

Kenya's political landscape is once again trembling under the weight of youthful defiance.

## A New Fire in Kenya's Politics

Edwin Sifuna has emerged as the embodiment of a spirit that refuses to die. :



# The Spirit of Sifuna: The Third and Final Revolution of Kenya's Gen Z and Millennials

By: David Kimani

### A New Fire in Kenya's Politics

Kenya's political landscape is once again trembling under the weight of youthful defiance. The aborted Gen Z and millennial uprising of 2024-25, which briefly shook the foundations of President William Ruto's administration, seemed destined to fade into memory. Yet in Kakamega, amid teargas, barricades, and state intimidation, Edwin Sifuna has emerged as the embodiment of a spirit that refuses to die. His rally at Amalemba grounds was not merely another opposition



The Kakamega rally at Amalemba grounds. Inset Edwin Sifuna

gathering—it was a declaration that the third and final revolution of Kenya's Gen Z is alive, and that it carries the power to redefine the nation's political destiny.

### Kakamega Rally: Defiance in the Face of Teargas

The Kakamega rally at Amalemba grounds was a vivid illustration of defiance meeting repression. Even before Edwin Sifuna and his convoy arrived, teargas canisters were lobbed into the venue, scattering early attendees and creating a tense atmosphere. Yet the crowd regrouped, de-

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## Youth Surge Reshapes Kenya's Political Landscape

Nairobi — A new wave of youth political participation is transforming Kenya's civic space, as young citizens increasingly move from the margins of national debate to its very center. From organizing digital campaigns to leading peaceful demonstrations and policy discussions, Generation

Z is redefining how politics is discussed, challenged, and influenced. For decades, Kenyan politics has largely been dominated by older leaders and established political networks. Yet with more than 70 percent of the population under the age of 35, according to national de-

mographic data, the country's political future has long depended on its youth. What is changing now is not just the size of that demographic — but its visibility and assertiveness. Over the past two years, social media platforms such as X, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook have be-

come powerful civic arenas. Young Kenyans have used these platforms to question taxation policies, call for accountability in public spending,

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# Celebrating International Mother Tongue Day In Botswana

By: Paula O.M.Otukile  
Gaborone, Botswana

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## Worth Noting:

- For Botswana, celebrating mother tongue is about preserving cultural identity and promoting linguistic diversity. As former Minister Tumiso Rakgare emphasized, "We communicate better in our mother tongue". Botswana is taking steps to incorporate indigenous languages into the curriculum, with 11 languages already included in preschools and standards 1 and 2.
- Some notable authors writing in diverse mother tongue languages include Daisy Pelowetse, who has published books like "Lolo the Lost Preggy" in Setswana and is working on translating her work into other languages.
- As Botswana celebrates International Mother Tongue Day, it's an opportunity to recognize the importance of linguistic diversity and promote the use of indigenous languages.

Today, Botswana joins the global community in celebrating International Mother Tongue Day, a day proclaimed by UNESCO to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. But what does "mother tongue" mean, and why is it important to celebrate it?

According to various authors, mother tongue refers to the language a child first learns at home and is most comfortable speaking. J.A. Fishman (1967) defines it as "the language acquired in early childhood" (Bilingualism with and without diglossia: Diglossia with and without bilingualism). Lydia Nyati-Ramahobo (2001) emphasizes its importance in education, stating that teaching in mother tongue improves learning outcomes (Towards Mother Tongue Education in Botswana). Meanwhile, Budzani Mogara and Anderson Chebanne (2023) highlight the need to promote indigenous languages, including mother tongues, in education to foster inclusivity and cultural diversity (Language as a Resource for Sustainable Development: Way Forward for Implementing Local Language Teaching in Botswana).

For Botswana, celebrating mother tongue is about preserving cultural identity and promoting linguistic diversity. As former Minister Tumiso Rakgare emphasized, "We communicate better in our mother tongue". Botswana is taking steps to incorporate indigenous languages into the curriculum, with 11 languages already included in preschools and standards 1 and 2.

Some notable authors writing in diverse mother tongue languages include Daisy Pelowetse, who has published books like "Lolo the Lost Preggy" in Setswana and is working on translating her work into other languages.

As Botswana celebrates International Mother Tongue Day, it's an opportunity to recognize the importance of linguistic diversity and promote the use of indigenous languages.

### Translations:

- Ikalanga: "Tcelela letsalo la puo ya gaeno!"
- Seherero: "Okuviza omuviro omu omukuru!"
- Seyei: "Celebrating mother tongue day!"
- Sebirwa: "Re a tshega letsalo la puo ya rona!"

Botswana is making strides in promoting linguistic diversity, with 11 indigenous languages now included in preschools and standards 1 and 2. This move aims to preserve cultural identity and improve learning outcomes, as emphasized by Minister Tumiso Rakgare, "We communicate better in our mother tongue".<sup>1</sup>

### Key Developments in Botswana's Language Policy:

- Inclusion of Indigenous Languages: 11 languages, including Shiyeyi, ThiMbukushu, and Otjiherero, are being incorporated into the curriculum.
- Mother Tongue Education: Teaching in mother tongue is recognized as crucial for improving literacy and cognitive skills.
- Multilingual Education: Efforts are being made to promote multilingualism, with Setswana and English as primary languages of instruction.

### Promoting Mother Tongue Languages through Arts:

- Dance and Music: Traditional dances and music are being used to promote indigenous languages and cultural heritage.
- Literature: Authors like Daisy Pelowetse are writing books in diverse mother tongue languages, such as



Paula O.M.Otukile author

"Lolo the Lost Preggy" in Setswana, Oaitse Phikane, Lebogang Mogotsi and others are writing in mother tongue.

International Languages are important in Botswana and some have been introduced :

Some schools particularly

junior secondary schools are having some French lessons.

- Chinese, some English mediums such as Willow green in Mahalapye teaches Chinese language.

- Portuguese, at the University of Botswana.

- The Dumela Deutsch center for German language

teaches German: These languages are being introduced to enhance global communication and cultural exchange.

As Botswana celebrates International Mother Tongue Day, it's clear that the country is committed to preserving linguistic diversity and promoting cultural identity.

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# Beyond the Ballot Launch Signals a New Chapter in Africa's Leadership Debate

By: Diaspora Times Team  
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At a time when public trust is fragile, democratic institutions are under strain, and Africa's global voice is being renegotiated, *Beyond the Ballot* has entered the leadership debate with clarity and conviction.

The landmark pan African publication was launched in Nairobi on Thursday evening in the presence of Kenya's Principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Korir Sing'oei, who served as Guest of Honour. His participation underscored the book's relevance not only to governance, but to diplomacy and Africa's positioning on the world stage.

Curated by strategic communications leader Gina Din, *Beyond the Ballot* challenges leaders to move beyond electoral victory toward the harder work of delivery, credibility, and sustained public trust. It argues that in a digitally connected world, leadership is no longer defined solely by policy, but by clarity of communication, institutional strength, and narrative control.

"In *Beyond the Ballot*, Gina, mobilizes and distills her breadth of experience and peerage to make an urgent case that in moments of transition, rapture and complexity, such as we live in today, Africa must communicate her story, viewpoints and positions deliberately and consistently across multiple arenas. That Africa's leaders must climb down and engage its citizens and earn the trust necessary in fostering an environment where collaboration and shared development can be made possible..." Said Dr. Korir.



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The book he added, lays out tools and strategies which if embraced can transform the discordant voices of government and policy actors into coherent and persuasive showcasing transmitting hope and certainty in times of drift and challenge.

*Beyond The Ballot* has also received endorsement from iconic Ivorian footballer Didier Drogba, whose leadership beyond sport reflects the growing influence of African voices across culture, diplomacy, and global citizenship.

"*Beyond the Ballot* is about reclaiming Africa's voice and demonstrating the power of thoughtful, effective leader-

ship in shaping our future. Through real-life case studies and practical insights, it aims to inspire leaders, citizens, and the next generation of African changemakers to lead with intention, courage, and vision," says Din.

Drawing on lived experience, policy insight, and cross sector expertise, *Beyond the Ballot* presents practical case studies from governance, media, crisis management, public health, diplomacy, and nation branding. It connects communication to accountability and demonstrates how trust, once lost, must be rebuilt deliberately.

The evening's leadership dialogue was shaped by Thebe Ikalafeng, globally respect-

ed reputation strategist and founder of Brand Africa, whose work has influenced how African nations position themselves competitively on the world stage. He was joined by international journalist Milton Nkosi, whose reporting across elections, conflict zones, and global summits has defined how Africa's political transitions are understood internationally. Their contribution and perspectives reinforced the book's central thesis that leadership and narrative are inseparable.

Leading African thinkers and practitioners who contribute in the book include Dr. Wale Akinoyemi, Dr. Frank Njenga, Billene Seyoum Woldeyes, Susan Wakhungu Githuku, Dr.

Mercy Mwangangi, Dr. Edgar Githua, Matt Aikhionbare, Justice Alfred Mavedzinge, Moky Makura, Anver Versi, Prof. Onkgopotse J. J. Tabane and others whose collective experience spans policy, media, diplomacy, health, branding, and civic leadership.

Together, their insights offer a practical roadmap for leaders, policymakers, institutions, and citizens committed to strengthening governance and shaping Africa's narrative on its own terms. *Beyond the Ballot* will be available in print across major bookstores and online platforms, with launch events planned in key cities across the continent throughout the year.

## Worth Noting:

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# Global AI Summit 2026: ENN360 in partnership with Delhi Climate innovation week Host Landmark AI Conference

By: Diaspora Times Team  
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In a powerful display of international collaboration and technological foresight, the Online International AI Conference recently concluded as a cornerstone of Delhi Climate Innovation Week 2026. Themed "From Ideas to Impact: AI Without Borders," the event was a resounding success, earning immense appreciation from a global audience of delegates, academics, and industry leaders. This landmark summit was the result of a high-impact partnership led by Prachi Gupta, founder of ENN360, alongside key institutional and corporate partners including Maharishi University of Information Technology (MUIT), CMBZ Consulting International, and the World Visionaries Forum (WVF). During the proceedings, Prachi Gupta emphasized that the core mission was to drive real-world change by merging climate-tech innovation with sustainable AI frameworks. This vision resonated deeply across borders, successfully register-

ing participants from over a dozen nations—including India, USA, South Africa, Jordan, Kenya, Ghana, Iraq, Serbia, Greece, Germany, Kazakhstan, Liberia, and Thailand—marking a significant milestone for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 initiative.

The conference featured an extraordinary lineup of global experts who shared transformative insights on AI's evolving role in modern leadership, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. The distinguished roster of speakers and panelists included Dr. Sindhu Bhaskar, Professor PK Rajput, Ms. Lisa Russell, Mr. Narayan PV, Dr. Awakash Mishra, Dr. Ajay Jain, Mr. Abraham Paul Vatakencherry, Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen, Mr. Dewasis Dahal, and Ms. Nehaa Goyal. A poignant highlight of the event was the screening of a compelling short film produced by a UN contractual filmmaker, which masterfully illustrated the intersection of human resilience and technological advancement. This cinematic contribution underscored the global urgency of the summit's themes, bringing a visual narrative to the complex challenges of climate



change and digital ethics. Beyond the technical depth of the discussions, the event was widely praised for its seamless execution and its unwavering focus on utilizing artificial intelligence for the greater good. It served as a reminder

that while technology is the tool, the ultimate goal remains the empowerment of communities worldwide. By successfully bridging the gap between private enterprise and academic excellence, the collaboration between ENN360, MUIT, and their

international partners has set a new global benchmark for responsible innovation and cross-border dialogue.

## LIFESTYLE

# Aging And Longevity Medicine: A Priority Direction Of Modern Healthcare

By: Normurodova Salima  
Saitkulovna  
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This article examines aging as a complex biological process and analyzes contemporary scientific approaches aimed at extending healthy lifespan. The study explores molecular mechanisms of aging, innovations in longevity medicine, including gene-editing technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9, regenerative medicine, and lifestyle-based preventive strategies. The research highlights the role of personalized medicine and early diagnostics in increasing life expectancy and improving quality of life.

Keywords: aging, longevity medicine, healthy lifespan, regenerative medicine, gene therapy, preventive medicine, lifespan extension

### Introduction

In the 21st century, one of the most significant challenges in healthcare is understanding the biological mechanisms of aging and developing strategies to extend healthy lifespan. While global life expectancy has increased due to medical and technological progress, the main ob-

jective today is not only to prolong life but also to ensure that additional years are lived in good health and functional independence.

Aging is a gradual biological process characterized by molecular and cellular damage accumulation. It significantly increases the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, cancer, and neurodegenerative conditions. Therefore, longevity medicine has emerged as an interdisciplinary field combining genetics, biotechnology, preventive medicine, and digital health technologies.

### Methods

This study is based on a theoretical and analytical review of recent international scientific literature in gerontology, molecular biology, and regenerative medicine. Comparative analysis and synthesis methods were applied to evaluate current approaches to slowing the aging process and extending healthy lifespan.

### Results

Research indicates that aging is driven by several interconnected biological mechanisms:  
Telomere shortening – Progressive shortening of chromosome ends during cell division limits cellular

lifespan.

Oxidative stress – Accumulation of free radicals damages cellular components.

Mitochondrial dysfunction – Reduced energy production affects tissue and organ performance.

Chronic inflammation – Persistent low-grade inflammation accelerates age-related decline.

Recent advances in longevity medicine demonstrate promising results: Gene therapy and genome editing, including CRISPR-Cas9 applications, offer potential correction of genetic factors associated with aging.

Regenerative medicine utilizes stem cells to repair and restore damaged tissues.

Artificial intelligence in healthcare enables early detection of age-related diseases.

Caloric restriction and lifestyle interventions have shown measurable effects on lifespan extension in experimental and clinical studies.

### Discussion

Longevity medicine focuses not merely on increasing lifespan but on enhancing healthspan — the period of life spent in good health. Modern research aims to identify biological aging biomarkers and develop indi-



vidualized preventive strategies. Pharmacological research is currently investigating geroprotectors — drugs designed to slow biological aging processes. However, many of these treatments remain under clinical evaluation. Ethical considerations and accessibility issues also play a crucial role in the development of longevity technologies. The integration of digital health, biotechnology, and personalized medicine represents the future of aging research and clinical application.

### Conclusion

Although aging is an inevitable bi-

ological process, modern medicine offers increasing opportunities to delay its progression and improve quality of life. Advances in gene editing, regenerative medicine, and preventive healthcare are reshaping the future of longevity science.

At present, the most reliable strategies for extending healthy lifespan remain balanced nutrition, regular physical activity, stress management, and preventive medical examinations.

Author: Normurodova Salima Saitkulovna, Uzbekistan

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## Motivation

# The Silent Death of the “Happy” Home and Its Impact on Children’s Education

By: Evans Asikoyo  
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## Worth Noting:

• One major reason for this situation is the pressure to maintain a perfect public image. Social media has created unrealistic expectations about marriage, making couples feel compelled to display happiness even when they are suffering. Many partners hide their problems because they fear judgment from society, shame from relatives or damage to their reputation. Some believe that marital problems should remain private, while others feel trapped due to financial dependence or cultural expectations that discourage separation. As a result, conflicts remain unresolved and gradually worsen over time.

• Poor communication is another key cause of hidden marital disputes. Many couples do not know how to express their feelings calmly or listen to each other effectively. Instead of discussing issues openly, they suppress their frustrations until anger and resentment build up.



In modern society, many families appear happy and successful to the public and on social media. Couples often share smiling photographs, celebrate anniversaries online and portray lives full of love and unity. To outsiders, such homes seem peaceful and admirable. However, behind closed doors, many of these “happy” homes are silently struggling with serious marital conflicts, emotional distress, and even physical violence. This hidden reality has led to an increase in tragic incidents among young couples, leaving communities shocked and wondering how such “happy” marriages could end in disaster. This phenomenon can be described as the silent death of the “happy” home, where outward appearances hide deep internal problems.

One major reason for this situation is the pressure to maintain a perfect public image. Social media has created unrealistic expectations about marriage, making couples feel compelled to display happiness even when they are suffering. Many partners hide their problems because they fear judgment from society, shame from relatives or damage to their reputation.

Some believe that marital problems should remain private, while others feel trapped due to financial dependence or cultural expectations that discourage separation. As a result, conflicts remain unresolved and gradually worsen over time. Poor communication is another key cause of hidden marital disputes. Many couples do not know how to express their feelings calmly or listen to each other effectively. Instead of discussing issues openly, they suppress their frustrations until anger and resentment build up. Financial stress also plays a significant role, especially in situations where unemployment, debt or economic hardship strain relationships.

In addition, unrealistic expectations about marriage often lead to disappointment when reality does not match the romantic ideals people once imagined. Pride and ego further intensify conflicts, as some partners refuse to apologize, forgive, or compromise.

While marital disputes directly affect couples, children are often the most affected victims. They silently witness arguments, tension and sometimes violence within the home. This ex-

posure creates emotional trauma that can lead to anxiety, fear, sadness, and low self-esteem. Many children begin to feel unsafe in their own homes, which should ideally be places of comfort and protection.

The impact of such family conflict on children’s education is profound. A child who lives in a hostile environment often struggles to concentrate in school. Their minds are filled with worry about what is happening at home rather than focusing on their studies. As a result, their academic performance may decline, homework may remain incomplete and their motivation to learn may reduce significantly. Teachers may also notice behavioral changes such as aggression, withdrawal, lack of discipline, or frequent absenteeism. In severe cases, some children may lose interest in education altogether, increasing the risk of school dropout.

The long-term consequences of growing up in a conflict-filled home are serious. Such children may develop difficulties in forming healthy relationships later in life. They may carry emotional wounds that affect their confidence, career growth, and ability to

trust others. Without proper support, some may even repeat the same patterns of unhealthy relationships in adulthood. This shows that marital conflict is not just a private family issue but a broader societal concern that affects future generations.

Addressing this silent crisis requires collective effort. Couples need to be encouraged to practice open and honest communication, learning to listen to each other and resolve conflicts peacefully. Marriage counseling should be normalized so that seeking help is seen as a strength rather than a weakness. Communities and institutions should create awareness programs that promote healthy relationships instead of unrealistic perfection. Victims of domestic conflict should have access to safe support systems such as counseling services, helplines, and legal protection.

Schools also have an important role to play in supporting affected children. Guidance and counseling services can help learners cope with emotional stress. Teachers should be trained to recognize signs of distress and provide a supportive environment for struggling

students.

Additionally, parenting education programs can help couples understand how their conflicts affect their children and encourage them to create emotionally safe homes.

In conclusion, the silent death of the “happy” home is a hidden but growing problem in society. Many families that appear joyful externally are internally struggling with serious conflicts that can lead to tragic outcomes. Children, who are innocent and powerless in these situations, suffer the greatest harm, particularly in their education and emotional development. To protect the well-being of future generations, society must move beyond superficial appearances and address marital challenges with honesty, support, and compassion. Healthy homes create stable learners, and stable learners are the foundation of a strong and prosperous society.

*Written by Evans Asikoyo - Education Commentator in Kenya*

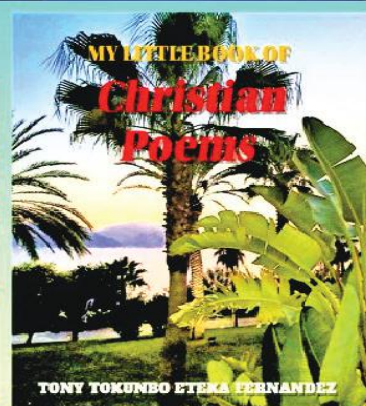
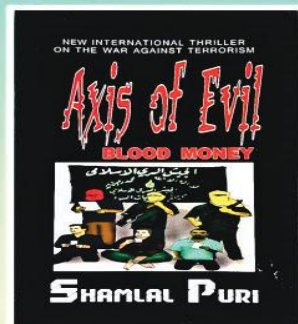
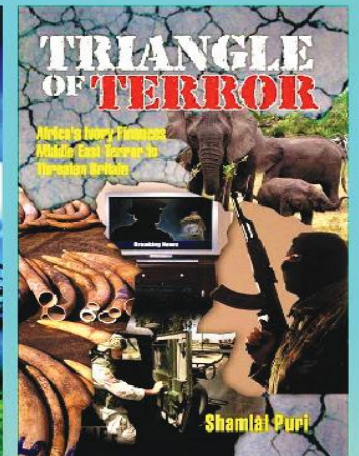
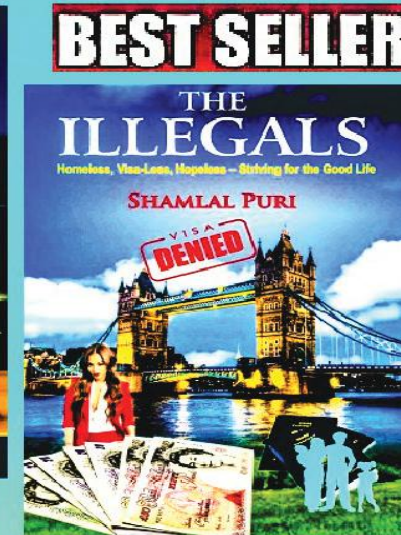
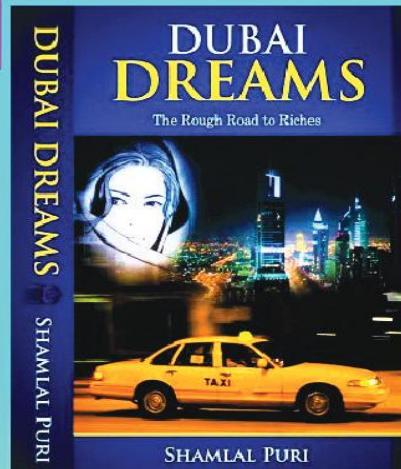
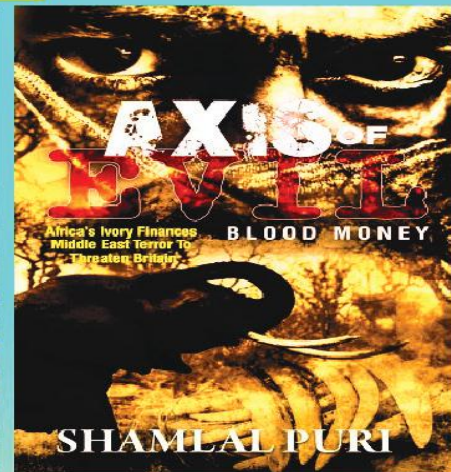
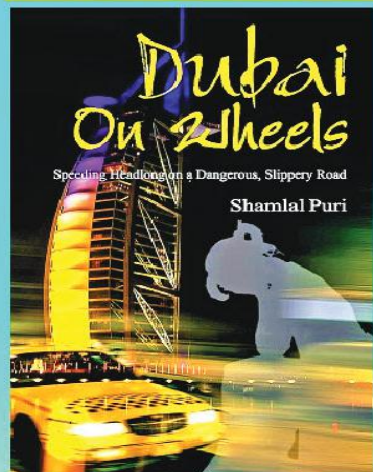
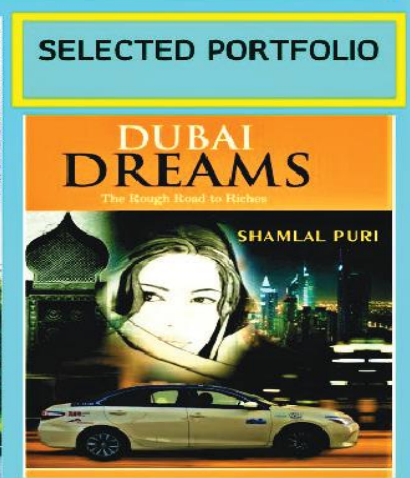
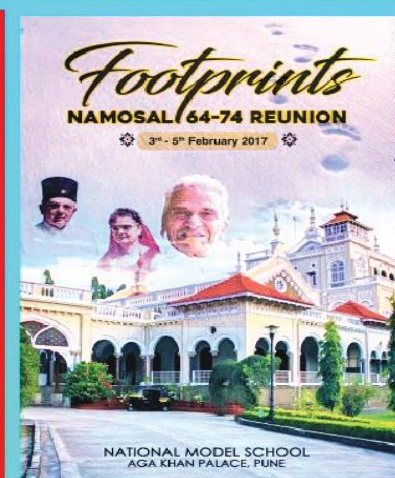
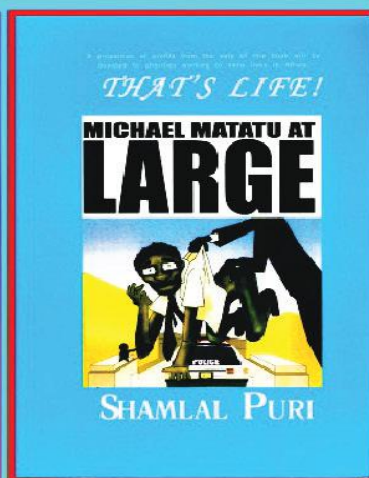
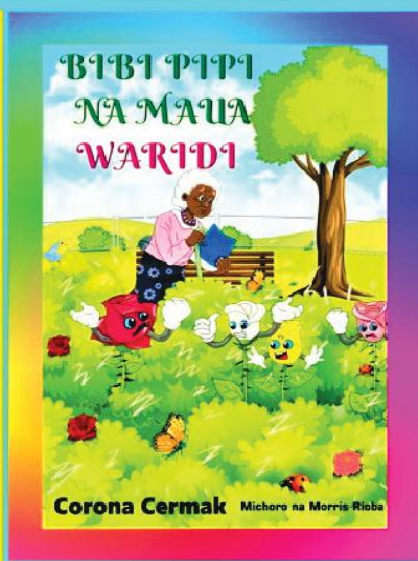
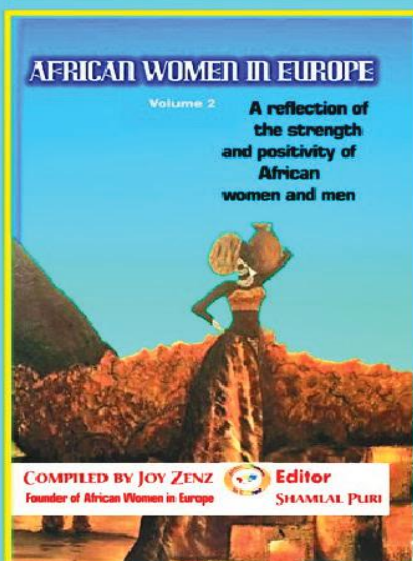
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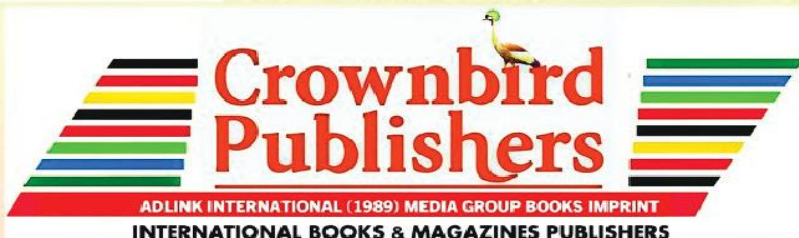
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## Kenyan Politics

# The Spirit of Sifuna: The Third and Final Revolution of Kenya's Gen Z and Millennials

By: David Kimani  
@themtkenyatimes

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## Worth Noting:

• The Kakamega rally at Amalemba grounds was a vivid illustration of defiance meeting repression. Even before Edwin Sifuna and his convoy arrived, teargas canisters were lobbed into the venue, scattering early attendees and creating a tense atmosphere. Yet the crowd regrouped, determined to hear their leaders. The rally drew a sea of humanity, with supporters lining the streets, chanting slogans, and waving party flags. The anthem “Jeshi la Baba” reverberated across Kakamega town, transforming the gathering into a spectacle of youthful energy and political defiance.

• Sifuna’s speech was interrupted by clouds of teargas, but he refused to yield. “This meeting will not be disrupted as they did in Kitengela. We will extinguish it like bhang in prison,” he declared, urging supporters to remain calm and avoid retaliation. His insistence that the rally continue despite police pushback symbolized the resilience of Kenya’s Gen Z movement.

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Kitengela Mayhem: A Prelude to Kakamega

Just days earlier, Kitengela had witnessed similar chaos. Police fired teargas and live bullets into a peaceful gathering, leaving one young man dead. The rally ended abruptly, with leaders forced to leave as supporters dispersed. Sifuna condemned the heavy-handed response, vowing to pursue justice for Vincent Ayomo, the victim of the violence. “We will pursue justice for his family and ensure those responsible for his death are held accountable,” he said. Kitengela became a rallying cry, a reminder of the risks of defiance and the costs borne by ordinary citizens.

The contrast between Kitengela and Kakamega was stark. In Kitengela, the rally collapsed under state violence. In Kakamega, despite similar tactics, the crowd refused to fold. This persistence marked a turning point, signaling that the aborted Gen Z revolution of 2024–25 had found new life in Sifuna’s defiance.

Speeches by ODM Leaders: A Chorus of Resistance

The Kakamega rally was not just about Sifuna. It was a collective chorus of resistance from ODM stalwarts and allied leaders.

• James Orenge, Siaya Governor, spoke with his trademark gravitas, reminding the crowd of Kenya’s long history of struggle against authoritarianism. He framed the rally as part of a continuum of resistance, linking Gen Z’s defiance to



past battles for democracy.

• Babu Owino, Nairobi MP, electrified the crowd with fiery rhetoric. He positioned the youth as the vanguard of change, declaring that “the future belongs to those who refuse to be silenced.” His speech blended humor, defiance, and urgency, resonating with younger supporters.

• Caleb Amisi, Saboti MP, emphasized economic grievances, pointing to unemployment and taxation as catalysts of youth anger. He argued that the government’s policies had betrayed the promise of opportunity, fueling discontent that rallies like Kakamega sought to channel.

• Caroli Omondi, Suba South MP, added a pragmatic dimension, urging the movement to remain disciplined and organized. He warned against provocation and violence, insisting that legitimacy lay in peaceful defiance.

• Majimbo Kalasinga, Kabuchai MP, spoke to regional solidarity, highlighting Western Kenya’s role in national politics and its readiness to stand with Gen Z in demanding accountability.

• Godfrey Osoti, Vihiga Senator, reinforced the message of persistence, reminding the crowd that repression was not new and that past struggles had always required resilience. Together, these speeches formed a tapestry of resistance: historical memory, youthful energy, economic

critique, pragmatic discipline, regional solidarity, and resilience. The diversity of voices underscored that the spirit of Sifuna was not solitary but collective, anchored in a broader movement of leaders and citizens. Comprehensive Analysis: Kakamega vs. Kitengela

The Kakamega and Kitengela rallies illustrate two sides of Kenya’s current political moment. Kitengela exposed the brutality of state repression, with violence cutting short a peaceful assembly and leaving casualties. Kakamega, by contrast, revealed the resilience of the movement, with supporters regrouping despite teargas and leaders insisting the rally continue.

The difference lies in persistence. Kitengela showed vulnerability; Kakamega demonstrated endurance. Together, they form a narrative arc: the aborted revolution of 2024–25 faltered under repression, but the spirit of Sifuna has revived it, transforming vulnerability into resilience.

The speeches at Kakamega reinforced this transformation. Orenge’s historical framing, Babu Owino’s youthful fire, Amisi’s economic critique, Omondi’s pragmatic discipline, Kalasinga’s regional solidarity, and Osoti’s resilience combined to create a comprehensive message: the Gen Z revolution is not just about outrage—it is about persistence, organization, and transformation.

**The Aborted Revolution of 2024–25**

The aborted revolution of 2024–25 was a paradox. It began with spontaneous protests against taxation, corruption, and economic exclusion, drawing tens of thousands of young Kenyans into the streets. For a moment, it seemed unstoppable. But state repression, fatigue, and fragmented leadership blunted its momentum. Analysts at the African Centre for Governance noted that “the Gen Z protests were unprecedented in scale but lacked a unifying figure to channel their energy into sustained political change.” That vacuum is now being filled by Sifuna, whose defiance in Kakamega has crystallized the frustrations of a generation into a coherent political force.

**Kakamega: A Theatre of Resilience**

The rally itself was a theatre of resilience. Police commanders warned of armed infiltrators, teargas canisters were lobbed before speeches began, and barricades sprang up across access roads. Yet the crowd refused to fold. Sifuna’s words—“We will extinguish this teargas like bhang in prison”—were not just defiance; they were symbolic of a generational refusal to be silenced. The chants of “Jeshi la Baba” and the sea of humanity that surged through Kakamega town were reminders that youthful energy, once awakened, cannot be easily contained.

Observers have drawn parallels between Sifuna’s rallies and the aborted Gen Z protests. The Kitengela mayhem, where police fired live bullets and a young man lost his life, underscored the risks of confronting state power. Yet instead of retreating, Sifuna has doubled down, insisting that rallies will proceed regardless of intimidation. Political scientist Nic Cheeseman has argued that “Kenya’s youth movements are learning from past failures, shifting from spontaneous protest to organized resistance anchored in political institutions.”

**Institutional Anchoring of Youth Energy**

Sifuna, as ODM secretary general and a senator, provides that institutional anchor, bridging the gap between street energy and parliamentary legitimacy. The symbolism of Kakamega is profound. Western Kenya has long been a battleground of political contestation, and drawing thousands despite teargas and threats signals a shift in the balance of power. The rally was not about speeches—it was about survival, persistence, and the refusal to fold. In that refusal lies the spirit of Sifuna, a spirit that channels the aborted revolution into a renewed paradigm shift.

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## Kenyan Politics

# The Spirit of Sifuna: The Third and Final Revolution of Kenya's Gen Z and Millennials

By: David Kimani  
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## Worth Noting:

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Edwin Sifuna and Babu Owino at Amalemba grounds

### Ruto’s Dilemma

President Ruto’s administration faces a dilemma. The aborted Gen Z protests revealed the fragility of his social contract, exposing deep discontent among young Kenyans over unemployment, taxation, and governance. The government’s heavy-handed response—deploying police, firing teargas, and dismissing youth grievances—has only deepened alienation. The International Crisis Group recently warned that “Kenya risks a generational rupture if youth demands continue to be met with repression rather than reform.” Sifuna’s rallies embody that rupture, transforming discontent into organized defiance.

**A Cultural Paradigm Shift**  
The paradigm shift is not merely political—it is cultural. Gen Z and millennials are redefining activism through digital platforms, memes, and decentralized organization. The aborted revolution of 2024–25 showed the power of social media to mobilize, but lacked continuity. Sifuna’s strategy of combining digital mobilization with

physical rallies, despite state pushback, represents a new hybrid model of resistance. It is a model that resonates with a generation fluent in both hashtags and street chants, capable of turning online outrage into offline action.

### State Pushback and Youth Defiance

The state’s narrative of lawlessness and armed infiltrators is a familiar tactic, designed to delegitimize opposition gatherings. Yet the reality on the ground tells a different story. The sea of supporters in Kakamega, the chants, the barricades, and the regrouping after teargas all point to a disciplined, determined movement. As Amnesty International has noted in past reports, “Kenyan authorities often exaggerate threats to justify excessive force against peaceful assemblies.” The Kakamega rally fits that pattern, but the refusal of the crowd to disperse marks a turning point.

### From Protest to Revolution

The aborted revolution of 2024–25 may have faltered,

but its spirit lives on in Sifuna’s defiance. The paradigm shift he embodies is not about isolated protests—it is about sustained resistance, institutional anchoring, and generational determination. Analysts at the University of Nairobi’s Institute for Development Studies argue that “Kenya’s youth movements are entering a third phase: from protest to political revolution, where the aim is not just reform but regime change.” That third and final revolution is what Sifuna’s spirit represents.

### The Wantam President

The implications for President Ruto are stark. His administration, already weakened by economic challenges and internal divisions, now faces a youth-led movement that refuses to fold. The aborted revolution exposed vulnerabilities; Sifuna’s rallies exploit them. The label of “Wantam president”—a leader rejected by the youth—may become more than a slogan. It may become the defining epitaph of his rule.

### Persistence Amid Chaos

The closing act of Kakamega was telling. Amid teargas, chaos, and threats, Sifuna urged calm, restraint, and persistence. He insisted the rally would continue, and it did. That persistence is the essence of the spirit of Sifuna: a refusal to be silenced, a determination to carry forward the aborted revolution, and a vision of a paradigm shift that ends not in compromise but in transformation.

### Lessons for Africa

Kenya’s Gen Z has already staged two revolutions—the aborted protests of 2024–25 and the fragmented resistance that followed. The third, embodied in Sifuna’s spirit, is poised to be final. It is not about fleeting outrage but about sustained defiance, institutional anchoring, and generational determination. For Kenya and other African nations observing from afar, the lesson is instructive. Resource wealth, political power, and governance are only as valuable as the legitimacy they carry. Venezuela may gamble with oil, but Kenya’s

gamble is political: whether the state can suppress a generation or whether that generation will redefine the nation.

### The Reckoning of Gen Z

The spirit of Sifuna is not just about rallies—it is about a generational reckoning. It is about the youth refusing to inherit a broken system, demanding accountability, and insisting on transformation. It is about turning teargas into fuel, repression into resolve, and aborted revolutions into final victories.

Kenya’s future will not be decided in boardrooms or state houses alone. It will be decided in places like Amalemba grounds, where teargas meets defiance, and where the spirit of Sifuna refuses to fold. The third and final revolution of Gen Z is not a question of if—it is a question of when. And when it comes, it will mark the end of Ruto’s rule, not as a president of the people, but as a Wantam president rejected by the youth who hold the future in their hands.

Britain's Bollywood fans:

# Valentine's Day Fund Raiser brings joy to Britain's Bollywood fans:

## IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON...



By: Shamlal Puri  
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### Worth Noting:

- Even though Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar are no longer alive, their voices live on. Asha Bhosle, who has clocked 92, has retired from singing, but still lives in Mumbai, devoting time to her business enterprises.
- Bollywood is recognised as the world's largest film industry. Cinema-goers yearn for escapism and to be continuously entertained for three hours (four hours and fifteen minutes in the case of Raj Kapoor's Mera Naam Joker) through enthralling showcases of singing and dancing.
- Part of Bollywood's appeal is its universal language and music, which transcend religious and regional boundaries, making films accessible to a broad multilingual audience, not only in India but across the oceans in many parts of the world, stretching from Australia to Zimbabwe.

There was no shortage of foot-tapping, humming, and low-decibel sing-alongs when Bollywood film fans turned up in full force in the British city of Leeds last week for Yeh Shaam Mastani, an evening of entertainment, at the Mojo Royal Treat to mark Valentine's Day with dinner and raise funds for a good cause. The evening, organised by Abracadabra Media (AMG), paid live tribute to Bollywood singers of yesteryears, Mohamed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Mukesh, and the singing sisters Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle, legends of the Indian cinema industry, without whose playback singing voice no blockbuster film was complete. Even though Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar are no longer alive, their voices live on. Asha Bhosle, who has clocked 92, has retired from singing, but still lives in Mumbai, devoting time to her business enterprises. Bollywood is recognised as the world's largest film industry. Cinema-goers yearn for escapism and to be continuously entertained for three hours (four hours and fifteen minutes in the case of Raj Kapoor's Mera Naam Joker) through enthralling showcases of singing and dancing. Part of Bollywood's appeal is its universal language and music, which transcend religious and regional boundaries, making films accessible to a broad multilingual audience, not only in India but across the oceans in many parts of the world, stretching from Australia to Zimbabwe. The Leeds event aimed to capture the essence of Valentine's Day and the vi-

brancy of Bollywood music through an enigmatic lens of merriment. Organiser Taib Meer, PR and Media Executive of AMG, said that they celebrated the function together with Valentine's Day, "to display pride in passing on our culture on to the next generation. We also aimed to bring our Asian diaspora community together to help, network and support each other." Valentine's Day is celebrated annually on February 14. The day is dedicated to expressing love, affection, and appreciation to partners, family, and friends, often through gifts, cards, and romantic gestures. Originating from both ancient Roman festivals and Christian traditions honouring St. Valentine, it has evolved into a global, cultural and commercial celebration of romantic love. The Guest of Honour at the event was the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr. Dan Cohen, the 131st person to hold the Office and the Lord Mayoress, Mrs Elayna Cohen. The delightful host, Simran, provided the guests with Bollywood games, fun and laughter, an essential requirement of those days of the post-pandemic era. Renowned singers Rahul from Noida, Pallavi from Mumbai and a new sensation, Anusha, showcased their talent, entertaining the audience with an assortment of songs from yesteryears. Guitarist Shaunak played famous tunes from classic Indian films, including "Karz" and "Sholay". Guests were served with tantalising vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes prepared by chefs from Mojo Royal Treat.

The event also marked the launch of Noble Causes LLP in a ceremony conducted by the Lord Mayor. The Project works globally to empower disadvantaged children and communities, ensuring they thrive, with a focus on health, education, shelter, food, and water. Speaking at the event, the Lord Mayor, Cllr Dan Cohen, said he was looking forward to the Valentine Fundraiser. It left a lasting impression on him. "The joy, colour and community spirit are unforgettable. I am delighted to see the energy of our community, showing that Leeds is truly a family of many cultures." Starbake Patisseries served guests with their classical cake. Mr Meer said, "We are delighted and honoured to be a part of a vibrant and universal festival and celebrate Bollywood music throughout the years. The underlying message is one of unity and togetherness, and we hope in the true spirit of Valentine's festival – showcasing Indian music and providing a universal platform to new emerging talent, which will help light up the borough of Leeds and bring people of all backgrounds and religions together." AMG's Operations Manager, Baldev Singh, said, "The benefit of businesses participating in community events not only provides support to the organisers but also integration with the public and service providers." Awards and certificates were presented to the team, volunteers and performers. It was an evening to remember.



The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Dan Cohen, cuts a cake to mark the Fund Raiser event and welcomes the guests at the Bollywood evening. Photo Courtesy



Participants and volunteers were awarded certificates at the event for their contributions and hard work at the event. Photo Courtesy



AMG's Creative Director, Taib Q. Meer (right), with the Chief Guest, Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr Dan Cohen and the Lady Mayor. They are flanked by Aqueel Bhajji, Business Manager. Photo Courtesy

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The posters announcing the grand Bollywood evening with star-studded singers and musicians to pay homage to Indian Cinema's greatest singing legends. It was an evening to remember.

# NEWS PAPER



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## WORLD

## Youth Surge Reshapes Kenya's Political Landscape

By: Doreen Mueni  
@themtkenyatimes

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## Worth Noting:

- “Young people are no longer waiting to be mobilized by political parties,” said political analyst Grace Wambui. “They are mobilizing themselves around issues — cost of living, governance, employment — rather than personalities.”
- Unlike traditional political movements structured around party loyalty or ethnic alliances, many youth-led initiatives are issue-driven. Campaigns often focus on specific legislative proposals, budget allocations, or public service delivery concerns. Organizers rely heavily on digital coordination, allowing rapid response and nationwide engagement without centralized leadership.
- University campuses have emerged as hubs of civic dialogue. Student-led debates on constitutional rights, public debt, and economic reforms regularly draw large audiences. Community-based organizations run by young professionals are also expanding, hosting policy literacy workshops and voter education programs.

and demand transparency from elected officials. Online discussions frequently spill into offline action, including town hall meetings, peaceful marches, and community forums.

Political analysts say this shift signals a generational turning point.

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This increased engagement reflects growing frustration over unemployment and economic pressures. According to government statistics, youth unemployment remains significantly higher than the national average. Many young graduates report difficulty securing stable employment, pushing them to demand policy reforms they believe would create broader economic opportunities.

For some, participation begins online.

Twenty-four-year-old software developer Kevin Otieno says social media gave him his first sense of political voice. “Before, I felt like politics was something distant — decided by people far away,” he said. “Now, when policies are announced, we discuss them immediately. We analyze them. We question them.”

However, the rise of digital activism has also raised concerns. Government officials have occasionally warned against misinformation and



inflammatory content circulating online. Authorities argue that while freedom of expression is constitutionally protected, it must be exercised responsibly to maintain public order.

Legal experts emphasize that civic engagement and lawful protest are integral parts of democracy. Kenya's Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, rights that many young activists cite when organizing events.

“What we are witnessing is civic maturation,” said constitutional lawyer Miriam Njeri. “Young citizens are asserting their constitutional rights. The challenge is ensuring dialogue remains constructive and within legal boundaries.”

Political parties have taken notice. Several parties have recently expanded youth wings, appointed younger spokespersons, and increased digital outreach efforts. Campaign messaging has shifted toward employment, technology innovation, and entrepreneurship — areas seen as priorities for younger voters.

Yet skepticism remains among some youth leaders who question whether symbolic inclusion translates into meaningful deci-

sion-making power.

“It's not enough to have youth at rallies,” said activist Brian Mwangi. “We need youth in policy tables, in budget committees, in leadership positions where real decisions are made.”

Data from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission indicates that voter registration among young citizens has grown steadily in recent election cycles. Analysts suggest this trend could significantly influence future electoral outcomes, particularly in closely contested races.

At the same time, civic educators warn that sustainable engagement requires more than online momentum. Long-term participation often involves community organizing, policy research, and consistent dialogue with elected representatives.

“Trending hashtags can spark awareness,” said governance researcher Anne Kilonzo. “But structural change requires persistence and institutional engagement.”

Religious leaders and civil society groups have also played a role in encouraging peaceful participation. Interfaith coalitions have hosted forums bringing together youth activists and policymakers to discuss national

priorities in moderated settings.

Observers note that while generational energy is high, internal diversity within the youth demographic is equally significant. Urban and rural youth often face different challenges; digital access varies; and political views differ widely. Analysts caution against treating young citizens as a single voting bloc.

“There is no single ‘youth agenda,’” Wambui explained. “But there is a shared desire for transparency, opportunity, and accountability.”

International observers have highlighted Kenya as part of a broader continental trend in which young Africans are leveraging technology to shape governance debates. From civic tech innovations to policy monitoring platforms, digital tools are lowering barriers to participation.

Still, risks persist. Online discourse can become polarized, and misinformation can spread rapidly. Experts stress the importance of digital literacy and fact-checking initiatives to ensure constructive debate.

Despite these challenges, many young Kenyans express cautious optimism.

“I don't think change happens overnight,” Otieno

said. “But I feel like our generation is less afraid to ask questions. That's important.” As Kenya approaches future electoral cycles and navigates economic reforms, youth engagement is expected to remain a defining feature of its political environment. Whether through organized movements, policy forums, or digital campaigns, young citizens are increasingly shaping national conversations.

For a country whose demographic majority is youthful, the growing participation of that majority signals more than a passing trend. It represents an evolving political culture — one where engagement is faster, louder, and more decentralized than ever before.

The long-term impact of this shift remains to be seen. But one reality is clear: Kenya's youth are no longer content to watch politics from the sidelines. They are stepping into the arena, determined to influence the direction of their nation's future.

By Doreen Mueni, Laikipia university.

WORLD

# The Clean Cooking Quest: It's Time for the International Energy Agency (IEA) to Fight for Africa - Not Against it

## *The IEA should be at the forefront of Africa's clean cooking development*

By: Diaspora Times Team  
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### Worth Noting:

- The IEA has politicized its outlooks and adopted an anti-oil and gas agenda that directly undermined African development ambitions for years. Its 2021 net-zero roadmap - updated in 2025 - became a weapon used by financiers and multilateral institutions to restrict capital flows into Africa's energy sector. Some of the objectives include no new investment for fossil fuel supply after 2021 and sales of fossil fuel boilers after 2025. It also condemns international combustion engine car sales after 2035, targeting 60% electric car sales and 50% electric heavy trucks from 2035.
- These steps assume a lot about the state of the world - assumptions that are faulty, especially for Africa. For one, it will require universal energy access by 2030 - including electricity and clean cooking. With approximately 592 million Africans currently without this access, the continent is going to be hard-pressed to flip that switch in less than 10 years.

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** -- The U.S. has intensified pressure on the International Energy Agency (IEA) - signaling that it could withdraw from the institution unless it refocuses on its founding mandate of safeguarding global energy security.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright said Washington is not satisfied with the Paris-based agency's current direction, arguing that its modelling and outlooks have become overly shaped by climate ideology at the expense of practical energy realities. He was direct in his messaging when he said that the IEA must return to prioritizing energy access and solvable clean cooking solutions.

For years, African leaders and private-sector stakeholders have argued that the IEA drifted from its original purpose - becoming increasingly politicized in its outlooks and instrumental in shaping restrictive financing narratives around oil and gas. The African Energy Chamber (AEC) has consistently maintained that this shift has had real consequences for developing economies, contributing to capital flight from African hydrocarbons and slowing the continent's ability to tackle widespread energy poverty. If the IEA is now reassessing its position, the question is whether this represents genuine reform - or political expediency under mounting global pressure.

**A History of Weaponizing Energy Outlooks**

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These steps assume a lot about the state of the world - assumptions that are faulty, especially for Africa. For one, it will require universal energy access by 2030 - including electricity and clean cooking. With approximately 592 million Africans currently without this access, the continent is going to be hard-pressed to flip that switch in less than 10 years.

The IEA's roadmap also relies on unprecedented investments in renewables - a substantial boost in clean energy investments from the \$1 trillion made over the last five years all the way up to \$5 trillion annually by 2030 - and cooperation from policymakers who are unified in their efforts. In this idyllic partnership, Africa's Western counterparts talk a good game. But the fact is, to date, these same Western countries have invested little to no funding into Africa's renewables space. To our dismay even the international oil companies that have tried to accept the IEA's publicity stunt have little or no renewable projects in Africa.

OPEC wrote in response to IEA's roadmap release that "For many developing countries, the pathway to net zero without international assistance is not clear. Technical and financial support is needed to ensure deployment of key technologies and infrastructure. Without greater international cooperation, global CO2 emissions will not fall to net zero by 2050."

The damage of the roadmap has been profound. Global financiers such as BNP Paribas and HSBC halted all new oil and gas financing while institutions such as Barclays, Nedbank and Deutsche Bank moved to selectively finance projects. In 2019, the World Bank also announced that it will stop direct investments in upstream oil and gas. When African countries were fighting for the development of strategic gas resources, one of the continent's biggest institutional opponents was the IEA.

"A bank should evaluate investment in an African oil field based on a project's viability and associated risk, just as it would for a Norwegian, British or American



project. Yet they don't. This is precisely why the AEC plans to hold several banks legally accountable for promoting financial apartheid in the energy sector," states NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman, AEC.

**The Clean Cooking Challenge**

With over 900 million people in Africa living without access to clean cooking solutions, addressing the problem of energy security is no longer an isolated challenge - it's a strategic imperative. If Africa were to listen to the IEA, there would be no investment to address this challenge. Europe would not gain access to African gas supplies, making projects such as Angola LNG, Congo LNG, Greater Tortue Ahmeyim in Senegal/Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea's Gas Mega Hub and Algerian production facilities obsolete. At a time when Mozambique LNG is resuming and Libya, Egypt and Nigeria are looking to produce more, IEA recommendations could prove catastrophic for Africa's clean cooking quest. Delivering remarks during the IEA's 2026 Ministerial this week, Secretary Wright underscored that with \$4 billion invested annually, the world can accelerate the rollout of clean cooking solutions and lift nearly two billion people out of energy poverty. While the IEA should be at the forefront of this drive, Secretary Wright highlighted how a focus on climate change has redirected critical financing away from hydrocarbons.

"The world today spends \$1 trillion in the name of fight-

ing climate change - collectively over \$10 trillion in the last 20 years. What has been the upside of that? Only 2.6% of global energy comes from solar, wind, batteries and the increased transmission lines to promote them. This has only had meaningful penetration in rich countries," he said.

A 2024 report by U.S. Senator John Barrasso further condemns the IEA for its renewable approach, arguing that the organization is increasingly responsible for feeding the unrealistic view that emerging economies can develop using only renewables. This shift began in 2020 when the IEA ceased creating energy market forecasts based on actual demand and decided to focus exclusively on hypothetical scenarios aligned with extreme emissions reduction targets.

This goes against the very mandate by which the IEA was established. Following an oil crisis and spike in prices in 1974, the IEA was established to ensure reliable, affordable and secure energy supplies worldwide. The organization's recent history has contradicted this mandate.

"Africa will not make energy poverty history by abandoning the very resources that can fund its development. Oil and gas are not the problem - underdevelopment is. Organizations such as the IEA have played a central role in restricting financing, politicizing fossil fuels and impacting African energy development. That needs to stop," adds Ayuk.

A Step in the Right Direc-

tion Despite its history of inaction, the IEA seems to be moving in the right direction, announcing that it will host the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) - launched in 2010 - to tackle the global clean cooking crisis. The IEA will partner with governments and industry to accelerate universal clean cooking access, integrating the CCA within the IEA. The U.S. is also ramping-up its clean cooking support. Secretary Wright announced the launch of a Clean Cooking Accelerator Program to help build infrastructure to enable faster deployment of clean cooking solutions - focusing primarily on Africa. While these efforts are notable, much more needs to be done.

"Reform at the IEA must go beyond press releases. It must include a recalibration of outlooks to reflect differentiated development pathways, a rejection of blanket investment bans and an acknowledgment that African hydrocarbons are compatible with global climate goals," Ayuk stated. "The AEC believes that Secretary Wright needs to put more teeth on his clean cooking and energy poverty plan. The African private sector will fund it. We don't want aid - we want partnerships."

Kenya

# Edwin Sifuna After The Ouster: Consistency Is Not A Liability



By: Simiyu S Stanford  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- It is important to remember that Sifuna remains the elected Senator for Nairobi, Kenya's most politically diverse and influential county. That mandate is not symbolic. It represents urban voters, professionals, youth, informal sector workers, and a multi-ethnic constituency that often shapes national political narratives.
- Unlike many party officials who depend entirely on internal appointments, he holds a direct democratic mandate. That alone makes it premature, even careless, to write him off.
- Kenyan politics has repeatedly shown that loss of party office does not equate to loss of relevance. Leaders such as William Ruto, Kalonzo Musyoka, Musalia Mudavadi, and Moses Wetang'ula have all navigated setbacks, reconfigurations, and shifting alliances on their way to renewed influence. Reinvention is part of Kenya's political DNA.

The decision by the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) to remove Edwin Sifuna as Secretary General has triggered predictable political speculation. In Kenya's fast-moving political arena, party reshuffles are often interpreted as signals of decline or exile. But reducing his removal to political "death" misses a deeper and more important point: his value has never been in a title, it has been in his consistency.

Kenyan politics is often defined by fluid alliances, shifting loyalties, and tactical silence. In that environment, he built a reputation as one of the few leaders whose public positions rarely wavered.

As Secretary General of ODM, he was unapologetic in defending the party line. When the party shifted strategy toward engagement with the government, he did not suddenly reinvent himself to suit prevailing winds. Whether one agreed with him or not, he spoke from a position of principle and that predictability earned him credibility.

Consistency in politics can be uncomfortable. It can create friction within party hierarchies. But it also builds trust with voters who are increasingly disillusioned by opportunistic politics.

### More Than a Party Spokesperson

It is important to remember that Sifuna remains the elected Senator for Nairobi, Kenya's most politically diverse and influential county. That mandate is not symbolic. It represents urban voters, professionals, youth, informal sector workers, and a multi-ethnic constituency that often shapes national political narratives.

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His political base is not regional; it is metropolitan. Nairobi is not merely a county; it is a microcosm of Kenya. Its politics are national politics in miniature. A leader who commands visibility and loyalty there cannot be easily sidelined.

His appeal among younger voters and urban professionals gives him long-term political capital. That demographic is increasingly decisive, vocal, and impatient with traditional ethnic bloc politics. Any party that underestimates that constituency does so at its own risk.

His removal also reopens debate about ODM's direction. Historical-



Edwin Sifuna

ly, the party built national appeal by transcending regional identity while retaining strong roots in Nyanza and parts of Western Kenya and the Coast. Figures like he symbolized that broader, urban-facing orientation.

If the party appears to narrow its internal space for dissenting but loyal voices, it risks reinforcing perceptions that it is consolidating regionally rather than expanding nationally. Whether that perception is accurate or not, politics is often about optics; and optics matter ahead of 2027.

### Discipline or Democratic Debate?

Party leadership cited discipline as justification for the decision. Yet in modern democratic movements, debate is not necessarily disloyalty. Robust internal disagreement can be a sign of ideological vitality rath-

er than fragmentation.

His critics may view him as confrontational. His supporters see him as principled. But either way, his political brand has been defined by clarity rather than convenience.

The 2027 election cycle is already shaping alignments. In such moments, leaders who project stability of thought often outlast those who merely occupy positions of power. Sifuna's removal may be a tactical setback, but it does not erase:

- His national visibility
- His Senate platform
- His urban electoral base
- His reputation for consistency

Political careers are marathons, not headlines. The question is not whether he has been removed from an office. The question is whether his voice continues to resonate with voters seeking authenticity.

Edwin Sifuna's ouster as ODM Secretary General is significant, but it is not terminal. In a political culture where flexibility is often mistaken for strategy, consistency can look inconvenient. Yet it is precisely that consistency that makes him difficult to ignore.

Positions come and go. Political identity, once solidified, is far harder to erase.

### Author

Simiyu S. Stanford is a lecturer, educational reformist and political analyst specializing in social justice and governance in contemporary Africa. He is the author of *The Ring of the Moon* (2023), *Robai Nabisino Makokha* (2023) and *Of Walls Unbroken and Other Stories* (2025).

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## Diaspora

## Venezuela's Energy Gamble: Caribbean Week Offers First-Mover Advantage

*The Caribbean is bracing for a seismic shift in energy politics, and Venezuela is at the center of it.*

By: David Nyaga  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Caribbean is bracing for a seismic shift in energy politics, and Venezuela is at the center of it. After years of sanctions, stagnation, and squandered potential, the country with the world's largest proven oil reserves is reopening its doors. The timing is deliberate: just as global energy markets search for stability amid geopolitical turbulence, Venezuela is positioning itself as both a comeback story and a frontier opportunity. Caribbean Energy Week 2026 in Paramaribo, Suriname, is set to be the stage where this gamble is tested, and where investors, governments, and energy strategists will weigh the risks and rewards of being first in line.

For decades, Venezuela's oil wealth was a paradox. With nearly 300 billion barrels of proven reserves, it should have been a global energy powerhouse. Instead, sanctions, mismanagement, and political turmoil reduced output to a fraction of its potential. At its lowest point, production collapsed below 500,000 barrels per day, leaving refineries idle and export terminals silent. Yet in early 2026, signs of revival are unmistakable. Expanded U.S. licensing measures now allow foreign companies to handle Venezuelan crude, and Washington's engagement—underscored by U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright's visit to Caracas—signals a pragmatic shift. The message is clear: Venezuela is back on the table, and those who move early may reap outsized rewards. The reforms enacted last month are the most significant in decades. New laws dismantle rigid state monopolies, open the sector to private and foreign participation, and introduce arbitration protections to reassure investors wary of Venezuela's turbulent past. Analysts at the Brookings Institution note that these reforms are "designed to attract capital and technical expertise that Venezuela cannot generate internally." Shell has already begun exploring offshore gas projects, betting that Venezuela could emerge as a Caribbean Atlantic gas exporter within five years. For a country long defined by heavy crude, this pivot toward diversified energy exports could reshape



regional supply chains. Production is climbing. Venezuelan output has edged toward one million barrels per day, with projections that it could return to pre blockade levels by mid 2026. The Orinoco Belt's heavy crude, once a staple for Caribbean refineries, is flowing again. For regional stakeholders, this is not just about barrels—it is about energy security. Caribbean nations dependent on imports face volatile prices and supply disruptions. Renewed Venezuelan exports could stabilize markets, strengthen trade linkages with North America, and reduce reliance on distant suppliers. Investor interest is being shaped by geopolitics as much as geology. Washington's cautious green light reflects a balancing act: encouraging commercial engagement while keeping political leverage intact. Energy Secretary Wright's call for a "flood of investment" is both an invitation and a warning. U.S. majors like ExxonMobil remain hesitant, wary of reputational risks and lingering uncertainties. Yet mid tier firms and regional players see opportunity in the gaps. As one analyst at the Inter American Dialogue put it, "The first movers will not be the biggest companies—they will be the ones nimble enough to navigate risk and seize openings." Caribbean Energy Week 2026 is therefore more than a conference; it is a proving ground. Policymakers, financiers, and energy ex-

ecutives will dissect Venezuela's new legal regime, its fiscal incentives, and its operational realities. The Frontier session on First Mover Advantage is expected to be one of the most closely watched panels. Discussions will range from short term crude supply agreements to long term infrastructure partnerships. Logistics optimization, digital monitoring, and regional integration will be on the table. For investors, the calculus is simple but daunting: enter early, accept higher risk, and potentially secure preferential terms—or wait, and risk being locked out once the field matures. The stakes extend beyond economics. Social and political dimensions are inseparable from Venezuela's energy reopening. The reforms are driven by interim leadership under pressure to deliver tangible results. International observers caution that political volatility could still derail progress. Transparency International has warned that without robust governance, new investment could be undermined by corruption and inefficiency. Yet the momentum is undeniable. The International Energy Agency recently noted that "Venezuela's re entry into global markets could alter supply dynamics in the Western Hemisphere." For Caribbean nations, the implications are profound. Energy collaboration with Venezuela could reduce costs, enhance resilience, and create new avenues for

industrial growth. Suriname and Guyana, themselves emerging oil producers, are watching closely. Regional planners envision a future where Caribbean energy flows are interconnected, leveraging Venezuela's scale alongside new discoveries in neighboring states. The symbolism of CEW 2026 being hosted in Suriname—a rising energy player—underscores the region's collective ambition. Critics argue that betting on Venezuela is premature. The scars of past defaults, expropriations, and political upheaval are fresh. European firms remain cautious, recalling billions lost in previous ventures. Yet optimism is creeping back. The Financial Times recently reported that "investors are quietly positioning for Venezuela's return, recognizing that the scale of reserves is too significant to ignore." The narrative is shifting from despair to possibility. Venezuela is no longer seen solely as a cautionary tale but as a frontier market where calculated risk could yield transformative returns. Caribbean Energy Week 2026 will crystallize this narrative, offering a platform where optimism and skepticism collide. The outcome will not be decided in conference halls alone but in contracts signed, rigs deployed, and crude shipped. The broader global context adds urgency. With Middle Eastern supply chains strained by conflict and African producers grap-

pling with infrastructure bottlenecks, the Western Hemisphere is searching for reliable alternatives. Venezuela's re entry could rebalance trade flows, offering the Americas a more localized energy ecosystem. For Washington, this is not just about oil—it is about strategic leverage. By encouraging investment under new rules, the U.S. hopes to anchor Venezuela's resurgence within a framework of transparency and commercial viability. For Kenya and other African nations observing from afar, the lesson is instructive. Resource wealth is only as valuable as the governance and partnerships that unlock it. Venezuela's reopening is a reminder that even the most troubled sectors can rebound when reforms align with global demand. The Caribbean's embrace of Venezuela is not just about oil—it is about resilience, adaptation, and the pursuit of opportunity in uncertain times. The lead story of CEW 2026 is therefore not just Venezuela's reserves, but the courage of those willing to move first. In energy markets, timing is everything. Those who hesitate may find the door closed; those who act decisively may shape the next chapter of regional energy history. Venezuela's gamble is bold, and the Caribbean is watching. The question is not whether the oil will flow—it already is—but who will be there to catch it first.

## Worth Noting:

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- Investor interest is being shaped by geopolitics as much as geology. Washington's cautious green light reflects a balancing act: encouraging commercial engagement while keeping political leverage intact. Energy Secretary Wright's call for a "flood of investment" is both an invitation and a warning. U.S. majors like ExxonMobil remain hesitant, wary of reputational risks and lingering uncertainties.

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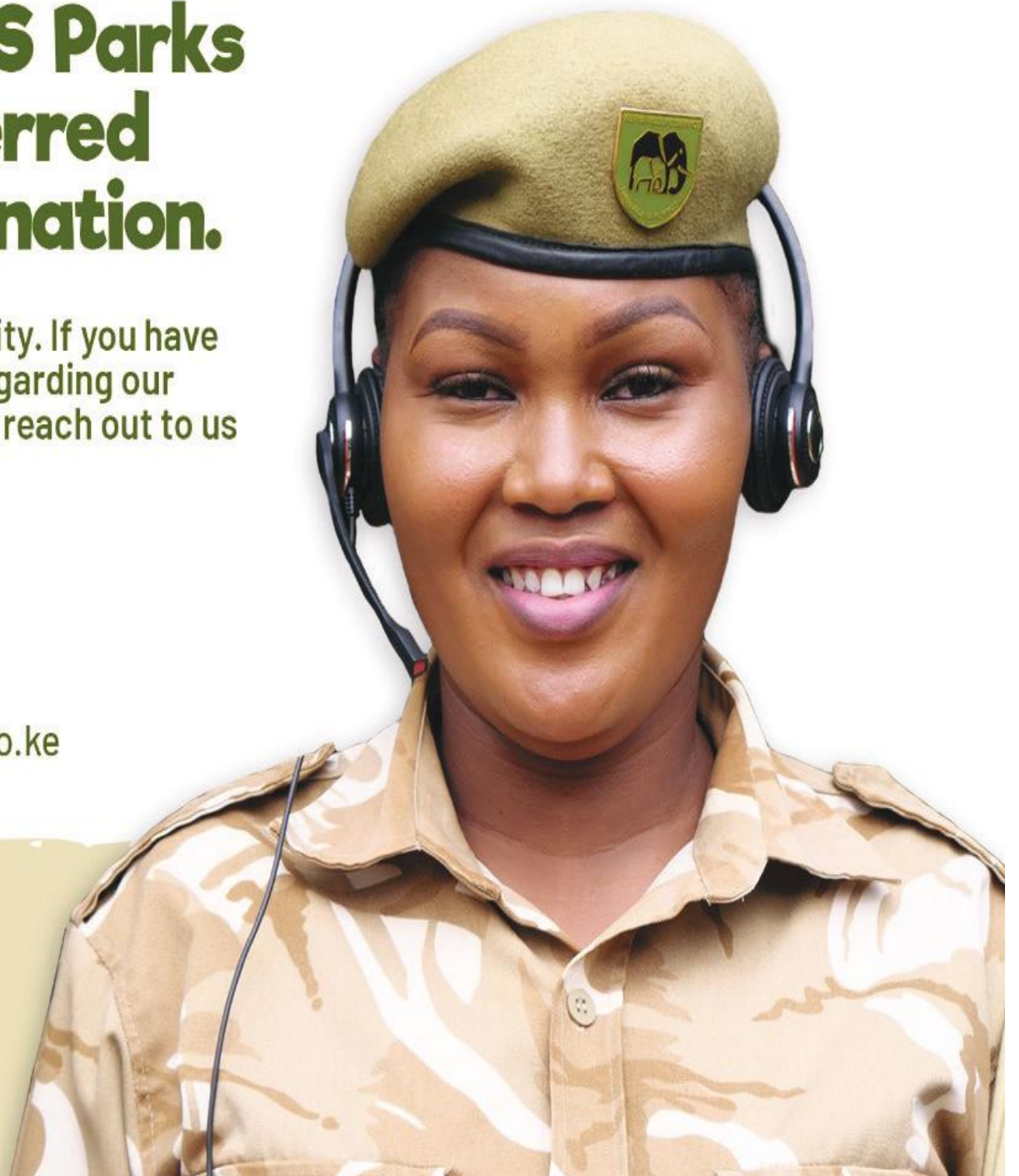
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## Diaspora

# The Union Of Turkish Academics Is Not Just An Institution, It Is A Movement With A Vision

*Interview of Prof. Dr. Tarana Turan Rahimli with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ummugulsum Candeger, President of the Turkish Academics' Union.*



By: Prof. Dr. Tarana Turan Rahimli  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- As you said, today's academic system is a Western-centric system. Our proposal is a pluralistic academic centrality. Science and knowledge are not the monopoly of a single geography.

• As the Turkish Academics Union, we are establishing a Turkic World knowledge network. We have joint publication and data pool projects among Turkic World universities. We are striving to produce solutions to local problems with universal methodology. Our aim is not to be against the West or to exclude the West, but rather to establish balance and to be able to say that we also have a presence in the scientific world.

- Our Union's short-term (1-3 years) plans include institutionalizing the academic network, joint publication projects with international indexes, and organizing scientific academic congresses and symposiums.

Interview of Prof. Dr. Tarana Turan Rahimli with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ummugulsum Candeger, President of the Turkish Academics' Union.

Our guest for this interview is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ümmügülsum Candeger, President of the Turkish Academics Union, and a comprehensive assessment of the Union's academic vision and global goals has been conducted.

1. What historical and intellectual need gave rise to the Turkish Academics Union? What are the fundamental philosophies, missions, and ideological foundations that distinguish this union from existing academic structures?

- The Union of Turkish Academics was born at a time when knowledge production on a global scale was concentrated in certain centers, and civilization-based perspectives were not adequately represented. Historically, the Turkic world possesses a strong accumulation of knowledge in science, philosophy, and civilization. However, the inability to institutionally and coordinately represent this accumulation within the modern academic system has created a significant gap. The fundamental element that distinguishes our Union from existing academic structures is its approach, which is based on a civilization-oriented, multi-centered, and original knowledge production. Our mission is not only to produce academic output but also to build epistemological self-confidence. We have a principled, not ideological, stance: scientific merit, ethical responsibility, and civilizational awareness.

The mission of our Union, the Turkish Academics Union, is an independent structure that embraces scientific discipline as a way of life and aims to make academic knowledge a cornerstone of social welfare. Our mission is to establish a free scientific ecosystem, free from the hierarchical structure of academic titles and ideological constraints, based solely on curiosity, data, and the passion for discovery. We are the common umbrella of academics

who accept the question, "How can I contribute to the future of the Turkish nation through science?" as their *raison d'être*. In this context, our union has undertaken the task of creating a research climate free from political considerations and guided solely by scientific truth. Our fundamental priorities are to produce rational solutions to the chronic problems of Turkey and the Turkic world through an interdisciplinary approach, to train young researchers with world-class methodological skills, and to transform academic discoveries blossoming in laboratories into tangible economic value. Scientific integrity and unwavering ethical values form the immutable constitution of all our activities.

Our Union's vision is to build a future where Turkish academics are not merely followers but leading actors in the global scientific literature, and where they serve as strategic minds on platforms that shape world science policies. By establishing a high-quality knowledge network encompassing thousands of Turkish scientists working across seven continents, we envision a Turkic World where data and evidence-based policies become the norm in governance, and science is the strongest driving force for social development. In line with this vision, our primary goal is to enable our young talents to become leaders in the international scientific arena and to strengthen our country's full independence in critical technologies and fundamental sciences through academic expertise. By combining our rich intellectual heritage, stretching from Ibn Sina to Cahit Arf, with contemporary methodologies, we are determined to make lasting a transparent enlightenment process where scientific knowledge ceases to be a privilege exclusive to certain groups and becomes accessible and understandable to all segments of society. In doing so, we also aim to ensure that Turkish becomes the language of science. In the world of the future, we envision creating an academy that works to leave a lasting and respected mark of Turkish science and to elevate the Republic of Türkiye above science and

contemporary civilization.

2. In today's global academic system, knowledge production is largely Western-centric. What scientific and strategic alternative model does the Turkish Academics Union offer against this centrality?

- As you said, today's academic system is a Western-centric system. Our proposal is a pluralistic academic centrality. Science and knowledge are not the monopoly of a single geography.

As the Turkish Academics Union, we are establishing a Turkic World knowledge network. We have joint publication and data pool projects among Turkic World universities. We are striving to produce solutions to local problems with universal methodology. Our aim is not to be against the West or to exclude the West, but rather to establish balance and to be able to say that we also have a presence in the scientific world.

3. What is the Union's short, medium, and long-term vision plan? Specifically, how do you see the position of Turkish science in the world of academia for the next 10 years?

- Our Union's short-term (1-3 years) plans include institutionalizing the academic network, joint publication projects with international indexes, and organizing scientific academic congresses and symposiums.

Our medium-term (3-7 years) plans include establishing our congresses as a chain of traditional events in the Turkic world, creating joint research funds with project and patent offices, and establishing institutes for our interdisciplinary thematic research.

Our long-term (10 years) plans aim to make the Turkish language a language of science and to ensure that Turkish scientists become not only "participants" but also "directors" in the world academy. We believe that in the next ten years, the Turkic world will be more visible, more organized, and more effective on a global scale in terms of scientific collaborations.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ummugulsum Candeger, President of the Turkish Academics' Union.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ummugulsum Candeger, President of the Turkish Academics' Union.

4. What concrete scientific projects, programs, and international collaborations is the Turkish Academics Union currently working on? How do you evaluate the academic value these activities bring to the Turkic world?

- Our association is conducting a study on the academic data inventory of the

Turkic world. Furthermore, our country representative offices are in the process of being established, along with our board of directors. Our scientific boards for joint peer-reviewed journals have been formed, and we are in the process of establishing the journals. We started our work a year ago by first establishing our federation. Under the umbrel-

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By: Diaspora Times Team  
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## Worth Noting:

Our association is conducting a study on the academic data inventory of the Turkic world. Furthermore, our country representative offices are in the process of being established, along with our board of directors. Our scientific boards for joint peer-reviewed journals have been formed, and we are in the process of establishing the journals. We started our work a year ago by first establishing our federation. Under the umbrella of the Gaziantep-based Orhun Organization Federation, we legally established the "Turkish Academics Association." For the past nine months, we have been holding our Wednesday programs. Because our members live in different cities, our Wednesday programs are held online as conferences and panels, bringing together expert academics from various parts of the Turkic world each week. Within the scope of our association's international activities, we are collaborating with different universities through protocols we have prepared.

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5. The Turkic world encompasses a vast geography and diverse academic traditions. What is the integration strategy adopted by the Association to transform this diversity into a common and strong scientific structure?

- The Turkic world encompasses a vast geography stretching from Turkestan to Europe. To turn this diversity into an advantage, we are adopting a three-stage integration model: In the first stage, we are conducting an inventory. In the second stage, we will move to thematic expertise clustering, and in the third stage, we will create joint R&D platforms. We are focusing not on eliminating existing differences, but on how we can be better together. Our strategy is to be complete together.

6. Young academics and doctoral students constitute the future of Turkish science. What mechanisms does the Turkish Academics Union implement to train, bring to the international arena, and support young scientists?

- First of all, we have opened our doors to young academics. We are working to ensure that academic culture develops within the Union. In the next stage, we aim to train young scientists by including them in our projects, in a master-apprentice relationship similar to the

Ahi organization. Joint doctoral and post-doctoral networks, project writing workshops, publication support, and consultancy programs are among our plans. Our strategy here is not only to train good researchers, but also to train scientists with high self-confidence who can speak on international platforms.

7. In an era where science is intertwined with politics, economics, and technology, how does the Turkish Academics Union aim to protect scientific independence and ethical values?

- The interaction of science with politics and subsequently economics has been an inevitable reality since the beginning of the world. However, it is also clear that science cannot exist under the shadow of politics. Therefore, in order to reveal scientific truth, we establish transparent and independent ethics committees and a system for declaring conflicts of interest in publications. Scientific merit and ethical principles underlie all our activities.

8. What structural obstacles and systemic problems have been encountered to date regarding the insufficient promotion of Turkish science internationally? What is the Union's unique and ambitious approach to overcoming these problems?

- Among the main problems faced by Turkish science are limited international publication visibility, a lack of academic networks, and insufficient development of a collaborative research culture. As a solution, we are trying to create a decentralized, network-based model. By sharing information with each other through digital platforms, we are trying to create environments for networking and collaboration within the framework of academic ethical principles.

9. What is the main message that the Turkish Academics Union wants to convey to the global academic community? In your opinion, what unique contribution can Turkish science make to humanity's shared knowledge?

The Turkish Academics



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ummugulsum Candeger, President of the Turkish Academics' Union.

Union is a non-political organization, and our message is clear: Science and knowledge are not centralized.

- As in the past, Turkish science, with its historical depth, cultural diversity, and civilization perspective, has made and will continue to make unique contributions to humanity's shared knowledge. We can develop alternative perspectives, particularly in the natural sciences, social sciences, history, geopolitical studies, and cultural research.

10. Finally, what would your strategic and moral message be to the academics who closely follow, support, and want to be a part of this vision of the Turkish Academics Union?

- The Turkish Academics Union is not just an institution; it is a visionary movement. It should not be forgotten that strong civili-

zations are built with strong science. Although the road is long, our direction is clear. Our call to scientists who want to be a part of the Turkish Academics Union's vision: Produce, Collaborate, Internationalize, and center scientific ethics and originality in all your work. In line with Ismail Gasprali's motto, "Unity in language, thought, and action," which we have adopted as our principle, we embrace an understanding of academic solidarity based on the integrity of language, thought, and action. This approach considers meeting on a common intellectual ground, strengthening cooperation in scientific production, and acting with a sense of social responsibility as fundamental principles. Similarly, in light of Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's words, "He who loves his country most is he who performs his duty best," we consider academic respon-

sibility not only a professional obligation but also an ethical duty towards society and the nation. Within this framework, as the Turkish Academics Union, we aim to contribute to the development of our nation by prioritizing scientific merit, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a high sense of responsibility.

- Thank you very much for the interesting conversation and your valuable thoughts.

# African Leaders Call for Sustainable Malaria Financing as Progress Stalls and Funding Crisis Deepens

*The 2025 Africa Malaria Progress Report reveals 270.8 million cases and nearly 600,000 deaths; It warns of potential resurgence, as Heads of State and Government urge increased domestic resource mobilisation, call on partners to honour their commitments, and demand a renewed World Bank Malaria Booster Programme*

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia,** -- Against a backdrop of stalled progress, declining international funding, and intensifying threats, African Heads of State and Government today issued a unified call for a new era of malaria financing at the 39th African Union Summit in Ethiopia. The African Union Malaria Progress Report 2025, presented by President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko of the Republic of Botswana and Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) ([www.ALMA2030.org](http://www.ALMA2030.org)), warns that without urgent action, the continent risks losing decades of hard-won gains against the disease.

Urgent action required as perfect storm intensifies. The 2025 report reveals that African Union Member States accounted for 270.8 million malaria cases (96% of the global total) and 594,119 deaths (97% of the global total) in 2024. Progress has stalled since 2015, and only five Member States have achieved the 2025 Catalytic Framework targets for reducing malaria incidence or mortality by 75%. These targets are part of the AU Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030.

The report warns that a 30% reduction in funding will result in 640 million fewer insecticide-treated nets, 146 million additional malaria cases, 397,000 additional deaths (75% among children under five), and a loss of \$37 billion in GDP by 2030. Without urgent action, the report warns that malaria could resurge significantly, with cases potentially exceeding 400 million per year and deaths surpassing one million annually. "The perfect storm of converging crises threatening malaria elimination has intensified. Official Development Assistance for health in Africa has declined by 70% in just four years, and the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund fell significantly short of its \$18 billion target. We cannot allow these challenges to reverse decades of progress that have prevented 1.64 billion cases and saved 12.4 million lives since 2000."

~ President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, Republic of Botswana, Chair of ALMA  
A new era of financing as Africa takes the lead  
In response to the funding crisis, African leaders reaf-

firmed their commitment to domestic resource mobilisation, innovative financing and the development of national health financing sustainability plans. The report highlights that End Malaria Councils and Funds in 12 countries have now mobilised over \$200 million through public-private partnerships, demonstrating the power of multisectoral collaboration. Establishing public-private partnerships is essential for delivering sustainable financing. These partnerships can unlock new investments, propelling progress not only toward malaria elimination but also toward universal health coverage. A whole-of-society approach, engaging the private sector, philanthropic foundations, high-net-worth individuals and the diaspora through a public private health accelerator, will reinforce domestic commitments and deliver a win-win partnership. Countries across the continent are stepping up with increased domestic financing commitments for malaria in 2025. Leaders called on global partners to honour their commitments, renew the World Bank's Malaria Booster Programme, and align support with national strategies. The original World Bank Malaria Booster Programme (2005-2010) committed over \$1 billion with transformative results. Today, African leaders are urging a renewed programme to close funding gaps, deploy next-generation tools, strengthen community health worker programmes, and build climate-resilient health systems. Investing in malaria in this way will also strengthen primary health care, making our health systems more resilient to shock and put us on a path to defeating other health challenges such as neglected tropical diseases.

"Our approach has spanned the full spectrum of what it takes to beat this disease. Tanzania has invested in world-class research and is home to the Ifakara Health Institute, where our scientists are working at the frontier of new technologies, including gene drive—an innovative approach that aims to ensure mosquitoes can no longer transmit the malaria parasite. This is African science, conducted by African researchers, addressing an African challenge."  
~ H.E. Samia Suluhu Has-



President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, Republic of Botswana, Chair of ALMA

san, President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
New, powerful next-generation tools gaining ground. Despite the challenges, the report highlights significant progress in deploying innovative tools. In 2025, 74% of insecticide-treated nets distributed across Africa were next-generation dual active-ingredient nets, up from just 20% in 2023. These nets are 45% more effective than pyrethroid-only nets against resistant mosquitoes. Twenty-four countries have now introduced WHO-approved malaria vaccines for children under five, with 28.3 million doses distributed in 2025, up from 10.5 million in 2024. Additionally, WHO prequalified two spatial repellent products in 2025, marking the first new vector control intervention introduced in decades. A record 22 countries planned to implement seasonal malaria chemoprevention in 2025. The malaria innovation pipeline remains stronger than ever.

Promoting health sovereignty through local manufacturing  
Leaders emphasised the importance of local manufac-

turing to ensure affordability, access, and supply chain resilience. Currently, Africa imports 99% of vaccines and 95% of medicines. The report highlights that Nigeria has entered into partnerships for local production of antimalarial treatments and rapid diagnostic tests, and is working to establish the first Africa-manufactured next-generation nets. The African Medicines Agency, with 31 countries now ratified, and Regional Economic Communities are harmonising regulatory frameworks to accelerate the registration of new commodities across the continent.

"Full deployment of existing and new tools, combined with full funding, could save over 13.2 million lives over the next 15 years and boost African economies by over \$140 billion. Every dollar invested in the Global Fund delivers \$19 in returns. We have the tools. We need the resources."

~ Dr. Michael Adekunle Charles, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria  
What must be done  
The Heads of State and Government issued a clear call to action, urging all Mem-

ber States to treat malaria as a central pillar of health sovereignty and economic transformation, protect and increase domestic and external funding, and fully implement the priorities of the Catalytic Framework through a Big Push Against Malaria.

Leaders called on international partners to fulfil commitments, align support with national strategies, and invest in the tools and systems that will secure a malaria-free future. They emphasised that the path ahead is challenging. Nevertheless, with determined leadership, the smart use of data, and sustained investment, Africa can bend the curve towards elimination and ensure that future generations grow up free from the threat of malaria.

## Worth Noting:

• The report warns that a 30% reduction in funding will result in 640 million fewer insecticide-treated nets, 146 million additional malaria cases, 397,000 additional deaths (75% among children under five), and a loss of \$37 billion in GDP by 2030. Without urgent action, the report warns that malaria could resurge significantly, with cases potentially exceeding 400 million per year and deaths surpassing one million annually.

• "The perfect storm of converging crises threatening malaria elimination has intensified. Official Development Assistance for health in Africa has declined by 70% in just four years, and the Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund fell significantly short of its \$18 billion target. We cannot allow these challenges to reverse decades of progress that have prevented 1.64 billion cases and saved 12.4 million lives since 2000."

• ~ President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, Republic of Botswana, Chair of ALMA

# Military Education: It Is Time to Keep Pace with the Modern World



By: Otanazarov Kamronbek  
A'zambek  
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ficial intelligence, and virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) simulators significantly enhance the quality of military training. Through VR-based simulations, cadets can experience complex combat scenarios in a safe and controlled environment. They learn to assess situations, coordinate with teammates, and make strategic decisions without real danger.

Artificial intelligence also plays a growing role in education. AI-powered adaptive learning systems analyze each cadet's knowledge level and provide personalized learning paths. This approach increases learning efficiency and helps students master complex material more effectively. Another important aspect is the use of interactive teaching methods such as case studies, problem-based learning, role-playing, and project-based education. These methods transform cadets from passive listeners into active participants. Consequently, critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork skills are developed—qualities that are essential for modern military professionals. Equally important is the integration of scientific research into the educational process. Innovations in military science, technology, and engineering should be promptly introduced into curricula. When

The world is changing rapidly. The nature of modern warfare, security threats, and military strategies is increasingly shaped by technological progress. In such conditions, military education cannot remain within outdated frameworks. A modern military specialist must not only be physically strong, but also intellectually capable, technologically literate, and able to make quick and well-grounded decisions. Today, in many military educational institutions, traditional teaching methods still dominate. Theoretical lessons prevail, while practical simulations and digital tools are used insufficiently. As a result, future officers may lack the skills required to operate effectively in real-life and high-risk situations. International experience shows that digital learning technologies, arti-



education and research are closely connected, training becomes more relevant and practice-oriented. Modernizing military education is not limited to purchasing new equipment. It also requires transforming teaching approaches and improving the digital and innovative competencies of instructors. Investing in professional development of

teachers is just as vital as strengthening technical infrastructure. In today's world, preparing highly qualified military specialists means ensuring national security. The combination of science, advanced pedagogical technologies, and innovative thinking is the key to building an effective and future-oriented military education system.

Reforms in military education must continue in line with global trends and modern demands. After all, the security of tomorrow depends on the quality of education today.

*Otanazarov Kamronbek A'zambek o'g'li Student of Urgench State University*

## Refugees

# Empty Plates and Overcrowded Clinics: Are Refugees in Kenya Truly Cared For?

By: Beatrice Chepkemoi  
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full, can we confidently say nourishment is being guaranteed, or are refugees being sustained at the edge of hunger?

Healthcare services are supported by agencies such as the United Nation High Commissioner for the Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the Kenyan government, offering clinics, immunizations, and maternity care within the camps, yet overcrowding, limited medical supplies, and understaffing often strain these systems, while urban refugees in cities like Nairobi face additional barriers including documentation challenges and transport costs, which prompts another pressing reflection: if access exists in theory but remains difficult in practice, is healthcare truly accessible to those who need it most?

Kenya undoubtedly carries a significant humanitarian burden, and the responsibility of supporting refugees should not fall on one nation alone, yet acknowledging this effort should not silence the moral responsibility to question whether the current provisions are adequate, because refugee must mean more than temporary

What does it truly mean to offer refuge? Is it simply opening a border and allocating land for settlement, or is it ensuring that those who flee war and persecution can eat, heal, and live with dignity? Kenya has long been recognized as a generous host nation, sheltering hundreds of thousands of refugees in places such as Kakuma Refugee Camp and Dadaab Refugee Complex, yet beyond the statistics and humanitarian reports lies a deeper question that cannot be ignored: does survival equate to care?

Food assistance in refugee camps is largely coordinated by the World Food Programme, and while rations are distributed, funding shortages have repeatedly forced reductions that leave families stretching limited supplies over long periods, turning what should be a basic human right into a daily calculation of which meal to skip and which child to prioritize, and when plates are only half



shelter it must mean protection that safeguards dignity, health, and hope, and until food security and reliable healthcare are consistently ensured,

the question will persist: are refugees in Kenya genuinely cared for, or are they merely surviving under the weight of limited compassion and

constrained resources?

## Stanbic Bank China Desk strengthens Kenya China trade through finance, payments and cultural partnerships

*Trade and investment ties between Kenya and China continue to expand, driven by growing business partnerships, infrastructure projects, and rising demand for cross-border financial solutions.*

By: Daniel Mbugua  
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### Worth Noting:

- The China Desk provides specialised trade and cash management solutions designed to support importers, exporters, and investors operating between Kenya and China.
- “Stanbic Bank has robust trade solutions including guarantees, letters of credit, and working capital to facilitate trade and investment between Kenya and China,” says Guo. “We also offer import and export solutions that help Kenyan businesses connect with the vast Chinese market and find trusted sellers and buyers.”
- Beyond trade finance, the bank is actively supporting sectors that attract Chinese investment, including infrastructure, industrial development, and services. This funding plays an important role in accelerating projects that contribute to economic growth and job creation.

Trade and investment ties between Kenya and China continue to expand, driven by growing business partnerships, infrastructure projects, and rising demand for cross-border financial solutions.

At the centre of this momentum is Stanbic Bank Kenya, whose China Desk is helping businesses navigate the complexities of operating between the two markets. According to Muya Guo, Head of the China Desk, the unit was designed to reduce friction in cross-border trade and help businesses unlock new opportunities.

**Building the financial bridge for trade and investment**  
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**Simplifying payments and navigating regulatory differences**

Cross border trade often faces barriers ranging from regulatory differences to language and payment system challenges. The China Desk combines financial expertise with cultural insight to help businesses overcome these obstacles.



Muya Guo, Head of Chinese Segment at Stanbic Bank Kenya

“Cultural awareness helps our colleagues understand clients better, communicate more efficiently, and build stronger trust,” Guo explains. “Our knowledge of both markets helps new investors understand the Kenya market faster, especially the financial sector.”

One of the most significant milestones has been improving payment infrastructure. Through its parent group, Standard Bank became the first African bank to offer access to China’s Cross Border Interbank Payment System, helping to make payments in and out of China more efficient and secure. This access is expected to streamline transactions, reduce settlement risk, and support the growing volume of trade between the two countries.

**Strengthening relationships through culture and community**  
Financial solutions alone are not enough to build lasting partnerships. Stanbic has also invested in cultural and

community initiatives that foster stronger relationships between Kenyan and Chinese business communities. The bank hosts Chinese New Year celebrations at key branches, bringing together Chinese and Kenyan clients in a shared cultural experience. It also sponsors the Kenya Chinese Basketball Tournament, using sport as a platform to build trust and deepen community connections.

These initiatives play a vital role in strengthening cross-cultural understanding, which is increasingly recognised as a key ingredient in successful international partnerships.

**Inspired by the Year of the Horse**

Looking ahead, Stanbic sees strong potential for continued growth in Kenya-China trade. Guo notes that the symbolism of the Year of the Horse reflects the spirit of progress and resilience that defines the partnership. “The Horse represents energy, progress, resilience,



and success through hard work,” she says. “We remain committed to supporting our clients’ ambitions with efficiency, commitment, and reliability, while delivering innovative financial solutions and creating opportunities for sustainable growth.”  
As trade and investment ties deepen, financial institu-

tions are expected to play an even greater role in enabling businesses to operate seamlessly across borders. Stanbic’s China Desk is positioning itself at the heart of that journey, helping businesses move forward with confidence in one of the world’s most important trade corridors.