



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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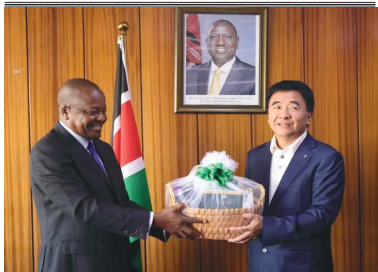
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News >> Kagwe Meets Chinese Team In Bid To Boost Export Market

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Gachagua Resigns From UDA Party

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Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9



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 Noo Wanguku
 Noo Wanguku
 Noo Wanguku



Finland President In First Ever Finnish Head Of State Visit To Kenya

By: MKT Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

Some Of The Moments As Captured In Pictures, At JKIA and State House, Nairobi

President Alexander Stubb of Finland, the country described as the happiest nation in the world made a historic visit to Kenya yesterday.

President Stubb's visit is the first-ever tour to be made by a Finnish president.

His host, President William Ruto noted that Kenya deeply values its longstanding friendship with Finland which is a key development partner in Europe and a steadfast supporter of Kenya's national ambitions. He added that his administration was committed to leveraging Finland's expertise in education, technology, renewable energy, and climate action to accelerating our country's transformation.

At State House the President's, alongside senior officials from both sides held bilateral talks whose culmination was signing of two MoUs on Political Consultations and Peace Mediation and Conflict Resolution which is a key instruments in advancing the two nations shared values and global partnerships. President Stubb and his delegation jetted into the country early yesterday where they were received by a team led by Deputy President Kithure Kindiki.



Editor's Desk

The Mt. Kenya Times

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Eric Mugaa accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Water and Sanitation, Julius Korir, and Irrigation Principal Secretary Ephantus Kimotho, held a meeting with Murang'a County leaders led by Governor Irungu Kang'ata. The discussions focused on the progress of ongoing water, sanitation and irrigation projects in the county, aimed at improving access to clean and reliable water for domestic use, industries and agriculture for all residents. Key stakeholders including representatives from the Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) and Water Service Providers were also present to deliberate on enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of water service delivery across the county. Members of Parliament present included Sabina Chege (County MP), Edward Muriu (Gatanga), Mary Wamaua (Maragwa), Joseph Munyoro (Kigumo), Chege Njuguna (Kandara) and Peter Kihunga (Kangema). Members of County Assembly present included Isaac Njoroge and Margaret Gichia from the County Assembly Water committee.



Mental Health Awareness Week was officially launched at Mwai Kibaki Referral Hospital (MKRH) in Othaya. The week was kicked off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by DCNS Dr. Soita and Dr. Kibet. Throughout the week, our dedicated psycho team will be engaging with the community to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage individuals to seek psychiatric support whenever needed. They called for support of mental health and well-being.



Interior Principal Secretary Dr Raymond Omollo yesterday presided over the official launch of the National Climate Change Security Response Programme (NCCSRP) Chiefs Training at the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). The programme empowers Chiefs as frontline champions of climate action, addressing the growing link between climate risks and security. Through partnerships like IGAD, we are mobilizing communities, promoting tree-growing initiatives and fostering a secure, climate-resilient Kenya; one Chief, one community, one tree at a time.



Labour and Skills Development Principal Secretary Shadrack Mwadime on Sunday visited St. Michael's Church in Rong'e Parish, where he served as the guest preacher for the family week sermon. His message centered on the importance of placing Christ at the heart of all endeavors, emphasizing that doing so leads to a fulfilled life. After the sermon, Mwadime took the time to engage with students at Mwanambo Secondary School, sharing insights aimed at empowering the youth. He underscored the vital role that education and skills development play in opening doors to job opportunities for individuals across various skill levels, from professionals to semi-skilled workers. He encouraged the students to recognize and embrace their potential, while also urging parents to support their children's aspirations.

Nyeri Water and Sanitation Company (Nyewasco) Managing Director, Eng. Peter G. Kahuthu yesterday opened a staff Customer Service training forum, which is aimed at enlightening them on how best to offer services. Eng Kahuthu (pictured) reaffirmed that customer satisfaction remains at the core of our operations and thus, all the staff must be equipped with the best know-how to deal with clients. The staff were informed that at the institution, which boasts of being one of the best in the country, customer service is not limited to a desk or department but is a shared responsibility across the entire organization, every single day. Nyewasco believe that delivering excellent service is just as important as supplying clean and safe water to the customers.





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Deputy Governors Seek 40 Per Cent Of The Governor's Budget To Run Their Offices

By: PSCU

Worth Noting:

Section 92 of the County Government Act states that the Deputy Governor shall deputise for the Governor in executing the Governor's functions, and the Governor may assign the Deputy Governor any other responsibility or portfolio as a county executive member.

In a meeting with the Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations in Nakuru County last Friday, the Deputy Governors' Caucus, led by the Chairperson, Reuben Kamuri beseeched the Senators to amend Section 32 of the County Government Act to streamline and clearly spell out their roles and responsibilities in the Constitution.



Some of Senators and Deputy Governors after the meeting last Friday.

Deputy Governors have urged the Senate to entrench their role in the Constitution to ensure they are adequately facilitated to discharge their mandate effectively.

They argued for the empowerment of the office of the deputy governors, insisting that the deputy governors are peers to the governors and should therefore be involved in the day-to-day general administration and oversight of county government decisions.

The county deputies drawn from all the 47 devolved units decried that the law, as it is, does not expressly provide for their functions thus crippling them at the county level yet they are also voted in with the governors in the same ballot.

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They asked the August House to consider assigning them the mandate to chair specific programs, just the "like the Deputy President chairs the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council (IBEC)."

The deputy governors also prayed that the Senate amend the County Governments Act to allocate 40 per



Laikipia County Deputy Governor Reuben Kamuri who is also the Deputy Governors caucus chairman making a point when they met Senatorial Standing Committee on Devolution last Friday.

cent of the county governor's budget to the office of the deputy governor to ensure that the deputy governor effectively and efficiently deputises the county bosses.

"The deputy governors are more of personal assistants to the governors. We are not involved in the running of the counties," Kamuri, the Deputy Governor for Laikipia County, decried.

Members of Senator Mohamed Abass led Committee sympathised with the deputy governors' situation and expressed their resolve to amend the law to ensure the office of the deputy governors is respected.

They underscored the importance of dignifying the office of the deputy governor and ensuring the implementation of executive decisions, but cautioned the county deputies to

avoid conflicts with governors by establishing a clear demarcation of roles between them to ensure a functional governance system.

Senators threw the ball back to the court of the deputy governors by asking them to research and provide evidence to the Senate of other jurisdictions on the role, responsibilities, management, and budget allocation for deputy governors to help the House to amend the law.

"Research on what others have done and then propose a well-researched formula for budget allocation and funding for the deputy governor's office," Kisii Senator Richard Onyonka suggested.

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Intelligence And Defence Appeal To Parliamentary Committee For Enhanced Budget

By: PSCU

Security agencies have appealed to the National Assembly Committee on Defence Intelligence and Foreign Relations for increased funding in the next financial year.

Led by Belgut MP Nelson Koech, the Committee began its scrutiny of the budget estimates with submissions from the Ministry of Defence, the National Intelligence Service (NIS), and the State Department for East African Community (EAC).

Appearing first, the Principal Secretary for Defence Patrick Mariru and Vice Chief of Defence Forces Lt. Gen. Mugaravai Omenda outlined their ministry's priorities, citing

the need to modernize equipment, strengthen border security, and boost troop welfare.

The Director General of the National Intelligence Service, Mr. Noordin Haji, called for enhanced funding of intelligence and security apparatus.

He briefed Committee Members on budget shortfalls that could compromise the country's ability to detect and respond to threats like terrorism, cybercrime, and disinformation.

"Our national security organs must be fully funded to effectively execute their constitutional mandate. Intelligence alone is not enough. Frontline agencies also need capacity to act swiftly," Haji told lawmakers.

He disclosed that while the NIS had requested KSh 65 billion for the 2024/2025 financial year, it was allocated KSh 51 billion leaving a fund-

ing gap of KSh 14 billion.

"Bridging this shortfall would be critical to safeguarding national interests in a rapidly changing security landscape," added Haji.

On her part, Caroline Karugu, Principal Secretary for the State Department for EAC urged the committee to increase the department's budget to support regional integration and trade, noting that the East African Community bloc presents significant untapped opportunities for Kenya's economic growth.

"The EAC market is a strategic pillar for Kenya's foreign and trade policy. We must invest in it," Dr. Karugu said.

The Committee will today engage with the State Department of Foreign Affairs and the State Department of Diaspora Affairs.



Patrick Mariru



Nelson Koech



Noordin Haji.



Caroline Karugu

Ministry Of Health Engages UNAIDS On Strengthening Country's HIV Response

By: MoH and MKT Reporter

@themkenyatomes

A team from the Ministry of Health led by Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale yesterday hosted a delegation from UNAIDS, led by Country Director Ms. Medhin Tsehau, for a high-level discussion on advancing Kenya's HIV/AIDS response.

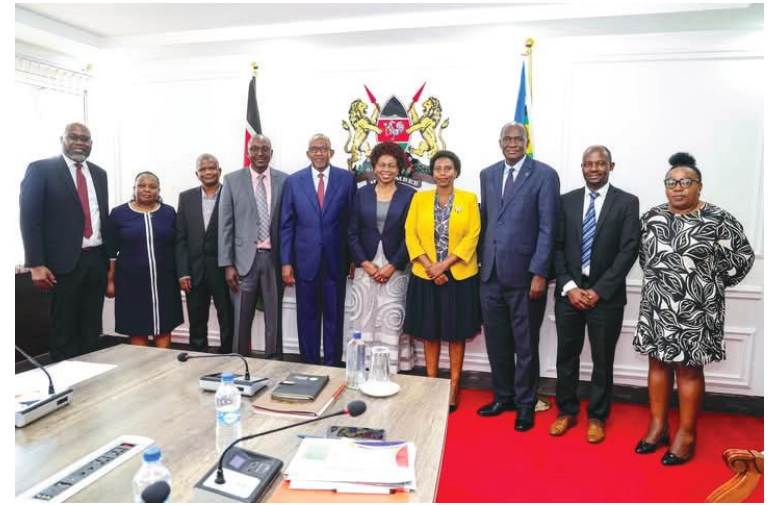
The delegation updated the CS on the UNAIDS "H6 Partnership," which brings together UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, UNAIDS, and the World Bank Group to deliver technical support and strengthen health and social systems.

Duale acknowledged the longstanding support of UNAIDS in Kenya's HIV response and called for continued collaboration in implementing Kenya's HIV Sustainability and Transition Plan, with a focus on resilient HIV response beyond 2030, elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission, and advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Reaffirming Kenya's commitment to ending HIV in children, the CS emphasized the need for alignment with the Social Health Authority and digital health services, as critical components of UHC rollout, while reit-



Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale and his team with officials from UNAIDS.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, ministry officials and a team from DNDi. Photos/Courtesy.

erating the Ministry's commitment to integrity and accountability.

UNAIDS plays a central role in coordinating the work of 11 UN agencies, offering strategic support to national HIV responses, and leveraging partnerships in line with national development priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

The CS was joined by the Director General for Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth, and the Head of NASCOP, Dr. Andrew Mulwa.

Later, the CS and his team held a bilateral meeting with Dr. Monique

Wasunna, Africa Ambassador for the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), to deepen partnerships in the development of new treatments for neglected diseases, with a focus on Kala-azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis), clinical trials, regulatory processes, and health system preparedness.

The meeting also discussed Kenya's participation in a key side event at the upcoming 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), themed "Accelerating Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Progress through Country-Driven Efforts and Cross-Border Collabora-

tion."

The event will mark the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding to eliminate Kala-azar and endorse the global Call to Action—Uniting for Impact, aimed at fast-tracking progress toward ending NTDs.

Dr. Wasunna further shared DNDi's five-pillar strategic framework targeting the elimination of VL as a public health problem in East Africa by improving the health of vulnerable and at-risk populations.

Duale reaffirmed the government's commitment to integrating NTD

treatments into national health strategies, in line with Kenya's Health Sector Strategic Plan, Vision 2030, and the UHC agenda. He underscored the Ministry's efforts in combating Kala-azar, currently affecting 11 counties, and advancing equitable healthcare access in marginalized communities.

The CS was accompanied by Public Health PS Ms. Mary Muthoni, Dr. Amoth, and Senior Deputy Director for Health Dr. Sultani Matendechero.

Gachagua Resigns From UDA Party, Brands It 'Worst Enemy Of The People'

By: Bruhan Makong
@themkenyatimes



Worth Noting:

- In a strongly worded resignation letter addressed to the UDA Secretary General and copied to the party chairperson and the Registrar of Political Parties, Gachagua accused the party of abandoning its founding principles and squandering a historic opportunity to economically, socially, and politically transform the country.
- "I have officially resigned from the UDA Party with immediate effect," Gachagua declared. "The party has exhausted and wasted a Kenyan moment to take off economically, socially and politically."
- In his detailed critique, Gachagua who was impeached on October last year, cited multiple instances of what he termed as betrayal of the promises made to Kenyans under the Kenya Kwanza manifesto.

Former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua has formally resigned from the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party, denouncing it as the "most dangerous political moment for the people and the Republic of Kenya."

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In his detailed critique, Gachagua who was impeached on October last year, cited multiple instances of what he termed as betrayal of the promises made to Kenyans under the Kenya Kwanza manifesto.

He revisited the coalition's pledge for economic transformation through the Bottom-Up Economic model, describing its implementation as a sham.

The former DP questioned the efficacy of the Hustler Fund, calling it a tokenistic initiative that "cannot



President Ruto(right) with his former deputy Rigathi Gachagua at a past event. PHOTO/COURTEST

start any meaningful business," and lamented that key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, housing, ICT, and education had become mired in mismanagement and corruption.

"Our coffee and tea farmers would live happily; we had promised the country an increased foreign exchange, job creation, lower cost of living and food security; through this we are being treated to no fertilizer for farmers, and grabbing of agricultural land by the powerful," he lamented.

On healthcare, Gachagua accused the government of turning public health into a profit-driven model run by bureaucrats, far removed from the promised Universal Health Coverage.

The former DP further condemned the current administration's handling of sports, climate change, education, women's rights, and social protection, asserting that UDA had "left every Kenyan on their own and behind."

Gachagua also accused the government of constitutional overreach, weakening devolution, and conducting foreign policy in a manner that has diminished Kenya's international standing.

"We are now embroiled in conflicts and international shame with our friendly nations due to bad diplomacy," he charged.

Gachagua's resignation from the UDA party comes a few days following a Court of Appeal ruling that

nullified the process that sought to oust him.

The Appellate court on Friday found that Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu acted unconstitutionally when she empaneled a three-judge bench to preside over Gachagua's impeachment case.

This comes even as Gachagua prepares to will launch his political party in the course of this week.

During a roundtable media interview with Egesa FM, Gachagua said that his party will consist of different political leaders from different regions.

"I am launching a national party this week with its roots from Mount-Kenya," the former DP said.

Nurses Week, Crucial For Advocacy For Nurses Matters

By: Kimani Tirus
@themkenyatimes

A section of nurses from Nyahururu, Nyandarua County have lauded ongoing International Nurses week, citing it as being an avenue to advocate and sensitize the public on immense contribution of nurses in health care promotion.

While speaking at ACK Christ the King Cathedral, Nyahururu during thanksgiving, Ms. Dorcas Njuguna who spoke on behalf of the team said the nurses' week recognizes the immense impact nurses and midwives have on individuals and community in health promotion, disease prevention and delivery of community health care.

Ms. Njuguna also pointed out the week provides an avenue to advocate for the life and wellbeing of the nurses and midwives.

"This is the week we celebrate the nurses as well as advocating for their

lives and wellbeing to ensure they have resources and support they need to provide quality health care," noted Ms. Njuguna.

She also noted that they celebrate the week to raise awareness about challenges the facing nursing profession as they perform their duties as well as highlighting the need for strong nursing workforce.

"The International Nurses Week is a week nurses should be celebrated, supported and empowered to continue their vital role in shaping a healthier future for all," added Ms. Njuguna.

She further noted the nurses' week is aimed at honouring Florence Nightingale an English social reformer, who was born on May 12, 1820 and is considered as the founder of modern nursing.

Provost Ven. John Ngenye appreciated the nurses for their contribution in the society in provision of health care adding that their services cannot be trivialized for they have tremendous impart in the society.

Ven. Ngenye encouraged the nurses to take courage and continue serving



Provost Ven. John Ngenye with nurses at ACK Christ The King Cathedral, Nyahururu.

the community despite the challenges they are encountering in the line of duty.

The Provost encouraged them to dedicate themselves and their services to

God for protection citing that their services sometimes is risky as they interact with patients suffering from various ailments.

During the nurses' week the nurses

are carrying out various activities including acts of mercy where they will be visiting institutions such as prison as they intend to celebrate climax on Friday.



Juja Residents Oppose Developer's Move To Close A Section Of Key Road

By: John Kamau
 @themkenyatimes

Juja residents are up in arms against a private developer over his recent move to block a key road that links the villages to the Thika Superhighway.

Gwa Kairu village residents demolished a barrier that had been erected by the private developer. The irate locals accused the developer of violating their rights by closing a public road that passes near his apartment, which is under construction.

The residents claimed that the stretch is used by thousands of locals residing in Gwa Kairu and the neighboring Car Wash and Matangi-ini villages on a daily basis adding that barricading the section would hurt their daily activities.

Led by Joseph Njogu, the residents claimed that the developer, who's a senior official in government, claimed that the section would cause noise pollution and dust to his ten-

ants, remarks that angered the locals. "We approached him and he argued that his tenants wouldn't be comfortable with the noise and dust emanating from the section. This is outright violation of our rights and total disregard of the community that relies on the stretch for their daily economic and social activities. We will however not allow the developer to satisfy his selfish interests by barricading the road," Njogu said.

Njogu noted that closing the stretch, which was paved three years ago, will result in traffic snarl-ups along the Kimabo-Matingi-ini road and cause suffering to residents as they will be forced to deal with the traffic congestion or take other long routes.

"When this road was being constructed by an investor in this area, a public participation meeting between residents, the investor and the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) officials was held and we all gave a nod to it. If there has been a resolution to close it, we must be involved and be told why instead of erecting barriers at night," Njogu noted.



A section of the road that had been barricaded by a private developer sparking public outrage in Juja, Kiambu County.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Njuguna Mburu and Samuel Kimani, who are boda boda riders in the village. They noted that sealing the stretch will cause ripple effects to the villages' economy as most activities will be hampered.

"Some people will be pushed out of business if this stretch is closed. There are hoteliers, schools and other institutions and businesses that use

this road and closing it will be detrimental to their survival," Mburu said.

The locals called for immediate intervention by the authorities including the national and county governments to solve the standoff and find a lasting solution noting that there might be unrest between the developer and the locals, should the matter be left unresolved.

"Public infrastructure must be pro-

TECTED by the authorities from encroachment and privatization by individuals. It's evil to curtail the lives of thousands of residents for selfish interests. We need action from the relevant authorities," Kimani said.

A meeting has however been called by the area local administration to resolve the conflict between the locals and the private developers.

PS Urges Miners To Comply With The Mining Act

By: Stephen Mrira
 @themkenyatimes

The Principal Secretary for the State Department of Mining, Harry Kimutai, has urged mining companies to comply with the Mining Act as enshrined in the constitution of Kenya to have a seamless run of mining activities.

Speaking during a community social responsibility exercise organised by the Lions Club Mombasa in conjunction with Mombasa Cement at Vyambani in Kilifi County, Mutai said that some mining companies violate the Mining Act, especially by failing to engage the community, leading to resentment from the local community.

"Mining companies should comply with the Mining Act to avoid facing any problems with either the ministry or the local communities," he said.

Mutai commended Lions Club Mombasa and Mombasa Cement for hosting a free eye check-up camp, distributing foodstuffs to the residents and planting trees at Vyambani

area while urging other companies to emulate the same.

The Principal Secretary also led a tree planting exercise which took place adjacent to a mining site in the area.

"We commend you for the great things you are doing and it is high time other companies give back to the local community," he said.

President of The Lions Club Mombasa Bhupendra Rathod said that apart from Kilifi, the club is conducting free eye check-up camps in Mombasa and Kwale counties while also constructing water pans and boreholes especially in semi-arid areas in a bid to uplift the living standards of less fortunate people and ensuring there is a good chemistry between the local community and the club.

"We help less fortunate people in hunger, we do water pans, boreholes and a lot of charity activities within Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa Counties with the help of other lions like Mombasa Cement and also through fund raisings," he said.

On his part, David Abai a representative from Mombasa Cement Com-



The PS with other stakeholders during the meeting.

pany, said the company is committed in ensuring that there is a good rapport between the company and the neighboring communities, especially through partnering in community social responsibility exercises which are of great value to society. "We appreciate the local community for their coordination and we are looking forward to partnering more in future engagements," he said.

Kilifi County Commissioner Joshat Biwott welcomed the idea behind taking a free eye check-up exercise to the local residents noting that it came at the right time as they turned up in large numbers.

"We are very happy; it is a very rare occasion to partner in assisting local residents with eye problems. I never thought that so many people from such a location would turn up for the

same, this means majority have eye problems, kindly keep on assisting," he said.

The leaders, in partnership with the organisations and the local community, planted 5,000 trees in realization of the country's goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032 to increase the national tree cover.

Kagwe Meets Chinese Team In Bid To Boost Export Market

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyaintimes

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe yesterday hosted Mr. Zhang Chaobin, Chairman of Benny Tea Industries (China), as part of efforts to grow Kenya's footprint in the Chinese tea market. The CS was accompanied by the Deputy Ambassador to China Lynette Mwendu, KTDA Group Chief Executive Officer Wilson Muthaura and his Tea Board of Kenya counterpart Willy Mutai.

The high-level engagement underlines Kenya's strategic push to boost exports of Orthodox and Specialty teas.

KTDA currently has 11 factories producing Orthodox teas and 11 others producing Specialty teas (purple, green, oolong, white silver needles, white golden needles).

Last year, Kenya exported 12.2 million kilos of tea to China, with a bold target of 50 million kilos by 2030.

At the same time, KTDA Holdings National Chairman Chege Kirundi,



KTDA Holdings Chairman Chege Kirundi with his team during last week's meeting. Photos/ Courtesy.

accompanied by Board members John WaSusana and Baptista Kanyaru, the KTDA Foundation General Manager Sudi Matara, and the General Manager Sales & Marketing Vincent Mwingirwa, last week held a meeting with Imperial College London.

Imperial, a globally recognized institution ranked second worldwide by the QS World University Rankings,

are working towards developing and signing a partnership framework to formalize its commitment to work with KTDA on different sustainability initiatives as part of Farmer First, Leave No Farmer Behind Transformation Strategy.

The partnership framework specifically targets the smallholder tea value chain, focusing on key areas



KTDA Holdings Chairman Chege Kirundi with his team during last week's meeting. Photos/ Courtesy.

such as Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change and Action, Energy and E-mobility, and Value Addition.

These collaborative efforts are strategically designed to enhance the earnings of smallholder tea farmers.

Jem Woods, Professor of Sustainable Development at Imperial College London and Director of the Centre for Environmental Policy (CEP), hosted the KTDA delegation for this impactful meeting.

Also in attendance was Dr Onesmus

Mwabonje, Advanced Research Fellow who also leads the Sustainability through Life Cycle Approaches network of excellence at Imperial College London.

Dr Mwabonje has been instrumental in fostering collaborative scientific research engagement between Imperial College, KTDA and University of Nairobi.

Xi Calls On China, Russia To Maintain Strategic Resolve, Coordination

By: Source: Xinhua, Editor: huaxia

MOSCOW, (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday that China and Russia should maintain strategic resolve and coordination as the world is entering a new period of turbulence and transformation.

Xi made the remarks during a chat over tea with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the president's office of the Kremlin in Moscow.

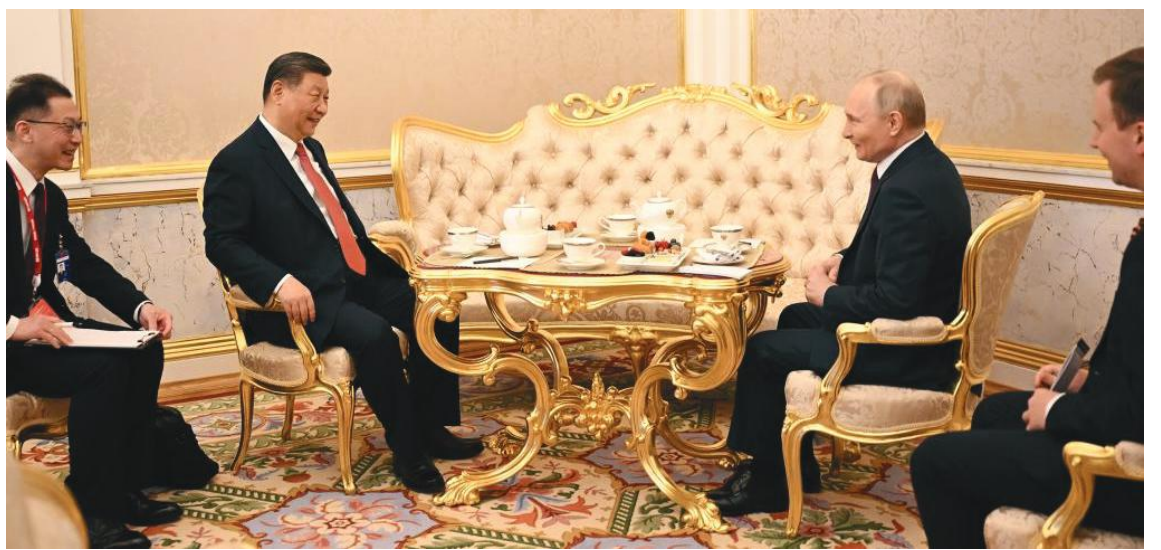
As long as China and Russia maintain strategic resolve and coordination, no force can stop the two countries from achieving their respective development and revitalization, no force can shake the strong foundation of long-standing friendship between the two peoples, and no force can hold back the prevailing trend toward a multipolar world and economic globalization, said Xi.

Xi also voiced readiness to stay in close communication with Putin to chart the course for China-Russia relations and make contributions to advancing global governance.

For his part, Putin said that Russia and China have always stood together in solidarity and supported each other, forging an unbreakable friendship.

The Russian president said he is willing to maintain close strategic communication with Xi, provide strategic guidance for the development of bilateral relations, jointly respond to the challenges of a complex international landscape, deepen comprehensive strategic coordination, safeguard common interests of the two countries and promote the development of a more equitable, democratic and multipolar world.

The two heads of state exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and other issues. Xi said that China advocates for and remains committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have a chat over tea at the president's office of the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, May 8, 2025. (Xinhua/Xie Huanchi)

at the global level, and believes it is important to take seriously the legitimate security concerns of all countries and eliminate the root causes of the Ukraine crisis.

China welcomes all efforts conducive to peace and looks forward to

reaching a fair, lasting and binding peace agreement on the Ukraine crisis that is accepted by all relevant parties through dialogue, Xi noted.

Putin highly commended China's objective and impartial position on the political settlement of the

Ukraine crisis, saying that Russia is ready to engage in peace talks without preconditions and hopes to reach a fair and lasting peace agreement

Murang'a Residents Want Governor Kang'ata Investigated Over Ethiopian Airlines Saga, Urge Him To Step Aside

By: John Kamau
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Families received millions in compensation per victim. He was then the Senator representing Murang'a County.
- Led by Andrew Thuo and Irene Wambui, the locals said that the governor's association with such a fraudulent scheme paints a grim picture of the leadership within the county.
- This, they said, is tantamount to abuse of office, breach of integrity and public trust, presence of a corruption network within the county government and damage to public confidence and governance.
- "Involvement of the Governor's former Senate staff, three of whom currently hold senior positions in the county government (as CEC, Chief Officer and personal staff including driver and or photographer) points to the existence of entrenched and systemic corruption in the devolved unit," Thuo said.



Some of the Murang'a residents during the presser.

A section of Murang'a residents has petitioned the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to launch an immediate investigation into Governor Irungu Kang'ata over allegations linked to a recent scandal involving victims of the Ethiopian Airlines tragedy.

Addressing the press in Thika town yesterday, the residents expressed concern over what they termed Governor Kang'ata's "questionable character" and demanded accountability.

The group criticized the Murang'a County leadership for its silence since the scandal came to light, accusing the administration of shielding the governor from public scrutiny.

The scandal, which has sparked outrage across social media and parts of the county, reportedly involves mishandling or misrepresentation related to victims of the 2019 Ethiopian Airlines crash that claimed the lives of all passengers on board.

The scheme involves the alleged inclusion of names of eight former Senate staff members in a compensation petition as relatives of victims who perished in the tragic crash that claimed the lives of 32 Kenyans.

Kang'ata, a lawyer, represented some relatives of the people who died in the tragic crash until they were paid.

Families received millions in com-

ensation per victim. He was then the Senator representing Murang'a County.

Led by Andrew Thuo and Irene Wambui, the locals said that the governor's association with such a fraudulent scheme paints a grim picture of the leadership within the county.

This, they said, is tantamount to abuse of office, breach of integrity and public trust, presence of a corruption network within the county government and damage to public confidence and governance.

"Involvement of the Governor's former Senate staff, three of whom currently hold senior positions in the county government (as CEC, Chief Officer and personal staff including driver and or photographer) points to the existence of entrenched and systemic corruption in the devolved unit," Thuo said.

The locals issued a seven-day ultimatum to various authorities including the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the office of Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to launch investigations into the conduct and involvement of the county chief in alleged fraud scheme.

"We want investigations on all integrity and corruption-related concerns, a criminal probe into the compensa-

tion fraud scheme and prosecution of all those found culpable," Thuo noted.

They also called for suspension and ultimate revocation of Kang'ata's law practicing certificate claiming that he has violated the ethics of the Law Society of Kenya.

"Should no action be taken, we shall escalate the matter by filing formal complaints with the relevant authorities," he stated.

"We are even worried about the allocation we get from the National coffers. If the Governor can go to the extent of pilfering cash for the bereaved, what will he do with the monies the county receives from the exchequer? posed Gacharage resident Eutyclus Ngechu.

They asserted that the Governor and those implicated in the scandal should step aside to pave way for investigations.

"This moment calls for bold leadership, accountability and integrity. As the residents of Murang'a County, we are committed to upholding the principles of justice, good governance and the rule of law. We call on the relevant authorities to act decisively," resident Julius Mwaura said.

They noted with concern that suspicions are steadily growing across the county regarding the integrity and management of the ongoing pro-

grams initiated by the county government including Kang'ata Care, Smart City Programme, Maize Subsidy, Inua Mkulima and Murang'a Youth Service (MYS) among others.

They raised their worries that the county leadership might be using the programmes to siphon and plunder public funds.

"We demand that the Auditor General conduct an immediate forensic audit of these projects. We further call on the relevant Senate Committees and the EACC to assess the sustainability, accountability and integrity of these programmes," Wambui said.

Governor Kang'ata has since refuted claims of impropriety in the matter saying that he did not benefit from the compensation.

He stated that all victims were compensated, including those he personally represented and no one has complained.

"All real victims whom we represented in the United States got paid, and none has complained. None of the eight mentioned were compensated. This is a 2019 issue that was duly closed, and all compensation relating to my clients (Kenya accident victims) duly paid. I'll continue using my legal skills to fight for Kenyans successfully, including in the US and wherever else," he added in a statement.

My Mother



children...
Our eyes would fill with tears of joy.

I wish those times could come back
I would fly and run again.
If God could turn the world around
I would give my life for my mother.

Manzura Shokirova
Manzura Shokirova Kamoliddin qizi was born on December 28, 2007, in Parkent district, Tashkent region. She is currently a graduate of Secondary School No. 10. To date, she has written two articles: the first one was published in an international journal in Kenya, and the second one in a scientific journal. She has also participated in several competitions and won honorable places. In addition, she studied in a music school specializing in piano and won first place in a competition held in this field in 2023. She aspires to become a journalist in the future.

Do you remember today's date?
Today is my mother's birthday.
We used to all gather together
I always remember her fondly.

I remember everything
Whenever we went, our mother would hug us
She would make us happy like little

A Teacher Who Became An Author- Michael Gavin Koopman



Yes. My Quiet Wisdom devotionals, education guides, and poetic reflections are being formatted for e-readers and audio for wide accessibility—especially for teachers, leaders, and readers on the move.

10. What category have you been nominated for so far?
Educational & Spiritual Literature—through my book "Jesus Words for Men", part of the Quiet Wisdom series.

1. Who are you?
I am Michael Gavin Koopman—Husband, Grandfather, Teacher of generations, Former principal, Mentor of truth, and Founder of Elevate I carry both chalk dust and calling. My classroom was my pulpit; my life is now a message.

2. What does this award nomination mean to you?
It is a quiet vindication. A whispered affirmation from heaven that my story matters—and that being silenced doesn't mean being forgotten. It is not just for me—it's for every educator who stood when it would've been easier to sit.

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African Literature?
It is sacred. It is voice, it is memory, it is healing. Mulher Forte is not just a platform—it is a restoration of African dignity through ink and soul.

4. How is the book sales in South Africa?
Challenging, yet growing. Our people are waking up to the power of their own words. We are learning to invest in stories that reflect our own scars and sacred victories.

5. How do you feel about writing in Africa?
It feels like planting truth in soil that knows struggle. It's not easy—but it is holy. Writing in Africa is resistance. It is remembering. It is hope.

6. What can be done to improve book sales?
Three things:
Better access through local bookstores, libraries, and mobile markets
Digital platforms made simple and free for readers
Authors supporting authors—amplifying each other, not competing

7. Are South Africans a reading nation?
We are becoming one. The hunger is there—but access, affordability, and cultural relevance must increase. We don't need more imported books—we need to love our own literature more.

8. Digital literacy—how is it in your country?
Improving, especially among youth. But many teachers and elders are left behind. We must bridge that gap if African knowledge is to flow fully into the future.

9. Do you plan to make eBooks or audiobooks?

11. Who is your local role model?
My late mother. A woman of quiet conviction. And every South African teacher who kept teaching, even when the roof leaked, the salary delayed, and the learners were hurting.

12. Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?
Mentoring a generation of writers. Establishing a publishing arm through Elevate 88. Producing 88 books of soul and system. Restoring the honour of teaching and storytelling in every township, every province.

13. The concept of Unity—what can Unity do for authors?
Unity turns echoes into anthems. Alone, our stories whisper. Together, they roar. Unity can heal the scarcity mindset and birth a movement. But, it all starts with CLARITY!

14. Do you have background training in writing?
Not formally. But 38 years in classrooms taught me how to craft stories with soul, simplicity, and sacred weight. Pain and prayer were my professors.

15. What do you understand by copyrights?
It is not just legal—it is legacy. Copyright protects the voice, the labour, the dreams. It's an author saying: This truth is mine—but I give it to you to heal.

16. Have you protected your books?
Yes—all registered and published with ISBN, digitally backed, and marked under ShoFar Books.

17. Your advice to upcoming authors.
Write your truth. Even when your voice trembles. Even if no one claps. Your story may be the lifeline someone else is praying for.

18. Your last word.
The pen is not a career. It is a calling. May every African writer write not just to be heard—but to heal.



My Love

When I think of your strong arms around me, I melt inside to know you.

When you walk in the door my heart leaps with happiness Because the sun walked in and my heart just sang And my world is new

Because of you
Do you know how much I love you?
Do you know how handsome you are?
Do you know how I long for you?

When I'm not with you
I'm waiting for you
Waiting for your kiss
Holds me close

That lights me up and Makes me weak and strong

Come be with me
That's all I ask
Come be with me
And be

My Love

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EDUCATION

Steam Approach In Primary Education: Practice And Opportunities



By: Muminova Farida
@themtkenyaintimes

Annotation:

This article discusses the essence and practical application of the STEAM approach in primary education. It briefly analyzes the impact of the approach on students' development. The article examines lesson formats suitable for primary school teachers, project-based learning, and the teacher's role, with illustrative examples. It also addresses the challenges encountered in implementing STEAM education and proposes possible solutions.

Keywords:

Primary education, STEAM approach, interdisciplinary integration, creativity, project-based learning.

Introduction

In modern society, a person's intellectual potential, creativity, and problem-solving skills are becoming increasingly important. This, in turn, requires the implementation of new approaches in the education system. In particular, the primary education stage serves as the foundation for a student's personal development. The knowledge and skills acquired at this stage form the basis for life-long learning. Therefore, applying innovative approaches to education is considered a crucial task.

In recent years, one of the widely adopted concepts in global education is the STEAM approach. It integrates disciplines such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, aiming to develop students' complex thinking, practical knowledge, and life skills.

This article discusses the theoretical foundations, practical aspects, and opportunities of applying the STEAM approach specifically in primary education.

Main Part

In the modern world of education, the STEAM approach is viewed not only as an innovation but also as a necessity. This model integrates the disciplines of Science (S), Technology (T), Engineering (E), Arts (A), and Mathematics (M) in a harmonious and interconnected manner.

While traditional education teaches these subjects separately, in STEAM they are presented as a unified system linked to real-life situations.

At the primary education level, this approach is particularly beneficial. During this period, children's natural curiosity, observational skills, and creativity are most actively developing. STEAM helps preserve their interest, encouraging them to think about real-world problems, explore, and create new solutions.

This approach shapes students not as "answer finders" but as "solution creators." Therefore, it plays a vital role in developing 21st-century skills.

Implementing STEAM in primary classes should not be perceived as difficult or complex. On the contrary, adding a bit of creativity to a regular lesson can bring it to life. For example, if 3rd-grade students are given the task of "designing a lightweight bridge":

Science: They explore the strength of different materials through experiments;

Technology: They draw a simple bridge model using a computer;

Engineering: They build it with their own hands;

Arts: They decorate it aesthetically;

Mathematics: They calculate measurements and proportions.

Another example is the project "Creating a habitat for a new plant species," where children study biology, conduct experiments, draw illustrations, and present their findings.

In this way, each lesson becomes practical, interactive, and enjoyable.

Through the STEAM approach, students develop the following key skills:

Critical thinking: They learn to question tasks, analyze information, and consider alternative solutions.

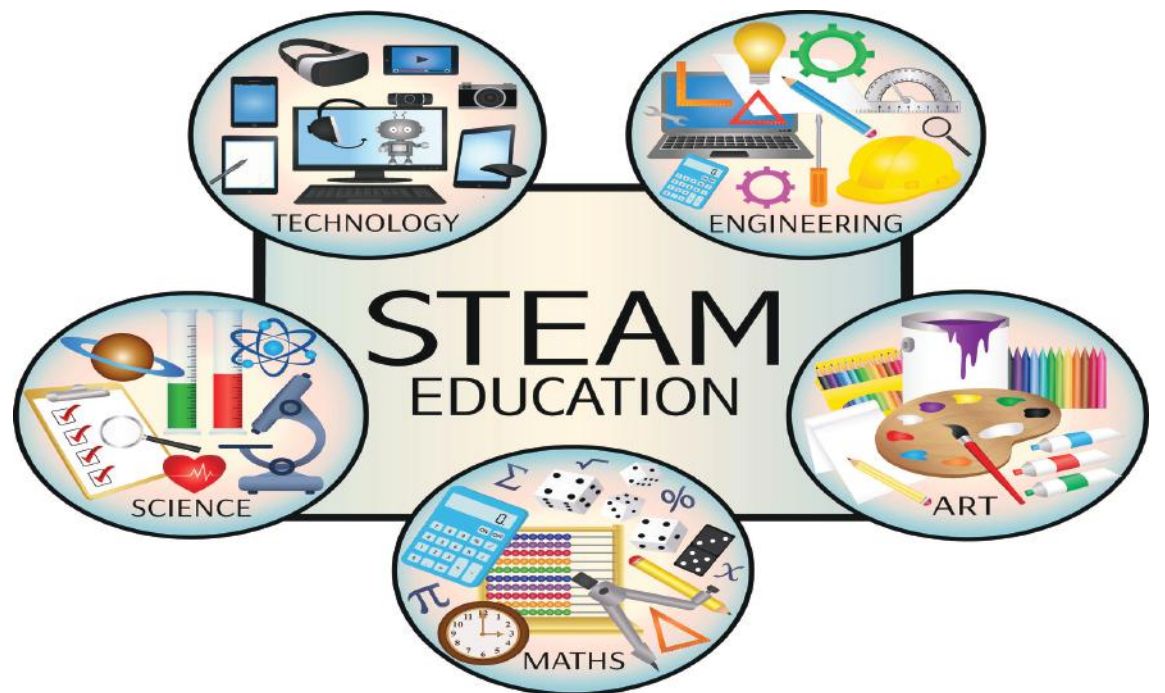
Creativity: Through elements of art and engineering, children freely express their ideas.

Collaboration: By working in groups, they learn communication, idea sharing, and collective decision-making.

Problem-solving: Every project presents a problem. Solving it helps students consolidate their knowledge and apply it in practice.

STEAM also boosts students' confidence, as they see real results of their efforts at the end of each project.

However, there are certain barriers to fully implementing STEAM in schools. The biggest challenge is teacher preparedness. Many primary school teachers may not be familiar with using technological tools or engineering-based approaches. Therefore, professional development



courses and experience-sharing programs are essential.

Another challenge is the lack of textbooks and resources. Yet, there are also opportunities: open educational platforms on the internet, free project databases, and the use of local materials can help fill the gap. Most importantly, if the teacher is motivated and creative, even simple paper, cardboard, and natural objects can be used to conduct a meaningful STEAM activity.

Since primary school students have not yet fully transitioned to abstract thinking, the STEAM approach suits their concrete worldview. Through hands-on activities, experiments, and creative tasks, they indirectly grasp complex concepts. For example, physics concepts like force, balance, and center of gravity are internalized through simple construction tasks.

STEAM lessons also reduce children's fear of "making mistakes." In this approach, making errors is seen as a natural part of the learning process. Students test their ideas, analyze failures, and strive for improvement. This nurtures perseverance, positive thinking, and independent decision-making skills.

Another important aspect is the opportunity to involve parents. In primary school STEAM projects, parents can participate as well, strengthening family cooperation and the educational environment. This increases children's interest in learning and supports the development of their social-emotional skills.

To implement STEAM effectively in primary education, it is crucial to use modern technological tools wisely. For instance, interactive whiteboards, tablets, 3D printers, simple graphic software, and educa-

tional platforms like Khan Academy Kids, Scratch Jr., and Tinkercad help students bring their projects to life. This not only improves their digital literacy but also increases their enthusiasm for learning.

Experience shows that students who participate in STEAM-based lessons demonstrate the following positive changes:

Increased interest in subjects, especially in mathematics and science;

Development of teamwork skills;

More active participation in lessons—even previously quiet students become engaged through projects;

Willingness to express and evaluate their own ideas.

For example, in the 2nd grade "Green City" project, students drew environmentally friendly modes of transportation, built small models, and presented their ideas in front of the class. During this process, they combined science, math, art, and information technology. According to teachers, such activities simultaneously educate, nurture, and inspire children.

In conclusion, the STEAM approach in primary education not only enriches the learning process but also helps unlock each child's individual potential.

Conclusion

The STEAM approach makes a significant contribution to the cognitive and creative development of children in primary education. It not only teaches students scientific knowledge but also equips them with practical skills, preparing them to solve real-life problems. Through STEAM, children understand the interconnection between science,

technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, and gain the freedom to create and apply knowledge meaningfully.

Integrating STEAM into primary education enhances students' critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities. Each STEAM project demonstrates that learning is not only theoretical but also practical and life-oriented. However, successful implementation requires well-prepared teachers, adequate resources, and strong collaboration.

Furthermore, the STEAM approach encourages teachers to constantly explore, experiment with innovative methods, and revitalize the teaching process. It fosters a creative learning environment where both teacher and student engage as partners. Most importantly, this model helps students grow as the owners and explorers of their own learning.

Though the STEAM approach is still in its early stages, its outcomes are promising and inspiring. By implementing this model gradually and in alignment with local conditions, we can raise a generation of future innovators—knowledgeable, inquisitive, and responsible learners.

Muminova Farida was born on February 1, 2005, in Payariq district, Samarkand region, Republic of Uzbekistan. She is a part-time student in the Primary Education program at Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. Farida is one of the successful students in her field, a holder of several international certificates, and also teaches mental arithmetic to schoolchildren.



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



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

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 multi-faceted 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 ac-



cept 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, re-

gardless 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

Worth Noting:

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Nyeri Governor Honours KYISA Heroes

By: James Wanjiku
@themtkenyatimes

Nyeri Governor Dr Mutahi Kahiga has lauded young athletes from the county who represented Nyeri at the 10th edition of the Kenya Youth Inter-County Sports Association (KYISA) games held in Homa Bay County from April 13 to 19, 2025.

Speaking during an award ceremony at the Town Hall grounds on yesterday morning, Governor Kahiga praised the athletes for their resilience, talent, and dedication, noting the growing importance of sports in youth development beyond academics.

“Sports have long been overlooked in terms of funding and recognition. Yet, our youth continue to prove that talent goes beyond the classroom,” said Dr Kahiga.

The governor was joined by his deputy David Kinaniri, County Executive Committee Member for Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services Esther Ndung’u, and Chief Officer Joe Gethi, among other officials.

Nyeri County fielded a 70-member delegation competing in four categories: men’s and women’s football, and men’s and women’s volleyball.

The women’s football team finished fourth, the men’s football team secured fifth place, while both volleyball teams advanced past the group stages.

“These results reflect more than skill. They speak to the players’ discipline and commitment,” the governor remarked.

He emphasized the importance of discipline, consistent training, and mental preparedness in nurturing sports talent.

“Growth in any field requires intentional effort and commitment,” he said.

Governor Kahiga reaffirmed the county’s support for young athletes, adding that the recognition was not just for their performance, but for representing Nyeri with pride and honour.

“We see their talent, we value it, and we stand with them fully,” Dr Kahiga said.

Dr Kahiga also commended the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports



Vanessa Wambui from Genesis Sports Limited participating during the gala.

and Social Services for its continued efforts in youth empowerment, as well as team managers, coaches, and medical staff who ensured the teams

were well-prepared.

Also present at the ceremony were County Secretary Benjamin Gachichio, Football Kenya Federation

(FKF) Nyeri Chairman Chrispin Ochieng, and Acting Chairman of the Kenya Volleyball Federation John Kinyua.

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

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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 sub-optimal 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 character-

ized 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 sustainable 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 nav-



igate 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.

How Male Nguvu Change Leaders Are Advocating For Women Rights Through Petitions

By: Rajashree Saha
 @themtkenyatimes



Nguvu Change Leaders Photo Collage

Worth Noting:

• Meanwhile, Nguvu Change Leaders Kerry Mwita, Peter Luya and Dambalash Ermiyas Males have emerged as masculine role models and true allies in the fight against GBV. They are advocating for women's rights through their advocacy campaigns, with the support of the Nguvu Collective. "Not just women, but with support from Nguvu, more men are now stepping up to lead meaningful campaigns at the grassroots level. Cases of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, rape, and FGM, are increasing in Kenya and it is our collective responsibility to stand against such crimes, regardless of gender," says Kerry Mwita, who has filed an online petition seeking the establishment of a specialised GBV court in Migori County.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global epidemic with a seemingly interminable cycle. The much-talked-about OTT show 'Adolescence' has shed light on the rampant global culture of toxic masculinity that is radicalising even young boys and creating a dangerous 'manosphere' unsafe for women and girls.

Reports released in December 2024 recorded 7,000 cases of violence against women in Kenya since September 2023.

As cases of femicide continue to increase, gender justice organisations including UN Women Kenya have launched regional initiatives on positive masculinity. In April 2025, UN Women, the Kenyan State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, and other women's empowerment stakeholders announced that they facilitated the first draft of a National Male Engagement and Inclusion Strategy.

Nguvu Collective is at the forefront of this movement to transform patriarchal societal norms by engaging men and boys as allies in the fight against GBV. It is actively working towards creating safer environments for women and girls via leadership

training, and advocacy campaigns.

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Nguvu Change Leader Peter Luya is addressing the vulnerable status of widows and their struggle to ac-

cess their rights. "I launched my public campaign after witnessing my mother's struggles. Across Kenya, countless widows endure similar hardships, lacking support from their families, communities, or state institutions. Widows are driven out of their matrimonial homes, leaving them and their orphaned children in distress," says Peter. His online petition urges the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Affirmative Action, and Gender Affairs to ensure that widows are protected from exploitation and guaranteed their right to inheritance after their husband's death.

Another issue that demands urgent attention is the lack of accessible, affordable, and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, particularly for women and adolescent girls. Dambalash Ermiyas Males is addressing this gap through his online petition, which calls for the integration of age-appropriate sexuality education into Kenya's national curriculum.

"Inclusion of sexual education in Kenya's curriculum can also empower the next generation—especially girls—to understand their

bodies, make informed decisions, and claim their constitutional rights. It's a vital step toward creating a healthier, educated, empowered, and more equitable future generation," he adds.

Now, as more and more men join the movement in Kenya to protect human rights and promote gender equality, Nguvu Collective believes that role models like Kerry, Peter, and Dambalash will inspire male allies of gender justice to drive gender justice campaigns.

"Our male change leaders have taken powerful and publicly visible positions against gender based violence, toxic masculinity, and discrimination against women. They have been consistently advocating for systemic changes that will transform how women's roles have been envisioned in homes and workplaces. Their advocacy campaigns are powerful tools to create a more equal world; one rooted in fairness, compassion, and mutual understanding," says Durga Nandini, Co-founder of Nguvu Collective.

WOMEN IN SOCIETY

By: Bakhtiyorova Bahora Asliddinovna
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Abstract

This explores the crucial role of women in contemporary society, highlighting their contributions across various sectors such as education, politics, economy, and culture. It emphasizes the importance of gender equality, the progress made in women's empowerment, and the challenges that still exist. The essay argues that women's participation is essential for sustainable development, social stability, and cultural preservation. By examining global trends and societal impacts, the text reinforces the need for continued support and recognition of women's rights and roles in building a just and prosperous society.

Keywords

Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Social Development, Economic Contribution, Women's Rights, Education, Leadership Society, Cultural Role

Introduction

The role of women in society has been a subject of great importance throughout history. From being caretakers and educators within the family to becoming leaders and influencers in various sectors, women have always played a crucial role in shaping civilizations. In modern times, the conversation around gender equality and women's empowerment has gained momentum, leading to significant progress in recognizing and respecting women's contributions to society. Today, women are not only the foundation of the family unit but also active participants in the political, economic, cultural, and scientific life of a nation.

Over the last few decades, paying attention to women's rights has caused fundamental changes in societies around the world. Governments, international institutions, and local movements have all worked together to improve the situation of women everywhere. Because of education, women have gained the capacity to understand major decisions, accomplish their career goals, and engage in leadership positions. Currently, in many nations, women are rising to leadership roles in politics, business, academia, and technology, showing that gender offers no barrier to accomplishment.

Progress notwithstanding, many women encounter ongoing social,

cultural, and economic barriers. Barriers to women's complete involvement in society remain, including gender-based violence, pay disparities, education barriers, and strong traditional stereotypes. Therefore, ongoing efforts to eliminate these challenges are needed to guarantee that all women, regardless of their backgrounds, receive equal rights and opportunities.

In addition, we need to notice the way women frequently juggle their jobs with family commitments. Juggling work and family duties asks a great deal of resilience and dedication, and highlights the singular role women serve in both private and public life. Moving forward, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women are central to constructing a world that is both fair and prosperous for future generations.

Methodology

Within this essay, a qualitative research methodology is utilized, where secondary information is gathered from reliable sources such as academic publications, UN and World Bank reports, government publications, and well-established news agencies. Content analysis is the main approach used in this study, involving the evaluation and interpretation of earlier research on women's involvement and standing in the sectors of education, the economy, politics, and culture.

To achieve balance and comprehensive representation, the information was drawn from sources representing diverse regions and types of society. In order to capture the international relevance, cases from developed as well as developing countries were examined. A primary goal was to uncover key patterns in the advancement of women, the principal challenges to gender balance, and the corresponding social and economic effects of female participation in public matters.

The research included only sources that were both credible and recently published, within the last ten years, so the findings would represent contemporary realities. No primary data collection through surveys or interviews was involved in the study; instead, available research was analyzed to generate general deliberations and insights. By using this methodology, a wide perspective on the topic is presented, along with a clear indication of the ongoing need for gender equality globally.

Result

The analyzed literature and global reports show substantial improvements in women's involvement across societies. Of all indicators, education stands out for showing the greatest improvement, with female enrollment at every educational level rising around the world. In several nations, the fact that women exceed men in university enrollment is instrumental in their rise into skilled labor.

Economically, women play an ever more important role by engaging as entrepreneurs, professionals, and active participants in the workforce. When nations implement policies such as maternity leave, childcare help, and equal pay guarantees, women's participation in the workforce clearly increases. Even though women's participation in politics is on the rise, it still does not reach parity with men in most countries.

While some improvements are clear, the data likewise points to ongoing gender disparities and problems. Compared to men, women's pay on average lags behind, obstacles exist for them to move up the career ladder, and they are not as well represented in leadership positions. Moreover, gender-based violence and harmful cultural norms are important ongoing issues, with a greater impact found in developing parts of the world.

Collectively, the evidence supports the idea that gender equality is closer; however, more work is needed to close all gaps. It is vital to have ongoing policies, education activities, and cultural changes in order to eliminate the remaining obstacles.

Discussion

The findings reflect that women's roles in contemporary society are both sophisticated and in a state of continual change. At the same time, the rising participation of women in education, work, and leadership points to a worldwide move toward greater gender equality. These improvements can mainly be ascribed to advances in legislation, awareness campaigns, worldwide assistance, and the increased availability of education. Through these transformations, women have gained greater recognition and authority in fields that have typically been male-centric, consequently transforming the foundations and processes of contemporary society.

Even so, the continuing problems found in the results—like persistent wage gaps, limited opportunities at the highest levels, and pervasive gender violence—highlight that legal and institutional reforms do not



Bakhtiyorova Bahora Asliddinovna with her lecturer Usmanova Zamira O'ralovna

fully solve the problem. In many regions, women remain limited in their participation because of enduring social norms, cultural values, and bias that people are rarely aware of. In addition, women's situations are further worsened by the interplay among gender, race, class, and geographically specific challenges.

In order to achieve gender equality fully, a range of interconnected strategies must be used. Combining education with practical resources, robust policy enforcement, and cultural attitude changes is necessary for real progress. Extending opportunities to women in leadership roles and integrating gender perspectives throughout decision-making alongside the engagement of men as partners will be key to achieving enduring change.

Conclusion

In essence, the role of women has changed substantially, showing that they are capable of meaningful involvement in all areas of society. Women have consistently shown their abilities as leaders, innovators, and core supporters of growth in education, politics, business, and culture. The achievements of recent years inspire and encourage, reflecting growing awareness worldwide about the need for gender equality.

Even so, the process toward full gender equity has not come to a close. Ongoing problems, including pay disparities, underrepresentation at the top, and discrimination based

on culture, prevent women from fully engaging in multiple domains. It is essential to continue reforming policies, as well as to change how people think about gender norms.

Focusing on women's empowerment involves more than issues of fair treatment. Supporting gender equality is necessary to reach sustainable development, peace, and prosperity. Societies dedicated to investing in women's potential experience improvements in educational attainment, healthcare, economic performance, and the stability of democratic institutions. Therefore, supporting women on all fronts—through equal chances, guarantees of safety and dignity, and acknowledgment of their significant contributions—is of utmost importance.

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Sports >> *Reigning Africa Champion Karan Patel racked up his maiden win of the 2025 FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) season at the Pearl of Uganda Rally which concluded in Mbarara.

Karan Wins Pearl Of Africa Rally In Uganda, As Nikhil Celebrates Bac To Back ARC3 Wins

Reigning Africa Champion Karan Patel racked up his maiden win of the 2025 FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) season at the Pearl of Uganda Rally which concluded in Mbarara.

Navigated by Tauseef Khan in a Škoda Fabia R5, Karan had his campaign effectively sewn-up when overnight leader and Kenyan champion Samman Vohra hit mechanical trouble on SS6.

Samman hit a jump and damaged a suspension arm which sent his Škoda Rally 2 into limp mode, hence his exit from this year's Pearl.

Samman appeared destined for a maiden international trophy on Ugandan soil but not until his stage gremlins ended his scintillating run in an event which counted towards the second round of the FIA ARC series.

Karan, who is going for his third straight continental title, savored his first win of the 2025 ARC season in the Western district of Uganda. Karan had kissed the season-opening WRC Safari goodbye in Naivasha, much to his chagrin.

Uganda champion Yasin Nasser and his compatriot Ali Katumba settled for second position behind the wheel of a Ford Fiesta Rally2.

Kenyan paraplegic driver Nikhil Sachania sealed the podium in a Ford Fiesta Rally3.

Third overall was fulfilling for the 2014 Kenya motorsport personality of the year (Sachania) given that Nasser's Fiesta Rally2 is a far more superior contraption than the Rally3.

The main difference between the Ford Fiesta Rally2 and Rally3 lies in their complexity, cost, and performance characteristics.

Rally3 is designed to be more affordable and accessible, bridging the gap between Rally2 and Rally4 in the FIA Rally Pyramid, while Rally2 offers greater performance and technical capabilities.

Sachania is enjoying top form at the present after winning WRC3 and ARC3 titles on WRC Safari last March.

The 2025 Pearl of Africa Rally championship attracted 53 entries, which included 8 foreign drivers from 4 different countries.

The first edition of the Pearl of Africa Rally was held in 1997 as an African Rally Championship candidate event. This followed the successful organization of Burundi's Great Lakes Rally in Uganda in 1996.

The Great Lakes Rally was moved to Uganda due to political instability in Burundi. Inspired by the success of the Great Lakes Rally, Uganda decided to apply for its own African Rally Championship event in 1997.

FINAL CLASSIFICATION-ARC PEARL OF AFRICA UGANDA RALLY 2025 #POAUR25

1. #201 Karan Patel – Tauseef Khan KEN (Škoda Fabia R5) 1:51:28.9
2. #40 Yasin Nasser – Ali Katumba UG (Ford Fiesta Rally2) 02:04:21.6
3. #208 Nikhil Sachania – Deep Patel KEN (Ford Fiesta Rally3) 02:07:48.4
4. #88 Aine Sodo Kaguta G. – Asuman M. UG (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X) 02:20:24.4

Past winners of Pearl of Africa Uganda Rally

- 1996 Karim Hirji-Uganda -Toyota Celica ST 185 (Run under FIA rules as the Great Lakes Rally, jointly with Club Automobile du Burundi)
- 1997 Chipper Adams Uganda – Toyota Supra (Run as the Pearl of Africa Uganda Rally – ARC Candidate event)
- 1998 Charles Muhangi-Subaru Impreza
- 1999 Chipper Adams-Uganda



- 2000 Charlie Lubega-Uganda (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 4)
- 2002 Johnny Gemmel -South Africa- Robert Paisley (Subaru Impreza WRX)
- 2003 Charlie Lubega Uganda -Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 4
- 2004 Charlie Lubega Uganda -Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 4
- 2005 Riyaz Kurji -Uganda – Subaru Impreza N10
- 2006 Riyaz Kurji- Kenya Sayed Kadri-Subaru Impreza N8 (Crew run under Kenyan License)
- 2007 Conrad Rautenbach-Zimbabwe -Subaru Impreza N10
- 2008 Jamie Whyte-Zimbabwe -Subaru Impreza N10
- 2009 Riyaz Kurji-Sayed Kadri-Subaru Impreza N8 (Prize granted posthumously)
- 2010 Jamie Whyte Zimbabwe- Subaru Impreza N10
- 2011 Ponsiano Lwakataka-Uganda -Subaru Impreza N8
- 2012 Mohammed Essa-Zambia – Subaru Impreza N12
- 2013 Jas Mangat Uganda – Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
- 2014 Rajbir Rai-Kenya – Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
- 2015 Jaspreet Singh Chatthe-Kenya – Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
- 2016 Hassan Alwi-Uganda -Subaru Impreza STi N14
- 2017 Manvir Singh Baryan Kenya -Škoda Fabia R
- 2018 Manvir Singh Baryan -Kenya-Škoda Fabia R5
- 2019 Manvir Singh Baryan Kenya- Škoda Fabia R5
- 2020 Cancelled due to COVID
- 2021 Cancelled due to COVID
- 2022 Jas Mangat-Uganda -Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X
- 2023 Yasin Nasser – Uganda -Ford Fiesta Rally2
- 2024 Karan Patel– Kenya Škoda Fabia R5
- 2025 Karan Patel -Kenya-Škoda Fabia R5

KBC



GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Team Kenya from the just concluded World Relays in Guangzhou, China, will jet back today morning after punching three tickets for the World Championship set for Tokyo, Japan, in September.

Gallant Team Kenya To Jet Back Tomorrow From China, After Punching Three World Championship Tickets



Team Kenya from the just concluded World Relays in Guangzhou, China, will jet back today morning after punching three tickets for the World Championship set for Tokyo, Japan, in September.

The team is set to arrive at the JKIA aboard flight QR1335 on Tuesday, 13th May, at 6:40 am.

Kenya had secured tickets for the 4x100m men which they will be making a 2nd attempt since 4x400m men; and the 4x400m mixed relay, while the 4x400m women narrowly missed out despite setting a new national record of 3:28.20.

The 4x400m mixed relay team comprising David Sanayek, Mercy Chebet, Brian Tinega and Mercy Aoko not only secured qualification on Saturday with a seasonal best time of 3:13.10 minutes but also won a bronze medal, the only podium finish for Team Kenya.

Head Coach Stanley Towet hailed the gallant team's performance. "These athletes have worked hard, and I am grateful that three of our four teams have qualified for the World Championships in Tokyo. In addition, we've broken national records in all the events. This means our preparations in Nairobi were thorough," said Towet

Africa's fastest man in 100m Ferdinand Omanyala, who was part of the 4x100m history making team called on the government and Athletics Kenya to increase funding towards sprints.

"We have had a very good weekend at the World Relays. Now it's getting down to business (in training). I am sure the whole country has seen (what we can do) and they (government and AK) need to support our preparations (for Tokyo). We need a proper training camp since the World Championships will not be a walk in the park." Omanyala noted

Kenya finished joint ninth along-

side Botswana with one bronze in the World Relays.

South Africa emerged champions with two gold and a bronze medal, followed by USA with a gold and two silver medals while Spain was 3rd with a gold and a bronze.

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SPORTS NEWS



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Dynamite With Big Words- Botswana's Goabaone Rantamelang



By: Paula Otukile
Gaborone, Botswana
Correspondence

1. Who are you?

I am Goabaone Rantamelang, a 29 year old young man from Sefhophe village in the northern part of Botswana, I'm an author and so far I have written 2 books and still counting, I'm also a leader and founder of Team Anointed Ambassadors which aims to help people by providing them with knowledge so that they deal wisely with issues of life, we do donations as well.

2 What does award nomination means to you?

It really means a lot to me because it is my wish to see people being transformed and their lives getting better than it was, so for me award nomination shows my impact and it's recognition and by so doing also many get to know my work.

3. What do you think of Mulher Forte African literature?

I see it to be so important because it recognises authors and their creatives, also for the upcoming authors it can help them a lot to bring them up and encourage them to put more effort, so it is through it that many authors can be recognized.

4. How is the book sales in Botswana?

It's been quite low but I always have hope especially when authors are given opportunities like this ones because they get to be known.

5. How do you feel about writing in Africa?

I feel in Africa we have many authors and talents but we don't do them, so I feel more authors can come and show up from this continent but for now writing is low,

maybe if more organisations and platforms dealing specifically with writing can be there in African countries, then writing can grow.

6. What can be done to improve book sales?

If authors can meet and unite, have seminars and invite leaders of our country, that can help to improve sales and also if more of our leaders can buy books and also help advertising on their platforms can help in increasing book sales.

7. Are Batswana a reading nation?

There are readers yes, but not all Batswana a like that, some prefer listening and I think that's when audiobooks can work.

8. Digital literacy how is it in your country?

We are in a country with a growing economy and I still hope even digital literacy will grow but for now it's growing slowly.

9. *Do you plan to make ebooks? Any plans of audio books?*

Yes I plan to have them because it will be a solution to those who prefer listening than reading.

10 What category have you been nominated so far?

Both of my books got nominated at the Botswana literature awards under the category of Best Setswana novel. The first one called GA DI TSHWANE was nominated in 2023 and BOITSHWARELO JWA MODIMO got nominated in 2024.

11. Who is your local role model?

Zweli Banks

12 Where do you see yourself in ten years in literature?

I should be having a publishing company to help upcoming authors, making podcasts with authors and collaborating with them and also I should be able to translate my books to atleast 5 local languages so that almost everyone in my country is covered and the messages are clear to them.

13. The concept of Unity, what can Unity do to authors?

I see it to be necessary because if we can come together as authors, we can discuss and solve issues in the industry, we can be able to stand for ourselves and also collaborate.

14. Do you have background training in writing?

NO

15. What do you understand by copyrights?

They give us as authors the protection in our books to avoid them being copied and edited without permission.

16. Have you protected your books?

Yes

17. Your advice to upcoming authors.

I encourage them to work hard and put more pressure on their books and also to contact some authors if they don't understand something, I'm one of the people they can feel free to contact.

18. Your last word.

Dear authors, let us unite and help each other and let us not give up because people in the world are waiting for our messages to bring a positive change in their lives.



Michael Gavin Koopman

