

Beyond economics, there's another issue close to many Kenyans' hearts: social values

US-Kenya Deals

"Mouthy Kamala Harris," dubbing her as Washington's loudest yet shallowest voice on African affairs.



Can Trump's Return End America's Secret Deals with Kenya?: As Donald John Trump aims for a return to power, Kenya considers the weight of Biden's deals on its economy and culture

By: Midmark Onsongo

If you read last week's Diaspora Times cover, you couldn't miss the bold headline: "Mouthy Kamala Harris," dubbing her as Washington's loudest yet shallowest voice on African affairs. For some, her words echoed American ideals and promises; for others, they reflected something more worrying: foreign influence that goes beyond partnership and borders on control. As Donald John Trump makes his bid to return to power, many Kenyans wonder: will his policies bring an end to the deals that seem to benefit America more than Kenya?



President Donald Trump

In recent years, Kenya has watched as its relationship with the United States grew under the Biden-Harris administration. The promises were appealing—economic support, development projects, and diplomatic ties. But as the dust settles, Kenyans are beginning to see the fine print. What were touted as partnerships for growth now reveal themselves as deals laced with conditions. From economic policies echoing America's high-tax model to social pressures pushing values that don't align with Kenyan culture, the full picture of American influence in Kenya has become clearer, and it has many questioning whose

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Trump will face fewer speed bumps in Washington during his second term

Republican Party America



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COP29 chief exec filmed promoting fossil fuel deals

Azerbaijan Climate



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North Korea jams GPS signals, affecting ships, aircraft in South Korea

North Korea



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Geopolitical Tensions in the Middle East Threaten Kenya's Avocado Exports: A Call for National Policymaker Dialogue

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News Backpage Hezbollah calls for US action, not words, as Trump reclaims White House



One Nation, Two Worlds: The Persistent Tensions Between The North And The South

The tension between South Korea and North Korea is deeply rooted in history, politics, ideology, and geopolitical interests. Here's an analysis of their division and the role of the United States in both the initial split and the ongoing discord.

ROOTS AND DIVISION OF KOREA Before World War II, Korea was a unified country that had endured centuries of occupation, most notably under Japan from 1910 to 1945. During this period, Korea was heavily exploited, with its people suffering

under colonial rule. However, Japan's defeat in 1945 ended its control, and Korea was left to determine its future. As part of post-war arrangements, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Korea along the 38th parallel. This was originally meant to be temporary,

with the goal of eventually reuniting the country.

In 1948, two separate governments were established: the Democratic

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CHAI NI KETEPA

President Ruto to Lead Kenya's Delegation at COP29, Championing Africa's Climate Finance Agenda

By: BERNARD MOMANYI
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- "Africa is calling for \$1.3 trillion per year by 2030, primarily through grants and concessional loans, to avoid exacerbating the debt burden on developing nations," Duale stated. COP29's overarching aim is for nations to align on strategies to combat climate change, prevent further global warming, and assist those most affected by climate change.
- The Paris Agreement of 2015 set the framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stresses that limiting warming to 1.5°C is critical to avoid catastrophic climate impacts.



President William Ruto /COURTESY

Kenya, in its capacity as Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), is preparing to represent Africa's climate priorities at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan next week. President William Ruto will lead a high-level Kenyan delegation, including Environment Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, in discussions centered on securing climate finance, advancing adaptation efforts, and finalizing carbon mar

During the 10th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), Duale emphasized the urgent need for a new global

climate finance target to replace the outdated \$100 billion goal. "Africa is calling for \$1.3 trillion per year by 2030, primarily through grants and concessional loans, to avoid exacerbating the debt burden on developing nations," Duale stated. COP29's overarching aim is for nations to align on strategies to combat climate change, prevent further global warming, and assist those most affected by climate change. The Paris Agreement of 2015 set the framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 2°C above

pre-industrial levels. However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stresses that limiting warming to 1.5°C is critical to avoid catastrophic climate impacts. Despite efforts, the world is currently on track for a temperature rise of 2.6 to 3.1°C this century, with lower-income countries bearing the brunt. Key discussions at COP29 will focus on financial targets, with Africa pushing for reforms in international financial systems to better support vulnerable nations. Notably, Africa is calling for increased adaptation funding, particularly for sectors

such as agriculture, health, and infrastructure, where current funding falls significantly short of the \$400 billion needed annually. COP29 has been dubbed "the finance COP" due to its focus on scaling up climate finance for both mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. Duale also highlighted the critical need for sustainable financing for the Loss and Damage Fund, which has received \$700 million in initial pledges but still requires long-term solutions. Additionally, Africa is challenging the decision to place the Santiago Network's secretariat in Geneva, sug-

gesting Nairobi as a more cost-effective and strategic alternative. With the escalating frequency of extreme weather events in 2024, which is expected to be the hottest year on record, the impact of climate change continues to devastate communities globally. Africa's position at COP29 will advocate for increased emissions reduction targets from developed nations and greater support for developing countries in achieving their climate goals.

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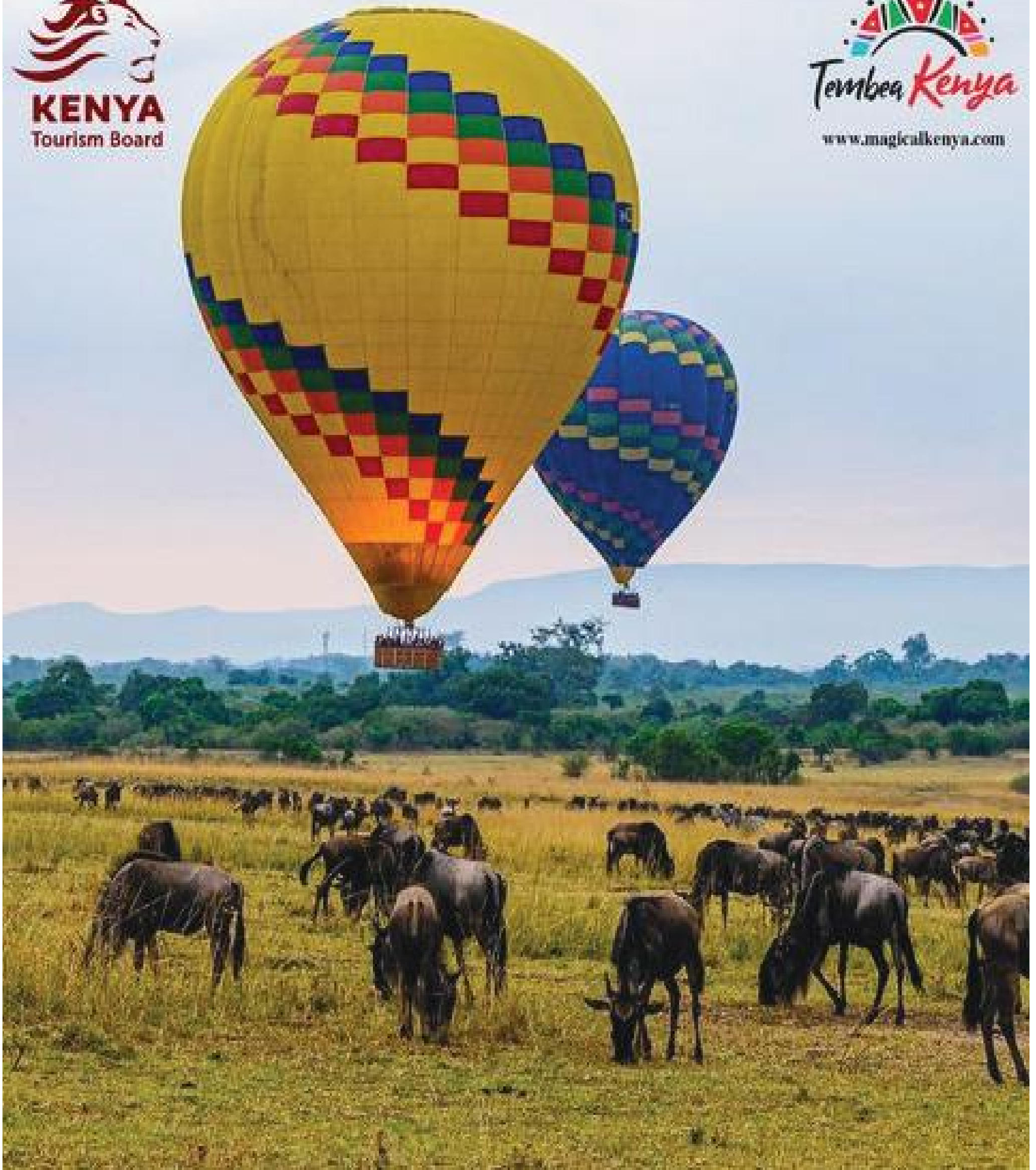
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Environment

Innovative Ideas In Environmental Protection



By: Shernazarova Dilnura
Akmaljonovna
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Annotation: This article explores the significance of innovative ideas in environmental protection and highlights various innovative approaches and technologies that can be employed to address environmental challenges. The article discusses five key areas where innovative ideas are crucial for effective environmental protection and emphasizes the importance of implementing these ideas to ensure a sustainable future.

Keywords: Environmental protection, innovation, sustainability, technology, conservation, climate change.

The Importance of Innovative Ideas in Environmental Protection introduces the importance of innovative ideas in addressing environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. It emphasizes the need for creative solutions to safeguard the planet for future generations.

Here, various innovative technologies for controlling pollution are discussed, including advanced waste management systems, air and water purification technologies, and sustainable energy solutions. The section highlights how these technologies can mitigate the negative impacts of pollution on the environment. Furthermore, sustainable energy solutions offer a viable alternative to fossil fuels, which are major contributors to air and water pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power are rapidly gaining



traction as cleaner, more sustainable alternatives to traditional energy sources. By harnessing the power of nature's resources, these technologies provide clean, renewable energy without the environmental drawbacks associated with fossil fuels, helping to combat climate change and reduce pollution on a global scale. Innovative technologies for pollution control are essential tools in our efforts to protect the environment and promote sustainability. By embracing creative solutions and investing in cutting-edge technologies, we can mitigate the negative impacts of pollution, preserve natural resources, and create a healthier, more sustainable planet for current and future generations. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems explores innovative ideas in agriculture and food production that promote sustainability and reduce environmental degradation. Topics covered include organic farming practices, precision agriculture, and alternative protein sources to lessen the ecolog-

ical footprint of food production. Green Infrastructure and Urban Planning. The focus shifts to urban environments and the role of innovative green infrastructure and urban planning in environmental protection. Concepts such as green roofs, permeable pavements, and sustainable city design are discussed, highlighting their potential to enhance urban resilience and reduce environmental impact. Innovative green infrastructure refers to the integration of natural elements and ecosystem services into urban landscapes to enhance environmental quality and promote sustainable development. Green roofs, for example, are vegetated roof systems that provide numerous environmental benefits, including stormwater management, urban heat island mitigation, and habitat creation for native wildlife. By replacing conventional roofing materials with green roofs, cities can reduce stormwater runoff, alleviate pressure on municipal drainage systems, and

improve air quality. Permeable pavements are another innovative solution for managing stormwater in urban areas. Unlike traditional impermeable pavements, which contribute to surface runoff and water pollution, permeable pavements allow rainwater to infiltrate the ground, replenishing groundwater supplies and reducing the risk of flooding. These porous surfaces are typically made from materials such as permeable concrete, asphalt, or pavers, which allow water to pass through while providing structural support for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Sustainable city design encompasses a holistic approach to urban planning that prioritizes environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic prosperity. Sustainable cities incorporate principles such as compact development, mixed land use, and efficient transportation systems to minimize resource consumption and reduce environmental impact. By promoting walkability, cycling,

and public transit, sustainable cities reduce reliance on private vehicles and mitigate traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Community Engagement and Behavioral Change emphasizes the importance of community engagement and behavioral change in environmental protection efforts. Innovative approaches such as citizen science initiatives, environmental education programs, and community-based conservation projects are explored as effective ways to empower communities and foster sustainable practices.

In conclusion, the article underscores the critical role of innovative ideas in advancing environmental protection efforts. It calls for continued investment in research and development of innovative solutions and emphasizes the need for collaboration between governments, businesses, communities, and individuals to address environmental challenges effectively.

Worth Noting:

- **Innovative technologies for pollution control are essential tools in our efforts to protect the environment and promote sustainability. By embracing creative solutions and investing in cutting-edge technologies, we can mitigate the negative impacts of pollution, preserve natural resources, and create a healthier, more sustainable planet for current and future generations.**
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems explores innovative ideas in agriculture and food production that promote sustainability and reduce environmental degradation. Topics covered include organic farming practices, precision agriculture, and alternative protein sources to lessen the ecological footprint of food production.**

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DP Kindiki Engages Botswana on Trade, Climate, and Backs Odinga's AU Bid in Diplomatic Talks

By: DPPS
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Deputy President Kithure Kindiki underscored Kenya's growing partnership with Botswana during a diplomatic visit to Gaborone, where he held bilateral talks with President Duma Gideon Boko.

The talks, representing President William Ruto, centered on mutual goals for economic development, climate action, and regional security.

"Kenya considers Botswana an ally in continental economic development, peace and security," Kindiki stated. "Our nations share experiences in democracy and trade that date back to the independence struggle."

He said that over 1,200 Kenyans currently work in Botswana, especially in governance and education, where Kenyan professionals have contributed significantly. "The Kenyan government appreciates the cordial treatment accorded to our citizens,"

he added, affirming Kenya's gratitude for the positive relations between the two countries.

Kindiki and Boko's discussions included enhancing cooperation on climate change and trade in key sectors like coffee, tea, beef farming, horticulture, and mining. "Together, we aim to address shared challenges such as climate resilience and support our communities through sustainable trade and security partnerships," Kindiki explained.

In a diplomatic appeal, Kindiki formally presented Kenya's request for Botswana's support for Raila Odinga's bid to chair the African Union Commission, marking a significant moment in Kenya's regional engagement strategy. "This support is crucial for Kenya, as we aim to advance our shared goals for peace and stability on the continent," Kindiki said. Kenya's government views these discussions as a step toward strengthening regional influence and fostering economic collaboration across Africa.



Kenya's Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki and President Duma Gideon Bok of Botswana. /November 9, 2024.

Botswana

Kindiki Champions Raila Odinga's African Union Commission Candidature During Botswana Visit

By: DPPS
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Deputy President Kithure Kindiki has voiced Kenya's strong support for Raila Odinga's bid to chair the African Union Commission (AUC) during his official visit to Gaborone. This move comes shortly after Kenya formally launched Odinga's candidacy, positioning him as a leader capable of tackling Africa's conflicts and driving the continent's economic recovery from poverty.

While in Botswana, Kindiki, representing President William Ruto, engaged in bilateral talks with President Duma Gideon Boko. The discussions focused on advancing cooperation in key areas, including climate change, tourism, trade in coffee, tea, and beef, horticulture and floriculture, mining, cooperatives management, and regional peace and security.

"Kenya considers Botswana an ally in continental economic development, peace, and security," Kindiki stated, emphasizing the long-standing relationship between the two nations. "Our shared experiences in

politics, democracy, and trade date back to the independence struggle."

The Deputy President also highlighted the presence of over 1,200 Kenyan professionals working in Botswana, particularly in governance and education. "We deeply appreciate the cordial treatment our citizens have received, as they have significantly contributed to Botswana's development," he added.

Kindiki's discussions with President Boko underscored both countries' commitment to enhancing climate resilience and supporting sustainable trade practices. He further presented Kenya's formal request for Botswana's support in Odinga's AUC chairmanship bid, stressing the importance of the position for advancing peace and stability across Africa. "Supporting Raila Odinga's candidacy is crucial for advancing our shared goals of peace, stability, and prosperity on the continent," Kindiki affirmed.

This visit marks another step in strengthening Kenya's diplomatic and economic ties with Botswana, with a focus on fostering collaboration in sectors critical to both nations' growth and regional stability.



Kenya's Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki and President Duma Gideon Bok of Botswana. /November 9, 2024



PROJECT CATALOG

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Smart Library System

Smart Library System – Innovation in Libraries with a Smart Book Printer

By: **Bannobova Maxsudaxon**
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Abstract : This article explores the “Smart Library System” project, which aims to address issues in the automation and standardization of library services. The project centers around an innovative “smart book printer” that allows users to print electronic books in a physical format. The main goal is to encourage the younger generation to read more and familiarize themselves with new technologies. This article discusses the technological features, practical benefits, and social significance of the “Smart Library System” project.

Keywords: Smart Library System, smart book printer, library automation, youth reading, library innovation, technological library.

Introduction. In an era where technology is rapidly advancing, there is a growing need to modernize library services to meet contemporary demands. Traditional libraries are often ineffective in attracting young people, leading to a decline in their interest in books. The “Smart Library System” project seeks to increase the popularity of libraries by introducing an automated and user-friendly book printer. This project provides users with the opportunity to print electronic books in physical form, making the reading experience more accessible and engaging.

Problems and Solutions: Challenges in Library Automation and Standardization Currently, most libraries operate with traditional methods, limiting the convenience for users. Finding or borrowing books can be challenging. The “Smart Library System” project aims to automate and standardize library services by equipping libraries with a digital database and smart printer. This specialized book printer allows users to print PDF or electronic books in hard copy, making library services more user-friendly and addressing the need for automation.

Low Book Usage Among Youth: Today’s younger generation mostly relies on the internet and digital devices for information, reducing their interest in reading books. This can limit their learning opportunities. The “Smart Library System” project seeks to increase



young people’s interest in reading by attracting them through modern technology. The smart book printer is programmed with scientific and training books, allowing users to select specific sections and print them in a short time. This approach encourages young people to take an interest in reading. At the same time, through this project, not only the young generation, but also the entire society will expand their spirituality, become deep-minded, broad-minded, and adapt to the times through innovative devices.

Increasing the Popularity of Libraries: The significance of libraries is diminishing, which can impact cultural and intellectual growth. The “Smart Library System” project aims to enhance the social role of libraries. These specialized book printers will be installed in public spaces, universities, and shopping centers to attract more users. The printer is

housed in a booth with noise-reducing glass and a music system, creating a comfortable environment for users. This feature makes libraries more appealing and accessible to the public. The most important thing is that they easily pay for the book through their personal cards. Cards, book amount is withdrawn when approaching the special scanner button.

Practical Benefits and Technological Features of the System

1. **Printing and Summarizing PDF Books** The “Smart Library System” allows users to print electronic books they already own in hard copy. This printer also enables users to select specific parts of a book, making the information they need easily accessible. This is a significant innovation for modern library services.

2. **User-Friendly Interface** The smart book printer has an intuitive interface that is

easy for users to navigate. By using simple buttons, users can select the desired book or document and print it in physical format. The printer is connected to a bot program, allowing users to upload and print PDF-format books.

3. **Installation Locations and Opportunities for Youth** This system is designed to be installed in busy public spaces, especially in universities, where it can be programmed with books related to specific fields of study. Students can easily print academic materials within a short time. This technology encourages young people to engage with new technologies and fosters a learning environment.

Conclusion. The “Smart Library System” project brings library services to a new level based on modern technology. The smart book printer automates library services, offering users a contemporary library experience. This

project aims to boost young people’s interest in reading and familiarizes them with new technology. Additionally, libraries contribute to social and intellectual development. By being installed in public places, this project encourages a love for reading, supporting the growth of a knowledgeable and cultured new generation.

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Worth Noting:

• **Low Book Usage Among Youth:** Today’s younger generation mostly relies on the internet and digital devices for information, reducing their interest in reading books. This can limit their learning opportunities. The “Smart Library System” project seeks to increase young people’s interest in reading by attracting them through modern technology.

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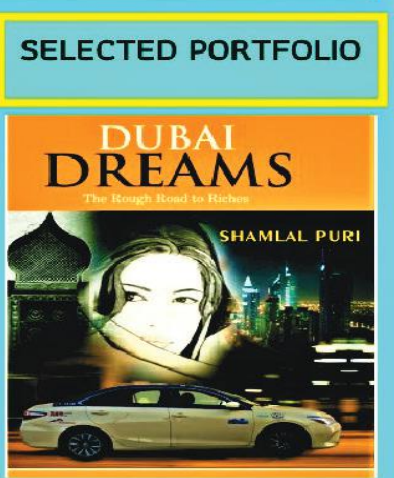
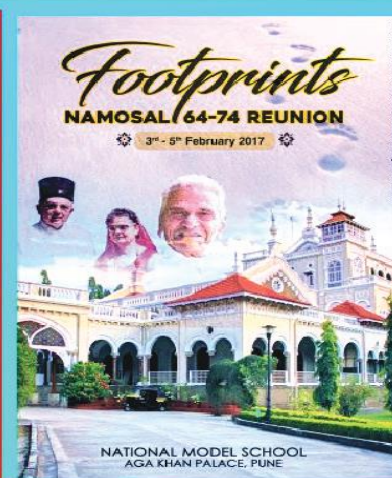
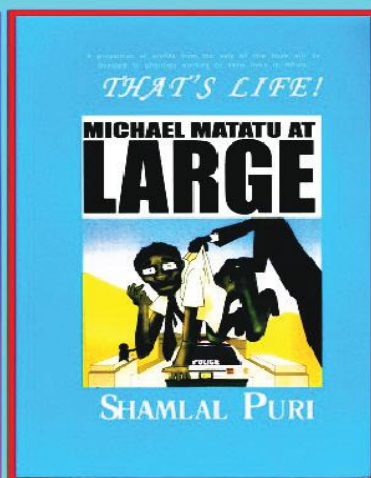
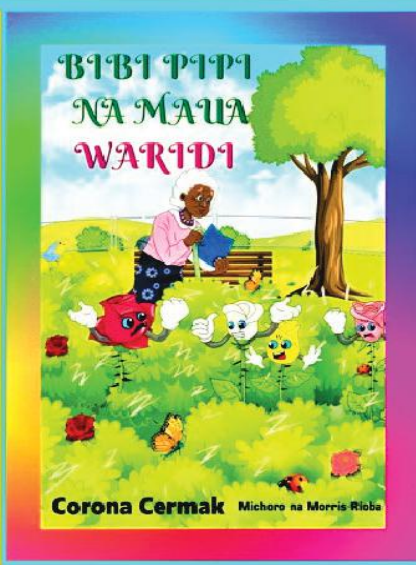
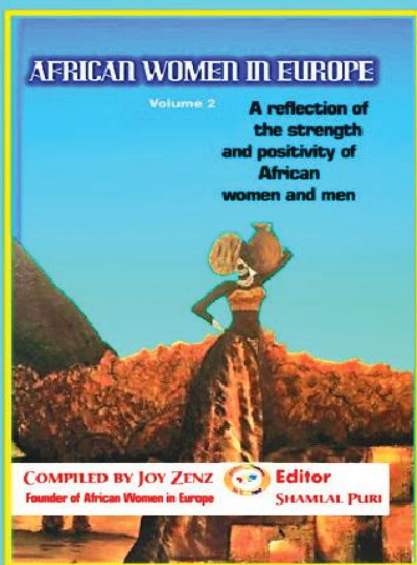
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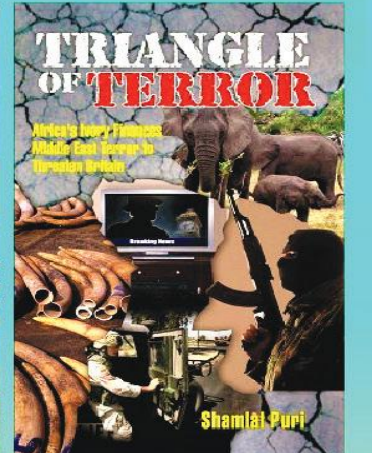
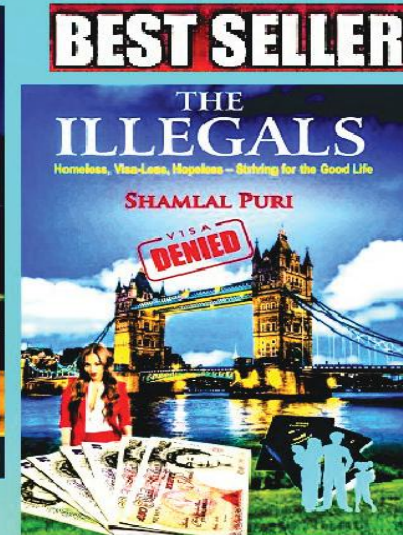
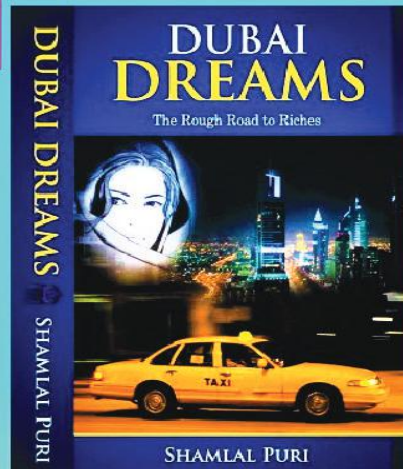
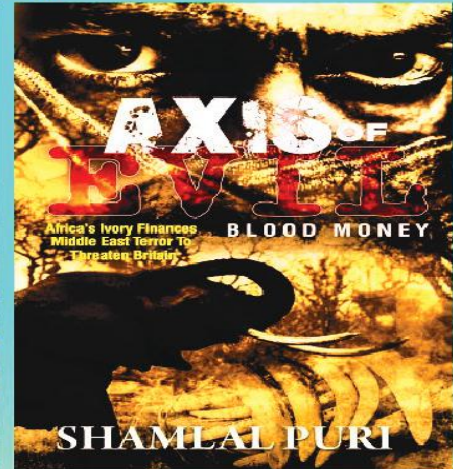
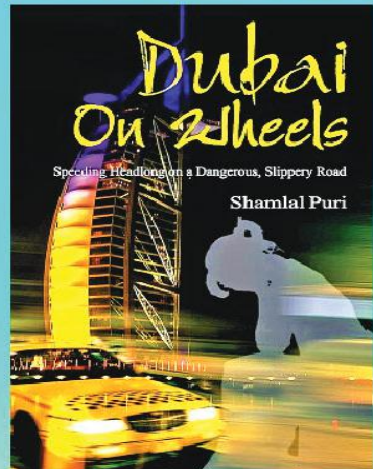
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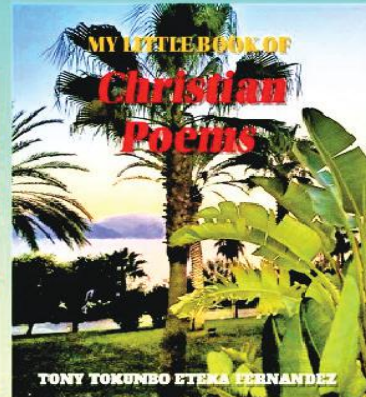
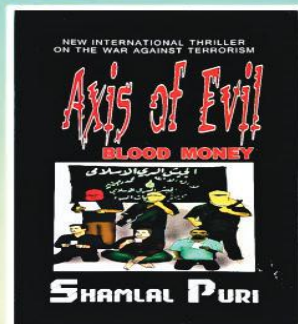
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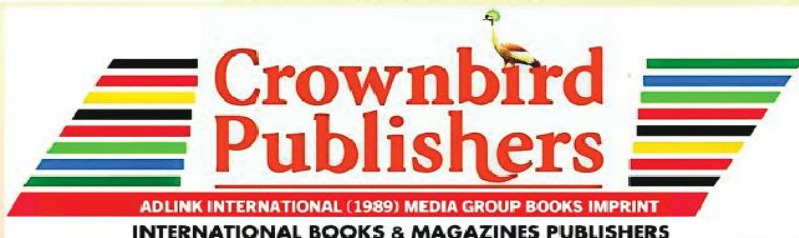


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UK News

Can Trump's Return End America's Secret Deals with Kenya?: As Donald John Trump aims for a return to power, Kenya considers the weight of Biden's deals on its economy and culture



By: Midmark Onsongo
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

Beyond economics, there's another issue close to many Kenyans' hearts: social values. In America, the Biden administration has championed progressive ideals, including a strong stance on abortion rights. Vice President Kamala Harris has been an outspoken advocate of this issue and, during her 2023 visit to Nairobi, made it clear she wanted Kenya to consider aligning with America's stance on reproductive rights.

Harris's words were wrapped in messages of empowerment and choice, but to many Kenyans, they felt like pressure to adopt values that go against their own cultural beliefs. Kenya, a country with deep-rooted traditions and conservative views on issues like abortion, suddenly found itself in the middle of a political and cultural dilemma. Was this "choice" truly for Kenyans, or was it another example of American ideals creeping into Kenyan society?

interests these deals really serve.

Take, for instance, Kenya's recent tax policies. For many, these new taxes feel like an unfair burden, introduced in the name of "progress" but affecting everyday Kenyans more than anyone else. The "Finance Bill of 2023," for example, was presented as a pathway to economic growth and stability. But as it rolled out, critics began pointing out striking similarities to Biden's own fiscal policies in the U.S.—heavy on taxes with an emphasis on redistribution. This has raised suspicions: is Kenya's economic policy truly its own, or is it a shadow of America's agenda? Observers note that under Biden, America itself has grappled with tax policies that affect middle and lower-income households the hardest, and now Kenya is experiencing something similar. The bill has left many Kenyans wondering if they're the unwitting subjects of an experiment in American-style taxation.

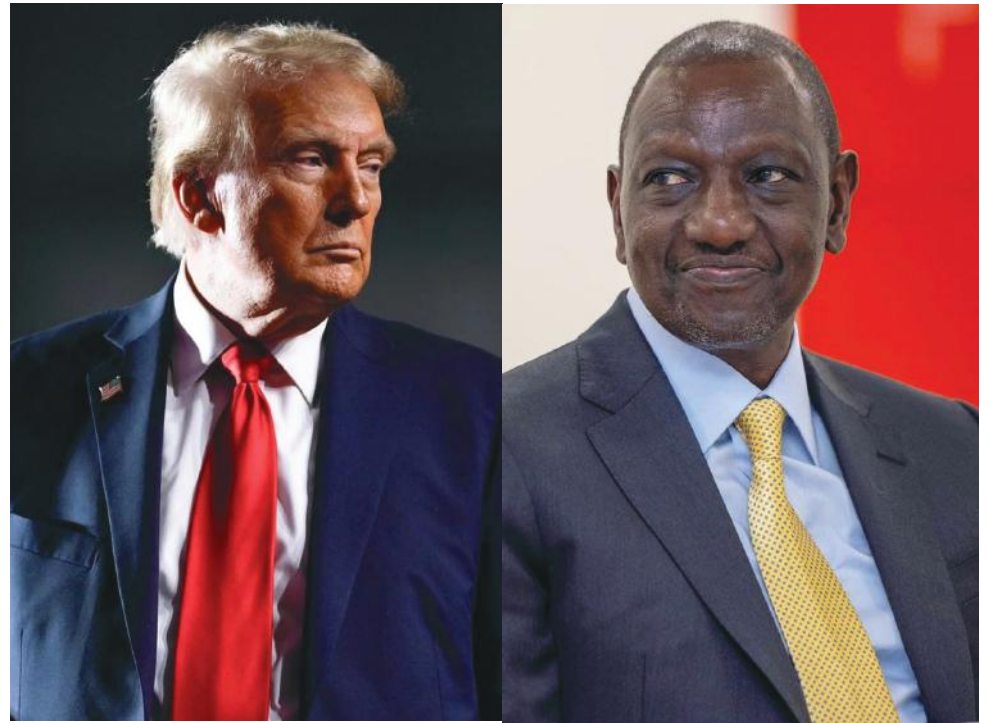
Beyond economics, there's another issue close to many Kenyans' hearts: social values. In America, the Biden administration has championed progressive ideals, including a strong stance on abortion rights. Vice President Kamala Harris has been an outspoken advocate of this issue and, during her 2023 visit to Nairobi, made it clear she wanted Kenya to consider aligning with America's stance on reproductive rights. Harris's words were wrapped in messages of empowerment and choice, but to many Kenyans, they felt like pressure to adopt values that go against their own cultural beliefs. Kenya, a country with deep-rooted traditions and conservative views on issues like abortion, suddenly found itself in the middle of a political and cultural dilemma. Was this "choice" truly for Kenyans, or was it another example of American ideals creeping into Kenyan society?

But perhaps one of the most alarming, less-discussed aspects of Kenya's relationship with the Biden administration is the use of Kenyan soldiers to fight American battles abroad. In 2022, Kenyan troops were sent to Haiti under the guise of a peacekeeping mission, allegedly to help stabilize the Caribbean nation. While

Kenya has always contributed to UN peacekeeping operations, this mission felt different. Many Kenyans were shocked to learn that their soldiers were being deployed not for peacekeeping in Africa, but for an American-led operation far from their homeland. Critics argue that this mission, which was framed as a humanitarian effort, was another example of how Kenya has been subtly dragged into America's global ambitions under the Biden administration. What did Kenya truly gain from this? Was this part of a hidden agenda to solidify U.S. interests in the region, using Kenya as a pawn to do so?

Enter Donald John Trump, a leader known for his "America First" slogan and a very different view on foreign aid and policy. Trump's approach to foreign relations has always been more direct, even blunt—he's not one for diplomatic niceties or hidden expectations. For Kenya, a Trump presidency could represent a break from the subtle pressures the Biden administration brought. Trump's potential return to power has sparked hope among those in Kenya who feel that Biden's policies are too intrusive. Under Trump, there's a strong likelihood that many of Biden's agreements and policies will face scrutiny, if not complete reversal. Trump's approach to foreign aid is simpler: he believes in helping only when it's mutually beneficial. This approach could mean fewer strings attached for Kenya, a fresh start where partnerships are more straightforward.

Kenya's relationship with the U.S. under Biden has been both rewarding and challenging. The financial support that Biden's administration has provided has helped with development projects and infrastructure. Yet, these gains have come at a cost. Kenya's economy, instead of flourishing, has felt the strain of new taxes and policies that seem strangely similar to American economic practices. For instance, Biden's focus on "taxation as progress" has influenced Kenyan policies, according to some analysts, pushing the nation toward a model that doesn't quite fit its own needs. The irony is clear: while Kenya benefits from U.S. aid, it also faces the downside of adopting



Collage photo of President William Ruto and President Donald Trump

U.S.-inspired policies that create challenges for its people.

Then there's Kamala Harris herself, who has become an emblem of the Biden administration's influence on Kenya. Her visit to Nairobi, which was meant to strengthen ties, left many wondering if the U.S. was trying to reshape Kenya in its own image. Harris's speeches about women's rights and empowerment were inspiring to some, but they also carried a quiet insistence that Kenya adopt certain American values. Harris's message of "forward-thinking" felt, to some, like a thinly veiled expectation that Kenya should follow America's lead on social issues like abortion. This expectation doesn't sit well with many Kenyans who feel strongly about their cultural beliefs and wonder if America's "help" is worth the cost to their values.

As Trump considers a comeback, his views on Africa and foreign aid provide a stark contrast to Biden's policies. Trump's stance on aid is simple: he's not interested in giving without receiving something in return. Some Kenyans view this approach as more honest—it removes the need to adopt American values in exchange for support. Others worry that without Biden's model of assistance, Kenya might lose the financial help it's come to rely on. Yet Trump's likely approach could mean fewer entanglements. For Kenya, this could be an opportunity to define its own path without being tied down by poli-

cies that don't fit.

The "Finance Bill of 2023" has become a symbol of American influence in Kenya. Originally touted as a Kenyan effort to strengthen its economy, the bill now appears to be heavily inspired by America's tax structure. With its focus on redistribution and heavy taxes, the bill is seen by many as a product of American influence, an experiment that aligns too closely with Biden's vision for America's own economy. Some believe that if Trump returns to office, this bill and others like it may be up for revision. Trump's policy goals are more focused on reducing U.S. involvement in other countries' affairs, which could mean less control over Kenya's fiscal policies and more freedom for Kenya to design policies that truly benefit its citizens.

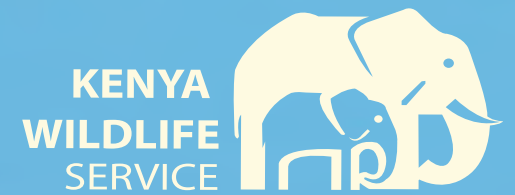
With Trump's potential return, Kenya's leaders are rethinking their relationship with Washington. Should Kenya continue its close ties with the Biden administration, accepting the quiet pressures and conditions that come with it? Or should it prepare for a new type of relationship with America, one that could offer more freedom but also fewer benefits? For some, Trump's approach is appealing because it removes the need to compromise on Kenya's values. For others, it raises questions about what will happen to the development projects and financial support that have become part of Kenya's growth.

As Kenya stands at a crossroads, its leaders face a

tough choice. Biden's administration has offered financial support and development assistance, but it has also introduced policies that place a strain on Kenyan society and culture. The quiet pressures from Washington have made Kenya question how much it is willing to compromise in exchange for American aid. Trump's return, while uncertain, offers an alternative—a chance to step back from policies that feel too American and embrace a simpler, more direct relationship with the U.S. The question now is whether Kenya is ready to take that chance and define its own path, free from America's hidden expectations.

Kenya's leaders must weigh their options. With Biden, Kenya has gained financial support, but at a cost to its autonomy. With Trump, Kenya may have fewer resources but more freedom to follow its own path. As the U.S. election looms, Kenya's future hangs in the balance, caught between two versions of American influence—one wrapped in diplomacy and ideals, the other blunt and transactional. The winds of change are blowing, and Kenya must decide which way to lean, hoping for a future where partnerships with America are made on Kenya's terms, not Washington's.

This article was scripted by:
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America

Trump will face fewer speed bumps in Washington during his second term

Donald Trump will face far fewer limits on his power when he is sworn in once more as U.S. president in January, with allies in place across Washington to help him achieve his goals.

By: Reuters .
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Following his unexpected 2016 victory, Trump was viewed by suspicion by many Republican lawmakers and even members of his own administration -- notably Vice President Mike Pence, who refused to join his scheme to overturn his election defeat on Jan. 6, 2021.

- Congressional Republicans who resisted him, such as former Representative Liz Cheney and the late Senator John McCain, have been replaced by lawmakers who sought his endorsement.

- The Supreme Court, featuring three justices he appointed, has loosened the legal guardrails that have hemmed past presidents in, thanks to a blockbuster July decision that gives presidents broad immunity from criminal prosecution.

- And he'll be able to claim a broad mandate from the public as only the second Republican presidential candidate since 1988 to win the popular vote. Nearly nine in 10 Republican voters view him favorably, according to a late October Reuters/Ipsos poll.



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump holds up a fist as he takes the stage with his wife Melania and son Barron, following early results from the 2024 U.S. presidential election in Palm Beach County Convention Center, in West Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., November 6, 2024. REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare/File Photo

Donald Trump will face far fewer limits on his power when he is sworn in once more as U.S. president in January, with allies in place across Washington to help him achieve his goals.

Trump returns to power as the head of a Republican Party that has been remade in his image over the last eight years and as the architect of a conservative-leaning judiciary that has helped to eliminate his legal perils. Following his unexpected 2016 victory, Trump was viewed by suspicion by many Republican lawmakers and even members of his own administration -- notably Vice President Mike Pence, who refused to join his scheme to overturn his election defeat on Jan. 6, 2021.

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Trump faces one possible constraint: Democrats could yet win control of the House, which would enable them to block his legislative agenda and launch investigations into his administration.

But with dozens of races remaining to be called, Republicans have so far added to their narrow majority. Republicans are finding plenty of reasons to celebrate.

"The President will return to his desk triumphantly with a fresh mandate to fix the biggest problems confronting our nation. And this time he brings a hard-earned un-

derstanding of how to make Washington work for him," said Republican strategist John Ashbrook.

'MORE MAGA AND LESS REPUBLICAN'

His allies have spent the past several months pre-screening candidates for his administration, aiming to ensure key posts will be filled by dependable foot soldiers. "We're looking at younger, more MAGA folks. More MAGA and less Republican than in the past," said one donor who spoke on condition of anonymity, referring to Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

One of those posts, of course, has already been filled. Vice President-elect JD Vance has spent his brief political career defending Trump's nationalist philosophy on Capitol Hill and was elected to the Senate in 2022 after winning Trump's endorsement.

Pence, by contrast, had carved out his own identity as a former governor and member of Congress by the time Trump tapped him to

serve as vice president in 2016.

Trump will likely have an easier time getting his appointees through the Senate this time than he did in his first term, when dozens of candidates were unable to win approval.

Republicans are on track to control between 52 and 57 seats in the 100-seat chamber, which means a winning vote will not necessarily hinge on independent-minded Republicans like Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

"With a 54-seat majority, which is where I think the Senate is shaking out right now, he should be able to confirm most of his qualified cabinet nominees," Jon Lieber, a former Republican Senate aide now with the Eurasia group, told reporters on a conference call.

Potential candidates include several who failed to win Senate approval during Trump's first term.

Trump also could have an easier time winning approval for his judicial picks,

though there may be few openings to fill as he and Democratic President Joe Biden have appointed about half of the nation's 890 judges, who are tenured for life.

Those judges have already given Trump important victories. Most notably U.S. District Court Judge Aileen Cannon in July dismissed the federal case charging Trump with illegally mishandling classified documents after leaving office.

Meanwhile, legal experts say the Supreme Court's ruling on presidential immunity may leave Trump feeling unconstrained once he's sworn in on Jan. 20.

"There's going to be very few restraints on Trump and I think he's going to feel very empowered with that decision in his pocket," said Fordham University law professor Cheryl Bader.

NEWS PAPER



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KOREA

One Nation, Two Worlds: The Persistent Tensions Between The North And The South



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

In 1948, two separate governments were established: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea or DPRK) under Soviet influence, and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) under American influence. Ideologically, North Korea adopted communism, with a totalitarian regime (as perceived by the West), while South Korea leaned toward capitalism and democracy (under the remote-control of the West). This ideological division, influenced by the Cold War rivalry, intensified tensions, leading to the Korean War in 1950.

The division of Korea along the 38th parallel after World War II was a strategic arrangement made by the United States and the Soviet Union in the wake of Japan's surrender in 1945. Japan had ruled Korea since 1910, and with its defeat in WWII, the Allies needed a plan for managing the country. Although the initial goal was to create a unified, independent Korea, the realities of Cold War politics soon influenced this division.

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MOTIVES FOR THE KOREAN DIVISION
Both the US and the Soviet Union had motives shaped by their emerging global rivalry as follows:

1. Containment of Ideological Influence

UNITED STATES: The US aimed to limit Soviet influence in Asia and prevent the spread of communism by establishing a pro-Western government in the southern half of Korea. This was consistent with the broader US strategy of containment, which sought to counter the spread of Soviet-aligned governments worldwide.

The ideological containment strategy of the United States in Korea was driven primarily by Cold War politics, with the main goal of halting the spread of communism in East Asia. This approach brought certain benefits to U.S. interests, particularly in terms of regional stability, economic influence, and military strategy. Here's a closer look at the perceived benefits to the U.S.:

1.1. Strategic Containment of Communism

By supporting South Korea and establishing a strong capitalist and democratic government there, the U.S. created a buffer against communist expansion in Asia. South Korea became a frontline state in the U.S.'s global containment policy,



North Korea's Kim Jong-un and South Korea's Moon Jae-in shook hands at the border

alongside Japan, Taiwan, and other regional allies. The Korean Peninsula thus became an anchor point in the larger Cold War struggle against the Soviet Union and, later, China's communist influence. This strategy was seen as crucial in limiting the spread of communism beyond North Korea and maintaining a regional balance of power.

1.2. Economic and Technological Influence

The U.S. invested significantly in South Korea's post-war reconstruction and economic development, transforming the country into a successful example of a capitalist economy in Asia. South Korea's "Miracle on the Han River" - its rapid economic growth in the latter half of the 20th century - became a showcase for the success of capitalism, which the U.S. could use to contrast with North Korea's struggling (as per the opinions of US), closed economy. As South Korea grew economically, it became an important trading partner and market for American goods, technology, and investments. American influence also helped shape South Korea's policies, making it a key ally in global economic institutions and a contributor to the U.S.-led global economic order.

1.3. Military Presence and Regional Influence

Maintaining a military presence in South Korea has allowed the U.S. to project power across East Asia and act as a deterrent against potential conflicts with North

Korea, China, and Russia. U.S. bases in South Korea serve as strategic outposts, allowing for rapid response capabilities in a region with growing geopolitical tensions.

The U.S. military alliance with South Korea has reinforced its network of partnerships across East Asia, contributing to its regional hegemony. This network supports the U.S. in managing other alliances with Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan, ensuring a consistent and strong U.S. presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

1.4. Soft Power and Ideological Influence

The U.S. presence and influence in South Korea helped spread democratic values, human rights principles, and cultural ideals aligned with American values and interests. This ideological alignment has not only fortified South Korea as a stable, democratic state but also helped strengthen pro-American sentiment in the region.

South Korea's evolution into a democratic society with a high standard of living allowed the U.S. to contrast the benefits of democratic governance and individual freedoms with the restrictive, authoritarian regime of North Korea. This ideological victory was significant for U.S. soft power, as it reinforced the appeal of democracy and capitalism in a world divided by the Cold War.

1.5. Alliance Against Potential Regional Threats

South Korea's alliance with the U.S. has provided both countries with mutual security benefits. For the U.S., South Korea has become a reliable ally against threats from North Korea and a counterbalance to China's growing influence.

The U.S.-South Korea alliance contributes to intelligence sharing, military training, and combined defense exercises, strengthening the U.S. posture against any threat in the Asia-Pacific region. This has been vital for maintaining U.S. influence in a region that remains critical to global security dynamics.

While U.S. ideological containment in Korea undoubtedly fueled division, it also created a powerful economic and military ally in South Korea. This alliance enabled the U.S. to counter communist influence in Asia, project its values and economic model, and maintain a strategic foothold in one of the world's most dynamic and contested regions. However, these benefits were not without costs, as the division also solidified long-lasting tensions on the peninsula, leading to cycles of conflict and a prolonged military commitment.

SOVIET UNION: Conversely, the Soviet Union saw an opportunity to establish a communist government in North Korea, which would serve as a buffer against US influence in Asia. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) wanted to expand its ideological reach and establish allies on the Korean Peninsula, strategically located

near China and Japan. The USSR was a federal socialist state that existed from 1922 until its dissolution in 1991. It comprised 15 republics, which are now independent countries. These countries are Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. These countries became independent following the USSR's dissolution in 1991 and each established their own governance and policies moving forward but still there is an interesting story behind their dissolution worth analyzing too.

In the context of the Korean division, the Soviet Union also reaped significant strategic and ideological benefits, though the gains were not as long-lasting as those of the United States. Here's an analysis of the perceived benefits for the Soviet Union:

1.1. Expansion of Communist Influence

By supporting North Korea, the Soviet Union was able to establish a communist ally on the Korean Peninsula, contributing to the global spread of communism. North Korea served as a symbol of Soviet-style governance and communist ideology, presenting an alternative to Western capitalist models.

The establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) created

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KOREA

One Nation, Two Worlds: The Persistent Tensions Between The North And The South

By:
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a stronghold for communism in East Asia, adding to the Soviet Union's sphere of influence alongside China, and countering the U.S.-backed regime in the South. This was in line with Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's goal to support the global communist movement and contain Western influence.

1.2. Strategic Buffer Zone Against U.S. Allies

North Korea provided a buffer zone between Soviet territories and U.S. allies in East Asia, notably South Korea and Japan. This geographical buffer was essential for Soviet security considerations, as it reduced the risk of U.S. forces being directly on the Soviet border. With North Korea as a militarized state, heavily influenced by Soviet arms and military training, the Soviet Union could indirectly confront the U.S. without risking direct conflict. North Korea's presence as a heavily fortified, communist state limited U.S. military and ideological reach into the Soviet Union's eastern front.

1.3. Projection of Military and Technological Influence Through North Korea, the Soviet Union could export military technology, strategic knowledge, and weapons, increasing its influence over the North's military capabilities. This investment strengthened North Korea's military while bolstering Soviet weapons exports and proving the effectiveness of Soviet military technology. This influence allowed the Soviet Union to have an indirect military presence in the region, as North Korea's armed forces became a deterrent to U.S. action. North Korea's reliance on Soviet weaponry also reinforced its ideological alignment, as military dependency often led to stronger political ties.

1.4. Ideological Showcase and Propaganda Value North Korea's existence and development as a Soviet-style state allowed the USSR to claim success in the competition between communism and capitalism. North Korea was presented as a model of Soviet-style governance, providing a stark ideological counter to South Korea's capitalist system. The Soviet Union could use North Korea as a propaganda tool, promoting the

achievements of a communist state aligned with Soviet principles. Although North Korea's economy ultimately struggled, in the early years of division, the North showed signs of rapid industrialization and economic progress, which the Soviets pointed to as proof of communism's viability. During war times, many tools are used and propaganda in one effective tool that can also be used. Propaganda can be an effective tool in war as it shapes public perception, boosts morale, and undermines the enemy's resolve. By controlling the narrative, propaganda fosters unity and patriotism among citizens, motivating them to support the war effort, whether through enlistment, resource contributions, or maintaining societal stability. It also spreads disinformation to confuse and demoralize the enemy, potentially lowering their morale and sowing distrust within their ranks. Moreover, propaganda can influence global opinion, swaying neutral parties or allies to sympathize with one side's cause, thereby isolating the adversary diplomatically and reducing their support networks. In essence, propaganda operates as a psychological weapon that strengthens a side's position by controlling information and influencing attitudes.



South Korea

1.5. Counterbalance to China's Influence Although the Soviet Union

and China were both communist nations, their relationship was complex, often marked by rivalry. By establishing strong ties with North Korea, the Soviet Union countered Chinese influence in East Asia, ensuring that North Korea would remain aligned with Soviet communism rather than falling entirely under China's sphere. This dynamic allowed the Soviet Union to exert control over North Korea's political and military strategies to some extent, keeping it as a Soviet-oriented state rather than a Chinese client state. In this way, the Soviet Union could assert itself as the primary leader of the communist bloc.

1.6. Leverage in International Negotiations

North Korea's presence as a staunchly anti-Western, militarized state provided the Soviet Union with bargaining power in its relations with the U.S. North Korea's actions, particularly its confrontations with the South, created crises that the Soviets could use to influence global diplomacy and negotiate with the U.S. on other issues. The Soviet Union could tacitly support North Korea's provocations while using diplomatic channels to mitigate or control the outcome, ensuring that the Korean Peninsula remained a hotspot that required U.S. attention and resources. For the Soviet Union, North

Korea represented an opportunity to expand communist ideology, create a military buffer, and project influence in East Asia. While this strategy did afford the Soviet Union certain ideological and geopolitical benefits, these gains were not as enduring as those of the U.S. in South Korea. The North's economic and political isolation, compounded by its later alignment with China, reduced the Soviet Union's long-term returns from its alliance with North Korea. However, during the Cold War, North Korea's position as a Soviet ally on the Korean Peninsula effectively countered U.S. influence and served as a useful asset in the ideological battle with the West.

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS AND GAINS OF THE DIVISION FOR BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH

For both Koreas and the two superpowers, the division brought certain perceived benefits, though they were far from equal:
1. For North Korea (Soviet Influence)
Political and Military Support: The Soviet Union provided North Korea with political backing, training, and arms, establishing a strong, centralized government under Kim Il-sung.
Economic Aid: The USSR helped North Korea develop its industry, giving it a head start in post-war reconstruction and fostering a self-sustaining socialist

economy initially.
2. For South Korea (US Influence)
Security Assurance: South Korea benefitted from the US's protection and economic support, which helped prevent the spread of communism and bolstered its defense capabilities.
Economic Development: The US invested heavily in South Korea's economy, which later contributed to its rapid industrialization and economic growth, setting the stage for South Korea's economic miracle in the latter half of the 20th century.

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES AND LIMITATIONS OF THE DIVISION

While the initial division provided each superpower with strategic advantages, it ultimately led to significant tension:
1. Korean War: The division heightened tensions that culminated in the Korean War (1950-1953), with North Korea, backed by the Soviet Union and China, invading South Korea. The US, under the UN banner, intervened to protect South Korea, making the war one of the first hot conflicts of the Cold War.
2. Entrenchment of Ideological Divides: Over time, the division solidified into two distinct Korean states with drastically different polit-

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Worth Noting:

- South Korea's alliance with the U.S. has provided both countries with mutual security benefits. For the U.S., South Korea has become a reliable ally against threats from North Korea and a counterbalance to China's growing influence.
- The U.S.-South Korea alliance contributes to intelligence sharing, military training, and combined defense exercises, strengthening the U.S. posture against any threat in the Asia-Pacific region. This has been vital for maintaining U.S. influence in a region that remains critical to global security dynamics.
- While U.S. ideological containment in Korea undoubtedly fueled division, it also created a powerful economic and military ally in South Korea. This alliance enabled the U.S. to counter communist influence in Asia, project its values and economic model, and maintain a strategic foothold in one of the world's most dynamic and contested regions. However, these benefits were not without costs, as the division also solidified long-lasting tensions on the peninsula, leading to cycles of conflict and a prolonged military commitment.

Climate

COP29 chief exec filmed promoting fossil fuel deals

By:BBC
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The BBC has been shown documents and secret video recordings made by the human rights organisation, Global Witness.
- It is understood that one of its representatives approached the COP29 team posing as the head of a fictitious Hong Kong investment firm specialising in energy.
- He said this company was interested in sponsoring the COP29 summit but wanted to discuss investment opportunities in Azerbaijan's state energy firm, Socar, in return. An online meeting with Soltanov was arranged.
- During the meeting, Soltanov told the potential sponsor that the aim of the conference was "solving the climate crisis" and "transitioning away from hydrocarbons in a just, orderly and equitable manner".
- Anyone, he said, including oil and gas companies, "could come with solutions" because Azerbaijan's "doors are open".

A senior official at COP29 climate change conference in Azerbaijan appears to have used his role to arrange a meeting to discuss potential fossil fuel deals, the BBC can report.

A secret recording shows the chief executive of Azerbaijan's COP29 team, Elnur Soltanov, discussing "investment opportunities" in the state oil and gas company with a man posing as a potential investor.

"We have a lot of gas fields that are to be developed," he says.

A former head of the UN body responsible for the climate talks told the BBC that Soltanov's actions were "completely unacceptable" and a "betrayal" of the COP process.

As well as being the chief executive of COP29, Soltanov is also the deputy energy minister of Azerbaijan and is on the board of Socar.

Azerbaijan's COP29 team has not responded to a request for comment.

Oil and gas accounts for about half of Azerbaijan's total economy and more than 90% of its exports, according to US figures.

COP29 will open in Baku on Monday and is the 29th annual UN climate summit, where governments discuss how to limit and prepare for climate change, and raise global ambition to tackle the issue.

However, this is the second year in a row the BBC has revealed alleged wrongdoing by the host government. The BBC has been shown documents and secret video recordings made by the human rights organisation, Global Witness.

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Baku is hosting this year's COP29 United Nations Climate Change Conference

Anyone, he said, including oil and gas companies, "could come with solutions" because Azerbaijan's "doors are open".

However, he said he was open to discussions about deals too – including on oil and gas.

Initially, Soltanov suggested the potential sponsor might be interested in investing in some of the "green transitioning projects" Socar was involved in – but then spoke of opportunities related to Azerbaijan's plans to increase gas production, including new pipeline infrastructure.

"There are a lot of joint ventures that could be established," Soltanov says on the recording. "Socar is trading oil and gas all over the world, including in Asia."

Soltanov then described natural gas as a "transitional fuel", adding: "We will have a certain amount of oil and natural gas being produced, perhaps forever."

The UN climate science body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, acknowledges there will be a role for some oil and gas up to 2050 and beyond. However, it has been very clear that "developing... new oil and gas fields is incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5C".

It also goes against the agreement the world made at the last global climate summit to transition away from fossil fuels.

Soltanov appeared eager to help get discussions going, telling the potential sponsor: "I would be happy to create a contact between

your team and their team [Socar] so that they can start discussions."

A couple of weeks later the fake Hong Kong investment company received an email – Socar wanted to follow up on the lead.

Attempting to do business deals as part of the COP process appears to be a serious breach of the standards of conduct expected of a COP official.

These events are supposed to be about reducing the world's use of fossil fuels – the main driver of climate change – not selling more.

The standards are set by the UN body responsible for the climate negotiations, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UN said it could not comment directly on our findings but remarked that "the same rigorous standards" are applied to whoever hosts the conference, and that those standards reflect "the importance of impar-

tiality on the part of all presiding officers".

Its code of conduct for COP officials states they are "expected to act without bias, prejudice, favouritism, caprice, self-interest, preference or deference, strictly based on sound, independent and fair judgement."

"They are also expected to ensure that personal views and convictions do not compromise or appear to compromise their role and functions as a UNFCCC officer." Christiana Figueres, who oversaw the signing of the 2015 Paris agreement to limit global temperature rises to well below 2C, told the BBC that she was shocked anyone in the COP process would use their position to strike oil and gas deals.

She said such behaviour was "contrary and egregious" to the the purpose of COP and "a treason" to the process.

The BBC has also seen emails between the COP29 team and the fake investors. In one chain, the team dis-

cusses a \$600,000 (£462,000) sponsorship deal with a fake company in return for the Socar introduction and involvement in an event about "sustainable oil and gas investing" during COP29.

Officials offered five passes with full access to the summit and drafted a contract which initially required the firm to make some commitments to sustainability. Then it pushed back, one requirement was dropped and "corrections" were considered to another.

The BBC asked Azerbaijan's COP29 team and Socar for comment. Neither responded to the requests.

The findings come a year after the BBC obtained leaked documents that revealed plans by the UAE to use its role as host of COP28 to strike oil and gas deals.

COP28 was the first time agreement was reached on the need to transition away from fossil fuels.



Azerbaijan has rich oil and natural gas deposits

KOREA

One Nation, Two Worlds: The Persistent Tensions Between The North And The South

Contd from Page 15

Worth Noting:

- The Soviet Union could tacitly support North Korea's provocations while using diplomatic channels to mitigate or control the outcome, ensuring that the Korean Peninsula remained a hotspot that required U.S. attention and resources.
- For the Soviet Union, North Korea represented an opportunity to expand communist ideology, create a military buffer, and project influence in East Asia. While this strategy did afford the Soviet Union certain ideological and geopolitical benefits, these gains were not as enduring as those of the U.S. in South Korea. The North's economic and political isolation, compounded by its later alignment with China, reduced the Soviet Union's long-term returns from its alliance with North Korea. However, during the Cold War, North Korea's position as a Soviet ally on the Korean Peninsula effectively countered U.S. influence and served as a useful asset in the ideological battle with the West.

ical, social, and economic systems.

3. Ongoing Tensions: The division of Korea has had enduring effects, with North Korea remaining isolated and militarized, while South Korea has become a prosperous democracy aligned with the West.

In summary, while the division allowed the US and Soviet Union to extend their influence in East Asia and protect their ideological interests, it had devastating consequences for Korea, creating a divide that has lasted for over seven decades and shaped East Asian geopolitics permanently. It is also good and true to say that there is only one Korea known to the world; the two Koreas in existence today are the created projects and battlefields of US and Soviet Union. These are projects for the US and Soviet Union to test their physical muscles and political strength.

THE KOREAN WAR AND U.S. INVOLVEMENT

The Korean War (1950-1953) began when North Korean forces invaded South Korea, hoping to unify the peninsula under communist rule. The United States, under the auspices of the United Nations, intervened to support South Korea. The war was devastating, resulting in millions of casualties and extensive destruction. The U.S. involvement was seen as a strategic move to contain communism, in line with the Truman Doctrine, which aimed to curb the spread of Soviet influence worldwide.

The Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, in 1953, leaving the two Koreas technically still at war. This division, reinforced by a heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), has remained a source of tension.

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

1. Initial Division and Support for Separate Regimes: The United States played a decisive role in establishing separate governments in Korea, as it does with Palestine and Israel. While it sought to limit the spread of communism, critics argue that it imposed an ideological divide that disregarded the wishes of many Koreans



North Korea

who favored a unified, independent nation. The partition sowed seeds of antagonism and created rivalries that persist today and will always. They have wounds that will never heal.

2. Military Presence and Strategic Interests: The U.S. has maintained a substantial military presence in South Korea since the Korean War. While this has arguably deterred North Korean aggression, critics suggest it has also escalated tensions between the North and the South. North Korea views the U.S. military presence as a threat, using it as a justification for its nuclear weapons program. The American military presence is perceived by some as reinforcing division rather than facilitating reconciliation. It is also good to note that wherever there is the presence of America, there is war, tension and conflict and America pretends to facilitate and bring about peace.

3. Economic Influence and Soft Power: The U.S. has also influenced South Korea's economy, fostering its rapid post-war growth through investment, trade, and aid. While this helped South Korea become a thriving democratic economy, it solidified its alignment with American interests, further embedding the division.

4. Approach to Diplomacy and Sanctions: The U.S. has imposed stringent sanctions on North to curb its nuclear ambitions and capabilities. While this has limited the

North's economic development, it has not stopped the North from pursuing nuclear weapons. Some argue that this approach has led to a cycle of provocation and retaliation rather than meaningful dialogue. Periods of diplomacy, such as the summits between U.S. presidents and North Korean leaders, have shown potential but often collapse, largely due to mutual distrust and preconditions for denuclearization.

5. North Korea's Use of U.S. as a Scapegoat: North Korea's government often uses the U.S. as a scapegoat to justify internal policies and human rights abuses, portraying the U.S. as an imperialist enemy to maintain internal control and legitimize its authoritarian rule.

THE COMPLEXITY OF REUNIFICATION

The prospect of reunification remains complex. South Korea has developed a democratic, high-tech society, with the help of the U.S., while North Korea remains isolated from the global knowledge. Economic disparities between the two countries, ideological differences, and the North's nuclear ambitions add layers of difficulty. Additionally, the U.S.-South Korea alliance complicates North Korea's relationship with the South, as any reconciliation is seen as a potential threat to the North's government. The possibility of reunifying North and South Korea is a complex issue with both

hopeful and challenging aspects. Cultural, historical, and linguistic ties offer a foundation for unity, as many Koreans on both sides of the border feel a shared national identity. However, significant obstacles remain, including stark political differences, economic disparities, and ideological divides. North Korea's authoritarian regime and isolationist policies contrast sharply with South Korea's democratic, globally integrated society. Additionally, foreign influence, especially from the United States and China, complicates negotiations. While there are efforts toward peace and limited collaboration, such as family reunions and economic projects, full reunification would require unprecedented cooperation and compromise on both sides, which, while not impossible, is a long-term and challenging prospect. As long as there is the US presence in the South, there will be no reunification of the North and the South.

Criticism of the U.S. Role

1. Escalation and Cycle of Conflict: U.S. policies, especially under certain administrations, have been criticized for heightening tensions rather than reducing them. Military exercises, sanctions, and rhetoric can sometimes exacerbate the situation, giving North Korea a pretext for further provocations.

2. Missed Diplomatic Op-

portunities: While there have been instances of diplomacy, critics argue the U.S. has been too inflexible, often requiring complete denuclearization before engaging in meaningful negotiations. This approach has missed opportunities to build trust gradually.

3. Human Rights vs. Security Focus: U.S. policy has been heavily focused on nuclear non-proliferation, often at the expense of addressing North's human rights issues directly. While sanctions are intended to weaken the DPRK, they have also contributed to the suffering of the North Korean population without necessarily advancing U.S. objectives

Conclusion

The U.S. involvement in the Korean Peninsula has been complex, balancing containment, security, and support for South Korea while contributing to the enduring division between the South and the North. While the U.S. presence has arguably provided stability for the South, it has also heavily fueled North's hostility and justified its pursuit of nuclear capabilities. For any progress toward peace and potential reunification, a balanced approach that includes diplomacy, security assurances, and economic engagement would be crucial but this reunification is far from reality.

Diaspora

North Korea jams GPS signals, affecting ships, aircraft in South

By: AFP
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Worth Noting:

- The military warned ships and aircraft operating in the Yellow Sea to beware of such attacks.
- “We strongly urge North Korea to immediately cease its GPS provocations and warn that it will be held responsible for any subsequent issues arising from this,” they said in the statement.
- Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with the North launching a flurry of ballistic missiles in violation of UN sanctions.
- It also has been bombarding the South with trash-carrying balloons since May, in what it says is retaliation for anti-Pyongyang propaganda missives sent North by activists.
- The South Korean military said Pyongyang also attempted to jam GPS signals in May, but added at the time that it did not hinder any military operations in the South



This picture taken on May 21, 2024 and released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on May 22 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivering a speech at the completed school of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Cadres Training School in Pyongyang. (Photo by KCNA VIA KNS / AFP)

North Korea staged GPS jamming attacks on Friday and Saturday, an operation that was affecting several ships and dozens of civilian aircraft in South Korea, Seoul's military said. The jamming allegations come about a week after the North test-fired what it said was its most advanced and powerful solid-fuel ICBM missile, its first such launch since being accused of sending soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine. The South fired its own ballistic missile into the sea on Friday in a show of force aimed at demonstrating its resolve to respond to “any North Korean provocations”. “North Korea conducted GPS jamming provocations in Haeju and Kaesong yesterday and today,” Seoul's joint chiefs of staff said in a statement Saturday, adding several vessels and dozens of civilian aircraft were experiencing “some operational disruptions”. The military warned ships and aircraft operating in the

Yellow Sea to beware of such attacks. “We strongly urge North Korea to immediately cease its GPS provocations and warn that it will be held responsible for any subsequent issues arising from this,” they said in the statement. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with the North launching a flurry of ballistic missiles in violation of UN sanctions. It also has been bombarding the South with trash-carrying balloons since May, in what it says is retaliation for anti-Pyongyang propaganda missives sent North by activists. The South Korean military said Pyongyang also attempted to jam GPS signals in May, but added at the time that it did not hinder any military operations in the South. In Friday's drill, South Korea fired a Hyunmoo surface-to-surface short-range missile into the West Sea, which the military said was

to show Seoul's “strong resolve to firmly respond” to any North Korean threats. The Hyunmoo missiles are key to the country's so-called ‘Kill Chain’ preemptive strike system, which allows Seoul to launch an attack if there are signs of an imminent North Korean attack.

- ‘Real risk’ -

Experts say such jamming attacks can lead to other incidents that could escalate tensions on the Korean peninsula. “It remains unclear whether there is an intention to divert the world's attention from troop deployments, instil psychological insecurity among residents in the South, or respond to Friday's drills,” Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, told AFP. “However, GPS jamming attacks pose a real risk of serious incidents, including potential aircraft accidents in the worst-case scenario.”

Ahn Chan-il, a defector-turned-researcher who runs the World Institute for North Korea Studies, told AFP the North's jamming could be “to shield their own communications and intelligence exchanges during critical military operations” both at home and abroad. North Korea has become one of the most vocal and important backers of Russia's offensive in Ukraine. Seoul and the West have long accused Pyongyang of supplying artillery shells and missiles to Moscow for use in Ukraine. The latest accusations, based on intelligence reports, indicate the North has deployed around 10,000 troops to Russia, suggesting even deeper involvement in the conflict and triggering outcry in Seoul, Kyiv and Western capitals. Seoul, a security ally of Washington, said last month the presence of North Korean troops in Europe would be a major escalation. South Korea, a major arms

exporter, has a long-standing policy of not providing weapons to countries in conflict. But President Yoon Suk Yeol said this week that Seoul is now not ruling out the possibility of providing weapons directly to Ukraine, given Pyongyang's military support of Moscow. On Friday, Seoul's presidential office said cyber attacks by pro-Russian hacking groups against South Korea have increased following North Korea's troop dispatch for Russia's war in Ukraine.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

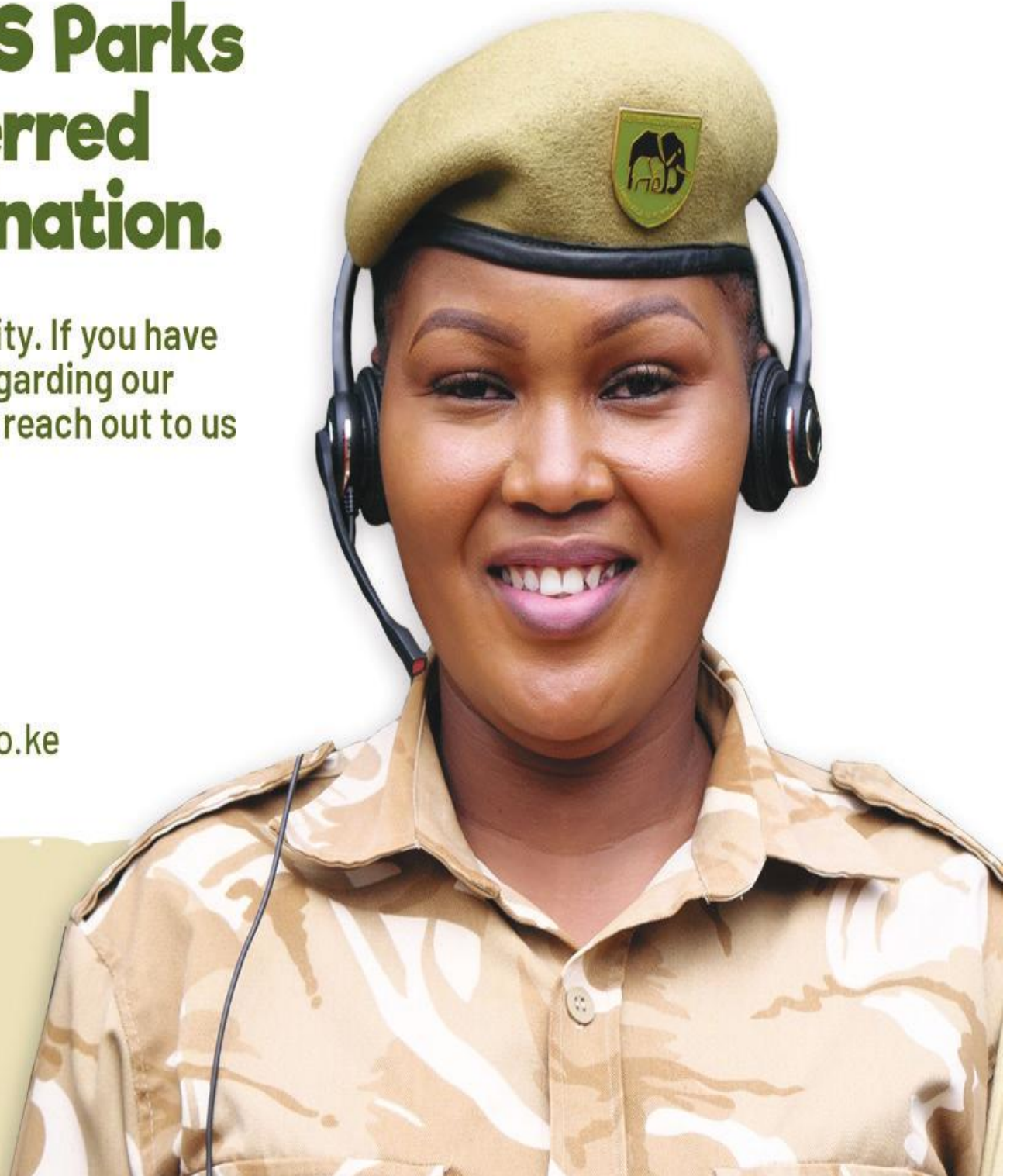
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Diaspora

Geopolitical Tensions in the Middle East Threaten Kenya's Avocado Exports: A Call for National Policymaker Dialogue

They say that when it rains, it pours, and this seems to be the sad reality that agricultural produce exporters continue to face due to the Middle East conflict.

By: CHRIS FLOWERS
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Tensions have significantly impacted the competitiveness of local agribusiness players due to logistical and supply chain problems caused by the effective closure of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden's general route to European markets from our part of the world.
- The geopolitical unrest in the Middle East has introduced new risks to this critical maritime route. Incidents such as attacks on shipping vessels have raised security concerns and led to significant disruptions in marine traffic flow. In response, shipping companies, wary of potential threats to their assets and crew, have opted for alternative routes, despite the longer journey times and higher costs involved.
- It is instructive to note that Airfreight is simply too expensive for avocados. Due to the extended timelines as ships navigate through safer routes, fruits may arrive almost ripe with compromised quality in their destinations in Europe.



A packhouse worker at Kakuzi Plc preparing Hass Avocados for export to China. /COURTESY

Geopolitical Tensions in the Middle East Threaten Kenya's Avocado Exports: A Call for National Policymaker Dialogue

They say that when it rains, it pours, and this seems to be the sad reality that agricultural produce exporters continue to face due to the Middle East conflict.

As the avocado sector was just beginning to recover from severe drought conditions just a year ago, exporters are now facing serious challenges due to growing shipping logistical disruptions arising from geopolitical tensions.

Tensions have significantly impacted the competitiveness of local agribusiness players due to logistical and supply chain problems caused by the effective closure of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden's general route to European markets from our part of the world.

The geopolitical unrest in the Middle East has introduced new risks to this critical maritime route. Incidents such as attacks on shipping vessels have raised security concerns and led to significant disruptions in marine traffic flow. In response, shipping companies, wary of potential threats to their assets and crew, have opted for alternative routes, despite the longer journey times and higher costs involved.

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To reach Europe, Ships travel from Mombasa to the port of Salala in Oman. In Oman, the containers of avocados are transferred onto another larger ship, which then travels around the Cape of Good

Hope and into Europe. When reaching Europe, the containers are once again trans-shipped at Algeciras Port, southern Spain. From there, the vessels move into Northern Europe, either Rotterdam or Felixstowe arriving near ripe.

In this business, delivering near-ripe fruits to a market is not aligned to a quality reputation. This game requires exporters to deliver fruits with at least a two-week ripening window to allow for customs, phytosanitary, and related port clearances ahead of market distribution and shelf stocking.

When a vessel from Mombasa is delayed and misses the next vessel leaving Salala for Europe, the impact is a calamitous addition of another week to the transit time, as only one large-capacity ship sails each week. Last year, the average age of fruit reaching the markets in Europe from Kenya was be-

tween 30 and 35 days. This year, because the Red Sea is so dangerous for ships, the age of fruit has extended to closer to 50 days, resulting in significant quality issues on arrival. This is whilst Kenya's competing markets, such as Peru, enjoy shorter routes to markets. Peru uses the Panama Canal into the North Atlantic to reach Europe in around 30 days.

On the continent, some of Kenya's market competitors are not impacted by the Red Sea issue. South Africa does not use the Suez Canal; they have always travelled around the West coast and reached Europe in 30 days. Heading East to China and India is an option; however, these markets are much smaller than Europe. The European markets can absorb around 15 million kilos of avocados a week, while the Chinese market is oversupplied at around 2 million kilos a week. India, similarly, is a very small market, with

Kenyan producers also facing a 30% import tariff, unlike Tanzania, whose import duty is zero.

Technology can be used to mitigate the longer transit times, but it cannot eliminate the problem. Given the Middle East situation, the prospects of severe impacts on the Kenyan avocado trade are significant and need a national policymakers' conversation before it's too late.

Mr Flowers is the Managing Director, Kakuzi PLC

Diaspora

Meet Dr. Paula O.M. Otukile An International Award Winning Author, A Literacy And Human Rights Activist

Dr. Paula O.M. Otukile was born and raised in Mahalapye, Botswana. Dr. Otukile is an international award winning author, a literacy activist and human rights activist as well as a mentor, and literature consultant

By: Sahara Tshere
St. Joseph College, Botswana

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Dr. Paula O.M. Otukile was born and raised in Mahalapye, Botswana. Dr. Otukile is an international award winning author, a literacy activist and human rights activist as well as a mentor, and literature consultant. She was born in the year of the heavy rains that destroyed many houses in Mahalapye, Botswana. The thing is according to Paula it's a taboo to ask a woman her age. She is known as Mphi at home and PaulaAfrica at the African Book and Actress Forum. He attended school at Leetile primary and finished at Mmmutle primary school in Sefhare. She attended Parwe high school and Swaneng hill high school and finished his education in Botswana. She is a single mother and does not have children.

Dr. Paula is an author, motivational speaker, and scriptural counselor, from Mahalapye. She draws much inspiration from his late grandmother, Tshwanelo Otukile who he remembers reading to him At Oabile's Cattlepost, The Missionaries, the follower, the Successor stories, the chief's bride, Without a silver spoon. Dr. Otukile is a single mother with no children. And she is one person that loves the local food so much that it's a local vegetable and bread. Another thing is that Dr. Paula likes to run and tell stories.

She taught English as a second language at the Collegio Ocean da Luz in Viana, Angola. She has lived in Malange, Angola. Also Dr. Otukile is a polyglot, having translated the Spanish book; The Truth about humanity by Juan Gutierrez called La Verdad del Hombre! Dr. Paula is the founder of Mulher Forte's African Literature Awards, Co-founder of the Francistown international Book Festival and Co-founder of the Read Read Africa NGO, which focuses on creating book clubs or reading groups together in Africa, travels the world teaching about tuberculosis and more recently spreading awareness and warning messages about Cancer, self-care and self-defense and HIV. This is the work of a literacy campaign aimed at

identifying and promoting African literature. He serves as editor-in-chief of Listen to Africa magazine and is also editor of Diaspora Times Global. In addition, he has a role as the author of the writings of Mt. Kenya Times, where he discusses a variety of literary topics and highlights words appearing in African literature.

Otukile has written several influential books, including *Overcoming Failure* and *The Will to Be a Butterfly*. Her work often deals with real-life situations, with a particular focus on such issues as gender-based violence. The book *Overcoming Failure* not only changed her life but also motivated her to become a life coach, helping others to cope with their challenges.

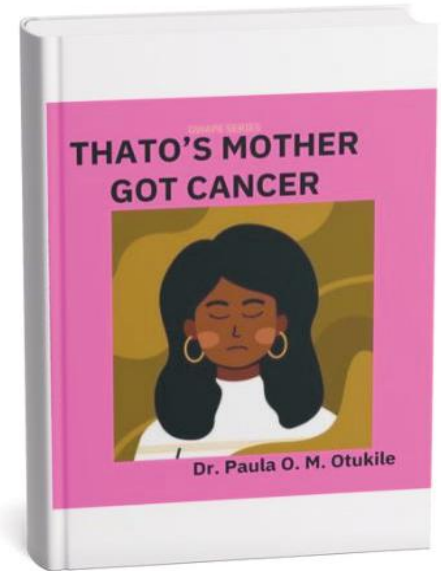
Throughout her career, Dr. Paula has received many commendations for her literary and personal accomplishments. It was nominated for the Zikomo Africa Awards in such categories as Best Book of the Year and Best Author of the Year. In 2021, she was awarded AfriCAN's Global Writer Award and recognized as Advocate of the Year Gender Advocate in Monrovia, Liberia. Additionally, she was awarded the Best Gender Rights Activist award in Lagos, Nigeria.

Paula's view of scriptures emphasizes their role in solving social issues. He believes that while subtitles are important, the main focus should be on touching the lives of readers by telling real stories. Her advocacy for more authorities in Africa reflects her dedication to raising the standard of scripture throughout the African world.

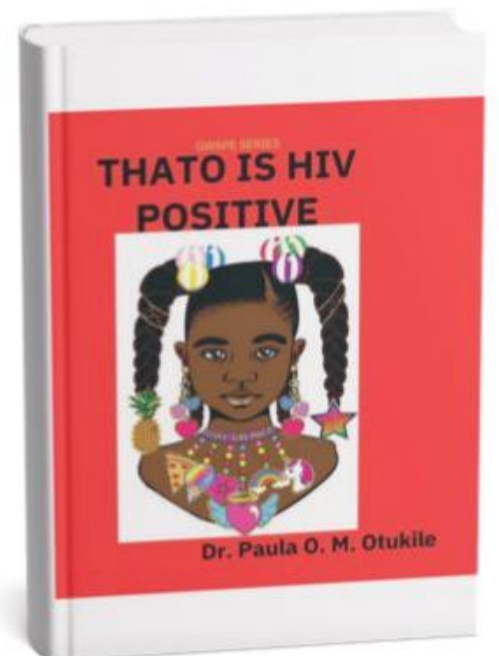
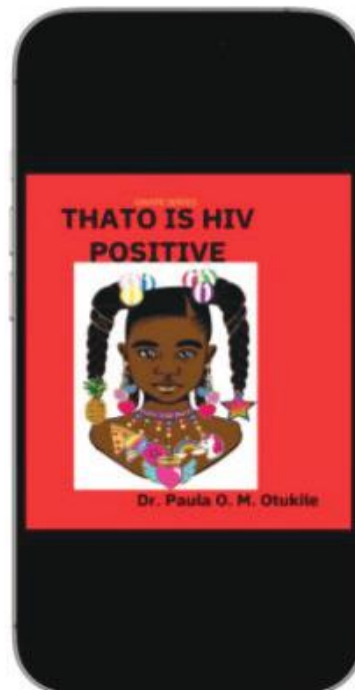
In interviews, Dr. Paula has shared details of her writing routine, saying that she does not adhere to a specific number but rather aims to convey meaningful messages to the authorities. He urges aspiring writers to put education first and to look for other sources of income because writing alone may not provide financial stability.



Dr Paula O.M. Otukile



Her latest book collection



Worth Noting:

- Otukile has written several influential books, including *Overcoming Failure* and *The Will to Be a Butterfly*. Her work often deals with real-life situations, with a particular focus on such issues as gender-based violence. The book *Overcoming Failure* not only changed her life but also motivated her to become a life coach, helping others to cope with their challenges.

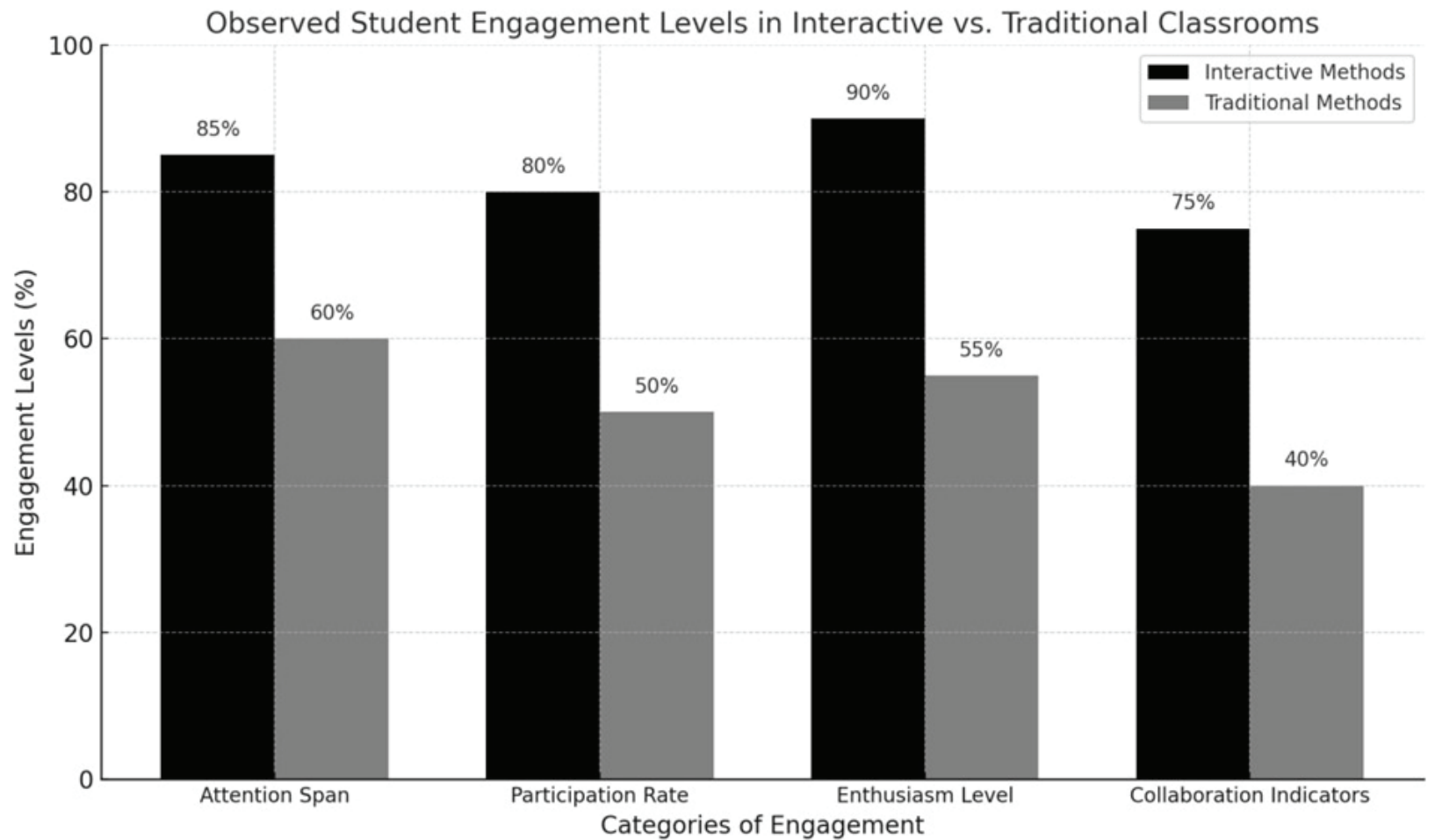
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The Importance Of Interactive Methods In Primary School Mathematics Education

Primary school represents the foundational stage of a child's education, where basic skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic are established.



By: To'iqinova Zebo Anvar.
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

Quantitative Findings

The analysis of test scores indicated significant improvement in mathematical comprehension among students taught using interactive methods. The second group demonstrated an average improvement of 25% in post-test scores compared to a 10% improvement in the traditional group. These findings suggest that interactive methods help reinforce fundamental mathematical skills more effectively than traditional approaches.

- Increased Engagement:** Teachers reported that interactive methods stimulated student interest, resulting in higher levels of attention and involvement in the lessons.
- Positive Attitude Toward Mathematics:** Students in the interactive group expressed enjoyment of mathematics lessons and showed increased willingness to tackle challenging problems.
- Deeper Understanding:** Teachers observed that interactive methods, especially visual aids and role-playing, helped students grasp complex concepts by breaking them down into relatable, hands-on activities.

Introduction Background

Primary school represents the foundational stage of a child's education, where basic skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic are established. Mathematics, in particular, develops essential cognitive abilities, fostering a structured, analytical approach to problem-solving. However, mathematics is often perceived as challenging, leading some students to disengage from the subject early on. Traditional teaching methods in mathematics—primarily lecture-based instruction—are effective to some extent but may not fully engage students, especially young learners with diverse learning styles. In contrast, interactive teaching methods involve students actively in the learning process, catering to various learning needs and stimulating greater interest in the subject. Through interactive strategies such as group activities, games, and role-playing, students build practical skills while gaining confidence in their abilities.

Purpose of the Study

This study aims to investigate how interactive teaching methods affect students' engagement, understanding, and retention of mathematical concepts compared to traditional methods. Specifically, it explores the potential of interactive methods to make mathematics more

accessible and enjoyable for primary school students, fostering a lifelong interest in the subject.

Research Questions

- How do interactive methods influence student motivation and engagement in primary school mathematics?
- To what extent do interactive methods improve students' comprehension and retention of mathematical concepts?
- What challenges do teachers face when implementing interactive methods in mathematics classrooms?

Methods

Study Design

This study follows a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of student performance with qualitative insights from teacher interviews and classroom observations. This design allows for a comprehensive understanding of the impact of interactive methods on students' learning experiences.

Participants

Participants included two groups of primary school students aged 6–10 from two schools. The first group received mathematics instruction using traditional teaching methods, while the second group engaged in interactive activities designed to reinforce mathematical concepts. Teachers from

each classroom were also interviewed to gain insight into their experiences and perspectives on interactive teaching.

Data Collection

Data collection involved:

- Quantitative Analysis:** Pre- and post-tests were administered to both groups, focusing on fundamental mathematics skills to measure knowledge improvement.
- Qualitative Analysis:** Observations and semi-structured interviews with teachers provided detailed descriptions of classroom interactions, student responses, and the effectiveness of interactive tools.

Interactive Methods Applied

The interactive methods applied in the second group included:

- Group Work:** Students worked in small groups to solve problems, enhancing collaboration and communication skills.
- Mathematics Games:** Games such as “math bingo” and “number matching” were used to reinforce arithmetic skills and make learning enjoyable.
- Visual Aids and Digital Tools:** Visual aids, including manipulatives like blocks and number lines, and digital platforms, such as interactive whiteboards, helped students visualize abstract concepts.
- Role-Playing Activities:** Through scenar-

io-based problems, students adopted roles (e.g., “shopkeeper” in a money-counting activity) to apply math skills practically.

Analysis Techniques

- Quantitative Analysis:** Test scores were statistically analyzed to assess knowledge improvement.
- Thematic Analysis:** Qualitative data from interviews and observations were coded and organized into themes, highlighting key aspects of interactive teaching's impact on student engagement and learning.

Results

Quantitative Findings

The analysis of test scores indicated significant improvement in mathematical comprehension among students taught using interactive methods. The second group demonstrated an average improvement of 25% in post-test scores compared to a 10% improvement in the traditional group. These findings suggest that interactive methods help reinforce fundamental mathematical skills more effectively than traditional approaches.

Qualitative Findings

Observations and teacher interviews highlighted several key outcomes:

- Increased Engagement:** Teachers reported that interactive methods stimulated student interest, resulting in higher levels of attention and involvement in the lessons.

2. Positive Attitude Toward Mathematics: Students in the interactive group expressed enjoyment of mathematics lessons and showed increased willingness to tackle challenging problems.

3. Deeper Understanding: Teachers observed that interactive methods, especially visual aids and role-playing, helped students grasp complex concepts by breaking them down into relatable, hands-on activities.

Challenges Observed

Despite the benefits, teachers identified challenges associated with implementing interactive methods:

- Preparation Time:** Teachers noted that planning interactive lessons required more time than traditional methods.
- Resource Availability:** The need for additional materials, such as manipulatives and technology, posed difficulties for some classrooms.
- Classroom Management:** Maintaining control in a highly interactive environment was occasionally challenging, especially when students became overly excited or distracted.

Discussion

Interpretation of Findings
The study's findings indi-

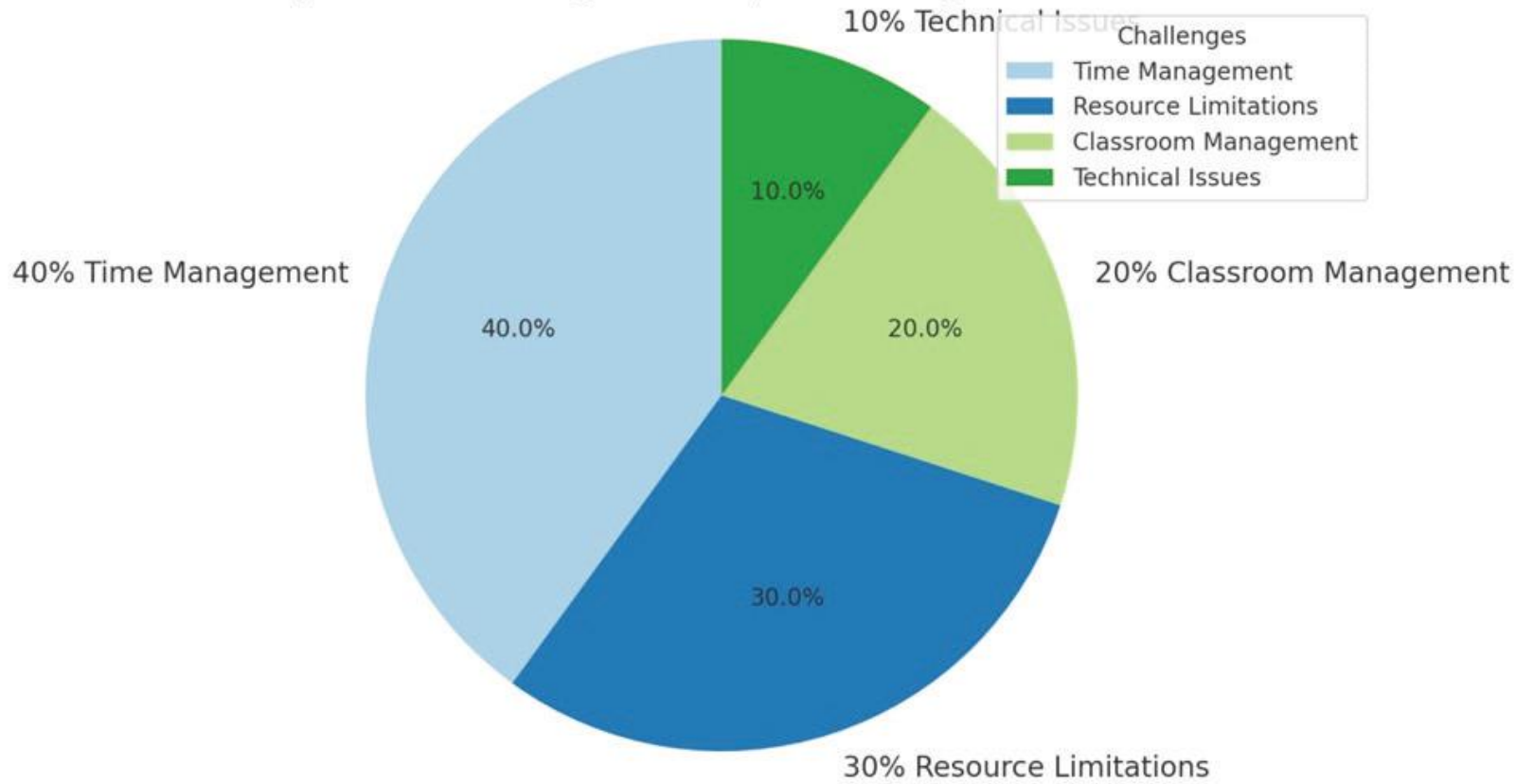
The Importance Of Interactive Methods In Primary School Mathematics Education

Traditional teaching methods in mathematics—primarily lecture-based instruction—are effective to some extent but may not fully engage students, especially young learners with diverse learning styles.

By: To‘lqinova Zebo Anvar.
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Teacher-Reported Challenges in Implementing Interactive Methods



Worth Noting:

The study’s findings indicate that interactive methods substantially increase student engagement, motivation, and understanding of mathematical concepts compared to traditional teaching approaches. Quantitative test scores show that the interactive group’s performance improved by an average of 25%, significantly higher than the traditional group’s 10% improvement (see Table 1). This improvement aligns with educational theories, such as Piaget’s emphasis on concrete learning activities for younger children and Vygotsky’s theory of social interaction, both of which emphasize the importance of active learning and social collaboration.

Interactive teaching methods particularly benefit students with varying learning styles. For instance, visual aids helped visual learners better grasp mathematical concepts, while group activities enabled kinesthetic learners to engage actively through hands-on problem-solving. This evidence supports the idea that interactive methods offer diverse pathways for concept acquisition, making mathematics more accessible and less intimidating for primary school students.

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Engagement and Motivation
Qualitative findings from classroom observations and teacher interviews further suggest that students in interactive classrooms exhibited higher levels of enthusiasm and a willingness to participate actively. Teachers

noted increased classroom energy, with students readily engaging in discussions and group activities. This positive shift in behavior suggests that interactive methods help mitigate the typical anxieties and frustrations associated with learning mathematics, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Deeper Understanding and Retention
Interactive methods were also found to aid deeper conceptual understanding and retention. For example, visual aids such as manipulatives (e.g., blocks and number lines) and role-playing exercises (e.g., “shopkeeper” scenarios for practicing currency calculations) helped students connect abstract concepts with real-life applications. Teachers observed that students who used interactive tools could recall and apply concepts more accurately in subsequent lessons compared to those taught with traditional methods. These results support findings from previous studies, which suggest that interactive learning environments strengthen cognitive retention by connecting new information to practical, hands-on experiences. For instance, students in the interactive group showed a 15% higher retention rate when retested a month after the intervention, as seen in Table 2.

Challenges in Implementation

Challenges in Implementation

Despite the advantages of interactive methods, teachers encountered several challenges. Preparing and implementing interactive lessons required more time, with some educators spending up to twice as long on lesson planning. Additionally, teachers reported limitations in resources, including access to digital tools and manipulatives, especially in schools with limited budgets. Classroom management was also more demanding, as some students became overly excited or distracted in the interactive setting, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Teacher-Reported Challenges in Implementing Interactive Methods [1] [6] These challenges highlight the need for administrative and institutional support to fully integrate interactive teaching methods. Schools may need to invest in additional resources and provide training to help teachers implement these methods effectively.

Implications for Practice
The study suggests several practical steps for integrating interactive methods into primary school mathematics. First, schools could provide teachers with structured training programs focused on interactive teaching techniques, enabling them to confidently design and manage engaging lessons. Additionally, access to resources—such as manipulatives, digital platforms,

and flexible classroom materials—would support a variety of interactive methods. Interactive methods also encourage collaboration among students, which can foster a more inclusive learning environment. Implementing group-based problem-solving activities in mathematics may help students develop communication and teamwork skills, preparing them for collaborative work in higher education and beyond.

Limitations
Several limitations should be acknowledged. The study’s sample size, while adequate for initial insights, limits the generalizability of the findings. The short duration of the study also restricts the ability to evaluate the long-term impact of interactive methods on student performance in mathematics. Furthermore, qualitative data was gathered through observation and interviews, which, despite efforts to minimize bias, can introduce subjectivity into the analysis.

Recommendations for Future Research
Further research is recommended to expand upon these findings. A larger, more diverse sample size, including students from different socioeconomic backgrounds and geographic regions, would help validate the generalizability of the results. Longitudinal studies could provide insights into the long-term bene-

fits of interactive teaching methods, assessing whether these approaches result in sustained improvement in mathematical proficiency. Additionally, future studies could focus on specific types of interactive methods, such as digital versus non-digital approaches, to better understand their individual impact on learning outcomes.

Conclusion
This study provides compelling evidence that interactive methods significantly enhance students’ engagement, understanding, and retention in primary school mathematics. These methods offer an effective way to address diverse learning needs, fostering a positive attitude toward mathematics and reducing learning anxiety. As educational practices continue to evolve, investing in interactive teaching resources and supporting teachers in implementing these methods will be essential for improving primary mathematics education. Future research and a continued focus on interactive techniques could further enrich the quality of mathematics instruction, preparing young learners for the demands of future education and everyday problem-solving.

Hezbollah calls for US action, not words, as Trump reclaims White House

Hezbollah welcomes any effort to stop the war in Lebanon but does not pin hopes for a ceasefire on any particular U.S. administration, Hezbollah lawmaker Ibrahim al-Moussawi said on Thursday when asked about Donald Trump's election victory.

By: Reuters .
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Smoke billows in Lebanon near the border with Israel, amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from northern Israel, November 7, 2024. REUTERS/Violeta Santos Moura

Worth Noting:

- Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah infrastructure and military assets, while avoiding civilians. Hezbollah and Lebanese officials point to the rising death toll, with more than 3,000 killed since October 2023, and widespread destruction in the country as evidence Israel's fire is indiscriminate.
- U.S. diplomatic efforts to halt fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which included a 60-day ceasefire proposal, faltered last week ahead of the U.S. election on Tuesday in which former president Trump recaptured the White House. Moussawi acknowledged the heavy toll of Israeli attacks that have blown apart thousands of buildings, mostly in Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim-dominated south and east and the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut. But he said the group's military capabilities remained strong

Hezbollah welcomes any effort to stop the war in Lebanon but does not pin hopes for a ceasefire on any particular U.S. administration, Hezbollah lawmaker Ibrahim al-Moussawi said on Thursday when asked about Donald Trump's election victory. "It might be a change in the party who is in power, but when it comes to Israel, they have more or less the same policy," Moussawi told Reuters. "We want to see actions, we want to see decisions taken." Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah have exchanged fire for more than a year, in parallel with the Gaza war, but fighting has escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages. Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah infrastructure and military assets, while

avoiding civilians. Hezbollah and Lebanese officials point to the rising death toll, with more than 3,000 killed since October 2023, and widespread destruction in the country as evidence Israel's fire is indiscriminate. U.S. diplomatic efforts to halt fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which included a 60-day ceasefire proposal, faltered last week ahead of the U.S. election on Tuesday in which former president Trump recaptured the White House. Moussawi acknowledged the heavy toll of Israeli attacks that have blown apart thousands of buildings, mostly in Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim-dominated south and east and the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut. But he said the group's military capabilities remained strong. "Our hearts are broken - we are losing very dear lives. This feeling that (Israel) cannot be punished or brought

to international justice is a result of U.S support which renders them immune to accountability," he said. "America is a full partner in what's happening because they can exercise influence to stop this destruction." Massad Boulos, a Lebanese-American billionaire who is the father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany, said he would be Trump's envoy in charge of negotiating with the Lebanese side to reach a deal to end the war, Lebanese broadcaster Al Jadeed quoted him as saying this week. Boulos also said that Trump was aiming to end the war before he took office in January, Al Jadeed reported. Reuters could not immediately reach Boulos for comment. The Israeli government celebrated Trump's return to power, saying he was a leader who would support them "unconditionally".

STRIKE AT ARMY

CHECKPOINT The Israeli military said on Thursday that five soldiers had been killed and 16 wounded in a combat incident in southern Lebanon. It did not say exactly when the incident occurred. Overnight on Wednesday, Israel carried out a series of strikes in Beirut's southern suburbs, including at least one just tens of metres (yards) from Beirut airport's runways. Lebanese Transport Minister Ali Hamiye said the airport was functioning normally on Thursday. Another Israeli strike on Thursday on a car at a Lebanese army checkpoint at the entrance to the southern city of Sidon killed three people and wounded three Lebanese soldiers and four members of a U.N. peacekeeping contingent, the Lebanese army said in a statement. A Reuters reporter at the scene said a bus with United Nations markings that

was part of a large convoy of U.N. peacekeepers had sustained damage in the strike. UNIFIL, the peacekeeping force, said in a statement that five newly-arrived peacekeepers were lightly injured in the Sidon drone strike and treated on the spot. On Wednesday, an Israeli airstrike destroyed an Ottoman-era building near the famed UNESCO-listed ancient temples of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon, the region's governor and an organisation that has organised cultural events there said on Thursday. Governor Bachir Khodr told Reuters the strike hit the empty heritage building in the closest attack yet to the complex of Greco-Roman and Phoenician temples that make up the World Heritage Site, just meters away. "It's a very artisanal neighbourhood, typically full of tourists," he said.