellman holds a special place.

I Am Not A Patriot, I Am A Griot

By: Maina Wahome
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Patriotism without reciprocity is not loyalty; it is slavery. I am not a patriot. I am a griot. I will remember when you choose to forget. I will speak when you choose silence. I will remind you when you cheer mediocrity and forget injustice. I will tell you Kenya is still losing not only in stadiums but also in the soul of the nation. In a country where patriotism is reduced to flags, chants, and fleeting unity, the griot stands apart; an observer, a truth-teller, a voice against forgetting. Kenya's real problem is not in stadiums but in parliament, hospitals, classrooms, and graves. In graves of the innocent who died due to corruption, neglect, and incompetence. In graves of the hungry, the jobless, and the silenced voices whose deaths made headlines for a day and were forgotten the next. Kenya is still losing, and will continue to lose, because you chose mediocrity over intellect. I argue that this 8-4-4 system systematically eroded your critical thinking, leaving a nation that applauds distraction, tolerates incompetence, and buries its future under indifference.

To you who call yourselves patriots: I want answers. What are you loyal to? The anthem? The thieves? The lies? The colors painted over your wounds on your cheeks and scarring thighs? You think patriotism is an identity, but it is a leash, a chain that binds your mind while the powerful roam free. "You have to be loyal and patriotic to your national football team," says a "leader" who just stole your money and stashed it abroad without paying the same players. Don't you see that your brain is broken as a follower of this shallow patriotism? Why would you be angry if someone called you a retarded person whose only demands are food, mere clothes, an indecent house, and a heap of conjugal rights to swallow your frustrations? You will be angry because the truth always enrages you, while lies keep you comfortable, like the fool you are. You are a walking corpse, and if you cannot die for truth, then you might as well be eaten by a Komodo dragon. At least in death, you will satisfy the hunger of a predator, unlike the cannibals who feed on your ignorance.

PATRIOTISM WITHOUT QUESTIONING IS NOT PRIDE; IT IS STUPIDITY. And yes, you are a retarded person if you follow what is trending and endorse it without questioning because blind loyalty is complicity, and complicity is betrayal of self.

I am not a patriot. I am a griot. I don't cheer because I am told to. I don't wave a flag because it's trending. I don't dance to the drumbeat of distraction. I observe. I remember. I speak when others confuse oppression for patriotism. I am here to remind you: YOUR BRAIN IS THE MOST LETHAL WEAPON. FORGET THE GUNS. FORGET THE MONEY. A FUNCTIONAL BRAIN IS EVERYTHING. A brain that thinks, that doubts, and that refuses to be fooled terrifies those in power far more than the billions of mindless billionaires. That is why the government fears the clarion call of educated Gen Z's more than wealthy billionaires who are mere conformists. The young athletes you praise today rose from dust, from hunger, from pain. They trained barefoot while the state abandoned them, hustling between school and survival, carrying dreams in empty stomachs. Their success is theirs alone. However, when they win, politicians crawl out of hiding to bask in borrowed glory. That is not patriotism; it is opportunism. They sell you unity in ninety minutes, then divide you for five years. They seduce you with stadium victories while the real game; the one in parliament, in hospitals, in classrooms, in police stations is lost daily. They distract you with borrowed national unity while budgets vanish into private pockets.

Reason? YOU FORGET TOO FAST. You forgot the Kianjokoma brothers, murdered, silenced, and buried under police reports. Their killers in uniform roam free while their blood seeps into the soil, unacknowledged by the system that swore to protect them. You forgot the Butere Girls High School incident, where officers violently disrupted the performance of Echoes of War by students from Butere Girls High School. Journalists covering the play were assaulted, entry to the performance hall was blocked, and tear gas was fired indiscriminately. These actions reveal a worrying pattern of state-sponsored repression, targeting free expression, press freedom, and the fundamental right to assemble. Still, you forgot that. You forgot Garissa University, where students were executed for the crime of seeking education, yet their memory was swallowed by empty speeches. You forgot Westgate and Dusit, where promises of justice dissolved into business as usual, as if lives could be traded for silence. You forgot Solai Dam, where corporate greed drowned families, and the guilty walked free, their hands washed clean by wealth. You forgot the Shakahola massacre, where blind faith and state neglect turned believers into corpses, while investigations became performances for TV cameras.



You forgot Goldenberg, Anglo-Leasing, NYS 1, NYS 2, Aror and Kimwarer dams mega scandals so large they could build nations, but instead they built mansions for thieves. You forgot Eurobond, where billions vanished into thin air, and the questions evaporated just as fast. You forgot the hungry mothers, the jobless graduates, the broken hospitals, and the endless road carnage. Every tragedy, every scandal, every betrayal becomes a headline for a day, a memory for a week, and then forgotten, buried under flags and hashtags. This is because you have become so mediocre that your brain cannot track events beyond the fleeting satisfaction of daily comforts, or the shallow indulgence of conjugal rights, which themselves are often suspect. What is so patriotic about village idiots ridiculing Kenyan education while their own children study abroad under international curricula? What is so patriotic about mocking intellect while celebrating mediocrity? You cheer ignorance, crown thieves, and laugh at those who think, yet you dare to demand my loyalty. Patriotism, as you practice it, is nothing more than worship of power and hatred of truth. It is a loyalty that punishes the questioner and rewards the looter. It is a patriotism of fools, a patriotism of silence, a patriotism that masks cowardice

with flags and slogans. Tell me, what exactly is patriotism? Is it singing the anthem with an empty stomach, your voice cracking with hunger while leaders dine in luxury? Is it painting your face in colors while the same colors are used to cover corruption? Is it dancing in rallies for handouts while your taxes build mansions you will never enter? Is it watching your children choke on a confused curriculum while the children of looters study abroad? If that is patriotism, then I want no part in it. Because that is not love of country; it is love of chains. Why should I be loyal to oppression? Why should I swear allegiance to men who loot in daylight, who stash trillions offshore, who turn hospitals into graveyards and schools into experiments? Why should I clap for a flag waved by thieves, liars, and murderers? Why should I be loyal to a government that does not reciprocate? They demand loyalty while offering betrayal. They demand patriotism while dealing in plunder. Patriotism without reciprocity is not love; it is slavery. I refuse to be a slave. You mock the thinkers. You ridicule the critics. You insult those who remember, but let me remind you: silence is not patriotism. Forgetting is not patriotism. Waving a flag for thieves is not patriotism. That is cowardice. That is obedience. That is

pretense. Patriotism without justice is not love; it is surrender. THE ROADS ARE GRAVES. THE HOSPITALS ARE MORGUES. THE CLASSROOMS ARE PRISONS. THE POLICE ARE PREDATORS. THE POLITICIANS ARE PARASITES. What is there to be patriotic about? Mother Kenya raped in broad daylight, her rapists dressed in suits, while the cheers are made by hungry Kenyans who do not even understand what is happening. Mother Kenya drenched in blood, looted of her wealth, mocked by her own rulers. Patriotism, in such a land, is an insult to truth. It is the last refuge of scoundrels, the banner under which thieves march and fools applaud. So cheer if you must. Wave your flags if you must. But when you return to your homes with empty pockets, when you bury another victim of corruption, when you cry over another collapsed promise, remember this: your patriotism did not save you. Only truth can. Only memory can. Only resistance can. I am not a patriot. I am a griot. And I will not let you forget.

Yala Swamp’s Future: Prioritizing People, Environment, and Sustainable Development

The debate surrounding the potential return of Dominion Farms Limited to Yala Swamp is a defining moment for Siaya County

By: James Kilonzo Bwire
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Dominion Farms’ previous engagement in Yala Swamp brought some clear benefits, most notably in job creation and boosting agricultural output. By employing local labor and investing in roads, irrigation, and storage facilities, Dominion improved infrastructure and helped stimulate economic activity within the region. These gains cannot be undervalued in a county that has struggled with youth unemployment and limited economic diversification. The introduction of modern farming techniques also exemplified the potential of blending traditional agriculture with innovation to escalate productivity and food security.
- However, the company’s footprint left a complicated legacy. Displacement of families during the initial land acquisitions left scars in the social fabric, creating bitterness that lingers today. Many residents felt alienated, their voices drowned out in decisions that reshaped their land and livelihoods. The environmental toll was also significant; the swamp’s fragile ecosystem—home to diverse flora and fauna and crucial for water regulation—faced degradation owing to changes in water flow and land use



The debate surrounding the potential return of Dominion Farms Limited to Yala Swamp is a defining moment for Siaya County. It transcends politics and nostalgia; it is fundamentally about safeguarding the interests, rights, and futures of the communities who have called this swamp home for generations. CPA Hon. Zacky Masiro, an aspirant for the Siaya Senate seat in 2027, has been unwavering in his conviction that the true custodians of Yala Swamp are its people. Their welfare, opinions, and aspirations must guide any decisions about the area’s future. This is a call for a development model that respects both human dignity and environmental integrity. Dominion Farms’ previous engagement in Yala Swamp brought some clear benefits, most notably in job creation and boosting agricultural output. By employing local labor and investing in roads, irrigation, and storage facilities, Dominion improved infrastructure and helped stimulate economic activity within the region. These gains cannot be undervalued in a county that has struggled with

youth unemployment and limited economic diversification. The introduction of modern farming techniques also exemplified the potential of blending traditional agriculture with innovation to escalate productivity and food security. However, the company’s footprint left a complicated legacy. Displacement of families during the initial land acquisitions left scars in the social fabric, creating bitterness that lingers today. Many residents felt alienated, their voices drowned out in decisions that reshaped their land and livelihoods. The environmental toll was also significant; the swamp’s fragile ecosystem—home to diverse flora and fauna and crucial for water regulation—faced degradation owing to changes in water flow and land use. Such ecological harm has long-term implications not just for biodiversity but for local farmers who depend on a healthy environment for their survival. CPA Hon. Zacky Masiro’s vision moves beyond a simplistic yes-or-no stance on Dominion’s return. Instead, he insists on clear, community-driven terms of engagement where envi-

ronmental safeguards, equitable benefit-sharing, and social justice are prioritized. If Dominion’s return is to be positive, it must come with transparent agreements that include fair compensation for any displaced families, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers, and environmental restoration commitments. These frameworks should be legally binding and enforced by independent watchdogs that include community representatives. Masiro also emphasizes the importance of empowering local youth through employment and skills development. In a county where many young people face limited opportunities, harnessing the potential of Yala Swamp as a hub for agricultural innovation could reduce rural-urban migration and stimulate entrepreneurship. By facilitating access to markets and providing training in sustainable farming methods, Dominion’s operations could enhance local incomes while preserving the ecosystem. The aspirant also stresses that ongoing community consultation is vital. Development is not a one-time transaction but a continu-

ous partnership. The people of Yala must be partners in monitoring social and environmental impacts and have mechanisms to voice grievances and seek redress if commitments are broken. This inclusive approach encourages trust-building and ensures that development reflects local needs and aspirations rather than external interests alone. Environmental stewardship remains central. Yala Swamp is a unique wetland of ecological importance, acting as a natural buffer against climate change effects such as flooding and drought. CPA Masiro advocates for integrating conservation practices into agricultural development plans, such as maintaining buffer zones, adopting water conservation techniques, and supporting biodiversity hotspots. The goal is to leverage technology and sustainable farming to produce food without compromising the swamp’s ecological functions. Ultimately, Yala Swamp’s future offers a critical opportunity to redefine development in Siaya County. It is a chance to showcase how economic growth can be harmonized with social

equity and environmental protection. CPA Hon. Zacky Masiro is committed to championing a vision where no one is dispossessed, where the environment is safeguarded, and where the community’s dignity is upheld. His call to action is for leaders, investors, and citizens alike to collaborate in crafting a sustainable path forward. As Siaya County prepares for the 2027 elections, the message is clear: sustainable development in Yala Swamp is possible if it is grounded in respect, transparency, and partnership. The swamp’s people must be at the heart of the decision-making process, ensuring that prosperity is inclusive and benefits all generations to come. By honoring these principles, Yala Swamp can become a shining example of responsible development that respects both land and people—turning past mistakes into lessons that forge a better future.

James Kilonzo Bwire is a Media and communication practitioner.

Fierce war of words keeps Thailand and Cambodia on edge

By: BBC

The guns along the forested Thai-Cambodian border have been silent for three weeks now.

But a fierce war of words is still being waged by both countries, as they seek to win international sympathy and shore up public support at home. And a commonly-held view in Thailand is that they are losing. "The perception is that Cambodia has appeared more agile, more assertive and more media savvy," said Clare Patchimanon, speaking on the Thai Public Broadcasting System podcast Media Pulse. "Thailand has always been one step behind."

The century-old border dispute dramatically escalated with a Cambodian rocket barrage into Thailand on the morning of 24 July, followed by Thai air strikes.

Since then an army of Cambodian social media warriors, backed by state-controlled English language media channels, have unleashed a flood of allegations and inflammatory reports, many of which turned out to be false.

They reported that a Thai F16 fighter jet had been shot down, posting images of a plane on fire falling from the sky – it turned out to be from Ukraine. Another unfounded allegation, that Thailand had dropped poison gas, was accompanied by an image of a water bomber dropping pink fire retardant. This was really from a wildfire in California.

Thailand responded with official statements of its own, but often these were just dry presentations of statistics, and they came from multiple sources – the military, local government, health ministry, foreign ministry – which did not always appear to be coordinating with each other. Bangkok failed to get across its argument that Cambodia, whose rockets marked the first use of artillery and had killed several Thai civilians, was responsible for the escalation.

It is no secret that the elected Thai government, centred on the Pheu Thai party of controversial billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra, has an uneasy relationship with the Thai military.

That was made much worse in June when Hun Sen, the former Cambodian leader and an old friend of Thaksin's, decided to leak a private phone conversation he had with Thaksin's daughter, Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra. She had appealed to him to help resolve their differences over the border, and complained that the Thai army general commanding forces there was opposing her.

The leak caused a political uproar

in Thailand, prompting the constitutional court to suspend her, and badly weakening the government just as the border crisis escalated. Hun Sen has no such difficulties. Technically he has handed power to his son, Hun Manet, but after running the country for nearly 40 years it is clear he still holds the reins.

The army, the ruling party and the media are firmly under his control. His motives for burning his friendship with the Shinawatras are unclear, but it seems he was preparing for a larger conflict over the border. From the start Hun Sen posted constantly, in Khmer and English, on his Facebook page, taunting the Thai government, along with photos that showed him in army uniform or poring over military maps.

By contrast the most visible figure on the Thai side has been the mercurial 2nd Army commander Lt. Gen Boonsin Padklang. He is the same officer Paetongtarn had complained about, and his bellicose nationalism has won him plenty of fans in Thailand but has also undermined the government's authority.

"Hun Sen is very smart," says Sebastian Strangio, author of Hun Sen's Cambodia, a definitive account of the way his leadership has shaped the country.

"He has used this asymmetrical tactic of widening the divisions that already exist in Thailand. And the fact that Cambodia is so good at playing the victim has given it another powerful weapon against Thailand in the international arena."

Thai officials admit they are struggling to counter the tactics used by the Cambodian side.

"This is totally different from how information wars have been waged before," Russ Jalichandra, vice-minister for foreign affairs, told the BBC. "What we are saying must be credible and able to be proved. That's the only weapon we can use to fight in this war. And we have to stick to that even though it seems sometimes we are not fast enough."

Thailand has always insisted its border dispute with Cambodia should be resolved bilaterally, without outside intervention, using a Joint Boundary Commission the two countries established 25 years ago. But Cambodia wants to internationalise the dispute. It was the first to refer the escalating conflict to the UN Security Council last month. It has also asked the International Court of Justice to rule on where the border should lie. This has presented Thailand with a dilemma.

The official reason Thailand gives for rejecting ICJ involvement is that like many other countries it does not recognise ICJ jurisdiction. But just as important is a Thai collective memory of loss and humiliation at the ICJ which cuts to the heart of the



border dispute.

Both Thailand and Cambodia have enshrined national stories of unjust territorial losses.

In Cambodia's case it is the story of a once powerful empire reduced to poverty by war and revolution, and at the mercy of the territorial ambitions of its larger neighbours.

Thailand's is a more recent story of being forced to sacrifice territories in the early 20th Century to stave off French or British colonial rule. When Thailand agreed to a new border with French-occupied Cambodia, it allowed French cartographers to draw the map.

But when Cambodia became an independent state in 1953, Thai forces occupied a spectacular Khmer temple called Preah Vihear, or Khao Phra Viharn in Thai, perched on a cliff top which was supposed to mark the border.

The Thais argued that the French cartographers had erred in moving the border away from the watershed, the agreed dividing line, putting the temple in Cambodia.

Cambodia took the dispute to the ICJ, and won.

The court ruled that, whatever the map's flaws, Thailand had failed to challenge them in the preceding half century.

The then-Thai military ruler was shocked by the outcome, and wanted to attack Cambodia, but was persuaded by his diplomats to grudgingly accept the verdict.

Thailand's sensitivity over its 1962 loss now makes it politically impossible for it to accept an ICJ role in resolving the remaining border disputes.

That has allowed Hun Sen to portray Thailand as defying international law.

Thailand is now countering the Cambodian narrative with a more effective one of its own: the use of landmines.

Both countries are signatories to

the Ottawa Convention banning the use of anti-personnel mines, and Cambodia has a traumatic legacy of being one of the most mined countries in the world, for which it has received a lot of overseas funding. So Thailand's accusation that Cambodian soldiers have been laying new anti-personnel mines along the border, causing multiple injuries to Thai soldiers, is an awkward one for the government in Phnom Penh. Initially Cambodia dismissed the allegation, saying these were old mines left from the civil war in the 1980s. The Thai government then took a group of diplomats and journalists to the border to show us what they have found.

Laid out on a table in the jungle, just a few hundred metres from the border, was a collection of munitions that Thai demining teams say they recovered from areas formerly occupied by Cambodian troops.

We were confined to a small clearing, marked off by red and white tape. Anywhere beyond that, they said, was unsafe. On the drive in along a muddy track we saw Thai soldiers in camouflaged bunkers hidden in the trees.

Among the munitions were dozens of thick, green plastic discs about the diameter of a saucer. These were Russian-made PMN-2 mines which contain a large quantity of explosives – enough to cause severe limb damage – and are difficult to deactivate. Some appeared to be brand new, and had not been laid.

The initial images of these prompted Cambodia to dismiss the Thai claims as unfounded because the arming pins had not been removed. However, we were shown other mines which had been armed and buried, but clearly recently – not in the 1980s.

Thailand is calling for action against Cambodia by other signatories to the Ottawa Convention, and is asking countries which support demining

programmes in Cambodia to stop funding them.

It argues that Cambodia's refusal to admit laying mines or to agree on a plan to remove them demonstrates a lack of good faith in resolving the border dispute.

Cambodia has fired back by accusing Thailand of using cluster munitions and white phosphorus shells, which are not banned but can also pose a threat to non-combatants; the Thai military has acknowledged using them but only, it says, against military targets.

Cambodia has also published pictures of what it says is damage to the Preah Vihear temple, a World Heritage Site, by Thai shelling, something that the Thai military has denied.

The incessant volleys of accusations from both countries make any progress on their border dispute unlikely. Hun Sen and his son have benefited politically from being able to depict themselves as defenders of Cambodian soil, but the conflict has made the political challenges faced by the Thai government even worse.

It has stirred intense animosity between Thai and Cambodian nationalists. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodian migrant workers have left Thailand, which will hit an already struggling Cambodian economy.

"Both sides are describing the border as a sacred dividing line between their countries", says Mr Strangio. "The symbolism is hugely important. This cuts to very deep questions of national identity, and it's something that neither side can afford to take a step back from at the moment."