

The clock struck midnight and with it, the last binding limits on the world's two largest nuclear arsenals dissolved into history.

## Nuclear Dawn

New START Treaty marks a "grave moment" for global peace and security :



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# Nuclear Dawn Without Restraint: UN Chief Warns of Grave Moment as Treaty Expires

By: Grace Wanja and Brenda Atieno

The clock struck midnight and with it, the last binding limits on the world's two largest nuclear arsenals dissolved into history. For the first time in more than half a century, the United States and Russia now face each other without the guardrails of a treaty constraining their strategic weapons. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, in a statement laden with urgency and political weight, warned that the expiration of the New START Treaty marks a "grave moment" for global peace and security.



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

His words were not mere diplomatic caution. They carried the drama of a world suddenly stripped of a framework that had, since the Cold War, prevented catastrophe. "For the first time in more than half a century, we face a world without any binding limits on the strategic nuclear arsenals of the Russian Federation and the United States of America," Guterres declared. The symbolism was stark: two superpowers, together holding the vast majority of nuclear weapons, now free of verification regimes, inspections, and caps that once kept their rivalry in check.

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Motivation Page 8 Daring, Discipline And Dedication Trio Rocks!

News Backpage Teaching Independent Thinking Through Essay Writing: A Pedagogical Approach



## Namibia's Strategic Nuclear Pivot: How UNAM's School of Applied Nuclear Sciences Positions a Rising African Nation on the Global Nuclear Stage

### A Proactive Approach to Nuclear Workforce Development

In an era where energy security and technological sovereignty have become paramount concerns for developing nations, Namibia is charting a distinctly forward-looking course. The University of Namibia's (UNAM) establishment of the School of Applied Nuclear Sciences (SANS) represents more than an academic initiative, it signals the emergence of a comprehensive national strategy to position Namibia as a significant player in the global nuclear sector.

As the country considers nuclear energy as part of its long-term energy portfolio, UNAM is addressing what many nations discover too late: nuclear infrastructure requires human infrastructure first. The creation of SANS demonstrates a sophisticated understanding that nuclear readiness begins not with reactor construction, but with workforce cultivation.

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# Local Content as a Catalyst for Inclusive Development in Turkana

By: Jeremiah Lomorukai  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- The near ratification and rollout of the Field Development Plan (FDP) for the South Lokichar oil fields, led by Gulf Energy and grounded in Kenya's regulatory framework, marks a watershed moment for Turkana.
- We stand on the verge of demonstrating what inclusive, locally rooted resource development can achieve. This project represents more than oil extraction; it signals the possibility of transforming resource discovery into shared prosperity within a short and narrowing window of opportunity.
- This urgency is real as investments in fossil fuels, particularly in frontier markets, are rapidly dwindling in favour of renewable energy options. Where tens of investors once sought to partner with us, today, only Gulf Energy E&P BV remains the sole entity willing to commit resources to our oil potential.

For decades, the vast natural wealth of Turkana County has coexisted with deep poverty and exclusion. Long viewed through the lens of hardship and remoteness, the region has often featured in national conversations as a symbol of developmental failures. Devolution has begun to shift that narrative by placing decision-making closer to communities and opening new pathways for inclusive growth to communities that waited too long on the margins.

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This urgency is real as investments in fossil fuels, particularly in frontier markets, are rapidly dwindling in favour of renewable energy options. Where tens of investors once sought to partner with us, today, only Gulf Energy E&P BV remains the sole entity willing to commit resources to our oil potential.

This moment is therefore the result of years of firm, consistent advocacy by county leadership to ensure that natural resource development creates value at source. The recent passage of the Turkana County Local Content Act 2024 was a deliberate milestone toward that goal. It ensures that the people of Turkana receive not only revenue but meaningful participation



Turkana governor Jeremiah Lomorukai

across the value chain, from employment and supply of goods and services to enterprise growth and technology transfer.

Across Africa, extractive industries have often been dominated by external actors, with benefits flowing outward faster than opportunities reach local communities. When designed and enforced with integrity, local content policies can reverse this pattern, as seen in Ghana, where thousands of direct jobs and new petroleum sector enterprises have emerged.

Lessons abound, reminding us that resource wealth, underpinned by robust local content frameworks, translates into skills, opportunities, and durable economic strength for local communities. Without clear frameworks and accountable enforcement, the promise of prosperity hangs in the air. Turkana has chosen this

alternative path with local content embedded in county law, we require credible partners to operationalise and uphold these commitments. Projections within the FDP, aligned with our county legislation, indicate that between 2026 and 2050, Turkana County and its communities could receive approximately \$216 million in direct allocations under the national revenue-sharing model. Added to taxes, levies and other fiscal inflows, these resources will be channelled into long-term investments in infrastructure and human capital capable of sparking generational transformation.

This transformation aligns with my nine-point development agenda, especially emphasising Water as a Universal Right. Through this project, communities will access water from Turkwell Dam, supporting both

domestic use and irrigation, thereby enhancing water security, food production, and livelihoods. The broader agenda encompasses Food Security; Peace Building and Conflict Resolution; Health and Sanitation; Education and Child Protection; Land, Minerals and Natural Resources Management; Trade and Enterprise Development; Wealth Creation and County Revenue Enhancement; and Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships. These pillars collectively shape the development path we envisage for Turkana.

Revenue alone will not define our success, and true local content requires dedicated, ring-fenced quotas that guarantee business opportunities for local enterprises across employment and procurement. The Gulf Energy Local Content Plan (LCP) outlined in the FDP must therefore be im-

plemented progressively, consistently, and with full transparency. We welcome investors to explore Turkana's vast potential, the cradle of humanity, and to contribute meaningfully to our development agenda by expanding opportunities and deepening the participation of our people.

To us, the FDP is more than a technical document; it signifies a long-term partnership between investors, national and county governments, and most importantly, the people of Turkana. Our duty as leaders is to ensure that this partnership results in shared prosperity, strengthens economic foundations and creates a future where every Turkana child can grow, learn, work and thrive with dignity.

*The writer is the Governor of Turkana County Government.*

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Caracas

# Venezuela Probes U.S. Military Raid That Seized Maduro

By: David James  
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Caracas awoke on January 3 to a jolt that reverberated far beyond its borders: a U.S. military operation that culminated in the seizure of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. The shockwaves of that night have not subsided. Now, Venezuela's Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López has confirmed that an investigation is under way, a probe that he insists will "allow the country to learn, evaluate and make adjustments" to the transformation plan for the Bolivarian National Armed Forces. His words, delivered on National Dignity Day, carried both defiance and unease — a recognition that Venezuela's sovereignty had been pierced by what he described as "extremely high technology."

The announcement was more than bureaucratic formality. It was a declaration of intent, a signal to allies and adversaries alike that Caracas would not let the January 3 operation fade into silence. For a nation long defined by its tense relationship with Washington, the incident has become a crucible moment, testing the resilience of Venezuela's institutions and the credibility of its leadership.

Details of the U.S. operation remain murky. American officials have offered little beyond confirmation that "a targeted mission" was carried out, citing national security concerns. Venezuelan state media has portrayed the raid as an act of aggression, a violation of international law, and a continuation of Washington's decades-long campaign to undermine the Bolivarian revolution. Witnesses in Caracas reported unusual aerial activity on the night of

January 3, with drones and low-flying aircraft seen near the presidential compound. By dawn, Maduro and Flores were gone, whisked away in what Venezuelan officials later described as a "kidnapping." The Pentagon has neither confirmed nor denied the use of advanced drone technology, but analysts point to the Defense Minister's reference to "extremely high technology" as a clue that electronic warfare and precision surveillance played a role.

The seizure of Maduro has plunged Venezuela into political uncertainty. While Vice President Delcy Rodríguez has sought to project stability, declaring that "the revolution continues," the absence of the president has left a vacuum. Supporters of the government have rallied in the streets, chanting slogans of resistance, while opposition figures have cautiously suggested that the moment could mark a turning point in Venezuela's long crisis. Internationally, reactions have been divided. Russia and China condemned the U.S. operation, calling it a violation of sovereignty. Moscow's foreign ministry described it as "a reckless escalation," while Beijing urged Washington to "respect international norms." In contrast, several Latin American governments, including Colombia and Brazil, expressed muted support, framing the operation as a step toward restoring democracy.

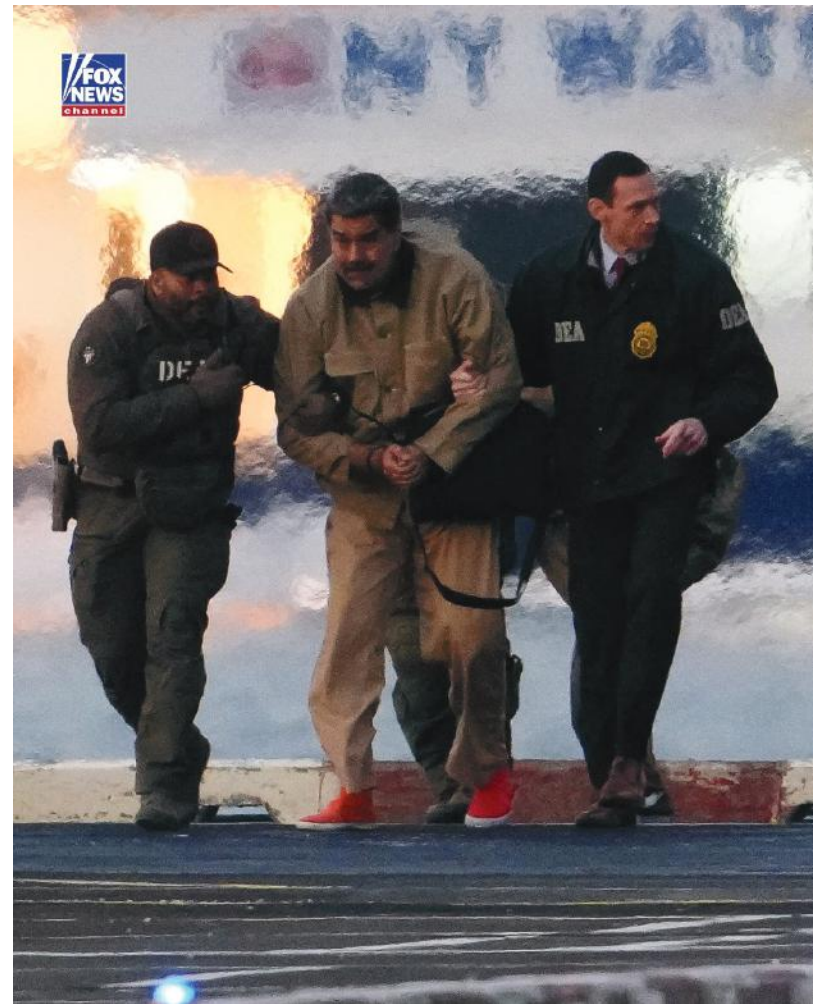
Padrino's remarks were timed to coincide with National Dignity Day, a symbolic occasion commemorating Venezuela's resistance against foreign intervention. The choice of venue was deliberate: to cast the investigation not merely as a bureaucratic exercise but as part of a broader narrative of defiance. "We will learn, we will evaluate, and we will adjust," he declared, his words echoing across a military parade ground filled with soldiers in cer-

emonial dress. The Defense Minister's emphasis on transformation reflects a longstanding ambition to modernize Venezuela's armed forces. Yet the January 3 operation has exposed vulnerabilities, raising questions about the military's ability to defend against technologically advanced adversaries.

In Washington, officials have framed the operation as a necessary measure against a regime accused of corruption, human rights abuses, and ties to narcotics trafficking. The State Department reiterated its position that Maduro's government is illegitimate, pointing to disputed elections and the suppression of dissent. Still, the decision to seize a sitting head of state marks a dramatic escalation. Legal scholars have debated the implications, with some arguing that the move sets a dangerous precedent in international relations. Others contend that Maduro's alleged crimes justify extraordinary measures.

For ordinary Venezuelans, the episode has added another layer of uncertainty to daily life already marked by economic hardship and political instability. Inflation remains rampant, basic goods are scarce, and millions have fled the country in recent years. The seizure of Maduro has sparked both hope and fear: hope that change may finally come, fear that the nation could descend into deeper turmoil. In the barrios of Caracas, conversations oscillate between disbelief and resignation. "We woke up and the president was gone," said one shopkeeper. "It feels like we are living in a movie." Others expressed skepticism, suggesting that Maduro's disappearance might be temporary or part of a larger political maneuver.

As the investigation unfolds, Venezuela faces a daunting set of challenges. The military must confront its vulnerabilities, the government



must navigate a leadership crisis, and the nation must grapple with its place in a world where sovereignty is increasingly contested. For Padrino, the task is formidable. His promise to "make adjustments" suggests a recognition that Venezuela's armed forces must adapt to new realities. Whether that means investing in cyber defense, expanding drone capabilities, or forging deeper alliances with Russia and China remains to be seen.

What is clear is that the January 3 operation has altered the trajectory of Venezuelan politics. It has exposed the fragility of the Maduro regime, highlighted the reach of U.S. military power, and underscored the volatility of a region where ideolog-

ical battles continue to shape destinies. The seizure of Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores was not just a dramatic episode in Venezuela's ongoing saga. It was a moment that crystallized the tensions between sovereignty and intervention, between defiance and vulnerability. As the investigation proceeds, the world watches closely, aware that the outcome will reverberate far beyond Caracas. For Venezuela, the stakes could not be higher. The nation stands at a crossroads, its future uncertain, its dignity tested, its resilience on trial.

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# Dr. Shubham's Strings Not Attached Now Travels to Readers Through Jaipur Kitaabi Karwan

By: Diaspora Times Team  
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In a world increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence and algorithmic living, Dr. Shubham brings the focus back to something profoundly human—emotional intelligence and inner awareness. A doctor by profession and a thinker by instinct, he now reaches readers in a unique way as his debut book, *Strings Not Attached*, is showcased and available at Jaipur Kitaabi Karwan, an innovative mobile bookstore caravan redefining literary access.

Launched on 23rd December and earlier featured at the New Delhi Book Fair, the book's journey now mirrors its message—moving beyond rigid structures and conventional boundaries.

Currently pursuing his postgraduate residency in Radiodiagnosis, one of the most demanding medical specializations, Dr. Shubham chose to honor a rare commitment during his most intense year: writing and publishing his first book.

Balancing sleepless shifts, emotional exhaustion, and clinical responsibilities, he explores the invisible architecture of the human psyche—emotional conditioning, recurring

patterns, and inherited beliefs that shape our lives. His work asks essential questions about freedom, relationships, and self-awareness.

With its inclusion in Jaipur Kitaabi Karwan, *Strings Not Attached* becomes part of a cultural movement—bringing meaningful conversations directly to people. This is more than a book on display; it is a dialogue on emotional freedom, traveling where it is needed most.

Dr. Shubham A Gadekar



## UNIVERSITY

# Karoki Taking The Lead At Mount Kenya University

By: Diaspora Times Team  
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In an era where student leadership is increasingly defined by vision, accountability, and the courage to challenge the status quo, one name is steadily rising within Mount Kenya University (MKU) circles both at home and in the diaspora: Alex Karoki. An aspiring President of the Mount Kenya University Students Association (MKUSA), Karoki represents a new generation of leadership rooted in service, inclusivity, and results-driven action. As the MKUSA 26/27 elections draw closer, his message is resonating far beyond the university gates—reaching parents, alumni, and Kenyans abroad who are keenly watching the future of youth leadership.

Alex Karoki's journey is not framed by privilege or political inheritance, but by consistent engagement with students and a deep understanding of their everyday struggles. From academic concerns and welfare issues to representation and institutional transparency, Karoki has positioned

himself as a listening leader—one who believes that the student voice is not a slogan but a responsibility. His campaign theme centers on restoring trust between student leadership and university administration while ensuring that students remain at the heart of every decision.

What sets Karoki apart is his firm belief that Mount Kenya University is more than an institution of learning—it is a community. He argues that leadership must be visible, accessible, and accountable. Over the past months, he has actively engaged students across different campuses through open forums, informal dialogues, and consultative meetings aimed at understanding real issues affecting learners.

Members of the Kenyan diaspora, many of whom are parents, sponsors, and alumni of MKU, have taken note. In various diaspora forums and associations, Karoki's name frequently comes up as an example of ethical, articulate, and people-centered leadership.

Central to Karoki's agenda is student empowerment. He has consistently spoken about strengthening platforms that connect students with opportunities such as leadership

development, innovation spaces, mentorship, and collaboration with alumni and industry players.

Karoki is also vocal about inclusivity. In a diverse university like MKU, he emphasizes that leadership must reflect and respect all students regardless of background, campus, or social status.

Another pillar of his leadership philosophy is transparency. He advocates for clear communication on student funds, decision-making processes, and policy engagements with the administration.

Beyond campus politics, Alex Karoki symbolizes a broader shift in Kenyan youth leadership. His candidacy reflects aspirations for fairness, integrity, and service.

As the MKUSA elections approach, momentum continues to build around Karoki's campaign. His slogan captures this spirit: leadership that listens, acts, and delivers.

For the Kenyan diaspora, Alex Karoki's journey is a reminder that meaningful leadership begins early. Many see not just a student leader in the making, but a symbol of hope—a young Kenyan ready to take the lead and leave Mount Kenya University stronger than he found it.



Alex Karoki

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## Motivation

# 3D Trio Rocks: Daring, Discipline And Dedication Trio Rocks !



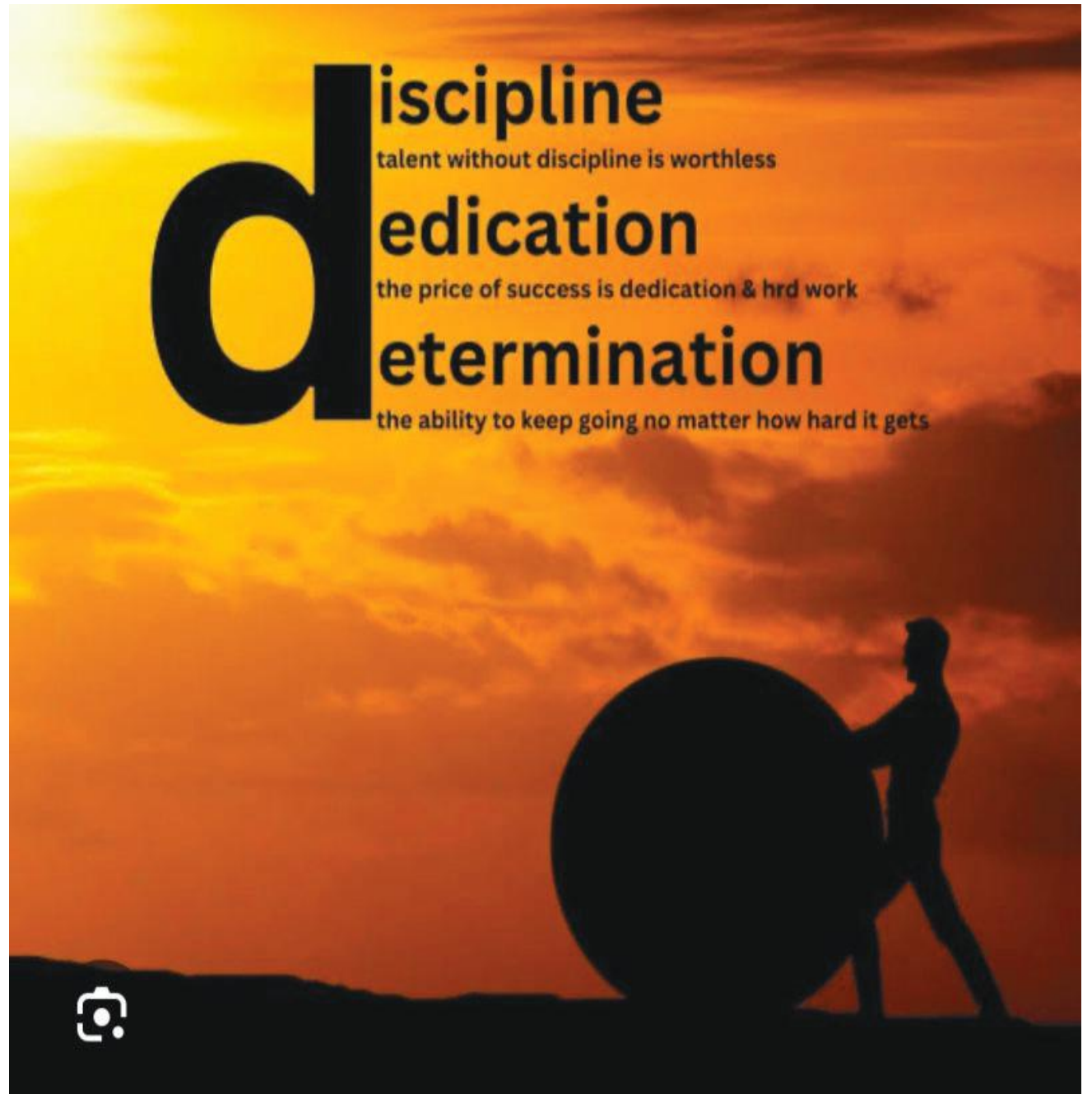
By: Manish Dudhagara  
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## Worth Noting:

- Just like this, in our life 3D rocks! Now let me tell you that this is a trio of three qualities: Daring, Discipline, and Dedication. Everywhere, every time, any time, in any situation, in anybody, Daring is required. At present, in any work, Daring is needed. Dare to live is the biggest requirement during the present time.
- People must dare to live in life. The first reason is that life is easier and the easiest compared to the past because there are many facilities that people wanted in the past but they could not get. In reverse, people can get more and the most comfortable facilities to live their lives. So life is easier and the easiest. I mean the age of the present time is worth living cheerfully. There are many tourist places where people can enjoy their free time. If you feel lonely, gadgets like TV, mobile phone, laptop, etc. will help to give you company.

You must have heard and known the word 3D in this era of technology, you must have heard 3D design, 3D painting, 3D movie, etc. In 3D we can watch and enjoy the whole thing or painting or movie with variation. I am talking about three-dimensional here in the term of technology. Especially, I have felt the 3D effect in a movie and I have enjoyed watching the film of Spider-Man. I have also watched from a different angle in a 3D painting. It's just magic! In an angle, I have watched two white birds but in another angle I have watched a beautiful lake. I have also seen a 3D writing pad. Many people may have enjoyed all these 3D things. Just like this, in our life 3D rocks! Now let me tell you that this is a trio of three qualities: Daring, Discipline, and Dedication. Everywhere, every time, any time, in any situation, in anybody, Daring is required. At present, in any work, Daring is needed. Dare to live is the biggest requirement during the present time. People must dare to live in life. The first reason is that life is easier and the easiest compared to the past because there are many facilities that people wanted in the past but they could not get. In reverse, people can get more and the most comfortable facilities to live their lives. So life is easier and the easiest. I mean the age of the present time is worth living cheerfully. There are many tourist places where people can enjoy their free time. If you feel lonely, gadgets like TV, mobile phone, laptop, etc. will help to give you company. Though there are many facilitated tourist places and instruments of enjoyment, if you notice there are many problems in people's lives altogether. Due to gadgets, relationships don't last long, some relations are broken too. A person becomes lonely so he or she feels sadness, depression, and brokenness. In the end, the person loses hope and courage. At this point, Dare to live life is helpful. In the same way, facilities are increasing and the tolerance power and the skill of adjustment are decreasing in adverse situations.

If you want success and achievement in life, dare to dream, dare to try once more, dare to speak, dare to present yourself in public, these all will help us. Let's take the latest example



of our ISRO scientist mission Chandrayaan. It had become successful and we know about the moon's land and the moon has water. Then Chandrayaan-2 was launched under the leadership of Dr. K. Sivan, the head of ISRO, but it did not reach the moon safely. On the moon, K. Sivan cried with grief due to this failure but Narendra Modi consoled him a lot, hugging and patting his back. I watched K. Sivan cry more but Modi said a few words of motivation and encouraged him once again and consoled him for five minutes! Then Modi gave a speech to all the scientists that this is not the end but this is the beginning. He also told them that ISRO had done it successfully before this, so they can do it still. I personally want to give credit to K. Sivan and his team of Chandrayaan-2 because if they hadn't dared to dream and tried once more, Chandrayaan-3 would not have been successful.

Generally, many people only worship the rising sun but we should not approach only that and we should learn to respect constant ef-

forts, endless efforts, and we should respect those people who do endless efforts too, like the scientists of Chandrayaan-2. Now, it's time to salute and respect the scientists of Chandrayaan-3 because they dared to dream and dared to try once again, improving mistakes. The original and the first important quality is daring because many qualities are original from daring. Not only daring of the scientists of Chandrayaan-3 worked but also their discipline and dedication also worked for this achievement.

They worked hard for 3 years after Chandrayaan-2 failed. By untiring efforts after daring, this type of discipline to keep working hard for the next mission is outstanding. Mainly in our country Bharat, people are impressed with actors or actresses or cricketers. They make wrong people their idols because real idols and heroes are our scientists who serve our nation with this type of commitment. I want to say the government of our country India (Bharat) itself is responsible when it does not value our scientists more, it is a sad

thing for us. I want to give a special grand salute for giving the most credit and value to this government and especially to Modi because this time the whole country almost watched when Chandrayaan-3 mission became successful. People forgot about their religions, their castes, and other things and felt proud by watching on TV channels and YouTube in the number of crores.

Though the government values ISRO and our scientists and respects them, it gives only a fifth part of the salary compared to European countries and America. The government does not give more budget to the invention of science, this is its proof. One advantage will be that more money and then more budget will be available in the future. Our scientists are the most disciplined and the most talented because they work for our nation. In 6 billion, a Hollywood film can't be made, and our scientists reached the moon in 6 billion. This all happens with discipline. If daring and discipline had been enough, many people would have got achievements of this type, but

tremendous dedication is also required for the moon mission. The scientists dedicated their food and sleep for days together. They also dedicated their emotional bond with their families. Have you ever noticed their clothes? Male scientists wear simple shirt-pant and female scientists wear saree. This is also called dedication in modern times. At the end, for three months they did not go to their homes and worked hard, making their day and night the same. They didn't care how they looked, how they kept their hairstyle because they didn't have time at all for these things. They only kept a goal to serve people by doing research and inventing new things. Only scientists and mathematicians are such professionals who use their brain the most. What a dedication it is!

In life, if you want to do anything, if you want to get achievement and success, these three qualities will help you: Daring, Discipline, and Dedication.

**So, 3D trio rocks!**

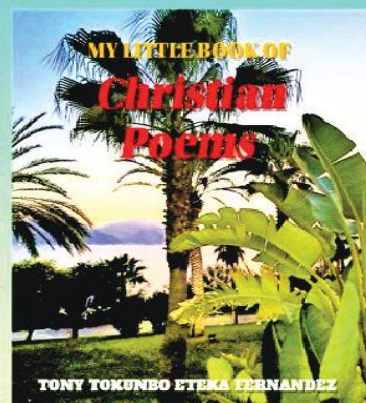
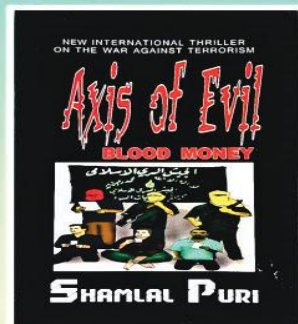
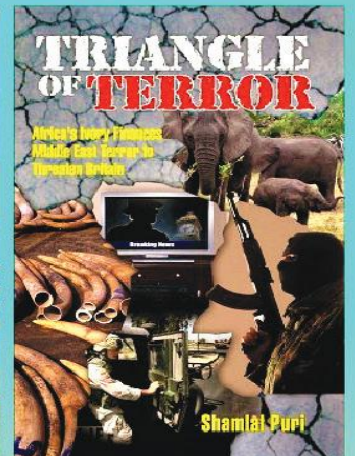
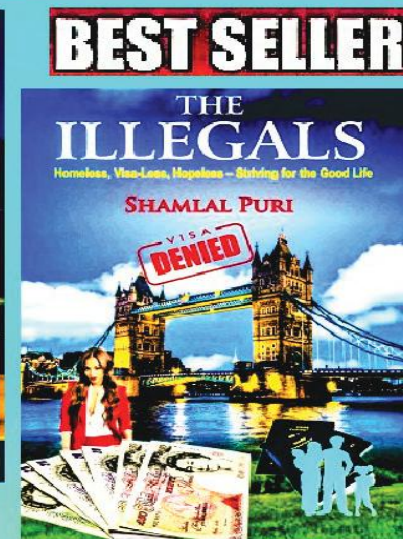
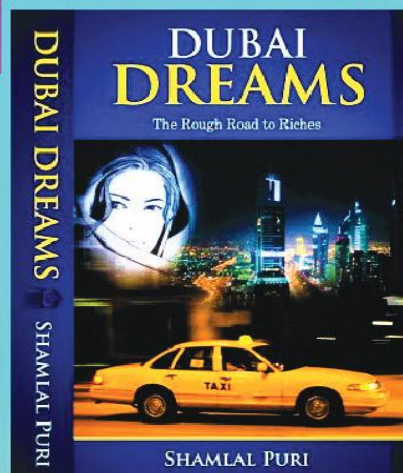
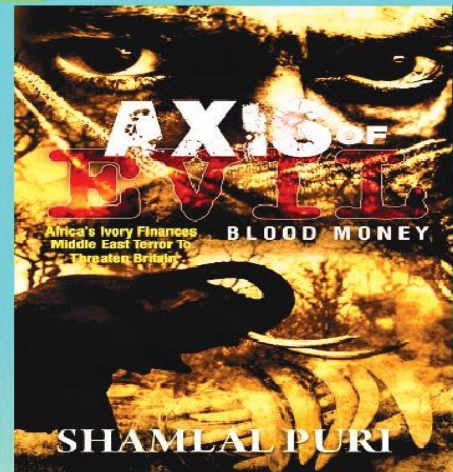
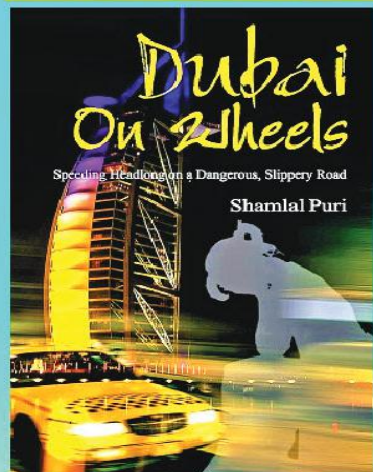
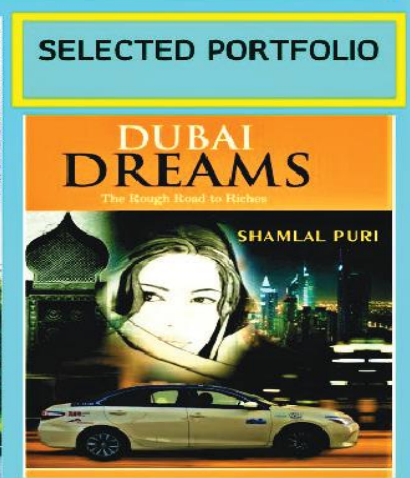
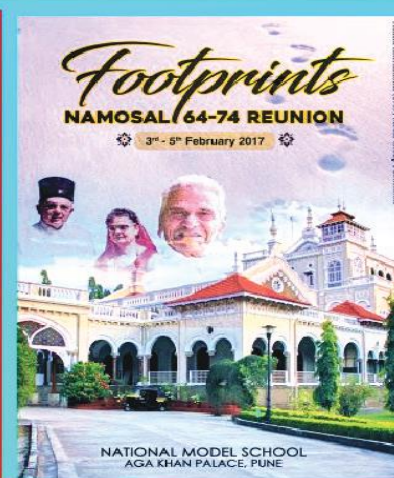
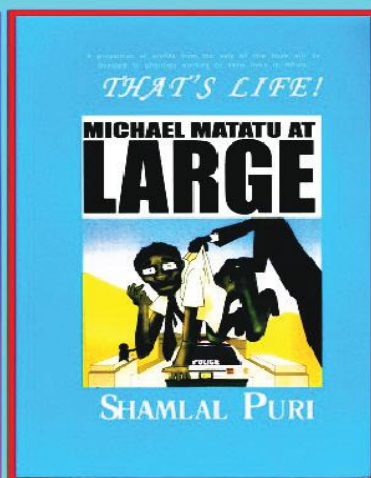
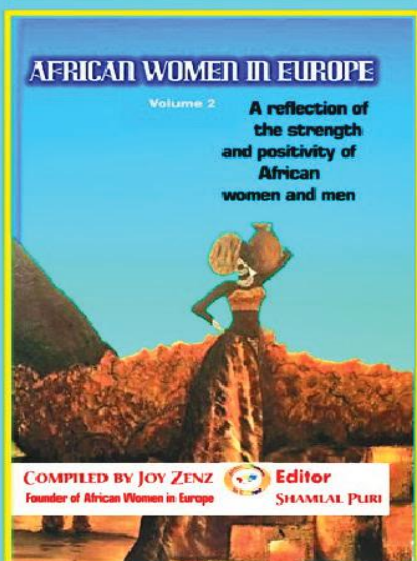
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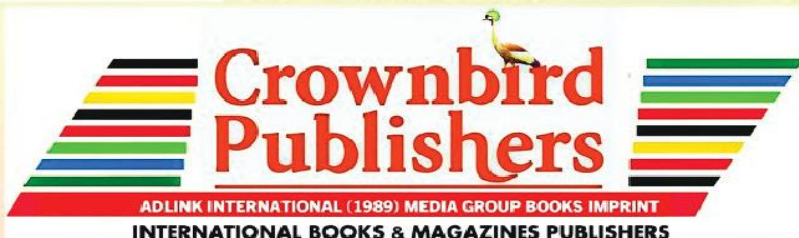
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## African News

# Nuclear Dawn Without Restraint: UN Chief Warns of Grave Moment as Treaty Expires

By: Grace Wanja and Brenda Atieno  
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Contd from Page 1

## Worth Noting:

• The New START Treaty, signed in 2010 and entering into force in 2011, had capped deployed strategic nuclear warheads at 1,550 for each side and limited delivery systems such as intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and heavy bombers. It also provided mechanisms for verification, ensuring transparency and reducing mistrust. Its expiration leaves diplomats and security experts warning of a return to unchecked nuclear competition, a scenario unseen since the height of the Cold War.

• Throughout the Cold War and its aftermath, agreements like SALT I, SALT II, and START I dismantled thousands of nuclear weapons and built a fragile architecture of trust. Guterres reminded the world of that legacy, noting that arms control “drastically improved the security of all peoples, not least the populations of the United States and the Russian Federation.” The unraveling of that architecture, he warned, comes at a time of heightened geopolitical tension, eroding trust, and the highest risk of nuclear weapons use in decades.

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The timing could hardly be worse. Russia’s war in Ukraine has already strained relations with the West, while Washington has accused Moscow of violating arms control norms. Meanwhile, China’s rapid nuclear expansion adds a new dimension to the strategic equation, raising fears of a three-way arms race. Analysts at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) have cautioned that without limits, modernization programs in Washington and Moscow could accelerate, pushing the world toward a destabilizing spiral of escalation.

Yet Guterres sought to inject a sliver of hope. “Even in this moment of uncertainty, we must search for hope,” he said, describing the expiration as an opportunity to “reset and create an arms control regime fit for a rapidly evolving context.” His appeal echoed calls from non-nuclear states and civil society groups urging Washington and Moscow to return to negotiations.

Diplomatic reactions have been swift. European leaders expressed alarm, with Germany’s foreign minis-



White House archives

ter warning that “Europe is once again caught between nuclear giants without a safety net.” NATO officials stressed the need for dialogue, while China urged restraint, calling on both powers to “avoid a return to Cold War confrontation.” In contrast, hawks in Washington argued that the treaty had constrained U.S. capabilities while Russia allegedly cheated, suggesting that its expiration could allow America to modernize without restrictions.

The political weight of the moment is undeniable. For decades, arms control agreements were not just technical documents but symbols of a world striving to avoid annihilation. Their collapse signals a shift toward a more dangerous era, where mistrust and brinkmanship may replace transparency and restraint.

Experts warn that the absence of limits could lead to miscalculations. Without inspections, each side may assume the worst about the other’s capabilities, prompting preemptive buildups. “It is the classic security dilemma,” said a former U.S. negotiator. “When you don’t know what the other side is doing, you prepare for the worst, and that preparation itself becomes a threat.”

The expiration also raises questions about the future of non-proliferation. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), already under strain, depends on the credibility of nuclear powers to reduce arsenals. With New START gone, critics argue that Washington and Moscow risk undermining the

very foundation of global non-proliferation efforts.

In Moscow, officials framed the expiration as the fault of Washington, accusing the U.S. of failing to engage in serious negotiations. Russian state media portrayed the lapse as evidence of Western hostility, while Kremlin insiders suggested that Russia would pursue its own modernization programs without constraint. In Washington, the Biden administration expressed regret but insisted that Russia’s actions had made renewal impossible.

For ordinary citizens, the expiration may feel abstract, yet its implications are profound. The absence of limits means that the nuclear shadow grows longer, touching every corner of the globe. From European capitals to Asian metropolises, the fear of miscalculation or escalation looms larger.

The symbolism of Guterres’ warning on the day the treaty expired cannot be overstated. Delivered as the clock struck midnight, it was a reminder that history does not pause. The world has entered a new nuclear dawn, one without restraint, one where the lessons of the past risk being forgotten.

Whether Washington and Moscow heed the call to return to the negotiating table remains uncertain. What is clear is that the expiration of New START has altered the strategic landscape, ushering in a grave moment that will define global security for years to come.

The broader implications extend beyond the two superpowers. Regional powers

such as India, Pakistan, and North Korea may interpret the absence of limits as tacit permission to expand their own arsenals. Already, intelligence reports suggest that Pyongyang is accelerating its missile testing program, while Islamabad and New Delhi continue to modernize delivery systems. The ripple effect of New START’s expiration could therefore destabilize regions far removed from Washington and Moscow.

Civil society groups have responded with urgency. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, issued a statement urging renewed commitment to disarmament. “The expiration of New START is not just a bilateral issue,” ICAN said. “It is a global crisis that demands collective action.”

Meanwhile, academics and historians have drawn parallels to the early 1980s, when the absence of arms control agreements coincided with a dangerous escalation of tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Then, as now, the risk of miscalculation was high, and the world lived under the shadow of nuclear brinkmanship. The difference today is the presence of new technologies — cyber warfare, hypersonic missiles, and artificial intelligence — that complicate deterrence and increase the risk of accidental escalation. The expiration of New START also raises questions about leadership. Can Washington and Moscow muster the political will to negotiate a successor treat-

ty? Will domestic politics in both countries allow for compromise? In the U.S., partisan divisions over foreign policy complicate consensus, while in Russia, the Kremlin’s focus on Ukraine may limit its appetite for arms control.

Yet history suggests that even in moments of deep mistrust, arms control has been possible. The SALT talks of the 1970s occurred amid intense Cold War rivalry. The INF Treaty of 1987 was signed at a time of ideological confrontation. If leaders could find common ground then, advocates argue, they can do so now.

For Guterres, the expiration of New START is both a warning and a call to action. His appeal to “reset and create an arms control regime fit for a rapidly evolving context” reflects a recognition that the old frameworks may no longer suffice. A new treaty, he suggested, must account for emerging technologies, new nuclear actors, and the complexities of multipolar geopolitics.

As the world absorbs the gravity of the moment, one truth stands out: the expiration of New START is not the end of arms control, but a test of whether humanity can learn from its past. The stakes are existential. The choices made in Washington, Moscow, and beyond will determine whether the nuclear dawn of 2026 becomes an era of restraint or a descent into unchecked proliferation.

# Pedagogical Conditions For Using Project-Based Technology In Teaching Literature



By: Mamatova Mahbuba Abdulboqi  
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This article provides a theoretical and methodological analysis of the pedagogical conditions for using project-based technology in the process of teaching literature. The didactic potential of project-based learning in developing students' independent thinking, creative abilities, and literary-aesthetic competence is examined. Particular attention is paid to the organizational, methodological, and psychological factors necessary for the effective implementation of project activities in literature classes. The study substantiates the alignment of project-based technology with the

competency-based approach and contemporary educational requirements.

Keywords: project-based learning, literature education, pedagogical conditions, creative competence, independent learning, interdisciplinary integration.

## Introduction

In modern education, increasing students' learning autonomy and transforming them into active participants in the educational process has become a priority. In literature education, special emphasis is placed on developing students' aesthetic perception, literary thinking, and communicative competence. In this context, project-based technology emerges as an effective innovative pedagogical approach that enhances the quality and effectiveness of literature instruction.

Project-based learning enables students to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical activities through independent inquiry and creative tasks. This approach contributes to the development of critical thinking skills and encourages learners to express their personal interpretations of literary works.

Didactic Potential of Project-Based Technology in Literature

## Education

Project-based technology is oriented toward solving problem-based tasks and fostering active cognitive engagement. In literature classes, project activities promote in-depth analysis of literary texts, exploration of character systems, interpretation of authorial ideas, and the formulation of individual viewpoints.

Through project work, students engage in presentations, creative writing, dramatizations, and research-oriented tasks. As a result, their literary knowledge becomes systematized, and their independent learning competence is significantly enhanced.

## Pedagogical Conditions for Implementing Project-Based Technology

Project activities should be designed in accordance with clearly articulated educational goals. In literature teaching, project objectives must focus on developing students' literary thinking and reinforcing theoretical knowledge through practical application.

## Consideration of Students' Individual Characteristics

The selection of project topics should take into account students' age, cognitive abilities, and interests. This approach increases motivation and ensures active participation in

## project activities.

### Creation of a Motivational Learning Environment

The effective use of project-based learning requires a supportive and motivating educational environment. Problem-based questions, real-life contexts, and creative tasks play a crucial role in stimulating learners' interest.

### Teacher's Role as Facilitator and Advisor

Within project-based learning, the teacher acts not as a controller but as a facilitator and consultant who guides students throughout the learning process. This role fosters learners' independence and responsibility.

### Integration of Individual and Collaborative Activities

Project-based activities should combine individual and group work to develop cooperation, communication skills, and a sense of responsibility among students.

### Ensuring Interdisciplinary Integration

Project-based technology allows literature education to be integrated with history, art, and linguistics. Such interdisciplinary connections contribute to the formation of holistic knowledge and broaden students' perspectives.

### Systematic Assessment and Reflec-

## tion

Clear assessment criteria and reflective practices are essential components of project-based learning. Evaluation of project outcomes and self-assessment activities help students analyze their learning experiences and improve future performance.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the use of project-based technology in teaching literature plays a significant role in fostering students' creative and critical thinking skills. The effectiveness of this approach largely depends on the proper organization of pedagogical conditions. Project-based learning enhances the quality of literature education and aligns it with contemporary educational standards and competency-based requirements.

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## Politics

# Uzbekistan's Adolat Party and the Politics of Social Justice

As Uzbekistan advances political and economic reforms, the country's Social Democratic "Adolat" Party positions itself as a voice for social justice, legal equality, and inclusive development within a changing multi-party system.

As Central Asia's most populous nation continues its gradual transformation, Uzbekistan's political landscape is evolving alongside broader social and economic reforms. Within this framework, the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan occupies a distinct niche, advocating policies centered on social justice, rule of law, and state responsibility toward citizens.

Founded in 1995, shortly after Uzbekistan gained independence, Adolat emerged at a time when the country faced the complex task of nation-building amid economic transition. The party's formation reflected a growing concern that rapid reforms should be balanced with protections for ordinary citizens, particularly in areas such as education, healthcare, and labor rights.

Ideologically, Adolat aligns with center-left social democratic principles, supporting a socially oriented market economy. The party argues that while market mechanisms are

essential for growth, the state must play an active role in ensuring equal opportunities and safeguarding vulnerable groups. This stance differentiates Adolat from parties that emphasize either stronger state control or liberal economic policies.

In Uzbekistan's parliament and local councils, Adolat representatives have consistently raised issues related to judicial fairness, access to public services, employment conditions, and environmental responsibility. Although it is not the country's largest political force, the party contributes to legislative debate and policy diversity, reinforcing the gradual institutionalization of political pluralism.

Public engagement forms another pillar of Adolat's activity. Through forums, outreach programs, and educational initiatives, the party seeks to raise legal awareness and civic participation. Particular emphasis is placed on involving youth and women, groups increasingly seen as drivers of social change in Uzbekistan's modernization process.

The broader political environment, however, presents challenges. As public expectations rise and access to information expands, political parties face increasing pressure to



demonstrate practical results rather than ideological consistency alone. For Adolat, maintaining relevance will depend on its ability to translate social-democratic values into concrete policy outcomes that address everyday concerns.

Ultimately, the Adolat Social Dem-

ocratic Party reflects a wider debate within Uzbek society: how to reconcile economic reform with social fairness, and how to ensure that development benefits all segments of the population. In this sense, the party's agenda resonates beyond national borders, echoing global dis-

cussions about justice, governance, and inclusive growth.

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US and Iran

# US and Iran talks to begin as fears of direct conflict continue

*Senior US and Iranian officials are expected to meet in Oman later for direct talks amid a crisis that has raised fears of a military confrontation between the two countries.*

By: BBC.  
xxxxxxxxxxxx



## Worth Noting:

- The US, which is demanding Iran freezes its nuclear programme and discards its stockpile of enriched uranium, had said the talks should also involve Iran's ballistic missiles, the country's support for regional armed groups and its treatment of its citizens.

- Iran, however, has said the discussions will be limited to its nuclear programme, and it is unclear if these differences have been resolved.

- In recent weeks, President Donald Trump has threatened to bomb Iran if it does not reach a deal. The US has sent thousands of troops and what Trump has described as an "armada" to the region, including an aircraft carrier along with other warships as well as fighter jets.

- Iran has vowed to respond to an attack with force, threatening to strike American military assets in the Middle East and Israel.

Senior US and Iranian officials are expected to meet in Oman later for direct talks amid a crisis that has raised fears of a military confrontation between the two countries.

The discussions come after a US military build-up in the Middle East in response to Iran's violent repression of nationwide anti-government protests last month, that human rights groups say killed many thousands of people.

Uncertainty over the location and scope had threatened to derail the talks, which are part of a diplomatic effort by regional mediators to de-escalate tensions.

Both countries remain far apart in their positions. The hope is that, if successful, the discussions could lead to a framework for negotiations.

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The Iranian delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who last week said his country's armed forces were "with their fingers on the trigger", while the US will be represented by special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. This will be the first meeting involving US and Iranian officials since the war between Israel and Iran last June, when the US bombed Iran's three main nuclear facilities. Iran says its uranium enrichment activity stopped after the attacks.

For Iran's embattled leaders, the talks could be the last chance to avert US military action that could further destabilise the regime, which analysts say is in its weakest position since it came to power following the 1979

Islamic Revolution.

Trump's threats came as Iran's security forces brutally repressed large-scale demonstrations, which were triggered by a deepening economic crisis, and saw protesters calling for the end of the Islamic Republic.

The Human Rights Activists News Agency, a Washington-based group, said it had confirmed at least 6,883 deaths, warning that the number could be much higher, and that more than 50,000 people had been arrested.

The current crisis has brought back to discussions the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, which has been at the centre of a long-running dispute with the West. For decades, Iran has said its programme is for peaceful purposes, while the US and Israel have accused it of being part of an effort to develop a weapon.

Iran says it has the right to enrich uranium in its own territory and has rejected calls for its stockpile of highly enriched uranium – 400kg (880lb) – to be transferred to a third country.

Officials have indicated being open to concessions, which could include the creation of a regional consortium for uranium enrichment, as proposed during

talks with the US that collapsed when Israel launched its surprise war last year.

At the same time, Iran says demands to limit the country's ballistic missile programme and to end the support for proxies in the region – an alliance Tehran calls the "Axis of Resistance" that includes Hamas in Gaza, militias in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen – are unacceptable and a breach of its sovereignty.

On Tuesday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said he had instructed Araghchi to "pursue fair and equitable negotiations" with the US, "provided that a suitable environment exists". In any case, Iran is expected to demand the lifting of sanctions that have crippled its economy. Opponents of the regime say any relief would give the clerical rulers a lifeline.

For the US, the meeting, depending on its outcome, could offer an offramp for Trump from his military threats.

Regional countries are concerned that a US strike could lead to a wider conflict or long-term chaos in Iran, and have warned that air power alone will not be able to topple the Iranian leadership.

Asked if Iran's Supreme

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei should be worried, Trump told NBC News on Wednesday: "I would say he should be very worried. Yeah, he should be".

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the discussions would have to go beyond the nuclear issue for "something meaningful" to be achieved.

"I'm not sure you can reach a deal with these guys, but we're going to try to find out. We don't see there's any harm in trying to figure out if there's something that can be done," he said.

The talks, initially planned to be held in Istanbul, are an effort led by Egypt, Turkey and Qatar to defuse tensions.

Iran, however, asked at the last minute for the location of the meeting to be changed to Oman, which hosted discussions last year, and for it to be limited to Iranian and American officials.

# NEWS PAPER



## IN BUSINESS

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## WORLD

# Namibia's Strategic Nuclear Pivot: How UNAM's School of Applied Nuclear Sciences Positions a Rising African Nation on the Global Nuclear Stage



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

@themtkenyatimes

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From Uranium Exporter to Knowledge Hub: Namibia's Strategic Transformation

Namibia has long been recognized as one of Africa's major uranium producers, ranking among the world's top five uranium-exporting nations. The Rössing and Husab mines have established the country as a reliable supplier to global nuclear fuel markets. However, this mining-focused identity has historically limited Namibia's role to resource extraction rather than value-chain participation.

The establishment of SANS marks a deliberate pivot from being merely a raw material supplier to becoming a knowledge economy participant in the nuclear sector. This transformation mirrors successful transitions seen in other resource-rich nations that have invested in downstream capabilities, from Kazakhstan's nuclear fuel fabrication initiatives to Canada's CANDU reactor expertise built upon uranium mining heritage.

Dr. Roswita Hamunyela, SANS Project Manager, articulates this strategic vision clearly: human capacity forms the foundation of nuclear readiness. This insight reflects lessons learned from countries like the United Arab Emirates, which invested heavily in workforce development years before its Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant became operational, partnering with institutions globally to train Emirati nuclear professionals.

Addressing Africa's Nuclear Skills Gap

The African continent faces a paradoxical situation in the nuclear sector. While several nations—including South Africa, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria—are actively pursuing nuclear energy programs, the region suffers from a severe shortage of qualified nuclear professionals. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has repeatedly emphasized that human resource development represents the most significant bottleneck for expanding peaceful nuclear applications in Africa. SANS arrives at a critical juncture. South Africa's nuclear sector, despite decades of experience with the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, has struggled with skills retention and renewal. Many African coun-



tries exploring nuclear options find themselves dependent on foreign expertise at every level—from regulatory frameworks to reactor operations. This dependency raises concerns about safety, sovereignty, and sustainable program management. By establishing a dedicated nuclear education institution aligned with IAEA standards, Namibia is positioning itself to address not only its domestic needs but potentially serve as a regional training hub. The multidisciplinary approach—spanning nuclear medicine, radiation protection, environmental monitoring, agriculture, uranium value-addition, and energy systems—reflects the comprehensive skill sets required for effective nuclear governance.

Global Relevance: Meeting International Nuclear Workforce Challenges

The timing of SANS's establishment intersects with global nuclear industry concerns about workforce sustainability. The nuclear sector worldwide faces an aging workforce crisis, with significant portions of experienced professionals approaching retirement. The Nuclear Energy Agency projects substantial workforce gaps across member countries through 2040, particularly in specialized fields like nuclear engineering, health physics, and radiochemistry.

Namibia's proactive approach offers potential collaboration opportunities for established nuclear nations seeking to expand global capacity. The school's emphasis on IAEA alignment positions graduates to meet international standards, potentially creating pathways for Namibian professionals to contribute to global nuclear operations, re-

search institutions, and regulatory bodies.

This model of early, comprehensive workforce development contrasts sharply with reactive approaches seen elsewhere. Countries that have introduced nuclear programs without adequate prior human capital investment have experienced costly delays, safety concerns, and diminished public confidence. Vietnam's decision to cancel its nuclear program in 2016 was partly attributed to insufficient domestic technical capacity and the high costs of foreign dependency.

Multidisciplinary Applications: Beyond Energy

SANS's curriculum scope reflects a sophisticated understanding that nuclear science extends far beyond electricity generation. The school's focus areas encompass critical domains where nuclear applications deliver immediate developmental value:

**Nuclear Medicine and Healthcare:** Radioisotopes play essential roles in cancer diagnostics and treatment, cardiac imaging, and therapeutic interventions. Many African nations lack sufficient nuclear medicine specialists, forcing patients to seek treatment abroad. UNAM's graduates could address regional healthcare gaps while supporting Namibia's medical services expansion.

**Agricultural Innovation:** Radiation technology enables plant mutation breeding, pest sterilization, and food preservation. The IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme has successfully deployed these technologies across developing nations to enhance food security. Namib-

ian-trained agricultural nuclear scientists could advance both domestic food production and regional agricultural resilience.

**Environmental Monitoring:** As climate change intensifies, nuclear analytical techniques provide precise environmental assessment capabilities—measuring pollutants, tracking water resources, and monitoring ecosystem changes. These skills align directly with Namibia's National Development Plan objectives around environmental sustainability.

**Industrial Applications:** Non-destructive testing, process optimization, and material analysis using radiation technologies support mining, manufacturing, and infrastructure development. Namibia's established mining sector could benefit significantly from domestically trained industrial radiography and radiation safety professionals.

This multifaceted approach ensures that SANS graduates find immediate employment opportunities across sectors, creating sustainable career pathways that justify the educational investment while distributing nuclear expertise throughout the economy.

Institutional Leadership and Strategic Vision

The involvement of Prof. Dr. Kenneth Matengu, UNAM's Vice-Chancellor, as SANS Project Director signals institutional commitment at the highest level. His emphasis on ensuring nuclear advancement "with its own people, trained to the highest international standards, grounded in safety, ethics and public trust" reflects critical lessons from global

nuclear development.

Public acceptance remains one of nuclear energy's most persistent challenges worldwide. Programs perceived as externally imposed or lacking transparent domestic oversight frequently face public opposition, as seen in various countries from Austria to the Philippines. By prioritizing national workforce development from the outset, Namibia is building the domestic expertise foundation necessary for informed public discourse and trustworthy program oversight.

The school's operational structure under Dr. Hamunyela's management, with explicit alignment to IAEA standards and international best practices, demonstrates awareness that nuclear programs exist within global regulatory and safety frameworks. This approach facilitates future international collaborations, technology transfers, and potential support from multilateral institutions.

Regional Hub Potential: Southern African Nuclear Excellence

Namibia's geographic and political position enhances SANS's potential as a regional nuclear education center. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region includes several countries exploring nuclear applications—from Tanzania's uranium resources to Zambia's medical isotope needs. Zimbabwe has operated a research reactor for decades but lacks comprehensive training infrastructure.

SANS could evolve into a shared regional asset, similar to how Ghana's Graduate School of Nu-

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WORLD

# Namibia's Strategic Nuclear Pivot: How UNAM's School of Applied Nuclear Sciences Positions a Rising African Nation on the Global Nuclear Stage

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clear and Allied Sciences serves multiple West African nations. Such regional cooperation amplifies impact while distributing costs, creating economies of scale that individual national programs struggle to achieve.

The school's openness to "partnerships with universities, research institutes, regulators, industry and multilateral agencies across Africa and globally" positions it within established international nuclear education networks. Institutions like the African School of Nuclear, Business and Institutional Management (AFSNBIM) and the IAEA's various capacity-building programs provide models for effective regional collaboration.

## Challenges and Critical Success Factors

While SANS represents a promising initiative, its success depends on addressing several challenges common to nuclear education programs in developing contexts:

**Sustained Investment:** Nuclear education requires specialized facilities, equipment, and safety infrastructure representing substantial ongoing financial commitments. Maintaining program quality demands consistent resource allocation beyond initial establishment.

**Faculty Recruitment and Retention:** Attracting and retaining qualified nuclear science faculty competes with higher-paying industry positions and opportunities abroad. Strategic partnerships with established nuclear institutions for faculty exchanges and visiting professorships may prove essential.

**Research Infrastructure:** Applied nuclear sciences demand hands-on training with actual radiation sources, analytical equipment, and simulation facilities. Progressive infrastructure development aligned with curriculum expansion will be crucial.

**Industry Coordination:** Ensuring graduates meet actual workforce needs requires ongoing dialogue with potential employers—hospitals, mines, regulators, research institutions, and potential energy sector employers. Internship programs and industry advisory boards can strengthen this alignment.

**Safety Culture Development:** Nuclear education must instill rigorous safety consciousness from foundational courses through advanced training. This cultural element dis-

tinguishes nuclear professionals from other technical fields and requires deliberate, sustained emphasis.

**Regulatory Framework Evolution:** As Namibia's nuclear capabilities expand, regulatory infrastructure must keep pace. SANS can support this by producing qualified personnel for the National Radiation Protection Authority and related oversight bodies.

## International Collaboration Opportunities

SANS's development creates multiple pathways for international engagement that could accelerate its impact:

**Bilateral Partnerships:** Established nuclear education institutions in countries like France, Russia, South Korea, Canada, and the United States have programs specifically supporting nuclear capacity building in developing nations. These partnerships can provide curriculum development support, faculty training, and equipment access.

**IAEA Technical Cooperation:** The IAEA's educational support programs have assisted nuclear education development globally. SANS could access training materials, expert missions, fellowship programs, and regional workshop opportunities.

**Research Collaboration Networks:** Joining international research networks in fields like radiation biology, environmental radiometry, or nuclear medicine enables SANS faculty and students to participate in cutting-edge research while building institutional reputation.

**Private Sector Engagement:** Nuclear technology vendors, medical equipment manufacturers, and mining companies have vested interests in developing qualified workforces in emerging markets. Partnerships can provide equipment, internships, and curriculum input while ensuring graduates meet industry standards.

## The Broader Developmental Context

Namibia's nuclear workforce development initiative aligns with its broader developmental trajectory. The country's National Development Plan 6 explicitly calls for nuclear professional development to support energy security, healthcare advancement, and industrial growth. SANS operationalizes these strategic objectives through concrete educational outputs.

This integration of nuclear capacity building into national development planning distinguishes Namibia's approach from more opportunistic nuclear programs driven primar-



ily by energy crisis responses. The comprehensive perspective—viewing nuclear science as cross-cutting technological capability rather than solely an energy solution—maximizes developmental returns on educational investments.

The emphasis on independence and domestic capability reflects hard-learned lessons from other developmental sectors. Countries that have relied indefinitely on external technical assistance often find themselves constrained in decision-making autonomy and burdened by ongoing dependency costs. Building sovereign capability, while more challenging initially, provides long-term strategic flexibility.

## A Model for Resource-Rich Nations

Namibia's approach offers instructive lessons for other resource-rich developing nations considering nuclear programs. The sequencing—education before infrastructure, skills before systems—inverts the typical pathway where countries pursue reactor construction while simultaneously scrambling to develop workforce capacity.

This model acknowledges that nuclear programs represent multi-generational commitments requiring sustained institutional knowledge. Starting with education creates a domestic expert community capable of engaging meaningfully in subsequent program decisions—from technology selection to regulatory development to public communication.

Countries like Kenya, working toward its first nuclear power plant, or the Philippines, reconsidering nuclear options, might benefit from examining Namibia's approach. The emphasis on multidisciplinary applications also ensures that even if energy program timelines extend, nuclear education investments deliver value through medical, agricultural, and industrial applications.

## Measuring Success: Key Perfor-

## mance Indicators

SANS's impact should be evaluated across multiple dimensions beyond simple enrollment numbers:

**Graduate Placement:** Employment rates of graduates in relevant sectors within Namibia and regionally indicate program relevance and quality.

**Research Output:** Publications, patents, and research projects demonstrate faculty and student engagement with contemporary nuclear science challenges.

**Industry Partnerships:** Internship programs, joint research initiatives, and employer satisfaction metrics reflect workforce alignment.

**International Recognition:** Participation in international conferences, receipt of competitive fellowships, and program accreditations validate quality standards.

**Public Engagement:** Effective science communication and public education initiatives build societal understanding essential for informed nuclear policy discussions.

**Regional Impact:** Students and partnerships from neighboring countries indicate successful positioning as a regional resource.

These metrics, tracked systematically, will provide evidence of whether SANS achieves its ambitious objectives.

## Conclusion: Early Action as Strategic Advantage

UNAM's establishment of the School of Applied Nuclear Sciences represents a significant strategic commitment that positions Namibia advantageously within the global nuclear sector. By prioritizing workforce development before infrastructure construction, the university is building the human capital foundation essential for safe, sus-

tainable, and independent nuclear program governance.

For the global nuclear community, Namibia's initiative offers both opportunity and responsibility. International institutions, established nuclear nations, and industry stakeholders can support this promising development through partnerships, knowledge sharing, and resource provision. Such support represents investment in global nuclear safety culture, as well-trained professionals anywhere contribute to overall sector competence.

As Prof. Matengu emphasizes, Namibia's development choices must be matched by domestic capability. In an increasingly multipolar world where technological sovereignty carries strategic weight, SANS represents more than an academic program—it embodies national determination to engage with advanced technology on terms of informed participation rather than passive dependency.

The school's success could catalyze similar initiatives across Africa and other developing regions, demonstrating that proactive, comprehensive approaches to nuclear capacity building deliver superior outcomes compared to reactive, infrastructure-first strategies. In this sense, Namibia may be establishing not just a school, but a model.

For international readers, particularly those in nuclear education, policy, or industry sectors, SANS represents an emerging partner institution worthy of attention and support. Its development trajectory over coming years will provide valuable insights into effective nuclear workforce development models for resource-rich developing nations navigating the complex pathway toward peaceful nuclear applications.

## America

# Trump's Jungle Post: A Digital Firestorm That Exposed the White House's Fault Lines

By: Diaspora Times Team  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

It began with a single post, late at night, on Truth Social. Within hours, it had spiraled into a political firestorm that rattled Washington, embarrassed the White House, and reignited questions about Donald Trump's judgment in the digital age. The video — crude, racially offensive, and unmistakably targeted — depicted former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama as primates in a jungle. It was not satire, nor parody, but a grotesque caricature that carried echoes of America's darkest racial tropes. And for nearly twelve hours, it sat on the official account of the President of the United States.

The backlash was immediate. Civil rights leaders, Democrats, and even Republicans condemned the imagery. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, a close Trump ally and one of the most prominent Black Republicans in Congress, called it "the most racist thing I've seen out of this White House." The NAACP issued a blistering statement, describing the video as "a deliberate attempt to dehumanize Black leaders during Black History Month." MercoPress

Yet, in the opening hours of the controversy, the White House did not retreat. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt dismissed the outrage as "fake," insisting the clip was merely "an internet meme video depicting President Trump as the King of the Jungle and Democrats as characters from The Lion King." That defense collapsed by mid-morning Friday, when the video was quietly deleted. A White House official then claimed a staffer had "erroneously" posted the clip, describing it as an error. MercoPress

But Trump himself refused to apologize. Speaking aboard Air Force One, he insisted he had only watched the beginning of the video, which focused on debunked claims of voter fraud. "I looked at the beginning of it. It was fine," he said. "Nobody knew that was in the end. Somebody slipped and missed a very small part." When pressed by reporters, Trump was defiant: "No. I didn't make a mistake."

Vice President Kamala Harris rejected the White House's explanation outright. "No one believes this cover-up," she said. "We are all clear-eyed about who



Donald Trump

Donald Trump is and what he believes."

The incident fits a familiar pattern in Trump's political life: a provocative act, a wave of outrage, a half-hearted defense, and a refusal to apologize. From his promotion of the "birther" conspiracy against Obama years ago to his recent amplification of false claims about election fraud, Trump has repeatedly tested the boundaries of political discourse.

This time, however, the timing was particularly damaging. The video surfaced during Black History Month, a period when the nation reflects on the struggles and achievements of African Americans. For many, the imagery was not just offensive but symbolic of a deeper disregard for racial sensitivity at the highest levels of government.

Civil rights groups seized on the moment. The NAACP accused Trump of "weaponizing racism for political gain." The Congressional Black Caucus demanded accountability, calling the incident "a stain on the presidency."

Perhaps more striking was the reaction from within Trump's own party. Senator Scott's condemnation was joined by other Republicans who privately expressed alarm. One GOP strategist told Politico the episode was "a nightmare scenario — the kind of thing that alienates

suburban voters and energizes Democrats."

The White House's shifting explanations only deepened the unease. Initially, officials defended the post. Then they blamed a staffer. Finally, Trump himself claimed ignorance of the video's ending. The contradictions fueled suspicion that the administration was scrambling to contain a self-inflicted crisis.

The controversy underscores the risks of digital politics in the Trump era. Social media has long been Trump's weapon of choice, a direct line to his supporters and a platform for unfiltered messaging. But it has also been a source of repeated crises, from tweets that sparked diplomatic incidents to posts that spread misinformation.

This latest episode highlights the blurred lines of accountability. Was the video truly posted by a staffer without Trump's knowledge? Or was it shared with tacit approval until the backlash became untenable? The White House's explanations left more questions than answers.

The uproar comes at a time when Trump is seeking to consolidate his political base ahead of the 2026 midterms. His campaign strategy has leaned heavily on themes of grievance, portraying himself as a victim of media bias and political persecu-

tion. The video, with its mix of racist imagery and false claims of voter fraud, fit neatly into that narrative — until it backfired.

For Democrats, the incident was a gift. Harris's sharp rebuke framed Trump as unapologetically racist. Congressional Democrats amplified the message, linking the controversy to broader concerns about Trump's fitness for office.

Internationally, the episode drew attention as well. European outlets like DW and BBC reported on the controversy, noting the White House's initial defense and subsequent retreat.

In the aftermath, Trump sought to reclaim the narrative. He described himself as "the least racist president you've had in a long time." He insisted the video was "a very strong post in terms of voter fraud," and suggested the offensive imagery was a minor detail overlooked by staff.

But the damage was done. The incident reinforced perceptions of Trump as a leader unwilling to acknowledge mistakes, even when confronted with blatant racism. Among Trump's core supporters, the controversy may have little impact. Many dismissed the backlash as media hysteria, echoing the White House's initial claim of "fake outrage." But among independents and moderates, the episode risks deep-

ening doubts about Trump's judgment.

Political analysts noted that the incident could have lasting effects. "It's not just about one video," said a Georgetown professor of political communication. "It's about a pattern of behavior that raises questions about whether Trump can govern responsibly in a diverse society."

The deletion of the racist video targeting the Obamas was more than a digital misstep. It was a moment that exposed the fault lines of Trump's presidency: the reliance on social media, the refusal to apologize, the strained relationship with racial politics, and the uneasy alliance with Republicans who increasingly find themselves defending the indefensible.

For the White House, the episode was a day of damage control. For Trump, it was another chapter in a long-running saga of controversy and defiance. And for America, it was a reminder that in the age of digital politics, a single post can ignite a storm that reverberates far beyond the screen.

## Worth Noting:

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## Diaspora

## The Right to Insult Should Be Protected

*Speech that merely insults, annoys or makes people uncomfortable is not a criminal offence and should not be targeted in attempts to “clean up” the information space.*



By: Victor Bwire  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

• There are far more serious threats within digital spaces that demand attention. These include disinformation, information manipulation, recruitment into violent extremism, radicalisation, erosion of media credibility and declining public trust. Responding to these challenges through broad laws targeting speech will not work. Lawmaking will never catch up with innovation or human creativity.

• What societies urgently need is not more restrictive legislation but stronger media, information and digital literacy. Research consistently shows that literacy empowers citizens to navigate misinformation, evaluate content critically and participate responsibly in public discourse. These skills should be institutionalised, including through formal and informal education systems.



Speech that merely insults, annoys or makes people uncomfortable is not a criminal offence and should not be targeted in attempts to “clean up” the information space. While public discourse in Kenya often contains crude, offensive or distasteful language, especially in political rallies, places of worship and community gatherings, criminalising such speech is neither effective nor necessary. There are far more serious threats within digital spaces that demand attention. These include disinformation, information manipulation, recruitment into violent extremism, radicalisation, erosion of media credibility and declining public trust. Responding to these challenges through broad laws targeting speech will not work. Lawmaking will never catch up with innovation or human creativity.

What societies urgently need is not more restric-

tive legislation but stronger media, information and digital literacy. Research consistently shows that literacy empowers citizens to navigate misinformation, evaluate content critically and participate responsibly in public discourse. These skills should be institutionalised, including through formal and informal education systems.

Africans are deeply oral societies, and insults form part of our cultural expression and linguistic richness. From market days and cultural ceremonies to funerals, weddings and traditional songs, verbal sparring and satire are woven into everyday life. Attempts to legislate away these realities misunderstand both culture and communication. Rather than criminalising expression, governments should invest in helping societies embrace technology, innovation and creativity.

International law provides clear guidance. Speech is

primarily regulated under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Global free-expression experts agree on a simple principle: speech that intentionally incites genocide or violence may be criminalised; speech that is merely disturbing, shocking or offensive should not.

Kenya's digital space is vibrant and youthful. With millions of young people actively engaged in governance and public affairs online, attempting to police insult or annoyance would be enormously costly and counterproductive. National resources are better spent on education, literacy and civic engagement than on surveillance and repression.

It is therefore troubling that journalists and content creators continue to face harassment by security

agencies for alleged criminal defamation or “insulting” those in authority while commenting on matters of public interest. In 2010, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights called for the abolition of criminal defamation laws. In Kenya, institutions such as the Media Council of Kenya's Complaints Commission exist precisely to decriminalise press-related disputes.

Kenyan courts have also provided important guidance. Criminal defamation provisions and sections of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act have been declared unconstitutional for violating freedom of expression and press freedom, although some rulings were later overturned on appeal. While freedom of expression is not unlimited, its recognised limitations are narrow and clear: national security, public health and incitement to hatred or violence. Protection of individ-

ual reputations is not among these exceptions, and even the Data Protection Act exempts journalists reporting on matters of public interest. Criminal defamation and insult laws remain among the most significant obstacles to independent media and free expression across Africa. This was recognised as early as 2007 when African journalists and media organisations adopted the Declaration of Table Mountain, calling on governments to decriminalise defamation as a cornerstone of press freedom.

A society committed to democracy must tolerate speech that annoys, offends or insults. Criminal law should be reserved for real harm, not bruised egos.

# YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

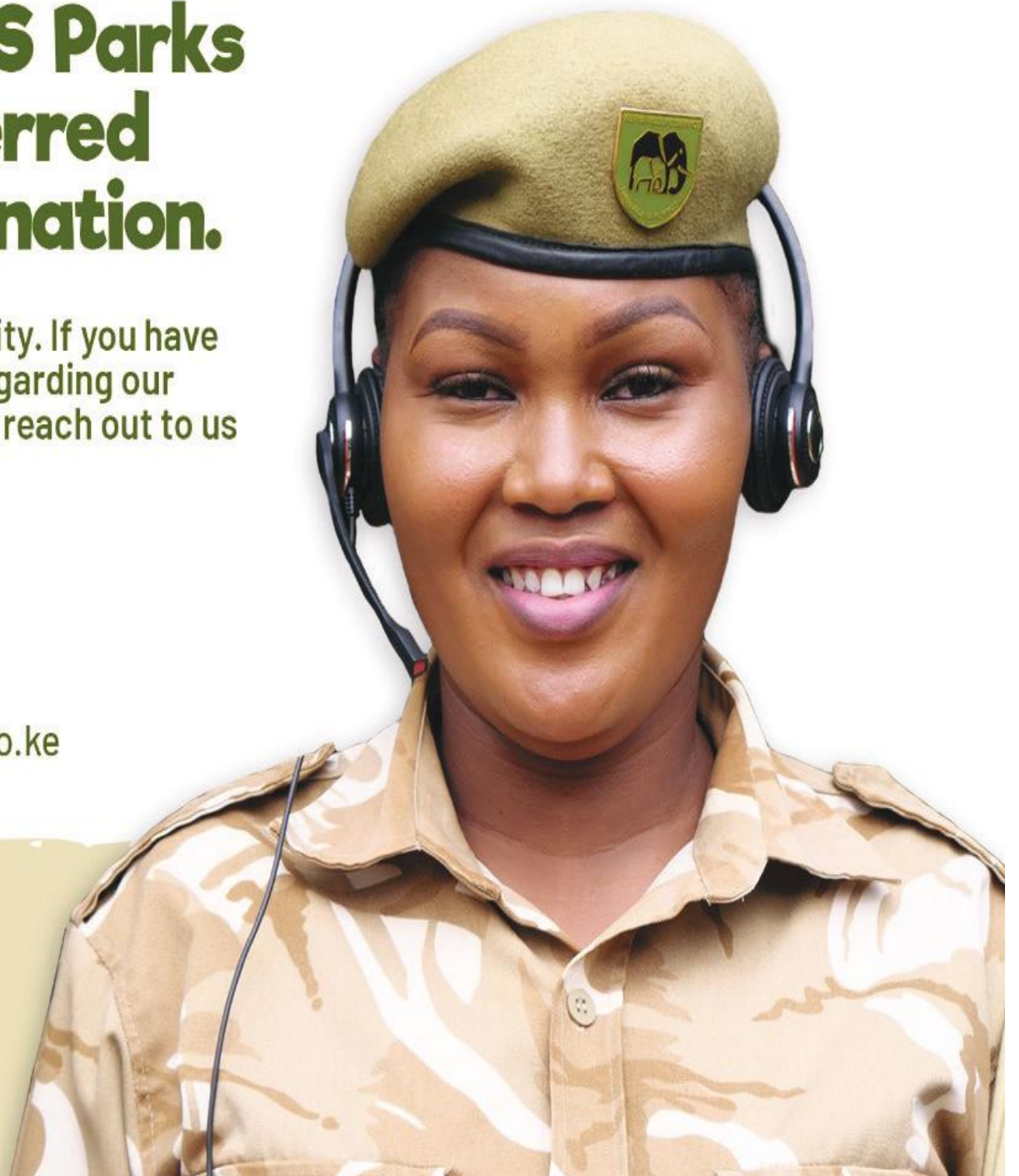
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# Poetry And Journalism Are Not Just Two Creative Fields That Occasionally intersect or collide, But Two Different Ways Of Creating Meaning In Modern Society



By: Tarana Turan Rahimli  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Interview with the poet, scholar, public intellectual, and publisher and editor-in-chief of the literary and cultural newspaper Nacional published in Albania, Dr. Mujë Buçpapaj

Interviewer: Prof. Dr. Terane Turan Rehimli, Azerbaijan

T.T.Rahimli: Poetry and journalism, one the voice of the inner world, the other a chronicle of time. At what moment in your creative work do these two fields converge, and at what moment do they collide?

M. Buçpapaj: From a theoretical perspective, the relationship between poetry and journalism may be read as an interdisciplinary interaction among aesthetics, hermeneutics, and media studies. Poetry and journalism are not merely modes of expression, but discursive systems governed by different regimes of truth, in Foucauldian terms. Journalism operates within a referential and verificatory paradigm, whereas poetry functions within a symbolic regime, where truth is not proven but experienced and interpreted.

From an aesthetic standpoint, poetry represents what Theodor W. Adorno defined as the “relative autonomy of art”: a space in which social reality is not mechanically reproduced but transformed through form.

Journalism, by contrast, belongs to what Jürgen Habermas calls the public sphere, where language performs a communicative, rational, and mediating function between the individual and society. The convergence of these two fields occurs precisely at the moment when aesthetic form and the public function of language intertwine, producing a hybrid discourse in which factuality and sensibility coexist.

Hermeneutics offers another interpretive key. According to Hans-Georg Gadamer, meaning arises from the dialogue between the text and the reader’s historical horizon. Journalism operates within a narrow temporal horizon dictated by immediacy, while poetry expands the hermeneutic horizon by granting historical experience a trans-temporal dimension. In this sense, my poetry has often functioned as a delayed hermeneutics of realities experienced



Mujo Bucpapaj

through journalism: what could not be said immediately due to political, ethical, or professional constraints later found expression in poetic form.

From a media-theoretical perspective, modern journalism is conditioned by the logic of speed, what Paul Virilio calls “dromology,” namely the tyranny of real time. Poetry, by contrast, resists this logic by imposing its own inner rhythm and by creating a counter-hegemonic space against the inflation of information. The collision between poetry and journalism occurs precisely here: one demands immediate reaction, the other requires reflective distance.

Yet this collision produces a creative synthesis. As demonstrated by the tradition of “new journalism” and literary reportage—from Kapuściński to Tom Wolfe—journalism can absorb narrative and symbolic devices without losing its informative function. In the same way, my poetry has absorbed the factual sensibili-

ty and ethical responsibility of journalism, becoming a form of what may be called a “poetics of testimony.”

In conclusion, poetry and journalism are not merely two creative domains that occasionally converge or collide, but two distinct modes of meaning production in modern society. They embody the tension between aesthetics and ethics, between eternity and actuality—a tension that, in my creative experience, has not been an obstacle, but a necessary condition for intellectual and artistic depth.

T.T.Rahimli: In the modern world, where truth is often relativized, by which criteria do you measure it?

M. Buçpapaj: As a scholar of literature and a practicing journalist, I perceive truth on two levels. On the journalistic level, it is measured through rigorous fact-checking, documentation, and the courage to speak even when there is personal cost. On the literary level, truth is what

Milan Kundera would call “the truth of existence,” that is, the correspondence between human experience and artistic expression. The relativization of truth is always a sign of moral crisis; therefore, for me, the ultimate criterion remains conscience, professional integrity, and human honesty.

T.T.Rahimli: Do moral and ethical limits of language exist?

M. Buçpapaj: The history of Western thought, from Aristotle to Hannah Arendt, teaches us that language is always bound to responsibility. Freedom of expression is not a license for destruction. As a media director and as a former head of the Albanian copyright institution for several years, I have always been convinced that language without ethics turns freedom into farce. The boundary is not censorship, but human dignity.

T.T.Rahimli: Can the poet still be the conscience of

society in the 21st century, or is this a romantic expectation?

M. Buçpapaj: If the poet imagines himself as a prophet, that is romantic. But if he understands himself as a witness, then his role remains essential. In the 21st century, the poet does not lead the masses, but resists the banalization of language. As Czesław Miłosz said, poetry is “an act of memory against forgetting.” This makes it still indispensable.

T.T. Rahimli: As editor-in-chief and founder of the newspaper Nacional, how do you balance poetic sensibility with journalistic responsibility?

M. Buçpapaj: As editor-in-chief and founder of Nacional, I have conceived the balance between poetic sensibility and journalistic responsibility

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# Poetry And Journalism Are Not Just Two Creative Fields That Occasionally intersect or collide, But Two Different Ways Of Creating Meaning In Modern Society

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as a complementary relationship, not as tension or compromise. My referential model has always been elite European cultural journalism, where language is not reduced to an instrument of rapid information, but preserves aesthetic, ethical, and intellectual density. In this sense, I have been guided by Albert Camus’s principle that “the writer’s task is to serve both truth and freedom,” an axiom that remains as valid for cultural journalism as for literature.

In this spirit, Nacional has been built as a consolidated platform of intellectual and aesthetic communication, with a distinct international impact in promoting contemporary literature, the arts, and critical thought. Poetic sensibility helps me preserve the human, symbolic, and reflective dimension of the text, transforming it into a dialogical space where authors, poets, scholars, and artists from diverse cultures interact through interpretation and debate; journalistic responsibility, on the other hand, imposes methodological and ethical discipline, ensuring that factuality, verification, and truth remain non-negotiable principles.

In this way, Nacional functions not only as an informative medium, but as a meeting point for international cultural exchange, where national literary traditions enter into comparative dialogue with global currents of art and thought, positioning the Albanian word in a transnational space and affirming culture as an instrument of dialogue, understanding, and intercultural conscience.

T.T.Rahimli: How has the historical burden of the Balkans influenced your way of thinking and writing?

M. Buçpapaj: The Balkans have often been described by outsiders as a place that “produces history” more than it consumes it—that is, a region where historical events, conflicts, and major political changes abound, yet often without relief or stability for the people. The Albanian writer Ismail Kadare has frequently addressed this “historical burden” in his essays and novels, emphasizing that people live under the weight of the past while history appears to repeat itself. The Balkans are a European region marked by brutal



Mujo Buçpapaj

wars and ethnic cleansing, even as recently as the late twentieth century in Bosnia and Kosovo. World War I itself began in the Balkans with the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian heir. Throughout history, the region has remained a zone of recurring tension, where conflict can erupt at any moment.

For Albanians, this historical burden is even heavier, as they represent one of the oldest autochthonous nations in the world, with roots extending back millennia. European and American studies in history, archaeology, and linguistics identify Albanian civilization as approximately eight thousand years old, and the Albanian language as one of the three oldest living languages still spoken today. This antiquity is not merely a historical fact but a symbolic and moral burden, placing the Albanian nation in constant tension between cultural continuity and violent historical ruptures.

After five centuries of Ottoman occupation, Albanians emerged politically, economically, and demographically crippled. Yet the Albanian tragedy did not end there. The London Conference of 1913, organized by the European Great Powers, partitioned the Albanian nation, leaving more than half of its territories and population outside the newly created Albanian state of 1912, assigning them to Greece,

Serbia, and Montenegro. This historical injustice became a structural wound in our collective consciousness.

Albanians were born and raised with this injustice, with a sense of historical deprivation. The liberation of Kosovo on June 12, 1999, from Serbian occupation was not only a political and military act, but also a belated moral correction of an injustice inflicted by early twentieth-century Europe upon the Albanian nation. In this sense, Kosovo is also a historical response to a historical injustice.

Today, Albanians are a nation with a Euro-Atlantic orientation, seeking peace, freedom, and coexistence in the Balkans, not domination. This historical experience has profoundly shaped my thinking and writing. Epistemologically, it has taught me distrust of simplified and justificatory narratives, and the necessity of a critical, interdisciplinary, and ethical approach to history.

My poetry and scholarly work reflect this Albanian drama in the Balkans. I have been formed and inspired by it. In the last two centuries alone, within my extended Buçpapaj family, twenty-three members have given their lives defending Albanian lands from foreign invaders. I know the history of the Balkans and my nation intimately. I have written two books of publicistic

essays and dozens of scholarly studies on this subject, and my poetry also keeps this historical experience alive. The Albanian tragedy is felt in my verse not as rhetoric, but as memory, as aesthetically processed pain, and as a moral act of testimony.

In this context, language is never neutral. It is always responsibility. To write about the Balkans and Albanians means to write with the awareness that language is a form of resistance against forgetting and an effort to give meaning to historical suffering without transforming it into empty mythology.

T.T.Rahimli: Do profoundly philosophical and psychological literary texts still have the power to change people?

M. Buçpapaj:

Yes, because the human being remains essentially the same. Technology has altered the rhythm of life, but not existential anxiety. Dostoevsky, Kafka, and Camus continue to be read because they speak to universal tensions. Even today, a true literary text does not immediately change the world, but it changes the way a person perceives themselves within the world.

Literary texts with philosophical and psychological depth retain their transformative power because they operate not merely on an

informational level, but on the inner structures of consciousness, empathy, and self-understanding. Such literature, as Fyodor Dostoevsky suggests, “descends into the abysses of the human soul” in order to expose moral conflict, existential anxiety, and individual responsibility, compelling the reader to confront themselves.

From a contemporary philosophical perspective, Martha C. Nussbaum argues that literature cultivates moral imagination, because through identification with characters, the reader exercises the capacity to understand the life of another, directly shaping ethical judgment and social sensitivity. Likewise, Paul Ricoeur’s hermeneutics emphasizes that the act of reading is a process of reconfiguring the self, in which the subject is transformed through interpreting the narratives of others. In this sense, even in an age overwhelmed by rapid information, profound literature remains a privileged space of reflection, because it does not seek to provide immediate answers, but to shape critical thought and existential sensitivity, transforming the individual in a durable and inward way.

T.T.Rahimli: What does the

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# Poetry And Journalism Are Not Just Two Creative Fields That Occasionally intersect or collide, But Two Different Ways Of Creating Meaning In Modern Society

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## Worth Noting:

• As editor-in-chief and founder of Nacional, I have conceived the balance between poetic sensibility and journalistic responsibility as a complementary relationship, not as tension or compromise. My referential model has always been elite European cultural journalism, where language is not reduced to an instrument of rapid information, but preserves aesthetic, ethical, and intellectual density. In this sense, I have been guided by Albert Camus's principle that "the writer's task is to serve both truth and freedom," an axiom that remains as valid for cultural journalism as for literature.

• In this spirit, Nacional has been built as a consolidated platform of intellectual and aesthetic communication, with a distinct international impact in promoting contemporary literature, the arts, and critical thought. Poetic sensibility helps me preserve the human, symbolic, and reflective dimension of the text, transforming it into a dialogical space where authors, poets, scholars, and artists from diverse cultures interact through interpretation and debate; journalistic responsibility, on the other hand, imposes methodological and ethical discipline

world lose when a poet falls silent, and what happens when a journalist falls silent?

M. Buçpapaj:

When the poet falls silent, the world loses symbolic depth and the language of aesthetically processed pain. When the journalist falls silent, transparency and civic freedom are lost. In my personal history, I have seen that enforced silence is always an ally of violence.

T.T.Rahimli: Can media and literature be real instruments of resistance against power?

M. Buçpapaj:

Yes, media and literature can be real and essential instruments of resistance against the abuse of any form of power, but only if they preserve moral autonomy, intellectual independence, and professional integrity. They are not merely instruments of communication, but spaces of critical conscience, where truth confronts fear and language opposes violence.

Modern history demonstrates that in closed societies or during violent transitions, free media and engaged literature are often the earliest forms of civic resistance. They create memory, articulate injustice, and give voice to those whom power seeks to silence. George Orwell remains the classic example of the writer-journalist who understood that critical language, grounded in truth and reason, is the most enduring and long-term form of resistance to totalitarianism.

My personal experience as a writer, poet, scholar, pedagogue, and journalist has confirmed this principle in a dramatic manner. From the early years of pluralism, when at a very young age I was a co-founder of the first opposition party and likewise of the first opposition newspaper after nearly fifty years of communist dictatorship, to the founding and leadership of Gazeta e Tiranës, Tribuna Demokratike, and later my long-term engagement with Rilindja Demokratike, I never compromised with the truth. This editorial independence and professional integrity were paid for with extreme violence: in August 1997, I was shot six times with Kalashnikov bullets in the center of Tirana by gangs linked to the power that emerged from the insurgent rebel-

lion of spring 1997, which overthrew a democratically elected government and plunged the country into chaos and fear.

The fact that I survived and returned to journalism without retreating or yielding to fear is evidence that media and literature are not merely professions, but moral missions. They fail only when they become extensions of power, propaganda, or commerce in fear. As long as they remain instruments of truth and freedom of thought, they not only resist, but actively shape the democratic conscience of society. This is also the message I convey to my students in the lecture hall.

T. T. Rahimli: If language is your destiny, what is the heaviest burden of that destiny?

M. Buçpapaj:

If language is my destiny, the heaviest burden of that destiny lies not merely in the act of speaking or writing, but in the very impact that each word leaves upon the world and upon time. Heidegger teaches us that language is the house of Being (Unterwegs zur Sprache, 1959), and thus every word that moves from thought to page or from voice to hearing carries a silent execution of existence, a weight that reminds us we never speak only for ourselves, but always for the world that listens.

Hannah Arendt raises the question of responsibility toward language, viewing it as action that shapes history and collective memory (The Human Condition, 1958); thus poetry and scholarship are not merely ways of expressing a personal vision, but moral and civic acts, in which every word may build or destroy, reveal the hidden or conceal the truth. Bakhtin, through his theory of dialogism (The Dialogic Imagination, 1981), emphasizes that every word lives among other voices, becoming part of a living network of interactions. This doubles the burden, because it is not enough to speak; one must listen, sense contradictions, and accept that language is always a mirror of the world and its emotions.

For me, as a poet and scholar, language is both a key to the mysteries of Being and a weight that carries the tremor of time, an inner obligation to pursue truth, to listen to silence, and to respect the dialogue between



Mujo Bucpapaj

writing and the future, between what is said and what remains unsaid. This is my destiny: to speak, to weigh every sound, and to bear upon my shoulders the immortal burden of language. I have fought intensely in my country to defend freedom of speech and freedom of expression, and for this I have paid a high price.

T.T.Rahimli: Leo Tolstoy gave world artistic thought the concept of the "dialectics of the soul," while Fyodor Dostoevsky shaped the model of the polyphonic novel. In your view, what are the distinctive signatures of writers who have exerted such profound and lasting influence on the history of modern artistic thought?

M. Buçpapaj:

Writers who have exercised a deep and enduring influence on the history of modern artistic thought are distinguished above all by their capacity to reveal new forms of knowing the human being and the world,

transforming literature from a mirror of reality into an epistemological instrument. Tolstoy and Dostoevsky are paradigmatic of this foundational power: the former understands the human being as a moral and psychological process in continuous development, while the latter conceives the individual as fragmented and plural, a being in whom the voices of conscience, faith, doubt, and revolt coexist without merging into a single authority.

The distinctive signature of these authors lies not only in narrative mastery, but in the creation of models of artistic thought. Tolstoy's "dialectics of the soul" marks the transition from static to dynamic character, where the individual is never complete, but always in a process of moral choice. This renders his literature an ethical space in which narration becomes an analysis of conscience. Dostoevsky, through the polyphonic novel as conceptualized by Mikhail Bakhtin, liberates the character from the author's absolute au-

thority, allowing each voice to speak with its own philosophical autonomy, transforming the novel into an arena of competing ideas.

In modernity, writers of comparable influence share several fundamental qualities: first, the courage to challenge inherited forms and to create new aesthetic structures, as Kafka did with ontological absurdity, Proust with inner time, Joyce with stream of consciousness, or Faulkner with fragmented perspective. Second, they possess philosophical depth that manifests not as thesis, but as aesthetic experience, compelling the reader to think rather than merely follow a story.

Another distinctive signature is universality rooted in locality. Tolstoy is profoundly Russian yet universal; Dostoevsky likewise. This is also evident in Márquez, where Latin America becomes a global myth, or in Camus, where the Algerian experience of modern man acquires universal philosophical dimensions. These

# Poetry And Journalism Are Not Just Two Creative Fields That Occasionally intersect or collide, But Two Different Ways Of Creating Meaning In Modern Society

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authors do not write to illustrate ideas, but to uncover the fundamental tensions of human existence: guilt, freedom, responsibility, faith, and the absurd.

Finally, the most important quality that distinguishes these writers is the organic bond between aesthetics and ethics. In their work, artistic form is not ornament, but a mode of thinking. Their literature does not age because it belongs not merely to its own time, but to the enduring dimension of human questioning. For this reason, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and their great successors remain not only writers to be read, but thinkers to be engaged in dialogue even today.

T.T.Rahimli: What are the defining signatures of writers with deep and lasting influence on modern artistic thought?

M. Buçpapaj: Writers with deep and lasting influence on modern artistic thought are distinguished not merely by stylistic mastery, but above all by their capacity to produce interpretive models that rearticulate individual perception, social relationships, and historical trajectories. Their ability to create a "hermeneutic paradigm of meaning" for human experience places them at the center of global literary discourse and guarantees the durability of their influence. On the aesthetic and philosophical level, Tolstoy, through what may be conceived as a dialectics of conscience, shifts the novel from external narration to profound moral and psychological analysis, making ethical consciousness central to narrative configuration.

Dostoevsky, through his well-known polyphony, articulates a heterogeneous system of autonomous voices that reflect ideological pluralism and the tension between individual ethics and social structures, a model that has influenced modern theories of narrative multivocality.

In the twentieth century, Hemingway's minimalism functions as an aestheticization of silence, where linguistic economy exposes the existential weight of human experience, while Gabriel García Márquez's magical realism operates as a narrative hybrid in which myth, history, and collective experience intertwine within

a symbolic universe, repositioning cultural peripheries as epistemological centers. Within the Balkan literary context and its global circulation, Ismail Kadare represents a particularly emblematic paradigm. He integrates history, myth, and individual tragedy into a universalist narrative in which aesthetics, ethical reflection, and political awareness coexist in a hermeneutic unity. Through his widely translated and internationally analyzed works, Kadare not only places Albania on the map of world literature, but also demonstrates literature's capacity to engage collective history and articulate social critique with universal resonance.

Figures such as Kafka, Joyce, and Faulkner further illustrate transformations in literary and epistemological perception: Kafka articulates existential anxiety and alienation before bureaucratic power; Joyce conceptualizes stream of consciousness as an epistemological instrument for exploring subjectivity; Faulkner fragments narrative time, creating a complex memory-space in which past and present coexist in a polyphony of time and identity.

In conclusion, the defining signatures of writers with lasting influence do not consist merely in stylistic innovation, but in their ability to intertwine aesthetics, philosophy, and ethics into a hermeneutic narrative unity. They offer not only interpretive models, but complex paradigms for understanding human reality, thus constituting enduring points of reference for both theory and practice of modern artistic thought and the global literary canon.

T.T.Rahimli: To what extent are the press and publishers responsible for the circulation of weak texts?

M. Buçpapaj: To a great extent. As a publisher and editor, I know that every compromise with mediocrity is an anti-cultural act. The publisher is a guardian of standards, not merely a market manager.

T.T.Rahimli: Your message to the poets and readers of the world...

M. Buçpapaj: Poets are not merely creators of words; they are witnesses of infinity, architects of perception, and guides of silence. Homer teaches



Tarana Turan Rahimli - interviewer

us that the journey is not merely movement through space, but a voyage of the soul, a testament to courage and fate: every breaking sea is an inner mirror of humanity. Dante Alighieri challenges us to enter hell and heaven, teaching us that the meaning of life requires confronting inner darkness and recognizing ourselves at every step.

Walt Whitman reveals that words are body and spirit, that poetry is a space where every individual becomes part of the universe. Pushkin reminds us that poetry binds the individual to history and nationhood; Sergei Yesenin teaches that nature reflects the soul; Pablo Neruda invites us to see poetry as an act of love and revolt; T. S. Eliot confronts us with the fragments and voids of modernity; Victor Hugo teaches poetry as moral engagement; Paul Éluard and Rumi remind us that love and transcendence find expression only through sanctified language; Odysseus Elytis and Ali Podrimja show that poetry is a perpetual dialogue with time and existence.

The reader is not passive, but a traveler and a seeker of truth. Literature does not simplify life; it reveals its complexity and offers the mirror in which human spirituality recognizes itself.

My message to poets and readers of the world is simple and modest: poets, write with honesty and courage; readers, read with patience and open your hearts. Live with the word, read with daring, and remember that poetry is the bridge that binds us to one another, to time, and to the infinite sense of existence. Thank you!

- I thank you for your valuable thoughts.

WHO IS DR. MUJO BUÇPAPAJ?

Dr. Mujo Buçpapaj, poet and scholar of literature, is one of the most distinguished exponents of contemporary Albanian poetry, enjoying remarkable national and international recognition. His work has been published in dozens of foreign languages, and he has been honored with several prestigious international literary awards. He is a poet, literary scholar, publicist, translator, essayist, and a committed promoter of international literature and culture, widely regarded as a highly influential cultural figure in the region and beyond. He also serves as a university lecturer.

Dr. Mujo Buçpapaj holds a PhD in Literary Studies. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of the weekly

literary and cultural newspaper Nacional ([www.gazeta-nacional.com](http://www.gazeta-nacional.com)), which is printed in Tirana and distributed in its print edition in Kosovo, North Macedonia, and other regions. The online edition of Nacional is published daily. He is also the founder and director of Nacional Publishing House, which publishes works by many prominent regional and international writers and poets.

Dr. Buçpapaj lives in the capital city, Tirana, Albania, with his wife, who is a teacher, and their two daughters, who are university students.

## Worth Noting:

• Modern history demonstrates that in closed societies or during violent transitions, free media and engaged literature are often the earliest forms of civic resistance. They create memory, articulate injustice, and give voice to those whom power seeks to silence. George Orwell remains the classic example of the writer-journalist who understood that critical language, grounded in truth and reason, is the most enduring and long-term form of resistance to totalitarianism.

• My personal experience as a writer, poet, scholar, pedagogue, and journalist has confirmed this principle in a dramatic manner. From the early years of pluralism, when at a very young age I was a co-founder of the first opposition party and likewise of the first opposition newspaper after nearly fifty years of communist dictatorship, to the founding and leadership of Gazeta e Tiranës, Tribuna Demokratike, and later my long-term engagement with Rilindja Demokratike, I never compromised with the truth.

## Teaching Independent Thinking Through Essay Writing: A Pedagogical Approach



By: Sirojiddinova Sevinch  
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### Worth Noting:

This article examines the effectiveness of teaching independent thinking through essay writing among secondary school students. The study is based on a quasi-experimental design involving experimental and control groups. The experimental group was engaged in systematic essay writing activities aimed at encouraging personal reflection, logical argumentation, and critical evaluation, while the control group followed traditional writing practices.

The results indicate that regular essay writing significantly improves students' ability to think independently, structure ideas logically, and express original opinions. The findings suggest that essay-based instruction not only enhances writing competence but also contributes to the development of intellectual autonomy and active learning skills. The study concludes that integrating essay writing into the educational process is an effective strategy for developing independent thinkers in modern classrooms.

**Abstract:** Developing students' independent thinking skills is one of the central goals of contemporary education. Independent thinking enables learners to analyze problems critically, express personal viewpoints, and make reasoned decisions. Essay writing, as a learner-centered instructional method, plays a crucial role in fostering these cognitive abilities.

This article examines the effectiveness of teaching independent thinking through essay writing among secondary school students. The study is based on a quasi-experimental design involving experimental and control groups. The experimental group was engaged in systematic essay writing activities aimed at encouraging personal reflection, logical argumentation, and critical evaluation, while the control group followed traditional writing practices.

The results indicate that regular essay writing significantly improves students' ability to think independently, structure ideas logically, and express original opinions. The findings suggest that essay-based instruction not only enhances writing competence but also contributes to the development of intellectual autonomy and active learning skills. The study concludes that integrating essay writing into the educational process is an effective strategy for developing independent thinkers in modern classrooms.

**Key words:** independent thinking; essay writing; critical thinking; writing skills; student-centered learning; secondary education.

**Introduction:** In modern education systems, developing students' independent thinking skills is considered one of the key objectives of teaching and learning. Independent thinking enables learners to analyze information critically, express personal opinions logically, and make reasoned conclusions. In this context, essay writing is widely recognized as an effective pedagogical tool for fostering higher-order thinking skills.

Despite the growing emphasis on critical and independent thinking, many



students still struggle to express their own ideas coherently and analytically in written form. In traditional classrooms, writing tasks are often limited to reproducing learned information rather than encouraging personal reflection or argumentation. This creates a significant research gap between the theoretical importance of independent thinking and the practical methods used to develop it.

Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine how essay writing can be used as an instructional method to develop students' independent thinking skills and to identify effective approaches for integrating essay-based tasks into the educational process.

**Materials and Methods**  
**Study Objects, Materials, and Participants:** The study focused on secondary school students aged 14–16. A total of 60 students participated in the research, divided into experimental and control groups. The primary materials included argumentative and reflective essay topics, writing guidelines, assessment rubrics, and feedback sheets.

**Preparation of Materials and Selection of Participants**  
Participants were selected based on similar academic performance levels to ensure objectivity. Essay topics were carefully designed to encourage personal opinion, problem-solving, and critical analysis rather than

factual reproduction. Teachers received preliminary instructions on guiding students without imposing their own viewpoints.

**Study Design**  
The research employed a quasi-experimental design. The experimental group was regularly engaged in structured essay writing activities, while the control group followed traditional writing exercises such as short answers and summaries.

**Interventions (Experiments)**  
Over a period of eight weeks, the experimental group completed weekly essays focusing on social, educational, and moral issues. Students were encouraged to justify their opinions, provide examples, and draw conclusions independently. Peer review and teacher feedback were integral parts of the process.

**Methods of Measurement and Calculations**  
Students' independent thinking skills were assessed using pre-test and post-test essays evaluated according to criteria such as originality of ideas, logical coherence, argument development, and critical reflection. Quantitative scores and qualitative observations were used for analysis.

**Statistical Analysis**  
Descriptive statistics and comparative analysis were applied to measure progress between the two groups. Mean score differences

before and after the intervention were calculated to identify significant improvements.

**Results**  
The most important result of the study revealed that students in the experimental group demonstrated a noticeable improvement in independent thinking skills compared to the control group. Their essays showed greater originality, clearer argumentation, and stronger personal viewpoints. The least significant result was related to grammatical accuracy, which improved only slightly, indicating that the primary impact of essay writing was on thinking skills rather than language mechanics.

**Discussion**  
The main finding of this study confirms that essay writing is an effective method for developing students' independent thinking abilities. These results were largely expected, as writing essays requires learners to analyze topics, make decisions, and articulate personal perspectives. Some unexpected results included the increased student motivation and engagement observed during the essay-writing process. This suggests that when students are given intellectual freedom, their interest in learning increases.

Comparison with existing literature shows consistency with previous studies emphasizing writing as a tool

for critical thinking development. However, this study specifically highlights the role of essay writing in fostering independence rather than mere analytical skills.

The results can be explained by the fact that essay writing shifts the learning process from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered reflection. Students take responsibility for their ideas and arguments, which strengthens cognitive autonomy. Nevertheless, the study has certain limitations, including a relatively small sample size and a limited research duration. Therefore, the generalizability of the results may be restricted to similar educational contexts.

**Conclusions**  
In conclusion, essay writing plays a significant role in teaching students independent thinking skills. When systematically integrated into the curriculum, essay-based tasks encourage critical reflection, originality, and logical reasoning. Educators are recommended to use essay writing not only as an assessment tool but also as a developmental method for nurturing independent and responsible thinkers.

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