



The Enduring Link: Examining The Namibia Dollar's Peg To The South African Rand
For over three decades since its hard-won independence, Namibia's economic trajectory has been intimately intertwined with that of its powerful southern neighbor, South Africa. At the heart of this relationship lies the pegging of the Namibia Dollar (NAD) to the South African Rand (ZAR) at a one-to-one ratio.

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News>>Call For Unity Dominate Passover Interdenominational Service

P. 8. A call for unity among all Maa clans dominated the Passover interdenominational service that was held in Ntulele Secondary School, Narok East Sub County, on Sunday.



News>>Pope Francis Has Died, Vatican Says

P. 12. Pope Francis, the first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has died, the Vatican said in a video statement yesterday, ending an often turbulent reign marked by division and tension as he sought to overhaul the hidebound institution.

Nine Possible Candidates Who Might Succeed Pope



From humble beginnings in a small African town, Cardinal Peter Turkson has gone on to great things in the Church, making him a contender to become the first pope from sub-Saharan Africa.

He combines a long pastoral background of tending to congregations in Ghana with hands-on experience of leading several Vatican offices, as well as strong communication skills.

The fact he comes from one of the most dynamic regions for the Church, which is struggling against the forces of secularism in its European heartlands, should also bolster his standing.



Ghanaian cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson arrives for the consistory celebrated by Pope Francis (not pictured) for the creation of new cardinals in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican City Vatican, on August 27, 2022. (Photo by AFP)

STORY ON PAGE 9

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When Pope Francis Visited Kenya

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyetimes

Pope Francis made his first visit in Africa by landing in Kenya. Some of the moments as captured during the visit between November 25 and 27 in 2015.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

The Mt Kenya Times is a Kenyan Newspaper that provides a unified view of Kenyan news, entrepreneurship, events, opinions, analysis, and a historical background to current affairs, in a way that is both creative and innovative. It is published by **Exponential International Limited**, a Private Limited Liability company incorporated in Kenya to provide Communications and Media services.

Group Executive Chairman
 M. Danson

Our Contacts
 P. O. Box 101 675 - 00101 Nairobi, Cell: 0700 161 866, 0705 215 262
Editorial Desk: editorial@mountkenyetimes.co.ke, **Adverts:** ads@mountkenyetimes.co.ke,
News Desk: news@mountkenyetimes.co.ke, **Web:** www.mountkenyetimes.co.ke

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Environment and Climate Change Principal Secretary Dr. Eng. Festus Ng'eno is participating in the 5th Steering Committee Meeting of the DRESS-EA Project, currently chaired by Eng. Ibrahim Adam Ahmed Balila of Sudan, in Tunisia. The meeting is organized by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)—a regional body championing sustainable natural resource management and the fight against desertification, climate change, and drought across the Sahara and Sahel regions. The session brings together key representatives from Kenya, Djibouti, Sudan, and Uganda to review the progress of ongoing projects and strengthen regional collaboration for a more climate-resilient Eastern Africa. The PS is accompanied in the meeting by Director Climate Change Dr Pacifica Ogola among others.



Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi is leading a high-level delegation that held a fruitful meeting with the UK Export Finance (UKEF) team, led by CEO Tim Reid. According to Nyaribari Chache Member of Parliament Zaheer Jhanda (pictured greeting), the discussions focused on unlocking potential financing Partnerships to Accelerate the Nairobi Railway City project, an urban renewal initiative poised to reshape Nairobi's infrastructure, create jobs and position Kenya as a Regional transport and investment hub as envisioned by President William Ruto administration.



As the world prepares to observe World Thyroid Day on May 25, a medic in Kericho has decried the rising cases of thyroid disease and urged residents to seek immediate medical attention for proper diagnosis. This is compounded by the fact that the disease's symptoms tend to mimic other diseases and the treatment is lifelong, coupled with continual medical attention. The thyroid gland is located in the front of the neck below the Adam's apple and is an essential organ for the production of thyroid hormones, notably thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3), all of which regulate metabolism and control many vital functions of the body. In an interview, a resident surgeon at AIC Litein Annex Kericho Hospital, Dr. Philip Blasto, noted that a patient may have the thyroid gland producing low levels of hormones, leading to a condition called hypothyroidism, whose symptom is exhibited with an enlarged goiter. A patient may have the thyroid gland producing increased hormonal levels, leading to a condition called hyperthyroidism or Graves' disease, whose symptoms are similar to many ailments.



Some parliamentarians are attending the Ordinary Session of the Plenary Assembly and related meetings of the Forum of Parliaments of Member States & related meetings of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in Luanda, Angola. During the second day yesterday, was a meeting of the FP-ICGLR Committee on Finance and Resource Mobilization where Nyeri senator Wahome Wamatinga represented the Kenyan delegation. Also in attendance is Buuri constituency MP Mugambi Rindikiri who represented the Kenyan parliament at the Committee on Peace and Security. During the meeting, the Kenyan delegation stressed the need for more transparency and robust audit of the ICGLR's funds to enrich public and Member States' trust and to also enhance resource mobilization efforts. Also attending the Conference is Mandera Senator Ali Roba, who will represent the Kenyan Parliament at the Ordinary session of the Executive Committee. Delegation Leader; Speaker of the Kenyan Senate Amason Kingi will represent the Parliament of Kenya at the Conference of Speakers tomorrow.

Bondo residents have criticized Siaya Governor James Orendo for publicly dissociating himself from the broad-based government and called for disciplinary action against him by the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party disciplinary committee. Orendo, who spoke in the presence of President William Ruto and ODM party leader Raila Odinga during the burial of Odinga's aide, said he would not be forced to support the broad-based arrangement. He was also alleged to have ferried mourners to the funeral to show his might against the duo, and his actions have elicited mixed reactions, with some terming it an embarrassment to his party leader Raila Odinga in the presence of Head of State Dr. William Ruto. Jack Mawere has led Bondo residents in holding peaceful demonstrations and spoke a few days after elders from the region shared similar sentiments, demanding that ODM's disciplinary committee take action against the governor over his alleged misbehavior. Mawere demanded that Governor Orendo publicly apologize to Raila Odinga or risk being a one-term governor in Siaya.





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Over 600,000 Livestock To Be Targeted In A Free Mass Vaccination Campaign

By: Jacob Songok
@themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- “An outbreak of the deadly animals’ diseases could lead to huge losses. Livestock rearing is the backbone of over 90 percent of our people in these sub-counties and that’s why we embarked on this very noble exercise,” Dubow said.
- She said the vaccination would go a long way in building immunity of livestock, hence increasing productivity and income, adding that another round of the vaccination programme would resume in June 2025.



Garissa County government has launched a ten days’ free vaccination campaign targeting over 600,000 in the sub-counties of Dadaab and Fafi.

The campaign that is partly funded by the Danish Refugee Council will see camels, cows, goats and sheep vaccinated against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Foot and Mouth Disease.

Addressing the press in Dadaab after the launch, Livestock Executive Member Milgo Dubow said the exercise is giving priority to the two sub-counties because the areas face constant threats from Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADS). Dadaab and Fafi sub-counties border the neighbouring Somalia republic.

“An outbreak of the deadly animals’ diseases could lead to huge losses. Livestock rearing is the backbone of over 90 percent of our people in these sub-counties and that’s why we embarked on this very noble exercise,” Dubow said.

She said the vaccination would go a long way in building immunity of livestock, hence increasing productivity and income, adding that another round of the vaccination programme would resume in June 2025.

“The first phase will focus more in refugee camps and the surrounding host communities, while the second phase will focus more in the host community areas,” she said.

The Executive Member urged live-

stock owners in the targeted areas to avail their animals for vaccination.

The exercise will also include parasite control and treatment for clinical cases, conducting site-level disease surveillance using KABS mobile application, and delivering on-the-job training to community disease reporters (CDRs).

The chairman of the Fafi Development Committee, Ali Hared, thanked the county government for coming up with the vaccination campaign, noting that livestock disease outbreaks were common during rainy seasons.

“This vaccination campaign has come at the right time given that we are experiencing rains. It will go a long way in reducing livestock loss after the

rains,” he said.

On his part, the chairman of the Hagardera Refugee Community, Khalif Jelle, also welcomed the exercise, saying it was the first of its kind for the refugees.

“Despite being in the refugee camp, majority of the refugees keep livestock as a source of livelihood. This is a kind gesture that will not go without being appreciated,” Jelle said.

He appealed for the extension of the vaccination period if all the animals would not have been covered at the lapse of the 10 days period.

Livestock in Garissa County is the main economic mainstay of over 80 percent of the area residents.

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Call For Unity Dominate Passover Interdenominational Service

By: Ann Salaton
@themtkenyaticimes

A call for unity among all Maa clans dominated the Passover interdenominational service that was held in Ntulele Secondary School, Narok East Sub County, on Sunday.

Speaker after speaker called on the Narok residents to bury their differences and embrace oneness so as to foster development and unity in the county.

Defense Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuyu pointed out numerous land issues that have hampered development in Narok East Sub County as the Ildamat, Keekonyokie and Purko clans living in the area have failed to agree on land boundaries making it hard to process title deeds in the sub-county.

She called on the church leaders to intervene and help resolve the land issues to allow the communities to get the title deeds for their land.

Ms. Tuyu praised Narok people for their diligence despite the hardship they faced due to extreme weather patterns experienced in many parts of the county.



Narok County Governor Patrick Ole Ntutu with area Senator Ledama Ole Kina on Sunday..

“Many successful irrigation schemes are in Narok County. I am proud of the diligence among the Maa people despite most of them being in hardship areas,” said Ms. Tuyu.

Narok Governor Patrick Ntutu reiterated the Maa people are united behind President William Ruto noting that the current administration has implemented many successful

projects in the county among them eight (8) Economic Stimulus Markets (ESM).

Ntutu commended the church in Narok County for uniting the residents and promised to continue supporting the church’s growth in the county.

Narok Senator Ledama Ole Kina asked the Maa community to support



President William Ruto with Narok leaders during the interdenominational service at Ntulele area on Sunday.

the current administration saying the formation of a broad-based government has united all the Maa communities.

He promised to work with the elected leaders so as to push for electricity and water connectivity in all the households in the county.

Narok North Member of Parliament Gabriel Tongoyo called for fairness and equitable distribution of the available public resources in all parts of the county.

“All of us who are entrusted with the responsibility of public resources

should be accountable, not minding our own selfish interest but the interest of the public,” said Tongoyo.

The church service was led by Dominion Chapel Ministries (DCM) presiding Bishop Peter Mankura and attended by hundreds of clergy drawn from Narok and Kajiado counties.

Also present were Narok Governor Joseph Ole Lenku, Nominated Senator Peris Tobiko, Members of Parliament Ken Kiloku (Narok East) and Agnes Pareyio (Narok North) and a host of Members of County Assembly.

Acting Head Of The Vatican To Preside Over Ascertainment Of Pope Francis’ Death Yesterday Evening

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyaticimes

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the acting head of the Vatican in the period following the pope’s death, will preside over the official rite of the ascertainment of Pope Francis’ death yesterday evening.

The solemn rite, which is a key ceremonial step before the commencement of burial arrangements, will take place at 8:00pm (GMT +2) in the Chapel of Casa Santa Marta, the late pope’s residence where he passed away earlier in the day.

According to a statement by the Holy See Press Office, the ceremony will also include the placement of Pope Francis’ body into the coffin—a significant step in the Church’s traditional mourning and burial process.

Those expected to attend the rite include Cardinal Giovanni Battista

Re, the Dean of the College of Cardinals; members of Pope Francis’ family; and Vatican medical officials Dr. Andrea Arcangeli and Dr. Luigi Carbone, who head the Directorate of Health and Hygiene.

The ascertainment of death is a deeply symbolic ritual in the Catholic Church, marking the formal confirmation of the end of a pope’s earthly ministry and initiating the process that will lead to funeral preparations and the eventual election of a successor.

In a related announcement, the Vatican confirmed that the canonization Mass for Blessed Carlo Acutis—originally scheduled for Sunday, April 27—has been temporarily suspended due to the pope’s passing.

The Eucharistic celebration was to take place on Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter.

Further details on Pope Francis’ funeral rites and memorial services are expected to be released in the coming days.



Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Catholic Church, will preside over the rite of the ascertainment of death of Pope Francis and placement of his body in the coffin on Monday evening/Vatican News.

Nine Possible Candidates Who Might Succeed Pope Francis

By: Reuters

Predict who the next pope will be at your peril.

An old Italian saying warns against putting faith, or money, in any presumed front-runner ahead of the conclave, the closed-door gathering of cardinals that picks the pontiff. It cautions: “He who enters a conclave as a pope, leaves it as a cardinal”.

But here are some cardinals who are being talked about as “papabili” to succeed Pope Francis, whose death at the age of 88 was announced by the Vatican yesterday. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Jean-Marc Aveline, archbishop of Marseille, French, aged 66.

According to the French press, he is known in some domestic Catholic circles as John XXIV, in a nod to his resemblance to Pope John XXIII, the round-faced reforming pope of the early 1960s.

Pope Francis once quipped that his successor might take the name of John XXIV.

Aveline is known for his folksy, easy-going nature, his readiness to crack jokes, and his ideological proximity to Francis, especially on immigration and relations with the Muslim world. He is also a serious intellectual, with a doctorate in theology and a degree in philosophy.

He was born in Algeria to a family of Spanish immigrants who moved to France after Algerian independence, and has lived most of his life in Marseille, a port that has been a crossroads of cultures and religions for centuries.

Under Francis, Aveline has made great career strides, becoming bishop in 2013, archbishop in 2019 and a cardinal three years later. His standing was boosted in September 2023 when he organised an international Church conference on Mediterranean issues at which Pope Francis was the star guest.

If he got the top job, Aveline would become the first French pope since the 14th century, a turbulent period in which the papacy moved to Avignon.

He would also be the youngest pope since John Paul II. He understands but does not speak Italian - potentially a major drawback for a job that also carries the title Bishop of Rome and requires a lot of familiarity with Roman power games and intrigues.

Cardinal Peter Erdo, Hungarian, aged 72

If Erdo is elected, he would inevitably be seen as a compromise candidate -- someone from the conservative camp who has nonetheless built bridges with Francis’ progressive world.

Erdo was already considered a papal contender in the last conclave in 2013 thanks to his extensive Church contacts in Europe and Africa as well as the fact that he was seen as a pioneer of the New Evangelisation drive to rekindle the Catholic faith in secularized advanced nations -- a top priority for many cardinals.

He ranks as a conservative in theology and in speeches throughout Europe he stresses the Christian roots of the continent. However, he is also seen to be pragmatic and never clashed openly with Francis, unlike other tradition-minded clerics.

That said, he raised eyebrows in the Vatican during the 2015 migrant crisis when he went against Pope Francis’ call for churches to take in refugees, saying this would amount to human trafficking -- seemingly aligning himself with Hungary’s nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

An expert in Church law, Erdo has been on a fast track his entire career, becoming a bishop in his 40s and a cardinal in 2003 when he was just 51, making him the youngest member of the College of Cardinals until 2010.

He has excellent Italian, and also speaks German, French, Spanish and Russian -- which could help him thaw relations between the Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches after the deep chill of the war in Ukraine.

Erdo is not a charismatic speaker, but while this was once undoubtedly viewed as a serious drawback, it could potentially be seen as an advantage this time around if cardinals want a calm papacy following the fireworks of Francis’ rule.

Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, Maltese, aged 68.

Grech comes from Gozo, a tiny island that is part of Malta, the smallest country in the European Union. But from small beginnings he has gone on to big things, appointed by Pope Francis to be secretary general of the Synod of Bishops -- a heavyweight position within the Vatican.

Initially viewed as a conservative, Grech has become a torchbearer of Francis’ reforms within the Church



Jean-Marc Aveline, archbishop of Marseille, French, aged 66.

for years, moving sharply with the times.

In 2008, several gay Maltese citizens declared they were leaving the Church in protest at what they saw as the anti-LGBT stance of the then pontiff -- Pope Benedict.

Grech offered them little sympathy at the time, but speaking in the Vatican in 2014, he called for the Church to be more accepting of its LGBT members and creative in finding new ways to address contemporary family situations.

The following day, Pope Francis tapped him on the shoulder at breakfast and complimented him for the speech, marking him out for future promotion.

In 2018, Grech spoke about how he relished the challenges faced by the Church. “We are going through a period of change. And to me, this is a very positive thing,” he told the Malta Today newspaper. He warned that it would not remain relevant to modern society if it did not move beyond nostalgia for the past.

His views have won him some high-profile enemies, and conservative Cardinal Gerhard Muller memorably turned on him in 2022, belittling his academic profile and accusing him of going against Catholic doctrine.

Grech’s allies insist he has friends in both the conservative and moderate camps and that, because of his high-profile role, he is known by many cardinals, a clear advantage in a conclave where so many cardinals

are relative unknowns to each other.

Coming from a tiny country, his election as pope wouldn’t create any diplomatic or geopolitical headaches.

He has stressed that he always seeks consensus over confrontation. But he has sometimes courted controversy. In 2016 he led a pilgrimage to pray for rain after meeting farmers worried about drought. A local newspaper said it was “a throwback to prehistoric attempts at inducing rain” but a few days after the event, it did indeed start to rain.

Cardinal Juan Jose Omella, archbishop of Barcelona, Spanish, aged 79.

Omella is a man after Pope Francis’ own heart. Unassuming and good-natured, he lives a humble life despite his lofty title, dedicating his Church career to pastoral care, promoting social justice and embodying a compassionate and inclusive vision of Catholicism.

“We must not see reality only through the eyes of those who have the most, but also through the eyes of the poor,” he told the Crux news site in April 2022, in words reflecting Francis’ world vision.

He was born in 1946 in the village of Cretas in northeastern Spain. After being ordained in 1970 he served as a priest in a number of Spanish parishes and also spent a year as a missionary in Zaire, now called Democratic Republic of Congo.

Underscoring his dedication to so-

cial causes, from 1999 to 2015 he worked closely with Spain’s Manos Unidas charity, which tackles famine, disease and poverty in the developing world.

He became a bishop in 1996 and was promoted to archbishop of Barcelona in 2015. Just one year later, Francis gave him a red cardinal’s hat -- a move seen as a clear endorsement of Omella’s progressive tendencies, which stand in contrast to more conservative elements that once dominated the Spanish Church.

Omella is a former president of Spain’s bishops’ conference. He had to deal with the fallout from an independent commission that estimated in 2023 that more than 200,000 minors may have been sexually abused by Spanish clergy over a period of decades.

Omella has repeatedly asked for forgiveness for the mismanagement of sexual abuse, but has denied that so many children were abused, with an internal Church investigation identifying just 927 victims since the 1940s.

“At the end of the day, numbers do not get us anywhere. The important thing is the people and to make amends as far as possible,” he said. “Blaming is not the way. The problem does not belong to the Church, it belongs to society as a whole.”

Engage In Sports And Other Income-Generating Activities, PAS Authur Osiya Urges Busia Youth

By: MKT Correspondent
@themtkenyatimes

The Principal Administrative Secretary (PAS) in the Executive Office of the President, Dr. Arthur Osiya has urged youth in Busia county to engage in sports and other income-generating activities.

Speaking before flagging off the Busia Cross Border Race on Saturday, Osiya noted that a number of youth and the elderly in the county were wasting away in drug and substance abuse.

“A number of youth and the elderly are indulging in drug and substance abuse,” he said, adding that youth needed to engage in positive activities.

He further advised the youth to have hope and live positively for a better future, explaining that hopeless people

cannot think constructively.

The PAS thanked Athletics Kenya for supporting the event, adding that the county has great potential in sporting activities.

“I’m confident that there is something special that you can do to promote sports in Busia and the entire Western region,” he said.

Athletics Kenya Western Region Vice Chairman Patrick Kipsang thanked Busia Border Foundation Marathon for organizing the cross border run, promising to elevate it to a full marathon during the 6th edition of the event next year.

The event coordinator Sarah Martha said that this year’s cross border event took the participants 10 km inside Uganda and that the initiative has brought cohesion between Kenya and Uganda.

Martha also appreciated the NAC-ADA team for sensitizing the youth on the dangers of drug and substance



Dr Arthur Osiya (5th right) addressing youth and other stakeholders on Saturday in Busia. Photo/Courtesy.

abuse.

The event saw Wency Wabwire and Angela Miriam being crowned winners of the Busia Cross Border 15 km male and female categories respectively.

Top ten winners in the event were issued with certificates, monetary appreciation and certified maize seeds from Kenya Seed.

Locals who attended the event benefited from government services like Huduma Centre services, free medical checkup and agricultural advice from Kenya Seed Company.



Nine Possible Candidates Who Might Succeed Pope Francis

Contd from page 9

In 2023, Francis invited Omella to join his nine-member kitchen cabinet of cardinals to advise him on questions of governance.

If the conclave decides the Church needs a new approach, then this proximity will count against Omella.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Italian, Vatican diplomat, aged 70.

A punters' favourite, Parolin is seen as a compromise candidate between progressives and conservatives. He has been a Church diplomat for most of his life and served as Pope Francis' secretary of state since 2013, the year Francis was elected.

The position is similar to that of a prime minister and secretaries of state are often called the "deputy pope" because they rank second to the pontiff in the Vatican hierarchy.

Parolin previously served as deputy foreign minister under Pope Benedict, who in 2009 appointed him the Vatican's ambassador in Venezuela, where he defended the Church against moves to weaken it by then-President Hugo Chavez.

He was also the main architect of the Vatican's rapprochement with China and Vietnam. Conservatives have attacked him for an agreement on the appointment of bishops in communist China. He has defended the agreement saying that while it was not perfect, it avoided a schism and provided some form of communication with the Beijing government.

Parolin was never a front-line or noisy activist in the Church's so-called Culture Wars, which centred on issues such as abortion and gay rights, although he did once condemn the legalisation of same-sex marriage in many countries as "a defeat for humanity".

He has defended the Vatican's power over local Church leaders, criticising attempts in Germany to allow priests to symbolically bless same-sex couples. He said local Churches cannot make decisions that would end up affecting all Catholics.

A softly spoken and genteel person, Parolin would return the papacy to the Italians after three successive non-Italian popes - John Paul II of Poland, Benedict of Germany and Francis of Argentina.

He entered the Vatican's diplomatic service just three years after his priestly ordination in 1980 so his pastoral experience is limited. But a

factor in his favour is that he speaks a number of languages.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle, Filipino, aged 67.

Tagle is often called the "Asian Francis" because of his similar commitment to social justice and if elected he would be the first pontiff from Asia.

On paper, Tagle, who generally prefers to be called by his nickname "Chito", seems to have all the boxes ticked to qualify him to be a pope.

He has had decades of pastoral experience since his ordination to the priesthood in 1982. He then gained administrative experience, first as bishop of Imus and then as archbishop of Manila.

Pope Benedict made him a cardinal in 2012.

In a move seen by some as a strategy by Francis to give Tagle some Vatican experience, the pope in 2019 transferred him from Manila and appointed him head of the Church's missionary arm, formally known as the Dicastery for Evangelisation.

He comes from what some called "Asia's Catholic lung," because the Philippines has the region's largest Catholic population. His mother was an ethnic Chinese Filipino. He speaks fluent Italian and English.

Between 2015 and 2022, he was the top leader of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of more than 160 Catholic relief, social service, and development organisations around the world.

In 2022, Pope Francis fired its entire leadership following accusations of bullying and humiliation of employees, and appointed a commissioner to run it. Tagle, who was also removed from his role, had been nominally president but was not involved in the day-to-day operations, which were overseen by a lay director-general.

Announcing the pope's dramatic decision, Tagle told a meeting of the confederation that the changes were a moment for "facing our failures". It remains to be seen how the saga will impact Tagle's chances at the papacy.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark, N.J., American, aged 72.

It's unlikely the world's cardinals would pick the first ever U.S. pope, but if they were up for that, Tobin would seem the likeliest possibility.

A former global leader of a major Catholic religious order known as the Redemptorists, the Detroit native has spent time in countries around



Cardinal Peter Erdő, Hungarian, aged 72.

the world and speaks Italian, Spanish, French and Portuguese fluently. He also has experience in Vatican service and in top positions across the U.S. church.

Tobin served a stint as second-in-command of a Vatican office from 2009-12, and was then named by Pope Benedict as archbishop of Indianapolis, Indiana. Francis promoted him to a cardinal in 2016, and later made him the archbishop of Newark.

In this latest role, Tobin, a big man known for his weight-lifting workout regime, has dealt with one of the highest-profile Catholic scandals in recent years. In 2018, then-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, one of Tobin's predecessors in Newark, was removed from ministry over accusations of sexual misconduct with seminarians.

McCarrick, who denies any wrongdoing, resigned as a cardinal and was later found guilty by a Vatican tribunal and removed from the priesthood.

Tobin won praise for his handling of the scandal, including a decision to make public previously confidential settlements made between the archdiocese and McCarrick's alleged victims.

Tobin is the oldest of 13 children and has said he is a recovering alcoholic. He is known for an attitude of openness toward LGBT people, writing in 2017 that "in too many parts of our church LGBT people have been made to feel unwelcome, excluded, and even shamed".

Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Ghanaian, Vatican official, aged 76.

From humble beginnings in a small African town, Cardinal Peter Turkson has gone on to great things in the Church, making him a contender to become the first pope from sub-Saharan Africa.

He combines a long pastoral background of tending to congregations in Ghana with hands-on experience of leading several Vatican offices, as well as strong communication skills.

The fact he comes from one of the most dynamic regions for the Church, which is struggling against the forces of secularism in its European heartlands, should also bolster his standing.

The fourth son in a family of 10 children, Turkson was born in Wasaw Nsuta, in what was then called the Gold Coast in the British Empire. His father worked in a nearby mine and doubled as a carpenter while his mother sold vegetables in the market.

He studied at seminaries in Ghana and New York, was ordained in 1975, and then taught in his former Ghanaian seminary and did advanced Biblical studies in Rome.

Pope John Paul II appointed him archbishop of Cape Coast in 1992 and 11 years later made him the first cardinal in the history of the West African state.

Promotions continued under John Paul's successor, Benedict, who brought him to the Vatican in 2009

and made him the head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace -- the body that promotes social justice, human rights and world peace.

In that role, he was one of the pope's closest advisors on issues such as climate change and drew much attention by attending conferences such as the Davos economic forum.

Francis merged Turkson's department in 2016 with three other offices, leading to what some saw as a power struggle between him and another cardinal.

Turkson resigned from that role in 2021 and was appointed to head two pontifical academies on sciences and social sciences.

In 2023 he told the BBC he prayed "against" the possibility that he would be elected pope but some of his detractors said that given his media appearances it appeared he was campaigning for the job.

Matteo Maria Zuppi, Italian, archbishop of Bologna, aged 69.

When Zuppi got a promotion in 2015 and became archbishop of Bologna, national media referred to him as the "Italian Bergoglio", due to his affinity with Francis, the Argentine pope who was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

Zuppi would be the first Italian pope since 1978.

Contd page 13

Pope Francis Has Died, Vatican Says

By: Reuters

Pope Francis, the first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has died, the Vatican said in a video statement yesterday, ending an often turbulent reign marked by division and tension as he sought to overhaul the hidebound institution. He was 88, and had recently survived a serious bout of double pneumonia. “Dear brothers and sisters, it is with profound sadness I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis,” Cardinal Kevin Farrell announced on the Vatican’s TV channel. “At 7:35 this morning the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father.” Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope on March 13, 2013, surprising many Church watchers who had seen the Argentine cleric, known for his concern for the poor, as an outsider. He sought to project simplicity into the grand role and never took possession of the ornate papal apartments

in the Apostolic Palace used by his predecessors, saying he preferred to live in a community setting for his “psychological health”. He inherited a Church that was under attack over a child sex abuse scandal and torn by infighting in the Vatican bureaucracy, and was elected with a clear mandate to restore order. But as his papacy progressed, he faced fierce criticism from conservatives, who accused him of trashing cherished traditions. He also drew the ire of progressives, who felt he should have done much more to reshape the 2,000-year-old Church. While he struggled with internal dissent, Francis became a global superstar, drawing huge crowds on his many foreign travels as he tirelessly promoted interfaith dialogue and peace, taking the side of the marginalised, such as migrants. Unique in modern times, there were two men wearing white in the Vatican for much of Francis’ rule, with his predecessor Benedict opting to continue to live in the Holy See after his shock resignation in 2013 had opened the way for a new pontiff. Benedict, a hero of the conservative



Pope Francis waves from the main balcony of St. Peter's basilica during the Urbi et Orbi message and blessing to the city and the world as part of Easter celebrations, at St Peter's square in the Vatican on April 20, 2025. (Photo by AFP)

cause, died in December 2022, finally leaving Francis alone on the papal stage. Francis appointed nearly 80% of the cardinal electors who will choose the next pope correct as of February 2025, increasing the possibility that his successor will continue his progressive policies, despite the strong pushback from traditionalists.

JD Vance Mourns Pope Francis, Says He Was ‘Very Ill’ When They Met On Sunday

By: Correspondent

US Vice President JD Vance has mourned the death of Pope Francis, describing the pontiff’s appearance on Sunday as frail. Vance’s tribute came shortly after the Vatican announced that Pope Francis, the global head of the Catholic Church, had died at the age of 88 at his Casa Santa Marta residence in Rome. Vance had met Pope Francis on Easter Sunday, a day before his death, “I just learned of the passing of Pope Francis. My heart goes out to the millions of Christians all over the world who loved him,” he said. “I was happy to see him yesterday, though he was obviously very ill. But

I’ll always remember him for the below homily he gave in the very early days of COVID. It was really quite beautiful,” Vance said referring to a homily the pope deliver in March 2020 at the height of the pandemic. The homily emphasized unity, compassion, and faith in the face of uncertainty. Pope Francis, known for his outspoken criticism of harsh immigration policies—including former President Donald Trump’s mass deportation strategy—leaves behind a legacy of social justice advocacy, humility, and a commitment to the marginalized.



Pope Francis meets US Vice President JD Vance at his Casa Santa Marta residence on Easter Sunday/Vatican News

New Team Joins Zetech University, School of ICT, Media and Engineering

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

A new team of lecturers recently joined the Zetech University's School of ICT, Media and Engineering. They are Dr Kanna, Dr Gunavathi, Dr Rajesh and Dr Kirubanand from the Silicon Valley of Asia, Bangalore. Dr Kanna R joins Zetech University as a distinguished professor, bringing with him over 17 years of academic and research excellence in Computing and Information Technology. Dr. Kanna's prolific contributions span numerous Scopus-indexed journals and international conferences, with research interests in Machine Learning, IoT, Cognitive Radio Networks, and Blockchain Technology. Dr Gunavathi R, a distinguished academic and researcher in Computer

Science, brings over two decades of experience in teaching and research. Her prolific research portfolio spans wireless sensor networks, datamining, sentiment analysis, and digital watermarking, with over 35 journal publications; many in Scopus-indexed and UGC-approved journals. Dr Rajesh R, a seasoned academic and researcher, joins as a lecturer with a distinguished career spanning over two decades in computer science and information technology. His extensive teaching and research experience covers diverse areas such as quantum key distribution, IoT, AI in healthcare, datascience, and computer vision. Dr Kirubanand V, an accomplished academic and researcher in the field of Computer Science, joins with a rich background spanning over two decades in higher education and research. His research interests cover a wide range of areas including computer networks, cryptography, wireless technologies, and cloud computing, with over 30 publications in reputed UGC and SCOPUS-indexed journals. Zetech University administration noted that the new team comprises of passionate educators and technologists who brings a wealth of experience to the school of ICT, placement coordination, and collaborative research, a vast value addition to the academic community; both students and faculty at the institution.



Nine Possible Candidates Who Might Succeed Pope Francis

Contd from page 11

Much like Pope Francis when he lived in Buenos Aires, Zuppi is known as a "street priest" who focuses on migrants and the poor, and cares little about pomp and protocol. He goes by the name of "Father Matteo", and in Bologna he sometimes uses a bicycle rather than an official car. In a city that loves its meat products, he once made waves when pork-free tortellini were served, as an option, for the feast day of Bologna's patron saint. Zuppi called the Muslim-friendly move a normal gesture of respect and courtesy. If he were made pope, conservatives would likely view him with suspicion. Victims of Church sex abuse might also object to him, since the Italian Catholic Church, which he has led since 2022, has been slow to investigate and confront the issue. The Italian cardinal is closely associated with the Community of Sant'Egidio, a global peace and

justice Catholic group based in the historic Rome district of Trastevere, where he spent most of his life as a priest. Sant'Egidio, sometimes called "the United Nations of Trastevere," brokered a 1992 peace agreement that ended a 17-year-old civil war in Mozambique, with the help of Zuppi as one of the mediators. He has engaged in more diplomacy recently as papal envoy for the Russia-Ukraine conflict, concentrating on efforts to repatriate children who Ukraine says have been deported to Russia or Russian-held territories. Zuppi is a born-and-bred Roman with a fairly thick regional accent, and solid Catholic family roots. His father Enrico was the editor of the Sunday supplement of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, while his mother's uncle, Carlo Confalonieri, was also a cardinal.



Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, Maltese, aged 68.

To Alfred Lobawoi, My Gentle Friend



In a world that spins so fast and loud,
Where tempers rise and egos crowd,
There walks a man of gentler grace—
A calmer soul, a smiling face.
His name, you ask? It sings like day:
Alfred Lobawoi—bright as May.

A writer first, with ink-stained hands,
He builds new worlds on shifting sands.
He weaves his words with patient care,
Each line a breath of open air.
His voice, a map through tangled news,
A journalist with grounded views.

But more than pen, more than prose or
page,
More than facts in the digital age,
It's who he is that draws you near,
A heart so open, kind, sincere.
He doesn't shout, he doesn't fight,
He simply walks with quiet might.

He greets the world with eyes that
shine,
A smile that feels like vintage wine—
Soft, warm, and rich with gentle cheer,
He makes you feel you matter here.
And in his laugh, a certain beat,
So friendly, calming, clean, and sweet.

No storm disturbs his easy grace,
No anger finds a lasting place.
He brings no harm, no sharp reply,
Just calm beneath the bluest sky.
He's fond of joy, of laughter true,
And always shares the best of you.

He listens well and speaks with care,
And carries peace just everywhere.

In crowded rooms or silent halls,
You'll hear the echo when he calls.
His name means comfort, trust, and
light—
He makes the heavy burdens slight.

So this I write, with heart in hand,
For Alfred, whom I proudly stand.
Not just a friend, but more somehow—
A soul I cherish, here and now.
A man of purpose, joy, and art—
With gentle strength and golden heart.

And though the world may never see
The depths of what he means to me,
I hope these words, in simple rhyme,
Will hold his light beyond all time.
Alfred Lobawoi, a name I hold dear,
A writer of wisdom, with vision so clear.
A journalist true, with stories to tell,
He listens, he learns, he captures them
well.

With a heart that is clean, and a soul
Full of light,
He walks through this world never
needing to fight.
No anger, no quarrels, no storm in his
tone—
Just peace in his voice, and kindness
well-known.

He smiles like the sun on a fresh morning
breeze,
At ease with the world, and eager to
please.
Always so happy, his laughter rings free,
A rhythm of joy, like waves in the sea.

A friend to the many, yet somehow still
mine,
With a spirit so friendly, so warm, so
divine.
I like him, I do, for reasons so true—
The world is just better when Alfred is
you.

By Cathren Gathoni

Umurbaev Rustam Shakirjanovich



Graduated of Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies

I am Umurbaev Rustam Shakirjanovich. I was born on November 11, 2001 in Yangi-Yul, Syrdarya region.

In 2008, I was enrolled in the 1st grade of the secondary school 242 of the Almazar district of the city of Tashkent and graduated from the 9th grade in 2017.

In 2017, I was admitted to Uchtepa district Tashkent City Law College and in 2020 I graduated as a "lawyer" specialist.

In 2020, I successfully passed the state tests and received admission to the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies in the direction of "Economics, Politics, and Tourism of Eastern Countries"; "Political Science".

In 2024, I graduated from Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

I know Arabic, English, and Russian from foreign languages.

On December 18, 2021, I took an active part in the "International Arabic Language Day" event at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies and I was awarded a letter of thanks.

In 2021, I was awarded letter of gratitude at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

On January 28, 2022, I was participated in the online course "Digital Marketing" and I was awarded a certificate.

On February 24, 2022, I was attended an online course "Moral Foundations of Politics" and I was awarded a certificate.

On March 14, 2022, I was attended an online course "Global Diplomacy – Diplomacy in the

Modern world" and I was awarded a certificate.

On March 18, 2022, I took an online course "Geopolitics of Europe" and I was awarded a certificate.

On December 7, 2022, I was awarded a certificate for my active participation in the "Festival of Oriental Students – 2022" at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

On March 16, 2023, I was published a scientific material in the International Scientific Journal "ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ И НАУКА В XXI ВЕКЕ" and I was awarded a certificate.

In 2023, I was awarded statuette for active participation in the nomination "TA'LIM TIZIMIGA QO'SHGAN HISSASI UCHUN".

I am a recipient of honorary awards such as the following:

- "Altin Qiran";
- "Xalqlar do'stligi";
- "Abay";
- "Jadidchilar izdoshlari";
- "Millat umidi";
- "Ta'lim sohasidagi xizmatlari uchun";
- "Ta'lim iftixori";
- "Faol tadqiqatchi";
- "Yurt iftixori";
- "International Scientific Researcher – 2023";
- "Scientific Researcher – 2024".



The Breath Of Spring



The fields are blooming, the flowers are like tulips
The morning light embraces and awakens every
leaf

Dreams are awakening in my heart too
Spring has come again, my soul is full of hope
The nightingale walks without stopping, the girls
are in joy

The leaves dance and smile in the gardens The
rains whisper like my heart
The raindrops become poetry, every drop is a kind
of its own

Jo'rakhanova Shahnaza daughter of Akramjon.

Born on October 5, 2011 in Namangan region.

Currently studying at school and busy with reading, research and creativity every day. Since her youth, she has been interested in words, literature and creativity. In particular, writing poetry is one of her favorite activities.

She participated in school competitions and received diplomas and honorary certificates through her creativity. In January 2025, she was awarded the "Winner of the Day" in the "Zukko Kitobxon" competition. On April 5, 2024, she took an honorable place in the event called "Our Great Grandfather, the Great Entrepreneur". She won the "Educated Student" nomination. She received the title of "Creativity and Art" at the school she studied at. These achievements give her great inspiration and confidence.

Her dream for the future is to become a teacher. She believes that anyone who sincerely strives for it will surely achieve their dream.

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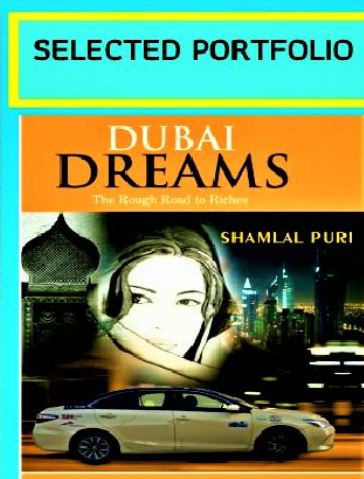
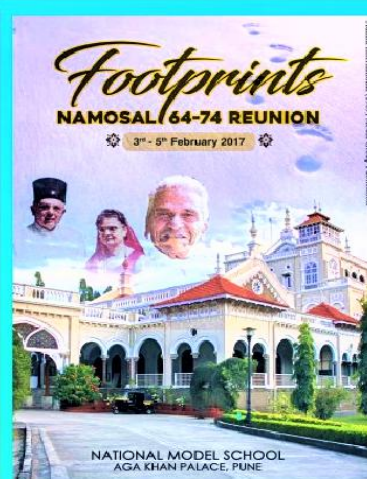
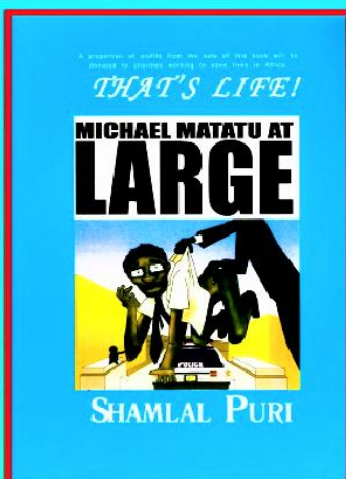
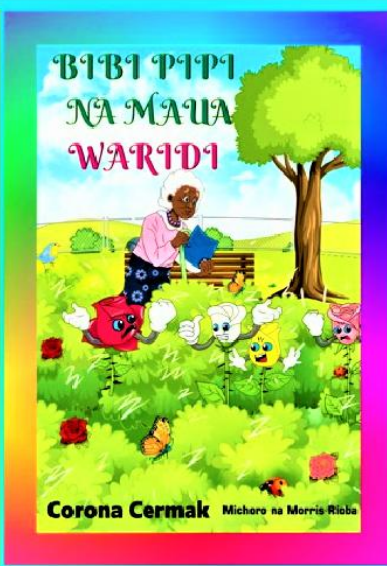
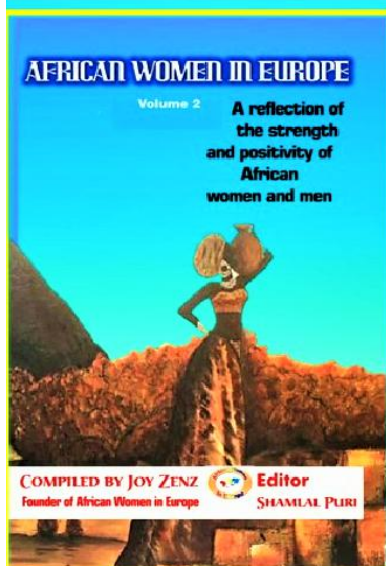
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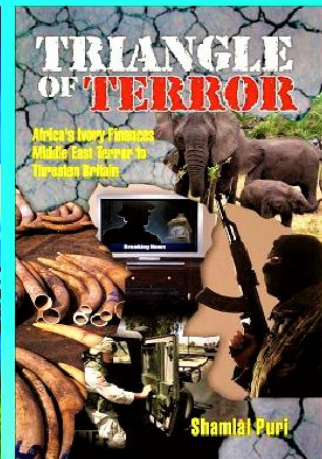
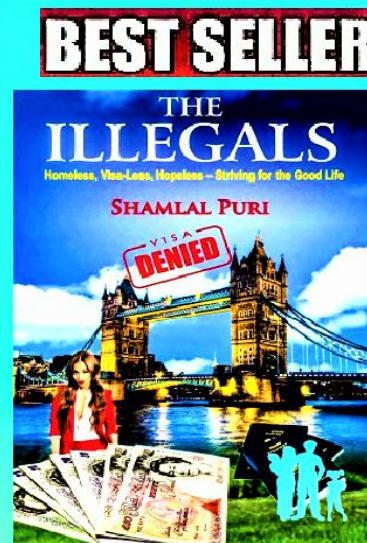
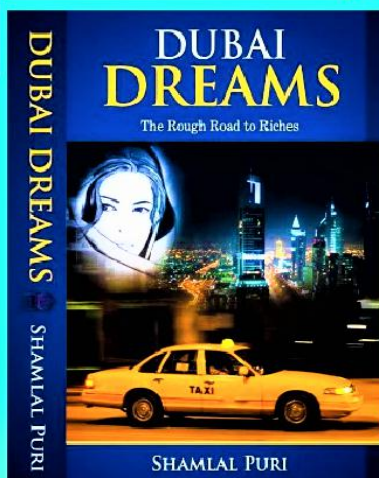
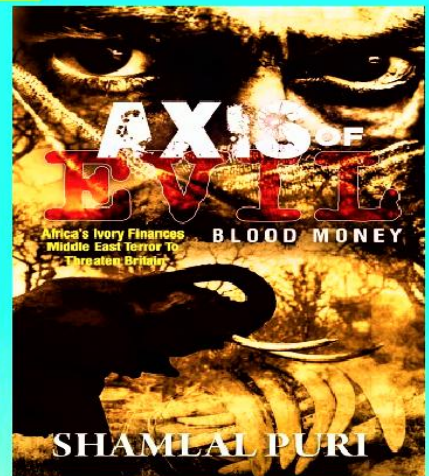
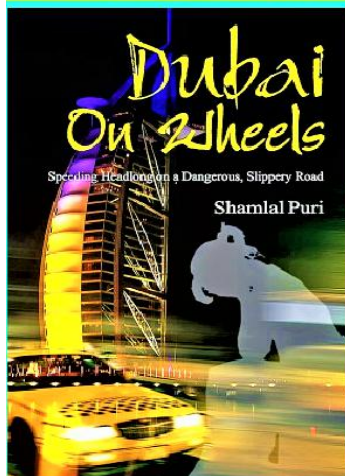
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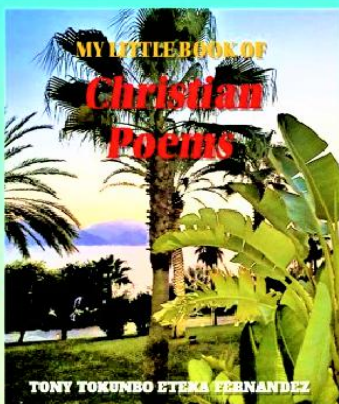
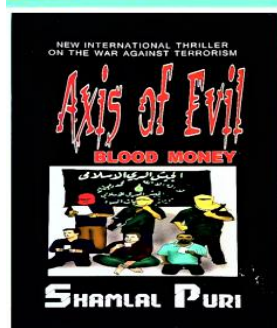
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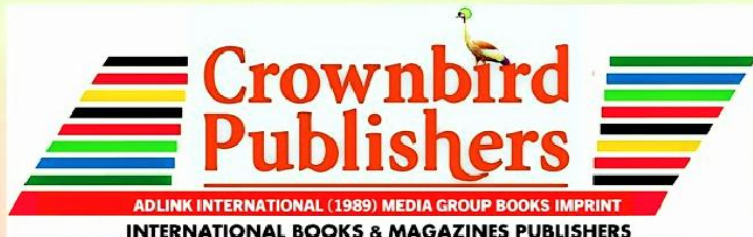


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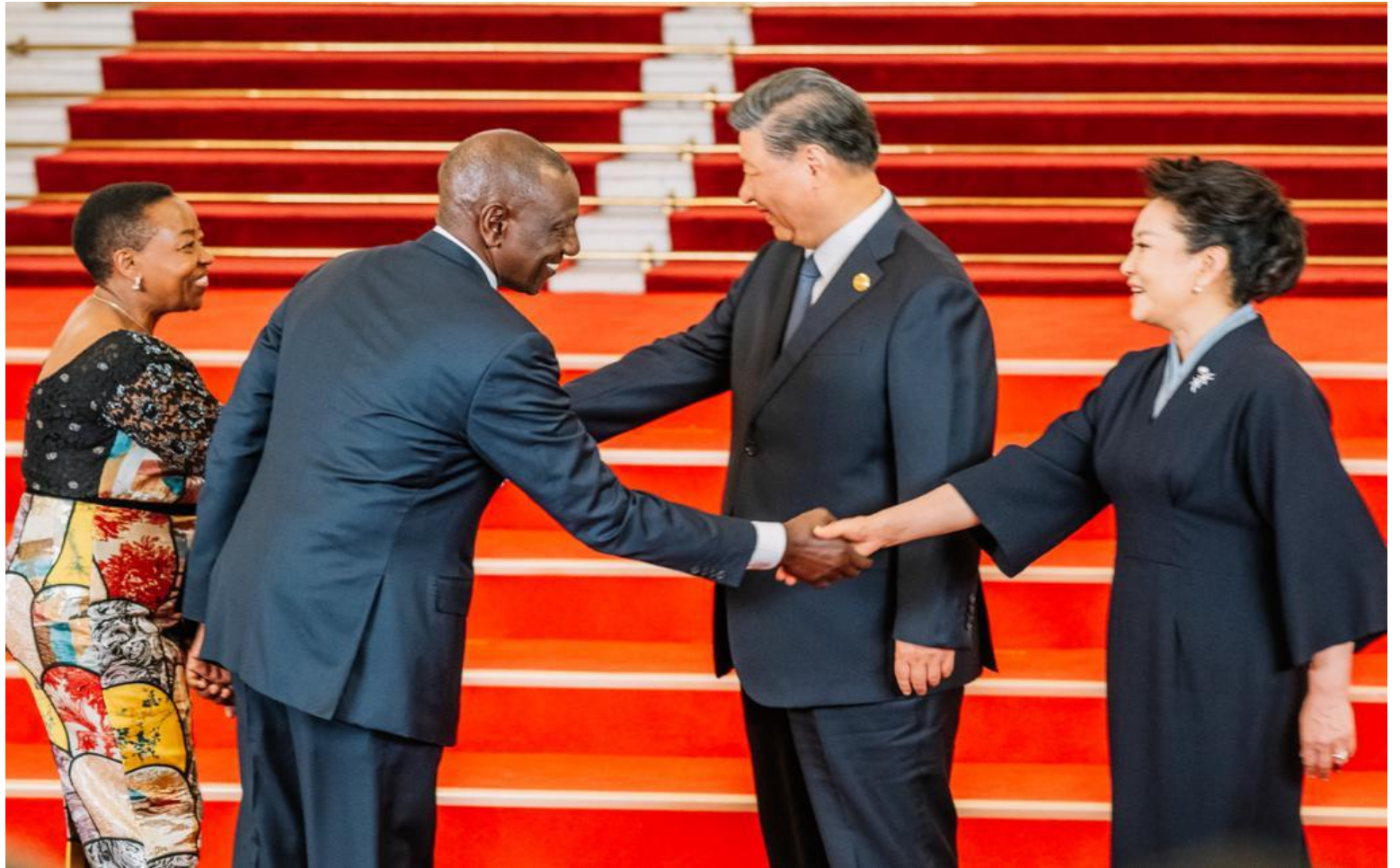
BUSINESS

Ruto's First State Visit To China Marks A New Chapter In Kenya-China Cooperation

By: Editorial Desk

Worth Noting:

- The visit will also cement cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which China launched in 2013 to strengthen global infrastructure and trade connectivity. Kenya has been a key BRI partner, having already benefited from major Chinese investments in roads, railways, and energy. Ruto last visited China in September 2024 for the BRI Forum.
- This State Visit is expected to culminate in the signing of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement, which will serve as a framework to deepen collaboration in key sectors. It will boost support for county hospitals, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, and flagship infrastructure such as the SGR and the Kenya Digital Infrastructure Project.



President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel when they met President Xi Jinping and China's First Lady Peng Liyuan on October 17, 2023.

President William Ruto is set to embark on his first State Visit to China since assuming office, a milestone that underscores Kenya's deepening strategic ties with Beijing and its broader ambitions on the global stage.

The five-day visit, scheduled to begin on April 22 at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, comes at a pivotal time of shifting geopolitical dynamics. It presents Kenya with a prime opportunity to reinforce its economic agenda, secure vital infrastructure financing, and position itself as a leader in shaping South-South cooperation for a sustainable future.

During his visit, President Ruto will hold high-level talks with President Xi, Premier Li Qiang, and National People's Congress Chairman Zhao Leji, reflecting China's recognition of Kenya as a key partner in Africa. The two nations are expected to sign multiple bilateral agreements across sectors such as trade, manufacturing, agriculture, climate change, education, tourism, security, and technology transfer.

Top on the agenda are discussions

around financing major infrastructure projects, including the extension of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Naivasha to Malaba via Kisumu, and the proposed dualing of the Rironi-Mau Summit highway—part of the larger Rironi-Malaba corridor. These projects aim to enhance regional connectivity and commerce. “We are looking forward to completing our transport grid by 2030. We want to borrow from China's advancements in green energy and electric mobility,” Ruto said, highlighting his ambition to expand Kenya's use of solar power and electric vehicles.

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deepen collaboration in key sectors. It will boost support for county hospitals, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, and flagship infrastructure such as the SGR and the Kenya Digital Infrastructure Project.

According to a brief from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the talks will be aligned with the Kenya Kwanza administration's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), focusing on inclusive growth through innovation, investment, and capacity-building.

The Cabinet has already approved the dualing of the 170-kilometre Rironi-Malaba highway, with construction set to begin in June 2025.

President Ruto will be accompanied by several cabinet secretaries and senior government officials, including Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, highlighting the visit's significance. His engagement with Chinese private sector leaders is expected to secure new investments, particularly in sectors that create jobs for youth and women, including the blue economy, digital trade, creative

industries, and environmental conservation.

Beyond bilateral matters, Ruto is also expected to advocate for the reform of the global financial system, calling for a more fair, inclusive, and predictable architecture that serves the needs of developing countries.

“This State Visit is a great honour for me and the people of Kenya. It reflects the strong friendship between our two countries and gives us an opportunity to expand our relationship for mutual benefit,” Ruto said ahead of the visit.

Kenya and China first established diplomatic ties in 1963, though relations were briefly suspended in 1967 before being restored in 1978. Today, China is Kenya's largest trading partner and one of its top sources of development financing.

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The Enduring Link: Examining The Namibia Dollar's Peg To The South African Rand



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The historical context of this peg is undeniable. Prior to 1990, Namibia was administered by South Africa, and the South African Rand was the sole legal tender. Upon gaining independence, the newly formed nation faced the monumental task of establishing its own institutions, including a national currency. In this nascent stage, the decision to peg the NAD to the ZAR was a pragmatic one, driven by several compelling factors.
- One of the primary benefits of the peg has been the promotion of macroeconomic stability. By linking the NAD's value directly to the ZAR, Namibia effectively imported the credibility and relative stability of the larger South African economy. This arrangement helped to anchor inflation expectations, reduce exchange rate volatility, and foster a predictable environment for businesses and investors.

For over three decades since its hard-won independence, Namibia's economic trajectory has been intimately intertwined with that of its powerful southern neighbor, South Africa. At the heart of this relationship lies the pegging of the Namibia Dollar (NAD) to the South African Rand (ZAR) at a one-to-one ratio. This monetary arrangement, inherited from the pre-independence era, has served as a cornerstone of Namibia's macroeconomic framework, offering both stability and constraints. As Namibia navigates an increasingly complex global landscape, it is crucial to critically examine the multifaceted implications of this enduring peg, weighing its benefits against its disadvantages and contemplating the optimal path forward for the nation's economic sovereignty.

The historical context of this peg is undeniable. Prior to 1990, Namibia was administered by South Africa, and the South African Rand was the sole legal tender. Upon gaining independence, the newly formed nation faced the monumental task of establishing its own institutions, including a national currency. In this nascent stage, the decision to peg the NAD to the ZAR was a pragmatic one, driven by several compelling factors.

One of the primary benefits of the peg has been the promotion of macroeconomic stability. By linking the NAD's value directly to the ZAR, Namibia effectively imported the credibility and relative stability of the larger South African economy. This arrangement helped to anchor inflation expectations, reduce exchange rate volatility, and foster a predictable environment for businesses and investors. The reduced exchange rate risk encouraged cross-border trade and investment flows between the two countries, which are significant trading partners. For Namibian consumers and businesses, the peg provided a degree of price certainty for imported goods and services, a substantial portion of which originate from or are priced in South African Rand.

Furthermore, the peg has contributed to lower transaction costs between the two economies. Businesses engaged in trade and financial transactions did not have to contend with the complexities and expenses associated with currency conversions. This streamlined economic interaction, fostering deeper integration and facilitating the smooth flow of goods, services, and capital. The simplicity of the one-to-one peg also made it easier for the public to understand and accept the new currency.



The peg also provided a credible monetary policy anchor for the Bank of Namibia (BoN) in its early years. By essentially shadowing the monetary policy decisions of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), the BoN benefited from the established track record and expertise of its larger counterpart. This helped to build confidence in the newly established Namibian currency and its management.

However, the enduring peg is not without its significant disadvantages. The most prominent drawback is the loss of independent monetary policy. By tying the NAD directly to the ZAR, Namibia effectively relinquishes its ability to tailor monetary policy to its specific economic needs and circumstances. Interest rate decisions in Namibia are largely dictated by the SARB's actions, which may not always be optimal for the Namibian economy. For instance, South Africa might raise interest rates to combat inflationary pressures within its borders, even if Namibia's inflation is subdued and its economy requires lower borrowing costs to stimulate growth. This can lead to a situation where Namibia's monetary policy is pro-cyclical, exacerbating economic booms and busts rather than smoothing them out.

Another significant disadvantage is the transmission of economic shocks from South Africa to Namibia. Due to the close economic ties and the currency peg, any significant economic downturn or financial instability in South Africa can have a direct and often amplified impact on Namibia. Fluctuations in the ZAR's value against major international currencies also directly affect the NAD, regardless of Namibia's own economic fundamentals. This dependence can make Namibia vulnerable to external shocks that it has little control over.

The peg also limits Namibia's ability to respond effectively to asymmetric shocks – economic events that affect the two countries differently. For example, a surge in global demand for a commodity that South Africa exports but Namibia does not would lead to an appreciation of the ZAR. Due to the peg, the NAD would also appreciate, potentially making Namibian exports less competitive, even though Namibia did not directly benefit from the initial positive shock.

Furthermore, the fixed exchange rate can create challenges in managing Namibia's external competitiveness. If Namibia experiences higher inflation than South Africa over a sustained period, the real exchange rate will appreciate, making Namibian goods and services relatively more expensive compared to those from South Africa and other trading partners. This can negatively impact Namibia's export sector and its overall trade balance. While the peg provides nominal exchange rate stability, it does not guarantee real exchange rate stability.

The reliance on the South African Reserve Bank's monetary policy also hampers the development of an independent and robust monetary policy framework within Namibia. The Bank of Namibia, while developing its expertise, is constrained in its ability to experiment with and implement policies tailored to Namibia's unique economic structure and challenges. This can hinder the development of sophisticated financial markets and limit the tools available to the BoN to manage the economy effectively.

Finally, the peg can sometimes lead

to capital flow volatility. While the peg aims to reduce exchange rate risk, large capital outflows from South Africa, driven by factors unrelated to Namibia, can put pressure on the NAD and potentially lead to depletion of Namibia's foreign exchange reserves as the BoN intervenes to maintain the peg.

Re-evaluating the Enduring Link

From an economic standpoint, while the pegging of the Namibia Dollar to the South African Rand offered crucial stability during Namibia's formative years, the long-term disadvantages increasingly outweigh the benefits in the current global and regional context. Namibia has matured significantly as an independent nation, developing its own institutions and a more diversified economy. Continuing with a rigid peg indefinitely comes at a significant cost to its monetary policy autonomy and its ability to respond effectively to its own unique economic challenges and opportunities.

The loss of independent monetary policy is a critical concern. Namibia's economic cycles and structural characteristics are not always perfectly aligned with those of South Africa. The ability to set interest rates and manage liquidity conditions based on Namibia's specific inflation targets, growth objectives, and employment needs is essential for optimizing macroeconomic outcomes. Relying on the SARB's decisions, which are primarily geared towards the South African economy, can lead to suboptimal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prioritizing Kenya's SDG 3 And SDG 4, Health And Education



By: Tonny Kyule
@themtkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- As important as mental health, all too often overlooked. Stigma of mental illness may discourage people from seeking assistance. We need to establish a compassionate and mentally healthy community and provide it with mental health units on the role of the family doctor. Increased awareness and honest discussion will help us create a compassionate and concern culture.
- Empowerment is the key to education, though. There are still, unfortunately, a lot of children in Kenya not attending school, and among the problems are poverty, gender disparities, and poor infrastructure. In order to attain SDG 4, we must have hope that all children, regardless of their circumstance, can learn. This involves investing in schools, teacher education, and infrastructure that motivates and empowers children to learn.



Health and education are the determinants of Kenyan success in Kenya's evolving world. SDG 4 and SDG 3, ensuring everyone has the health and wellbeing they deserve to flourish and ensuring quality education is inclusive and equitable is absolute in building a successful future. When addressing society's complexity today, these goals must take center stage over anything else, changing lives and communities across the country.

Imagine a Kenya where all the children are brought up to their full potential and all the people have access to health centers regardless of situations. This is not something that is going to be done anytime soon, this is necessity. Education and health are two things that complement each other; healthy individuals can learn and be able to operate in society. Education also enables individuals to make appropriate healthy choices, and what is the outcome of this is a continuous process of development that opens up communities in every sense.

But our problems are local. Inadequate good health facilities and access to the basic services still keep

most Kenyans on the ground. The rural sections are particularly disadvantaged with fewer medical facilities, thereby preventable deaths and undiagnosed disease. We must struggle for quality health reforms that will guarantee every Kenyan access to quality health care. That means investment in medical personnel, more facilities, and technology application to reach the farthest villages.

As important as mental health, all too often overlooked. Stigma of mental illness may discourage people from seeking assistance. We need to establish a compassionate and mentally healthy community and provide it with mental health units on the role of the family doctor. Increased awareness and honest discussion will help us create a compassionate and concern culture.

Empowerment is the key to education, though. There are still, unfortunately, a lot of children in Kenya not attending school, and among the problems are poverty, gender disparities, and poor infrastructure. In order to attain SDG 4, we must have hope that all children, regardless of their circumstance, can learn. This

involves investing in schools, teacher education, and infrastructure that motivates and empowers children to learn.

Secondly, education has to be inclusive and equitable. Girls, children with disabilities, and disadvantaged groups tend to have more obstacles to overcome. Advocating policy initiatives that ensure inclusion assures us that we can have an education system where all children can succeed. Scholarships, mentoring, and support to disadvantaged groups go a long way in evening out the playing fields.

The role of technology in health and education improvement cannot be overemphasized. Internet web pages can make easy opening of the gates to learn content and healthcare knowledge to fill gaps that erstwhile slowed development. Telemedicine can reach as far as inaccessible rural areas, and e-learning can provide good quality education to all. Technology can assist us in providing our children with a better future and improving health score too.

Since we need to formulate SDG 3 and SDG 4, there needs to be co-ordination. It must be among govern-

ments, NGOs, private sector partners, and communities. When the capabilities and resources converge and then co-ordinate, only then can we have co-ordinated programs with some fixes for some of the problems posed between the populations.

Overall, becoming real in Kenya as much as SDG 3 and SDG 4 is to be about requiring commitment, co-co-ordination, and empathy. Prioritizing the key things in health and education, we shall realize our potential as a nation, and there is a future for all Kenyans to live healthy productive lives. We must come together and combat these illusions and make the world where education and health cease to be luxuries but human rights for all. Now is the time, let us take up this challenge and live our dream.

Tonny Kyule is a communication, media and public relations practitioner and is a writer of Journalism student Association of Kenya (JSK).

Museveni's Enduring Reign That Outlived Three Popes

By: Athuman Said
 @themkenyetimes

Worth Noting:

- In a world where change is often swift and unrelenting, Museveni's political longevity becomes even more striking when compared to the spiritual office of the papacy a role traditionally regarded as lifelong, yet more dynamic in recent decades.
- Pope John Paul II, whose charismatic leadership defined the Catholic Church for a generation, was already 8 years into his pontificate when Museveni took office in 1986. For the next 19 years, the two men concurrently held their respective offices, with John Paul II passing away in 2005 after 27 years as Pope. Pope Benedict XVI, elected in April 2005, became the first Pope in nearly 600 years to resign, citing age and declining health.

As Uganda marks yet another chapter in its political timeline, one figure remains unmoved by the tides of change that have swept through the Vatican, the African continent, and global geopolitics: President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Today, as the world mourns the death of Pope Francis at the age of 88, it also stands witness to the extraordinary longevity of Museveni's leadership, a tenure that has now spanned 39 years and 3 months, outlasting the papacies of not one, but three Popes. Museveni, who ascended to power on January 29, 1986, amid the chaos of post-Amin Uganda, has presided over the East African nation through decades of transformation. His leadership has transcended political epochs, international crises, technological revolutions, and now, the complete reigns of three pontiffs John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis — men revered as spiritual anchors to over a billion Catholics worldwide.

Born in 1944 in Ntungamo, southwestern Uganda, Museveni emerged as a revolutionary figure in the early 1980s after leading a successful guerrilla war against the regime of Milton Obote and later, Tito Okello. Sworn in at the age of 41, Museveni projected himself as part of a new generation of African leaders committed to democratic renewal and development. But as history would have it, the promise of a short transitional leadership evolved into one of the longest presidencies in African and world history. His presidency has weathered the Cold War's final storms, the birth of the African Union, the dawn of the internet age, and the COVID-19 pandemic. His rule has also drawn criticism, especially in recent years, for what human rights organizations and opposition figures describe as authoritarian tendencies, suppression of dissent, and erosion of democratic institutions. Yet, despite controversies and repeated claims of electoral irregularities, Museveni has remained firmly at the helm, citing stability and development as his leadership's cornerstones.

In a world where change is often swift and unrelenting, Museveni's political longevity becomes even more striking when compared to the spiritual office of the papacy a role traditionally regarded as lifelong, yet more dynamic in recent decades. Pope John Paul II, whose charismatic leadership defined the Catholic Church for a generation, was already 8 years into his pontificate when Museveni took office in 1986. For the next 19 years, the two men concurrently held their respec-



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

tive offices, with John Paul II passing away in 2005 after 27 years as Pope. Pope Benedict XVI, elected in April 2005, became the first Pope in nearly 600 years to resign, citing age and declining health. His relatively brief eight-year pontificate ended in 2013 still under Museveni's watch. Then came Pope Francis, the Argentinian Jesuit who broke numerous traditions by becoming the first Pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit, and the first to adopt the name Francis. His focus on humility, environmental justice, and interfaith dialogue shaped much of the Church's modern trajectory. Yet even he, a symbol of endurance and spiritual leadership, could not outlast the man in Kampala. Francis died today, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88, bringing his 12-year papacy to a close. While three papal eras have ended, Museveni's presidency remains making him not only a political figure but a unique historical constant.

Museveni is among a handful of African leaders who have held onto power for decades, a group that includes names like Paul Biya of Cameroon and Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea. Yet Museveni stands out for the international stature he has cultivated. As a

long-serving regional power broker, he has played roles in conflicts and peace efforts in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and more recently, the Eastern Africa regional integration initiatives. His government has also been praised for its early and aggressive approach to HIV/AIDS in the 1990s, though critics argue that Uganda's democratic regression under his watch has stifled innovation, civic space, and youthful political aspirations. In recent years, Museveni's son, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has sparked speculation about a dynastic transition of power. Public appearances, political comments, and growing influence in security circles suggest the beginning of a calculated succession plan though Museveni himself has remained ambiguous about when, or if, he will step down. Museveni's continued grip on power presents a paradox: a nation whose demographics are overwhelmingly youthful with a median age of just 17 remains led by a man in his 80s, whose political worldview was shaped in the fires of 20th-century revolutionary struggle. While many Ugandans acknowledge the stability Museveni brought in the early years of his presidency, there is a growing chorus calling for

renewal, modernization, and generational leadership. Movements such as Bobi Wine's National Unity Platform (NUP) reflect a restless youth population eager to shape their own future one no longer tethered to the legacy of liberation-era politics.

As Catholics around the world enter a period of mourning for Pope Francis, the timing offers a moment for reflection not only on spiritual leadership but on political tenure, legacy, and change. The Church will soon usher in a new Pope. But in Uganda, that process is less certain. For now, President Yoweri Museveni continues to hold court as one of the world's longest-serving leaders a man whose political career has surpassed the reigns of monarchs, spiritual shepherds, and ideological movements. Whether history will regard him as a stabilizer, a liberator, or a despot remains a matter for scholars and citizens alike. But one fact is undeniable: Museveni's name is etched indelibly into the narrative of post-colonial Africa and, quite remarkably, into the timeline of the Vatican itself.

By Athuman Said, A Journalist Who Writes On African Politics, International Affairs, Youth Democracy And Entertainment

Ruto Mourns Pope Francis, Hails His Commitment To Inclusivity And Justice

By: Correspondent
@themtkenyetimes

President William Ruto has joined world leaders and millions of Christians in mourning the death of Pope Francis, calling it a “big loss to the Catholic faithful and the Christian world.”

In a statement issued yesterday, President Ruto paid tribute to the late pontiff, praising his legacy of humility, moral leadership, and commitment to social justice.

“We join the Catholic Church and the global Christian community in mourning the passing of Pope Francis,” Ruto said.

“This is a big loss to the Catholic faithful and the Christian world. Pope Francis will be remembered for a life dedicated to serving the Lord, the Church, and humanity.”

Ruto described the pope as a global moral compass whose leadership

style embodied servant leadership and compassion for the vulnerable.

“He exemplified servant leadership through his humility, his unwavering commitment to inclusivity and justice, and his deep compassion for the poor and the vulnerable,” the President said.

The Head of State further acknowledged Pope Francis’ global impact, noting that his influence transcended religious lines.

“His strong ethical and moral convictions inspired millions across the world, regardless of faith or background,” he added.

Pope Francis, who died at the age of 88 at his Casa Santa Marta residence in Vatican City, had shaped a legacy defined by advocacy for the marginalized, reform within the Catholic Church, and a message of unity in a divided world.

US Vice President JD Vance who met him on Sunday described the pontiff’s appearance as frail.

“I just learned of the passing of Pope



President Ruto interacts with Pope Francis at the G7 Summit in 2024/FILE

Francis. My heart goes out to the millions of Christians all over the world who loved him,” he said. “I was happy to see him yesterday, though he was obviously very ill.”

The Enduring Link: Examining The Namibia Dollar’s Peg To The South African Rand

Contd from page 18

monetary conditions for Namibia.

The vulnerability to economic shocks emanating from South Africa is another compelling reason to reconsider the peg. While close economic ties are beneficial, the automatic transmission of negative shocks can hinder Namibia’s growth prospects and create unnecessary instability. A more flexible exchange rate regime would allow Namibia to absorb some of these shocks and pursue counter-cyclical policies more effectively.

Furthermore, in a world characterized by increasing global competition, Namibia needs to enhance its external competitiveness. A fixed exchange rate regime can become a constraint if Namibia’s inflation dynamics diverge from those of its trading partners. The ability to manage the exchange rate to maintain a competitive edge is a crucial tool for promoting exports and fostering sus-

tainable economic growth.

Moving away from the peg would undoubtedly present its own set of challenges. It would require the Bank of Namibia to further develop its capacity for independent monetary policy formulation and implementation. Building credibility for a new monetary policy framework would be paramount. There would also be a period of potential exchange rate volatility as the market adjusts to the new regime. Careful management of the transition, clear communication, and the establishment of robust inflation targeting frameworks would be essential to mitigate these risks.

However, the long-term benefits of greater monetary policy autonomy and the ability to respond to Namibia’s specific economic needs are substantial. A well-managed transition to a more flexible exchange rate regime, perhaps a managed float, could allow Namibia to pursue a monetary policy that is more conducive to its own growth and stability objectives. It would also provide the BoN with greater flexibility to respond to domestic and external shocks.



In conclusion, while the peg to the South African Rand served a valuable purpose in Namibia’s early years of independence, the time has come for a serious and comprehensive evaluation of its long-term suitability. From an economic perspective, the benefits of maintaining the peg are increasingly overshadowed by the significant limitations it imposes on Namibia’s monetary policy independence and its ability to navigate its own economic destiny. A carefully managed transition towards a more flexible exchange rate regime holds the potential to unlock greater economic autonomy and foster more sustainable and tailored growth for Namibia in the years to come. This would require a well-articulated strategy, strong institutional capacity within the Bank of Namibia, and effective communication to ensure a smooth and successful transition. The long-term economic gains for Namibia could be substantial, paving the way for a more resilient and prosperous future.

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Sports >> *In the men’s race, Kenyan John Korir pulled clear from the lead pack around mile 20 to take a commanding victory in a time of 2:04:45.

Boston Marathon: John Korir Wins Men’s Race



Korir crosses the finish line in Boston.Maddie Meyer/Getty Images .

In the men’s race, Kenyan John Korir pulled clear from the lead pack around mile 20 to take a commanding victory in a time of 2:04:45. Tanzania’s Alphonse Simbu outspurred Kenya’s Cyprian Kotut to finish second, crossing the line 19 seconds behind Korir, while American Conner Mantz narrowly missed out on a podium place in fourth. The 28-year-old Korir follows in the footsteps of his brother Wesley, who took the title in

Boston 13 years ago. The pair embraced at the finish line as they celebrated becoming the first siblings ever to win the race. “I expected him there (at the finish line). I had promised him that I am going to win and I made it,” Korir told ESPN, adding: “Today I will make jokes with him because I am the fastest in the family. He had a title for Boston in the family but now I’ve got it.” The reigning Chicago Marathon champion had to overcome a difficult start in Boston when he fell

in the first 50 meters and lost his race number from the front of his singlet. However, he soon managed to pick himself up and catch up with the lead runners. The stumble didn’t seem to faze Korir during the race as he built a big lead over the field in the last six miles, not long after defending champion Sisay Lemma of Ethiopia had pulled out. In the wheelchair races, Switzerland’s seven-time Paralympic champion Marcel Hug won his eighth title in Boston,

while USA’s Susannah Scaroni claimed her second having also triumphed in 2023. CNN

Sports >>> *Kansas alum Sharon Lokedi won the 2025 Boston Marathon with a record-breaking time of 2:17:22 yesterday morning, securing her second World Marathon major victory.

Sharon Lokedi Wins 2025 Boston Marathon With Course Record 2:17:22



BOSTON – Kansas alum Sharon Lokedi won the 2025 Boston Marathon with a record-breaking time of 2:17:22 yesterday morning, securing her second World Marathon major victory.

Lokedi was a part of the lead pack for much of the Boston Marathon, before pulling away from Hellen Obiri over the final two miles. Lokedi crossed the finish line in 2:17:22, shattering the course record of 2:19:59 set by Buzunesh Deba in 2014.

“It feels so great, I can’t believe it,” Lokedi said Monday following the race. “It was tough. I just wanted to give my best and fight to the end... They kept the pace honest, and I really liked that. We just fought to the end.”

Yesterday’s Boston Marathon victory was Lokedi’s second World Marathon major win after winning the 2022 TCS New York City Marathon in 2:23:23. It was Lokedi’s fifth World ma-

jor appearance after finishing as the runner-up at the 2024 Boston Marathon in 2:22:45 and third at the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon in 2:27:33. Lokedi also finished fourth at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games Marathon in 2:23:14.

The Kenyan native competed for the Jayhawks from 2015-2019 in cross country and track and field. Lokedi was the 2016 and 2017 Big 12 Cross Country champion and Women’s Runner of the Year.

During her freshman year, Lokedi was on the 2015 Cross Country All-Big 12 First Team, All-Midwest Region and First Team All-America.

Lokedi won the 2016 indoor 5,000-meter run at the Big 12 Championships and was named to First Team All-America for the 5,000-meter. During her 2016 outdoor debut, Lokedi continued the momentum by being crowned the 2016 10,000-meter Big 12 cham-

pion, followed by a First Team All-America accolade.

From 2015-2018, Lokedi was named First Team All-America seven times between cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field. Lokedi was awarded cross country All-Big 12 First Team in 2015, 2017 and 2018 as well as cross country All-Midwest Region in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

In Anschutz Pavilion, Lokedi set the facility record for the 5,000-meter run with a time of 9:29.24. She also set the Rock Chalk Park record for the 10,000-meter run, clocking in a time of 33:43.28, as well as the 5,000-meter run during the Kansas Relays in 2019 (15:42.76).

At Kansas, Lokedi was a three-time indoor Big 12 5,000-meter champion, two-time indoor Big 12 3,000-meter champion, three-time outdoor Big 12 10,000-meter champion and won the out-

door Big 12 5,000-meter title. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, Lokedi was awarded the Big 12 Indoor Performer of the Year award and was the 2019 Big 12 High Point Champion.

Lokedi won the 2018 Outdoor NCAA title in the 10,000-meter and had the sixth best time in NCAA indoor history for the 5,000-meter with a time of 15:15.47.

Lokedi holds the indoor Kansas record for the 5,000-meter, distance medley relay and 3,000-meter. For outdoor, Lokedi has the school record time in the 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter.

In 2018, Lokedi ran a time of 32:09.20 in the 10,000-meter, an NCAA Outdoor Championships meet record time.

Source: Kuathletics

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SPORTS AS THEY HAPPEN

Catherine Raphael, A Storyteller And An Author



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence
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Worth Noting:

- My grandmother and all the women of South Sudan
- ↑↑ The publishing house named my book one of the best sellers of 2022
- ↑ I'm currently working on my next book
- ↑ I won one local award for a writing competition and another for a translation

1. Who are you?
I'm Catherine Raphael, a storyteller and an author
2. Where are you from?
I'm from South Sudan
3. What's your book category?
My book is fictional
4. Why did you write?
I want to tell stories that resonate to others
5. What inspired you?
My grandmother and all the women of South Sudan
6. Who is your illustrator?
I don't remember who it was back then
7. Do you have fans?
I like to believe I have a few fans
8. How are sales?
The publishing house named my book one of the best sellers of 2022
9. What are your future plans?
I'm currently working on my next book
10. How is the book industry?
The industry is challenging
11. Any awards yet?
I won one local award for a writing competition and another for a translation
12. Who is your role model?
Toni Morrison
13. When did you begin writing?
When I was 15 years old
14. Where did you publish?
Willows house for printing and publishing, South Sudan
15. What can you say to upcoming author?
Keep on writing. That's how you become a writer.



Catherine Raphael

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