

The weekend drizzle, a heavenly gift from the overcast, gloomy skies and vagaries of the British weather, failed to dampen the spirits of hundreds of revellers

Kenya and Friends in the Park

Each year, the event has been held at a different venue all over London:

Kenya Welcomes The World With Songs, Dances And Drumbeats

By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor – UK
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

The weekend drizzle, a heavenly gift from the overcast, gloomy skies and vagaries of the British weather, failed to dampen the spirits of hundreds of revellers from all over the country who descended on the Acton Park in West London from all over the country to enjoy the fun and flavour of the UK's most popular annual open-air garden party, Kenya and Friends in the Park last Saturday and Sunday.

To add icing on the cake, crowds of visitors savoured the joys of a special occasion – the 10th Anniversary of the event, which has continued to



Founder Lydia Tett Olet ... Another successful year of Kenya in the Park. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

grow in popularity each year. I have attended them all! Each year, the event has been held at a different venue all over London, giving local diasporans the opportunity for a short walk to the park. The opening day was a crowd puller with thousands of people walking through the gates. Those who attended were not only Kenyan diasporans from as far as Scotland and Wales, local Britons and also from other countries. The event, without doubt, has an international bearing. As revellers walked to the Acton Park this year, they could hear the sounds of loud music, drum beats and Tanoy

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The Unshakeable Commissioner: How Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi Shaken South Africa's Political Foundations

Introduction
South Africa finds itself at a pivotal moment, gripped by the reverberations of explosive allegations brought forth by Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner. His recent pronouncements have not

only sent shockwaves through the South African Police Service (SAPS) but have also deeply unsettled the nation's political landscape, leading to high-profile suspensions and the establishment of a judicial inquiry. Many South Africans are asking: Who is this general, what exactly

transpired, and what does it mean for the country's fight against corruption?

Who is Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Sibusiso Mkhwanazi?

Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla

Mkhwanazi is a highly experienced and prominent figure within the South African Police Service (SAPS), currently serving as the KwaZu-

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Application of Biotechnological Methods in Enhancing the Quality and Shelf-Life of Muscat Wine Produced from Local Grape Varieties in Uzbekistan



By: Sirojiddinov Asliddin
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Keywords: Muscat wine, biotechnology, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, pectinase enzyme, fermentation, aroma retention, shelf-life, Uzbek grape varieties, wine quality, organoleptic properties

Abstract: The production of high-quality muscat wine from local grape varieties in Uzbekistan requires innovative approaches to improve sensory characteristics and extend shelf-life. This study explores the application of biotechnological methods, specifically the use of selected yeast strains and enzymatic treatments, to enhance the fermentation process and preserve the organoleptic properties of muscat wine. The results demonstrate that the use of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains combined with pectinase enzymes significantly improves aroma retention and reduces oxidative degradation, extending shelf-life by up to 20%. These findings offer practical implications for the local wine industry, aligning with international quality standards such as ISO 22000.1. Introduction: Muscat wine, known for its distinctive floral and fruity aroma, is a valuable product in the global wine industry. In Uzbekistan, local grape varieties such as Muscat of Alexandria and Muscat Ottonel present unique opportunities for producing premium wines. However, challenges such as inconsistent fermentation, loss of volatile aroma compounds, and limited shelf-life hinder the competitiveness of local products. Biotechnological interventions, including the use of selected yeast strains and enzymatic treatments, have shown promise in addressing these issues (Smith et al., 2020). This study aims to evaluate the efficacy of



biotechnological methods in improving the quality and storage stability of muscat wine produced from Uzbek grape varieties.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Raw Materials: Muscat grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L.) were sourced from vineyards in the Samarkand region of Uzbekistan during the 2024 harvest season.

2.2. Yeast Strains: Two *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains (SC-01 and SC-02) were selected for their high fermentation efficiency and aroma-enhancing properties.

2.3. Enzymatic Treatment: Pectinase enzyme (Pec-5, 0.02 g/L) was applied during juice clarification to improve extraction and reduce viscosity.

2.4. Fermentation Process: Fermentation was conducted at 18°C for 14 days in stainless steel tanks under controlled conditions.

2.5. Analytical Methods: Sensory analysis was performed by a panel of 10 trained experts. Chemical composition (alcohol content, residual sugar, and volatile compounds) was analyzed using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Shelf-life was assessed by monitoring oxidative stability over six months.

2.6. Statistical Analysis: Data were analyzed using ANOVA with a significance level of $p < 0.05$.

Results and Discussion

3.1. Fermentation Efficiency: The SC-01 strain exhibited a 15% higher fermentation rate compared to the control (wild yeast), achieving an alcohol content of 12.5% v/v. The use of pectinase reduced fermentation time by 10% by improving juice clarity and nutrient availability.

3.2. Aroma Profile: GC-MS

analysis revealed a 25% increase in key volatile compounds (linalool and geraniol) in wines treated with SC-01 and pectinase, enhancing the characteristic floral notes of muscat wine.

3.3. Shelf-Life: Wines produced with biotechnological interventions showed a 20% reduction in oxidative degradation after six months of storage at 15°C, compared to the control group.

3.4. Sensory Evaluation: Sensory scores for aroma intensity and overall quality were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) for the treated wines, aligning with consumer preferences for premium muscat wines. These results are consistent with previous studies (Jackson, 2021), which highlight the role of biotechnology in optimizing wine quality. The findings suggest that local producers can adopt these methods to meet in-

ternational standards, such as those outlined by the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV).4. Conclusion: The application of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains and pectinase enzymes significantly enhances the quality and shelf-life of muscat wine produced from Uzbek grape varieties. These biotechnological methods offer a sustainable approach to improving fermentation efficiency, aroma retention, and storage stability. The results provide a foundation for further research into scaling these techniques for commercial wine production in Uzbekistan, contributing to the global competitiveness of the local wine industry.

Sirojiddinov Asliddin
Gulistan state university
Uzbekistan. Gulistan city

Worth Noting:

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Reach Editorial Team on:

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Diaspora Times Global



Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson
Shashi Court, Ring Rd, Westlands
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Kenya.
Tel/WhatsApp: +254720 918 828
Email: dan@mtkenyaintimes.co.ke
Adverts: ads@mountkenyaintimes.co.ke



Associate Publisher & Senior
Editor UK & G. Britain
Shamlal Puri, London
E: media@adlinkinternational.com
(advertising inquiries only)
shamlalpuril4@gmail.com
(editorial)
Phone 0044 330 606 1438.
WhatsApp 00447432220184



Senior Editor Botswana & S.
Paula.O.M Otukile
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Mahalapye, Botswana
P.O Box 20392 Mahalapye, Botswana
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+267 77 458 029
Email: paula200500293@gmail.com



Senior Editor India & Asia
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10, Balughat Main Road,
Near Shubham Poultry Farm,
Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India. Pin
Code: 842001
Tel/WhatsApp: +91 74882 30902
Email: agrawalsakshi684@gmail.com



Senior Editor India & Asia
Nilanjana Sarkar
Red Carpet Vogue
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Email: thequidditchink@gmail.com

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Environment

Raw Sewer: A Silent Threat to Kenya's Waterways and Urban Health

By: David Wakogy
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Raw sewer is one of the most serious yet overlooked threats to the health of our urban environments, waterways, and food systems in Kenya. Despite being home to rapidly growing urban populations, only about 20% of Kenya's urban residents are connected to proper sewer systems. This means that the vast majority of human waste in towns and cities ends up in open drains, soak pits, rivers, or poorly maintained septic tanks. In some towns, the landlords have made sure that the caretakers have direct orders to pump the raw sewer from septic tanks into open or closed drains at night or during rainy days. The result is a dangerous cocktail of health risks, environmental degradation, and social injustice that disproportionately affects the urban poor and downstream communities.

In towns such as Kikuyu, a sewer line was installed nearly two years ago, yet there is still no local treatment plant. Consequently, all the sewage is directed by gravity along river Nyongara (one of the tributaries of Nairobi river) and ultimately discharged to the Dandora sewage treatment ponds in Ruai, Nairobi. The sewer lines follow the natural contours of rivers, increasing the risk of leaks and deliberate discharges into water bodies. Along these rivers, smallholder farmers depend on the water for irrigation and domestic use. When sewage leaks into these rivers, it leads to serious health and environmental problems. Crops grown with sewage-contaminated water are often consumed without full awareness of the contamination. This practice introduces dangerous pathogens and toxic substances into

the food chain, contributing to cases of food poisoning, diarrhoea diarrheal diseases, typhoid, and intestinal parasites. Vegetables irrigated with raw sewage water may appear clean but can carry invisible bacteria such as E. coli and Salmonella, which pose serious health risks, especially to children and people with weakened immune systems.

The Nairobi River, which cuts through Kenya's capital, has become the most polluted river in the country, heavily burdened by raw sewage, industrial effluent, and solid waste. The river, which was once a life-giving watercourse, is now a conduit for disease and contamination. The pollution does not stop in Nairobi; the Nairobi River flows into the Athi River and eventually empties into the Indian Ocean at the Sabaki estuary in Kilifi County. This means that the impact of urban sewage mismanagement in Nairobi can be felt hundreds of kilometres downstream, affecting communities, livestock, agriculture, and even marine ecosystems. Fish stocks are threatened, and coastal pollution is worsened by inland negligence. There is, however, a glimmer of hope through President Ruto and his administration's Nairobi river engineering and regeneration program. Which shall help to significantly reduce or even end the raw sewer discharge. This program is under Nairobi Rivers Commission (NRC).

In many informal settlements in Kenya, open drainage systems are clogged with black, smelly wastewater, with the ever-present stench of raw sewer forming a permanent part of daily life. Children play near open drains, residents cook and wash close to the foul-smelling channels, and respiratory and waterborne diseases thrive. Poor sanitation, open defecation, and lack of proper infrastructure have turned many of these neighbourhoods into



high-risk health zones.

While Kenya does have some wastewater treatment infrastructure, at least 49 sewage treatment systems using methods such as stabilization ponds, oxidation ditches, aerated lagoons, and constructed wetlands, these systems are either overburdened, under-maintained, or cover only a small fraction of urban populations. Nairobi alone has two main treatment plants: the Dandora stabilization ponds and the Kariobangi wastewater treatment plant. However, the volume of untreated waste far exceeds the capacity of these facilities, leading to the routine release of partially treated or raw sewage into the environment.

This crisis calls for urgent and comprehensive action. Relying solely on centralized treatment systems will not solve the problem. Kenya must accelerate the construction of decentralized treatment plants in rapidly growing satellite towns like Kikuyu, Ngong, Ruiru, and Athi River. These localized systems can treat waste closer to where it is produced, reducing the need for long, leakage-prone sewer lines. In addition, Kenya should embrace nature-based solutions such as constructed wet-

lands, which are cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and suitable for peri-urban settings. Countries like Rwanda have successfully implemented constructed wetland systems in urban areas, significantly improving water quality and sanitation without the need for complex or expensive technology.

Furthermore, enforcement of environmental laws must be strengthened. Illegal sewer connections, industrial pollution, and dumping of waste into rivers must be met with stricter penalties and consistent monitoring. Public awareness campaigns are also essential to help communities understand the risks of raw sewage and to encourage collective responsibility for keeping water sources clean. Community-led total sanitation (CLTS) programs, which have worked in countries like Bangladesh and India, can be adapted to the Kenyan context to eliminate open defecation and promote proper waste disposal even in informal settings.

Globally, Kenya can draw inspiration from successful models such as Singapore's NEWater program, which recycles more than 98% of its wastewater into clean, reusable wa-

ter for industry and even drinking. While Kenya may not be ready for such advanced recycling at scale, the principle of turning waste into a resource is vital. Every drop of wastewater that is safely treated and re-used is a gain for health, agriculture, and the environment.

In conclusion, the menace of raw sewer in Kenya is not just a sanitation issue. It is a direct threat to health, food safety, environmental integrity, and national development. It poisons our rivers, pollutes our farms, infects our food, and undermines the dignity of urban life. The time for half-measures is over. Kenya must act urgently, embracing both technology and nature to create a future where clean rivers, safe food, and healthy communities are not a privilege for a few but a right for all. This right should be propelled not only both the two levels of government but also by public participation and involvement.

David Wakogy,
Coordinator Friends of Ondiri & Climate Worx Lead, Ondiri Wetland.
dwakogy@gmail.com

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Uzbekistan

The Importance of Ecology in Uzbekistan



By: Shabbona Abdurashidova
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Uzbekistan is rich in biodiversity and natural resources. It is home to more than 27,000 species of flora and fauna, including some endangered species like the Bukhara deer and the Saiga antelope. The country's landscape includes the Kyzylkum Desert, the Tien Shan and Pamir mountain ranges, and the fertile Fergana Valley. Major rivers like the Amu Darya and Syr Darya have traditionally supported agriculture and human settlements.
- However, these natural resources are under threat due to poor environmental management in the past, excessive water usage for agriculture, deforestation, and overgrazing. The Aral Sea crisis is one of the most tragic ecological disasters in the world and a major example of how mismanagement of resources can lead to long-term environmental damage. Once the fourth-largest inland sea in the world, the Aral Sea has almost completely dried up due to the diversion of its feeding rivers for cotton irrigation. This has led to increased salinity, dust storms, loss of biodiversity, and negative health impacts on the local population.

Introduction

Ecology is a crucial branch of science that deals with the relationships between living organisms and their environment. In Uzbekistan, a country located in Central Asia with a diverse natural landscape that includes deserts, mountains, rivers, and fertile valleys, ecology plays a vital role in ensuring sustainable development, public health, and environmental protection. The importance of ecology in Uzbekistan has grown significantly in recent years due to the increasing threats posed by climate change, desertification, water scarcity, and industrial pollution. This article explores the ecological situation in Uzbekistan, the key challenges, and the measures taken to improve environmental sustainability in the country.

Ecological Diversity and Natural Resources of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is rich in biodiversity and natural resources. It is home to more than 27,000 species of flora and fauna, including some endangered species like the Bukhara deer and the Saiga antelope. The country's landscape includes the Kyzylkum Desert, the Tien Shan and Pamir mountain ranges, and the fertile Fergana Valley. Major rivers like the Amu Darya and Syr Darya have traditionally supported agriculture and human settlements. However, these natural resources are under threat due to poor environmental management in the past, excessive water usage for agriculture, deforestation, and overgrazing. The Aral Sea crisis is one of the most tragic ecological disasters in the world and a major example of how mismanagement of resources can lead to long-term environmental damage. Once the fourth-largest inland sea in the world, the Aral Sea has almost completely dried up due to the diversion of its feeding rivers for cotton irrigation. This has led to increased salinity, dust storms, loss of biodiversity, and negative health impacts on the local population.

Climate Change and Its Impact

Climate change is one of the most pressing ecological issues in Uzbekistan. The country is experiencing rising temperatures, re-

duced precipitation, and an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves. These changes have a direct impact on agriculture, which is a key sector of the Uzbek economy. Cotton and wheat, two major crops, are particularly vulnerable to water shortages and changing weather patterns. Moreover, climate change is accelerating desertification. Large areas of formerly arable land are turning into deserts due to overuse, lack of proper irrigation techniques, and high soil salinity. According to environmental experts, more than 60% of Uzbekistan's territory is affected by desertification, which poses a serious threat to food security, rural livelihoods, and ecological balance.

Water Management Issues

Water scarcity is another significant ecological challenge in Uzbekistan. As a double landlocked country with a mostly arid climate, Uzbekistan depends heavily on the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for its water supply. However, due to inefficient irrigation systems, outdated infrastructure, and transboundary water disputes with neighboring countries, water availability remains limited and poorly managed. In some regions, the salinity of water has increased to dangerous levels, affecting both agriculture and public health. Groundwater depletion is also a growing concern, especially in the western regions like Karakalpakstan, where people face severe water shortages. Addressing water-related ecological problems requires better international cooperation, modern irrigation techniques, and water-saving technologies.

Air and Soil Pollution

Uzbekistan faces serious air and soil pollution problems, especially in urban and industrial areas. Cities like Tashkent, Samarkand, and Navoi are experiencing increased air pollution due to the rise in vehicle emissions, industrial activities, and coal-based energy production. In rural areas, the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has degraded soil quality and affected the ecosystem. The legacy of the Soviet-era industrial policies has left behind numerous polluted



sites and untreated waste. For example, uranium mining in the past has caused radioactive contamination in some regions. Improper waste disposal and lack of recycling programs further worsen the situation. These problems not only harm the environment but also pose a direct threat to the health of the population.

Government Policies and Environmental Reforms

In recent years, the government of Uzbekistan has recognized the importance of environmental protection and has taken several steps to improve the ecological situation. In 2017, the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection was established to coordinate national efforts for environmental monitoring, protection, and policy implementation. Several environmental laws and strategies have been adopted, including the Strategy for the Transition to a Green Economy (2019–2030). The government has also launched afforestation campaigns to combat desertification and dust storms. Millions of trees have been planted, especially in the dried-up Aral Sea bed. Projects to improve waste management, promote renewable energy, and modernize water usage are being implemented with the support of international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, and European Union.

Eco-Education and Public Awareness

Another essential aspect of

ecological improvement in Uzbekistan is raising environmental awareness among the population. Eco-education is being integrated into the school curriculum, and environmental NGOs are working to educate citizens about recycling, water conservation, and sustainable living. Programs such as "Eco-Schools Uzbekistan" are helping students and teachers become active participants in environmental protection. Public campaigns, community clean-up events, and green projects are helping to build a culture of environmental responsibility. The increasing use of digital platforms and media to spread ecological messages has also contributed to greater awareness, especially among the youth.

International Cooperation and Future Outlook

Uzbekistan is actively cooperating with international partners to tackle environmental challenges. The country is a member of several global environmental agreements, including the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Cross-border cooperation on water resource management with countries like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan is also critical for regional stability and sustainability. Looking ahead, Uzbekistan must continue to prioritize ecology in its development agenda. This includes investing in clean energy, enforcing environmental regu-

lations, supporting scientific research, and empowering local communities to participate in conservation efforts. A holistic, inclusive approach that balances economic growth with environmental sustainability will ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for the country.

Conclusion

Ecology is not just an academic subject or a policy issue — it is a matter of survival and prosperity. In Uzbekistan, where the environment directly affects agriculture, health, and the economy, protecting ecological balance is more important than ever. The challenges are many, but so are the opportunities. Through informed policy-making, community engagement, and international cooperation, Uzbekistan can build a greener, more sustainable future for generations to come.

My name is Shabbona Abdurashidova, daughter of Umidjon, a passionate and ambitious student born on February 22, 2009, in Chinaz district, Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan!

I currently study at School No. 20. I have earned several educational grants and awards, and I attended Eco-IT camp and Central Asia youth Eco camp

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Celebrate

A special tribute to spiritual Guru Raman Trivedi Ji

By: Maya Madkoriya in Bhopal, India
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Among the countless galaxies in this infinite universe, our Earth has been journeying in the Milky Way since time immemorial. On this Earth, the wheel of time has continued to turn endlessly. Countless eras have come and gone, many species have vanished, but humanity alone has survived throughout, thanks to its unparalleled courage and unyielding spirit, all by the grace of the Supreme Divine Power.

It is believed in some sections of the God fearing Hindu faithful that humans are blessed directly by Mahakaal — the eternal, formless, all-powerful Lord of Time, who lives as a self-manifested Jyotirlinga in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, known worldwide as Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga.

In this sacred Mahakal temple, Pandit Dattatreya Trivedi Ji and his family have dedicated generations to worship and divine service. Pandit Dattatreya Ji not only performed daily rituals but also guided society towards moral and spiritual values. Regardless of the season — summer, monsoon, or winter — he offered the sacred Bhasma Aarti daily, devoting his entire life to the feet of Mahakaal.

His family included his devoted wife, two sons, and a daughter. However, life's eternal law stays unchangeable — every soul ultimately returns to its divine abode. When Pandit Dattatreya Ji departed for his heavenly journey, the family was engulfed in grief. All Hindu religious rites and traditions were conducted with utmost devotion.

At that tender moment, only 11 years old, Pandit Raman Trivedi Ji took full responsibility for the entire family upon his young shoulders. The only source of income was the offerings and donations from devotees visiting the Mahakal temple. Despite his tender age, Raman Ji protected and supported his mother, his younger brother Pandit Dinesh Trivedi Ji, and his sister.

Ujjain at that time was far from modern, deeply rooted in Sanatan Dharma and cultural traditions. Pandit Raman Ji absorbed his father's teachings wholeheartedly and dedicated his life to the service of Mahakaal. He relentlessly pursued both his studies and temple duties with unwavering dedication.

These difficult circumstances matured him early. He first arranged his sister's marriage and then strengthened and unified the family. Later, he married Nirmala Trivedi Ji, who today embodies the living form of Goddess Annapurna, is nurturing the entire family with love and devotion.

Guru Raman Trivedi Ji and Nirmala Ji are blessed with three children: eldest daughter Kshamahita, son Umesh Trivedi (married to Madhuri Trivedi, with son Dev and daughter

Devi), and youngest son Samahit Trivedi (married to Sonam Trivedi, with daughter Khushi and son Vinayak). Today, the joint family lives in Ujjain.

Pandit Raman Ji did not limit himself to spiritual knowledge alone. He excelled in modern education too, completing his LLB and practising law for some time. However, when he realised that his legal and social commitments were restricting his time for Mahakaal's service, he made the courageous decision to leave his law practice and fully devote himself to divine service.

He undertook many journeys across India and abroad to spread the glory of Mahakaal. Through films and media, he shared Mahakaal's divinity with the masses and inspired many prominent personalities to visit Ujjain. Gradually, more and more devotees began visiting the temple, transforming their lives and receiving Mahakaal's blessings. The donations offered by devotees helped in further beautifying and expanding the temple complex.

Through the dedicated efforts of Pandit Raman Ji and his brother Pandit Dinesh Ji, the golden spire (shikhar), the golden Shri Yantra, and the golden umbrella were installed in the temple — tasks that once seemed impossible, but which they turned into reality with their unwavering faith and determination.

The grand Mahakaal Sawari during the holy month of Shravan and the majestic Mahashivratri celebrations are also possible due to his visionary leadership and devotion.

Guru Ji has provided shelter and support to many orphans and has trained many disciples who now spread Mahakaal's message across India and abroad. He helped create livelihood opportunities for many locals near the temple, enabling some to open flower shops, some to set up sweet shops, and others to offer prasad. He has also made exceptional contributions to society and politics through his selfless service. Having seen 75 monsoons, Guru Ji stays fully dedicated to Mahakaal's service every single day. His family is regarded of the most respected and prominent families of Ujjain. His wife, Nirmala Ji, affectionately known as 'Gurumaa', is seen as the living embodiment of Goddess Annapurna, offering meals with immense love to countless people daily. For his tireless contributions to society, Guru Ji has been honoured with many awards by social organisations and government bodies. He has also received honorary doctorates from several universities in recognition of his spiritual and social contributions. Recently, he was honoured with the World Book of Records London Trophy by its President, Mr. Santosh Shukla.

Not just in India, but even in the USA, he was awarded the honorary title of 'Professor' by a prestigious foreign university. Pandit Raman Trivedi Ji is truly a walking, living



Our writer Maya Madkoriya author and advocate

university. Alongside his profound knowledge of the Vedas, Puranas, and Upanishads, he is also deeply learned in modern sciences and education.

In today's times, personalities like Pandit Raman Trivedi Ji are extremely rare. Kind-hearted, compassionate, and devoted to helping the downtrodden — such noble souls are truly worthy of being called Mahharshi.

Guru Raman Trivedi Ji stands as a true hero of this era, a spiritual beacon, a guide for society, and an inspiration to all humanity. His devotees pray to Mahakaal to bless him with long life, robust health, and infinite divine blessings.

On this sacred occasion of Guru Purnima, I dedicate this article to him as an expression of my deepest respect, gratitude, and heartfelt honour. I offer him my countless salutations for his divine service and invaluable contributions to society.

Our writer Maya Madkoriya is an international writer and advocate at Bhopal District Court in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. She is a devotee of Pandit Raman Trivedi Ji.



Guru Raman Trivedi in the Mahakaal Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India



Mahakaal Temple in Ujjain is a place for pilgrimage.

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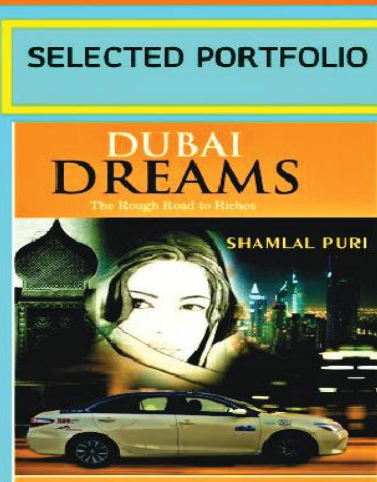
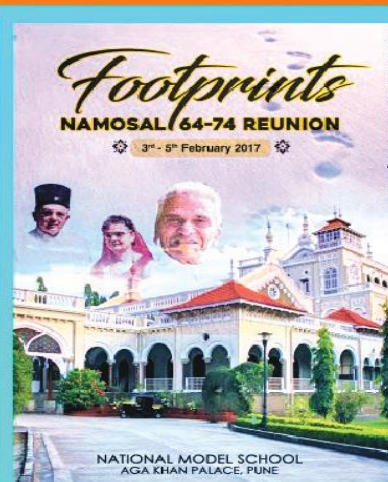
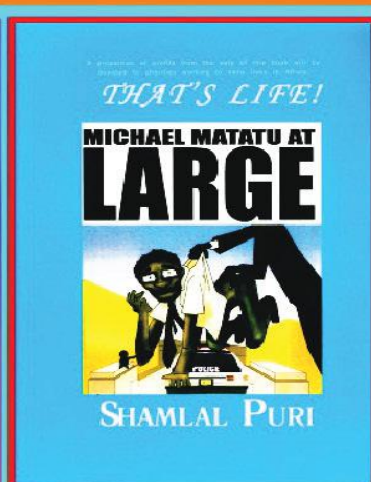
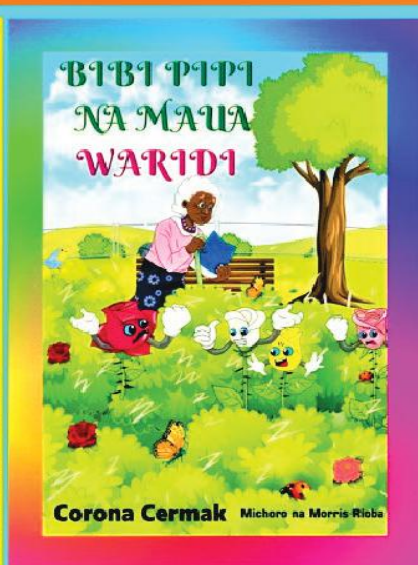
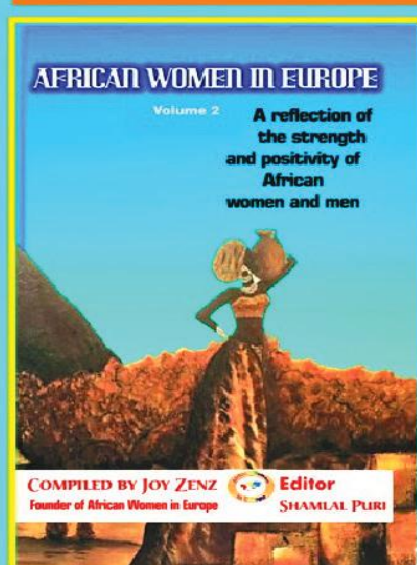
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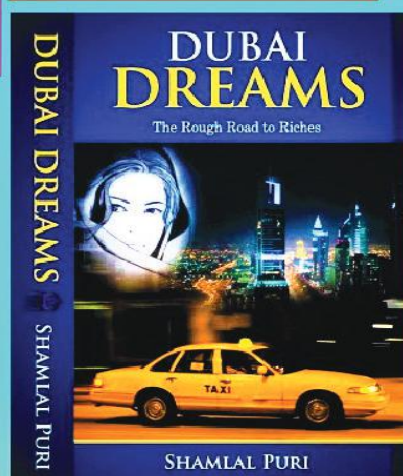
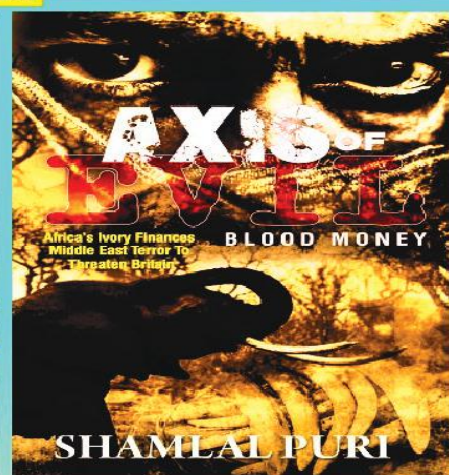
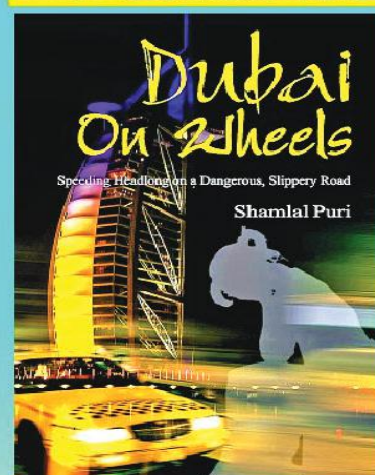
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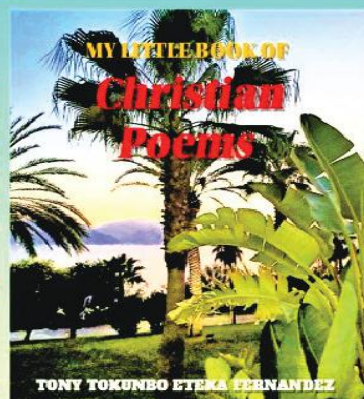
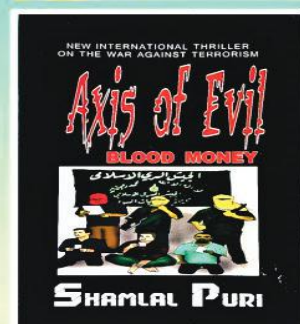
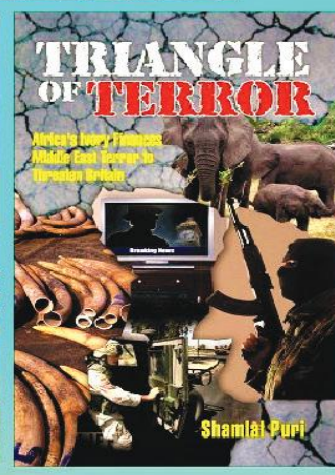
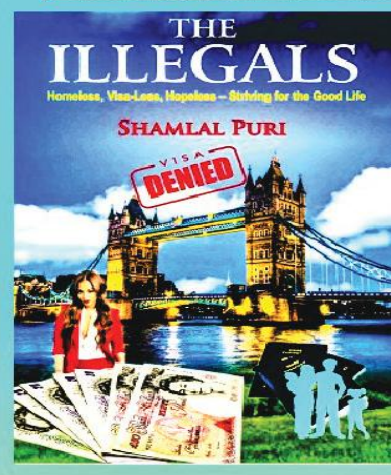
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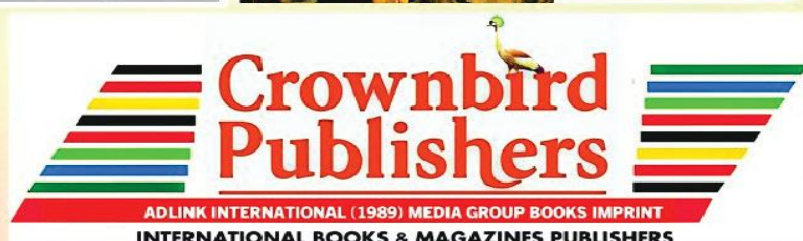


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UK News

Kenya Welcomes The World With Songs, Dances And Drumbeats



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor – UK
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

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Worth Noting:

- Each year, the event has been held at a different venue all over London, giving local diasporans the opportunity for a short walk to the park.
- The opening day was a crowd puller with thousands of people walking through the gates.
- Those who attended were not only Kenyan diasporans from as far as Scotland and Wales, local Britons and also from other countries. The event, without doubt, has an international bearing.
- As revellers walked to the Acton Park this year, they could hear the sounds of loud music, drum beats and Tanoy systems in high decibels from a stage, keeping those already in the Park a vibrant presence of Kenyan culture.

systems in high decibels from a stage, keeping those already in the Park a vibrant presence of Kenyan culture. There was a packed programme for everyone – children, senior citizens, the young crowd and stalls offering their products and services ranging from health insurance, cargo shipping, education, clothes, religious books, banking, money remittance back home and those in need of a cool drink – Slush stall, and oh yes, the ice cream van parked conveniently at the entrance. The presence of cold drinks and ice cream was essential because the UK has recently seen a sizzling 2025 summer with temperatures nudging as high as 38 degrees Celsius or even 40 degrees – a bit much for those in thick jackets used to the Eskimo-land kind of snow showers in some parts of the country.

There were some remarkably interesting displays in the stalls spread all over a section of Acton Park. The security was tight and well-handled. Talking of security, of special interest was the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) stand, inviting those interested young people to join the CNC as a Police Officer.

Interestingly, the CNC is not part of the London Metropolitan Police and is not affiliated with the Home Office, which handles the UK Police Force.

The CNC is a unique armed police force, as part of the wider policing family, they provide world-class protection of nuclear materials and facilities across the UK.

Its officials say, “Whether we’re securing civil nuclear sites or material in transit, we have to protect the public.”

“As a CNC officer, you’ll be trained to an exceptional standard to provide an agile, collaborative and effective armed response, adding, “With your skills, determination and ambition, you’ll help fulfil our mission of protecting our locations and the UK public – while enjoying a rewarding career as part of an inclusive, supportive police team.”

“We are having many interested young people coming to us for further information.”

Another interesting stall was Global Education (GEDU),

which has a worldwide reach with a presence in 14 countries. They are in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Ireland, Malta, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates - Dubai, the USA and of course, the UK. The fact that an international organisation such as GEDU can participate in the Kenya and Friends in the Park is ample testimony to this annual event’s high reputation. They change lives through education, offering an extensive array of courses including Business, Digital Technologies and Computing, Construction and Healthcare.

Students can obtain HND, BA, BSc, and MSc in various study areas that are on offer. Yusuf Mandsourwala, Global Banking School’s Senior Business Development Manager, explained the work of his organisation, adding there were ten campuses in Britain – five in London, two each in Birmingham, Leeds and one in Manchester.

There were several stalls selling traditional Kenyan textiles, with the latest and modern dresses.

Joe Ngugi’s stall was selling packed omena, the silver cyprinid (*Rastrineobola argentea*) also known as the Lake Victoria sardine. It is also known as mukene and dagaa in Swahili. It is a species of pelagic, freshwater ray-finned fish in the danio family, Danionidae, from East Africa. It is the only member of the genus *Rastrineobola*, according to the information available.

It is delicious when fried in palm oil.

Omena is a delicacy many Kenyans, nay East Africans living abroad, miss.

Walking past the stalls, I stopped by Artistic Strokes and greeted Muna, a freelance make-up artist, face and body artist and beautician, who said there were several inquiries from women visitors who were interested in her services.

The Tavistock Protect stall offered income protection, which is crucial for financial support. Its services include Life Insurance.

Its range of services includes critical illness insurance, private medical insurance, mortgages, pension and accident cover.



How about a Caribbean treat at this stall serving goat curry and different gastronomic delights? Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Attractive Kenyan dresses were on display at many stalls. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Legal advice on hand for those who need it. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

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UK News

Kenya Welcomes The World With Songs, Dances And Drumbeats

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Worth Noting:

- There was a packed programme with everything for everyone – children, senior citizens, the young crowd and stalls offering their products and services ranging from health insurance, cargo shipping, education, clothes, religious books, banking, money remittance back home and those in need of a cool drink – Slush stall, and oh yes, the ice cream van parked conveniently at the entrance.
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- There were some remarkably interesting displays in the stalls spread all over a section of Acton Park. The security was tight and well-handled.



Adding the African beat to the event brought even more joy.
Poto SHAMLAL PURI



With a global touch, Global Banking School offers Global Education. Senior Manager Yusuf Mandsourwala, right, with his team Photo SHAMLAL PURI.



Joe Ngugi displays packets of Omena fish for sale at his stall.
Photo SHAMLAL PURI

The Lemfi stall caught the eye of many visitors during the weekend, interested in finding out more about the best and easiest way to send money to Africa. It offered a £10 cashback to those who remitted £50 or more for the first time. Many diasporas still send remittances to their loved ones back home. Besides Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, Benin, Senegal, Rwanda, it also sent money transfers to India, Pakistan and China.

There was a tent for prayers in the park. The PCEA UK Outreach had a stall with a wide array of literature on display. Their Church in Barking Road, East London, headed by Minister in Charge Rev Edwin Kibathi, invited worshippers to the Church on Sundays and Wednesdays. There were a number of real estate agents offering land and property services in Kenya. The wide array of new properties for sale showed the amazing

progress Kenya in made in changing the beautiful landscape of the country with new builds.

Just as one was thinking – that was it, this year's event could offer us, the wafting aromas of the thrill of the grill could not escape one's attention., One still had to cross the small garden pathway in the park, not far away from the entrance gate, to witness the amazing and tantalising tastes of not only Kenyan cuisine but also the gastronomic delights of the Caribbean, Nigeria. There was an extensive array of dishes on offer – nyama choma (barbeque), pulao, biryani, goat meat, goat curry, steak, ugali, street food such as burgers with great offerings from Mezani Grill, Safari from Joe's Catering, Fast Food Bar, Caribbean Cuisine, Kwetu and Mizizi, among others.



Children of the new generation enjoying a session of drumming. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Special Police at your service. The Civil Nuclear Constabulary stall. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

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Zimbabwe

Able Community: Cleaning Up For A Brighter Future In Zimbabwe



By: Chimeno Azriel
azrielchimeno@gmail.com
Zimbabwe

Worth Noting:

- As a way to promote environmental cleanliness and community responsibility, Kadoma's Life Technical Training Institute, through its Community Based Organisation, Advocacy Bold Life Empowerment (ABLE) program, held a successful clean-up campaign in the Central Business District (CBD) of Kadoma last Friday. This initiative highlighted the institution's commitment to empowering the youth and fostering a sense of community pride.
- The clean-up campaign, which saw students and staff from Life Technical Training Institute, Government Ministries and the Community coming together to pick up litter and beautify the CBD, demonstrating the power of collective action in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. This effort to promote cleanliness and community responsibility aligns with the institute's mission to empower the youth with skills and values that will make them self-reliant and competitive in the workforce, as emphasized by the institution's focus on technical education.

Advocacy Bold Life Empowerment (ABLE), a leading advocacy organization in Zimbabwe, has taken a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability and community development by launching a comprehensive clean-up campaign across the country. The initiative aims to not only beautify public spaces but also raise awareness about the importance of proper waste management and its impact on public health.

Through this effort, ABLE seeks to empower local communities to take ownership of their environment and work together towards creating a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future for all Zimbabweans.

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Guest of Honour Sanyati Assistant District Development Coordinator Jabson Muungani said Environment plays an improvement for healthy living and existence of flora and fauna's life in the planet and he encouraged people to play a crucial role in maintaining its cleanliness, safety and protection.

"Environment plays an important role for healthy living and existence of flora and fauna's life on the planet," he said

"People have to play a cru-

cial role in maintaining the cleanliness, safety, and protection of the environment." In line with this, organizations like ABLE are working tirelessly to raise awareness, educate, and advocate for environmental stewardship, promoting a collective effort to preserve our planet," he concluded

The event was a resounding success, with participants working tirelessly to collect trash and beautify the area along Cameroon Street, railway station and Waverly Secondary. The clean-up campaign not only improved the aesthetic appeal of the CBD but also served as a reminder of the importance of community involvement in maintaining a clean environment.

Andrew Mugabe, Director of Life Technical Training Institute, said "The CBO is working in line with the President's vision of cleaning the environment every first Friday of each month. ABLE will take it a step further by cleaning the environment every month, demonstrating our commitment to environmental sustainability," he said

During an interview on the sidelines of the clean-up campaign, Sanyati District Environmental Management Agency (EMA) Rolien Ndagurwa, she said "We encourage cleanliness in the environment and proper waste management practices, such as grading litter according to their nature, like bottles, plastic, or papers and we aim to promote effective waste segregation and recycling, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment,"

School learners were happy to be part of the clean-up in order to make the environment clean and they valued the importance of cleanliness.

"We are happy to be part of the clean-up campaign to make our environment clean," said the school learners and we value the importance of engaging young people in environmental initiatives and promoting a sense of responsibility towards maintaining a clean and healthy environment," said the learners.

The successful clean-up campaign organised by Life Technical Training Institute through ABLE is evident to the institution's dedication to making a positive impact in the community. By

working together, the institute and the community created a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment for everyone. This initiative set a great example for other organisations and individuals in Kadoma to follow, promoting a culture of cleanliness and community responsibility.

The clean-up campaign was a collaborative effort, graced by the presence of the Public Service Commission, District Development Coordinator's office, Zero Waste Movement, Environmental Management Agency, various organizations, schools, and other government officials. This collective initiative underscores the importance of community involvement and inter-agency collaboration in promoting environmental cleanliness and sustainability.



Kenya Welcomes The World With Songs, Dances And Drumbeats

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Worth Noting:

- “As a CNC officer, you’ll be trained to an exceptional standard to provide an agile, collaborative and effective armed response, adding, “With your skills, determination and ambition, you’ll help fulfil our mission of protecting our locations and the UK public – while enjoying a rewarding career as part of an inclusive, supportive police team.”
- “We are having many interested young people coming to us for further information.”
- Another interesting stall was Global Education (GEDU), which has a worldwide reach with a presence in 14 countries. They are in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Ireland, Malta, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates - Dubai, the USA and of course, the UK. The fact that an international organisation such as GEDU can participate in the Kenya and Friends in the Park is ample testimony to this annual event’s high reputation.

The children’s play area also saw excited kids enjoying their outings and rides on the first day of the event. An excited Lydia Tett Olet, the event’s founder and the main moving force with her dedicated team, was elated. “Some people thought I did this!!! No, this was all your doing – those who attended physically, prayed, contributed financially, shared the information and publicised the event. Thank you for making this happen. You made great memories for 2025. It can only be God.” She announced that Kenya and the Friends in the Park will return next year on 25th and 26th July 2026.

Kenya and Friends in the Park 2025



Memorable day out for these teenagers waiting to enjoy Kenyan food. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Cheerful Muna at her Artistic Strokes stall offering beauty services. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Tempting dishes on display at the Safari, Joe’s Catering stall. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Happy to be here...two young Kenyan friends enjoying a conversation. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Finger lick’n good. This young Kenyan enjoys tucking into her favorite nyama choma treat. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Replenishing nyama choma stocks to keep the many people waiting in the queue at this open-air take-away. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

WORLD

The Unshakeable Commissioner: How Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi Shaken South Africa's Political Foundations



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyatimes

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Worth Noting:

• Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi is a highly experienced and prominent figure within the South African Police Service (SAPS), currently serving as the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner. Born on February 5, 1973, in KwaZulu-Natal, his career in law enforcement has been extensive, marked by significant roles and a reputation for resolute action against organized crime and corruption.

• Mkhwanazi's journey through the SAPS ranks has seen him hold crucial positions, including a period as acting National Police Commissioner, demonstrating his leadership capabilities at the highest level. He is notably a former head of the elite Special Task Force (colloquially known as the "Taakies"), a unit renowned for its exceptionally rigorous selection and training processes. His deep operational experience and strategic acumen are well-regarded within police circles.

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He is widely recognized for his unwavering stance on corruption and his willingness to confront challenging situations. This commitment to integrity has not always been without its difficulties; Mkhwanazi has previously faced and successfully overcome an investigation into his conduct by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, with the case ultimately being dropped following a public "Hands off Mkhwanazi" campaign that highlighted significant support for him. This history underscores his resilience and the public's perception of him as a dedicated, no-nonsense law enforcer.

The Bombshell Briefing: Allegations That Shook a Nation

The seismic event that has captivated South Africa occurred on July 6, 2025. In a highly unusual and dramatic press briefing, Mkhwanazi, dressed in the distinctive Special Task Force camouflage and flanked by armed police officers, delivered a scathing indictment of systemic corruption within the very institutions meant to uphold law and order.

His allegations were far-reaching and deeply disturbing:

Political Interference at the Highest Levels: Mkhwanazi directly accused the then-Police Minister, Senzo Mchunu, and Deputy National Commissioner Shadrack Sibiyi, of severe political interference.

He claimed they colluded with criminal elements and unlawfully withdrew 121 high-priority case dockets from the Political Killings Task Team, a specialized unit formed to investigate politically motivated assassinations. The implication was clear: powerful individuals were actively undermining investigations to protect a network of politically connected figures.

A Pervasive Criminal Syndicate: Beyond individual accusations, Mkhwanazi painted a grim picture of a vast criminal enterprise. He alleged that a powerful drug cartel based in Gauteng exerted control over a high-level criminal syndicate, which had infiltrated and compromised the South African Police Service, the Police Ministry, Parliament, official prison structures, and even the judiciary.

Obstructed Justice for High-Profile Cases: He further claimed that police had been in possession of firearms linked to the killings of prominent South Africans, including the well-known musician DJ Sumbodi, but that no action had been taken due to alleged interference. This specific revelation resonated deeply with a public long frustrated by perceived impunity for serious crimes.

The visual spectacle of the briefing, with Mkhwanazi "combat ready" and surrounded by armed personnel, was interpreted by some as a "threat to this country" or a "staged press conference" with underlying political motives. However, for many, it was a desperate cry for justice and a powerful symbol of a man willing to put his career, and potentially his life, on the line.

Immediate Fallout: Suspensions and Inquiries

The immediate aftermath of Mkhwanazi's revelations was swift and significant. President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledged the gravity of the allegations, publicly declaring them "a matter of grave concern" and "a national security issue." In response, he announced decisive action:

Minister Senzo Mchunu placed on Special Leave: The then-Police Minister, Senzo Mchunu, was promptly



Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner

placed on "special leave with full pay." This move, while not a dismissal, signaled the seriousness with which the allegations were being treated and aimed to create an environment conducive to an impartial investigation.

Deputy National Commissioner Shadrack Sibiyi on Leave: Similarly, Deputy National Commissioner Shadrack Sibiyi was placed on a "leave of absence" or told to "step aside."

Judicial Commission of Inquiry Established: President Ramaphosa announced the establishment of a Judicial Commission of Inquiry, to be led by Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga of the Constitutional Court. This commission has been tasked with a thorough investigation into the systemic corruption alleged by Mkhwanazi within law enforcement and justice institutions. The commission is expected to present its findings and recommendations within 90 days, though this timeframe can be extended.

Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee: In parallel, Parliament's police committee and its justice and constitutional development committee recommended the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to specifically probe Mkhwanazi's allegations, also with a suggested 90-day timeline. This dual approach from both the executive and legislative branches underscores the magnitude of the crisis.

Acting Police Minister Ap-

pointed: To ensure continuity in the critical Police Ministry, Professor Firoz Cachalia, chairperson of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council, has been appointed as acting Police Minister, effective from August 1.

These actions demonstrate a concerted effort by the state to address the crisis, even as the National Police Commissioner, Fannie Masemola, has broken his silence on the unfolding events.

Public Concern and Support for "The People's General"

Beyond the halls of power, Mkhwanazi's actions have resonated deeply with a crime-weary South African public. He has been hailed by many as a "hero" and "the people's general" for his courage in exposing what many have long suspected to be pervasive corruption. Social media has been alight with "Hands off Mkhwanazi" campaigns, reflecting widespread public support and a tangible fear for his safety and career.

Politicians, including EFF leader Julius Malema, have publicly rallied behind Mkhwanazi, with Malema even suggesting that if Mkhwanazi were to be fired, there would be a place for him within the EFF to continue fighting corruption. Concerns about his contract, which is due to end in December, have led to calls for its extension and even for his elevation to a national police post, highlighting the public's desire to see him continue his work.

The sentiment among

many South Africans is that Mkhwanazi has granted the nation "a breath of fresh air," offering a glimmer of hope for justice in a country grappling with lawlessness and moral decay. The widespread support is a testament to the profound distrust in state institutions and a yearning for accountability.

The Aftershocks of Mkhwanazi: Calls for Presidential Impeachment Emerge

The explosive allegations made by Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi have indeed ignited calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa's impeachment from some quarters in South Africa. This sentiment is fueled by a perception that the President has either failed to adequately address systemic corruption and political interference within state institutions or, in some views, has been complicit through inaction.

To analyze whether the President has acted in a manner warranting impeachment and the likelihood of such a process succeeding, South Africa, Africa and the world at large must consider the legal grounds for impeachment in South Africa, the process involved, and the political realities.

Legal Grounds for Impeachment in South Africa

The South African Constitution, specifically Section 89(1), outlines the grounds

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WORLD

The Unshakeable Commissioner: How Lieutenant-General Mkhwanazi Shaken South Africa’s Political Foundations

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on which a President may be removed from office:

Serious violation of the Constitution or the law: This refers to actions that directly contravene constitutional provisions or existing legislation.

Serious misconduct: This encompasses grave ethical breaches, abuse of power, or conduct inconsistent with the office of the President.

Inability to perform the functions of office: This refers to physical or mental incapacity preventing the President from fulfilling their duties. If successfully impeached, the President would be removed from office, would not receive any benefits of that office, and could be barred from holding any public office in the future.

Has President Ramaphosa Acted in a Manner Warranting Impeachment?

The calls for impeachment stemming from Mkhwanazi’s allegations are not primarily focused on direct, new constitutional violations by Ramaphosa personally in this specific instance. Instead, they largely revolve around:

Alleged Failure to Act Decisively on Prior Corruption Reports: Critics, such as the South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU), argue that Mkhwanazi’s revelations are not isolated incidents but highlight a persistent failure by the Ramaphosa administration to implement recommendations from previous commissions of inquiry (like Zondo, Nugent, and Mufamadi) that exposed widespread state capture and corruption. They contend that his “long record of reacting late, feigning shock, and then doing nothing” amounts to a serious dereliction of duty or even complicity.

Broader Concerns (e.g., Phala Phala): The Mkhwanazi scandal re-ignites pre-existing concerns about Ramaphosa’s own integrity, particularly the unresolved “Phala Phala” scandal. In that instance, an independent Section 89 panel found that Ramaphosa might have a case to answer regarding a serious violation of the Constitution or law, serious misconduct, or inability to perform the functions of office. While the ANC majority in Parliament ultimately voted against initiating impeachment proceedings based on that report, the Phala Phala matter remains a significant stain on his anti-corruption reputation for many. The argument here is that the

Mkhwanazi allegations expose a systemic problem that Ramaphosa has failed to address, and his own past conduct (Phala Phala) undermines his credibility as a “clean-up” agent.

Perceived Political Interference/Undermining of Justice: While Mkhwanazi’s direct accusations of political interference were against the Police Minister and Deputy National Commissioner, the argument for impeaching the President could stem from a perception that he has allowed a culture of impunity or has failed to sufficiently protect institutions from such interference, thereby violating his oath of office to uphold the Constitution.

However, from a strict legal perspective based solely on Mkhwanazi’s allegations: President Ramaphosa’s immediate response to Mkhwanazi’s statements — placing the implicated Minister and Deputy Commissioner on leave and establishing a Judicial Commission of Inquiry led by a Constitutional Court Justice — could be seen as acting to address the serious issues. While critics may argue that his actions are reactive rather than proactive, or insufficient, it would be challenging to directly link these specific actions (or inactions solely related to Mkhwanazi’s claims) to a “serious violation of the Constitution or the law” or “serious misconduct” that would clearly meet the high threshold for impeachment. The current legal process initiated by Ramaphosa is, in fact, the prescribed constitutional mechanism to investigate such serious allegations.

The Process of Impeachment
The process for removing a President from office in South Africa, as outlined by Section 89 and parliamentary rules, is stringent and involves several stages:

Initiation of Motion: Any member of the National Assembly can initiate a motion to remove the President under Section 89. This motion must be substantive and supported by evidence.

Referral to Independent Panel: Once submitted, the Speaker of the National Assembly must refer the motion and supporting evidence to a panel of three independent legal experts. This panel, appointed by the Speaker in consultation with political parties, assesses whether there is sufficient prima facie evidence for Parliament to proceed with a Section 89 inquiry.

Panel’s Report: The independent panel submits a report to the National Assembly. If the panel finds sufficient evidence, it recommends that Parliament proceed with an inquiry.

Debate and Decision by the Nation-



Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Police Commissioner

al Assembly: The National Assembly debates the panel’s report.

Impeachment Inquiry (if recommended): If the National Assembly decides to proceed, an ad hoc committee (or similar body) conducts a full inquiry, taking evidence and hearing from all parties, including the President.

Committee’s Report: The inquiry committee then reports its findings and recommendations to the National Assembly.

Final Vote: If the report recommends the President’s removal, the question is put to a vote in the National Assembly. A two-thirds majority (at least 267 of the 400 members) is required for the President to be removed from office.

Likelihood of Success
Given the current political landscape in South Africa, the likelihood of an impeachment succeeding is low, but not entirely impossible, for several reasons:

ANC Majority: The African National Congress (ANC) holds a significant majority in the National Assembly. Impeachment requires a two-thirds majority. Historically, the ANC has used its majority to protect its leaders, as seen with the rejection of the Phala Phala Section 89 panel report. While the ANC’s majority has been eroded in recent elections, it remains the dominant force.

Coalition Politics (Post-2024 Elections): The 2024 general elections resulted in no single party securing an outright majority, leading to the formation of a Government of Na-

tional Unity (GNU). The ANC, as the largest party, is the dominant force within this GNU. For impeachment to succeed, significant partners within the GNU would need to support it, or a substantial portion of ANC MPs would need to vote against their party line. While some ANC members might be critical of Ramaphosa, a formal vote for impeachment could destabilize the party and the GNU.

High Evidentiary Threshold: The legal grounds for impeachment require “serious” violations or “serious” misconduct. Proving this beyond reasonable doubt in a politically charged environment, especially when the President has initiated a formal inquiry, would be a monumental task. The prima facie evidence required by the independent panel is a high bar, and the subsequent full inquiry even more so.

Timing and Political Calculations: With the President having launched a judicial commission of inquiry, Parliament and the public will likely await its findings. Pushing for impeachment before such findings are made public, or unless new, undeniable evidence emerges directly implicating the President in a serious violation, would be seen by many as premature and politically motivated. While calls for impeachment are a powerful expression of public anger and distrust, and serve to put pressure on the President, the formal process is arduous and heavily dependent on the political will of the ruling party. Unless the Judicial Commission of Inquiry explicitly implicates President Ramaphosa in a direct and “serious violation of the Constitution or the law” or “serious

misconduct” that is undeniable, or a significant shift in political alliances occurs, a presidential impeachment remains an uphill battle in South Africa. The current actions taken by President Ramaphosa – suspending the implicated officials and establishing a judicial inquiry – are designed to demonstrate a commitment to accountability and potentially pre-empt grounds for impeachment against himself.

The Road Ahead: A Critical Juncture
Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi’s actions have undoubtedly pushed South Africa to a critical juncture. The judicial commission of inquiry and the parliamentary ad hoc committee face the immense task of thoroughly investigating these grave allegations. Their findings will not only determine the fate of those implicated but will also significantly impact public trust in the state’s ability to combat corruption and ensure justice. The ongoing developments underscore the deep-seated challenges within South Africa’s law enforcement and political structures. Mkhwanazi’s “smoking guns” have opened a Pandora’s Box, and the coming months will be crucial in determining whether this crisis leads to genuine reform or further entrenchment of the very issues he has bravely brought to light. For now, the nation watches, with bated breath, as the drama of General Mkhwanazi and the fight for South Africa’s soul continues to unfold.

WORLD

The New Great Game: An Analysis of the 21st Century Military Supremacy Race



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- The consequences of this new arms race are far-reaching. It diverts vast economic resources from other pressing needs, such as healthcare, education, and climate change. It also undermines the international arms control architecture that was painstakingly built over decades to prevent nuclear war and limit the spread of destabilizing weapons. As we will see, the very treaties and norms that have helped maintain a fragile peace are now being eroded, raising the specter of a new era of unchecked military competition.
- This analysis will delve deep into the dynamics of this 21st-century military supremacy race. We will examine the military capabilities, strategic doctrines, and technological advancements of the United States, Russia, and China. We will also explore the geopolitical context of their rivalry, the erosion of international arms control, and the potential implications for global security. In a world where the lines between peace and war are increasingly blurred, understanding this new “Great Game” is more critical than ever.

Introduction: A World in Flux
The 21st century has ushered in a new era of great power competition, a dynamic and often tense rivalry between the United States, Russia, and China. This competition is most starkly manifested in a global arms race, a relentless pursuit of military supremacy that is reshaping the geopolitical landscape. Unlike the bipolar standoff of the Cold War, this new contest is a complex, triangular affair, with each nation vying for dominance in a world characterized by rapid technological change and shifting alliances. The race for military top-notch status is not merely about accumulating more tanks or soldiers; it is a multi-domain struggle encompassing everything from hypersonic missiles and artificial intelligence to cyber warfare and space weaponization. The motivations behind this arms race are as complex as the technologies they produce. For the United States, the goal is to maintain its long-held position as the world's sole superpower, a status it has enjoyed since the collapse of the Soviet Union. For Russia, it is a matter of reasserting its global influence and challenging what it perceives as American hegemony. And for China, it is the culmination of a decades-long economic and military expansion, a drive to achieve what it believes is its rightful place as a global leader. This race for military supremacy is further fueled by a deep-seated mistrust and a clash of ideologies. The democratic values championed by the United States and its allies stand in stark contrast to the authoritarian models of Russia and China. This ideological divide exacerbates geopolitical tensions, turning regional disputes into potential flashpoints for global conflict. The very nature of this competition, with its emphasis on secrecy and technological one-upmanship, also creates a dangerous spiral of action and reaction, where each nation's military advancements are seen as a direct threat by the others. The consequences of this new arms race are far-reaching. It diverts vast economic resources from other pressing needs, such as healthcare, education, and climate change. It also undermines the international arms control architecture that was painstakingly built over decades to prevent nuclear war and limit the spread of destabilizing weapons. As we will see, the very treaties and norms that have helped

maintain a fragile peace are now being eroded, raising the specter of a new era of unchecked military competition. This analysis will delve deep into the dynamics of this 21st-century military supremacy race. We will examine the military capabilities, strategic doctrines, and technological advancements of the United States, Russia, and China. We will also explore the geopolitical context of their rivalry, the erosion of international arms control, and the potential implications for global security. In a world where the lines between peace and war are increasingly blurred, understanding this new “Great Game” is more critical than ever.

The United States: The Enduring Superpower
The United States has long been the undisputed leader in military power, a position it has held since the end of World War II and solidified after the Cold War. With a defense budget that dwarfs that of any other nation, a global network of alliances, and a technological edge that has been the envy of the world, the U.S. military has been the cornerstone of American global leadership. However, the 21st century has brought new challenges to this preeminence. The rise of China, the resurgence of Russia, and the changing nature of warfare have forced the United States to adapt its military strategy and re-evaluate its role in the world.

Military Capabilities and Spending
The sheer scale of the U.S. military is staggering. In 2024, the United States' military spending reached a colossal \$997 billion, a figure that is more than the next ten countries combined. This massive investment allows the U.S. to maintain a force of over 1.3 million active-duty personnel and nearly 800,000 reservists. The U.S. Navy boasts the largest and most advanced fleet in the world, with 11 aircraft carriers, each a floating city capable of projecting power across the globe. The U.S. Air Force possesses a formidable arsenal of stealth bombers, fighter jets, and unmanned aerial vehicles, giving it unparalleled air superiority. The U.S. Army and Marine Corps are equipped with the latest in ground combat technology, from advanced battle tanks to sophisticated communication systems. Beyond its conventional



forces, the United States maintains a robust nuclear arsenal, a key component of its strategic deterrence. The U.S. nuclear triad, consisting of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic bombers, ensures a credible second-strike capability, a cornerstone of nuclear deterrence theory.

Strategic Doctrine and Goals
The U.S. national security strategy has undergone a significant shift in recent years. The post-9/11 focus on counterterrorism has been replaced by a renewed emphasis on great power competition. The 2022 National Defense Strategy explicitly identifies China as the “pacing challenge” and Russia as an “acute threat.” This shift reflects a recognition that the long-term strategic challenge to U.S. interests comes not from non-state actors, but from peer and near-peer competitors.

Deterrence: The primary goal of the U.S. military is to deter aggression against the United States and its allies. This is achieved through a combination of conventional and nuclear forces, as well as a clear willingness to use force when necessary.

Power Projection: The U.S. military is designed to project power globally, to respond to crises and protect U.S. interests far from its shores. This is made possible by its network of overseas bases, its logistical capabilities, and its advanced naval and air forces.

Alliances: The United States places a high value on its alliances, which it sees as a key

strategic advantage. These alliances, such as NATO and the U.S.-Japan security treaty, not only enhance U.S. military capabilities but also provide a framework for collective security.

Technological Superiority: The United States has long relied on its technological edge to offset the numerical advantages of its adversaries. Maintaining this edge is a top priority, with significant investments in research and development in areas such as artificial intelligence, hypersonic weapons, and cyber warfare.

Technological Advancements
The United States is at the forefront of military innovation, with a vast and well-funded research and development ecosystem that includes government laboratories, private industry, and academic institutions. Some of the key areas of technological focus include:

Hypersonic Weapons: The U.S. is aggressively pursuing the development of hypersonic glide vehicles and cruise missiles. These weapons, which can travel at more than five times the speed of sound and are highly maneuverable, are seen as a way to overcome advanced air defense systems.

Artificial Intelligence: The Pentagon is investing heavily in artificial intelligence, with applications ranging from autonomous weapons systems and intelligence analysis to logistics and predictive maintenance. Project Maven, for example, uses AI to analyze drone footage and identify potential targets.

Cyber Warfare: The U.S. Cyber Command is responsible for conducting both offensive and defensive cyber operations. The United States has some of the most advanced cyber capabilities

in the world, which it uses to protect its own networks and disrupt those of its adversaries.

Space Warfare: The establishment of the U.S. Space Force in 2019 reflects the growing importance of space as a warfighting domain. The Space Force is responsible for protecting U.S. satellites, which are essential for communication, navigation, and intelligence gathering, and for developing offensive space capabilities.

Challenges and Vulnerabilities
Despite its immense power, the U.S. military is not without its challenges and vulnerabilities. The high cost of maintaining a global military presence has led to debates about overstretch and the need for a more restrained foreign policy. The U.S. military is also facing a recruiting crisis, with a shrinking pool of eligible and willing young people. Furthermore, the technological gap between the United States and its rivals is narrowing. China, in particular, has made rapid strides in military technology, and in some areas, may have already surpassed the United States. The proliferation of advanced weapons, such as anti-ship ballistic missiles, has also made it more difficult for the U.S. to project power in certain regions, such as the South China Sea. The very nature of modern warfare, with its emphasis on asymmetric tactics and hybrid threats, also poses a challenge to the U.S. military, which is still largely configured for conventional, high-intensity conflict. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that overwhelming military power does not always translate

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into political success. In conclusion, the United States remains the world's preeminent military power, but its dominance is no longer assured. The rise of China and the resurgence of Russia have created a more contested and dangerous world, one in which the United States must constantly adapt and innovate to maintain its edge. The choices that the United States makes in the coming years will have a profound impact on the future of the global security landscape and the trajectory of the 21st-century arms race.

Russia: The Resurgent Bear

Russia, the inheritor of the Soviet Union's military legacy, has re-emerged as a major military power in the 21st century. After a period of decline in the 1990s, Russia has embarked on an ambitious military modernization program, seeking to restore its global influence and challenge the post-Cold War order. While Russia's military spending is a fraction of that of the United States, it has proven to be a formidable and unpredictable actor on the world stage, leveraging its strengths in asymmetric warfare, its vast nuclear arsenal, and its willingness to take risks to achieve its strategic objectives.

Military Capabilities and Modernization

Russia's military has undergone a significant transformation since the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, which exposed serious weaknesses in its command and control, logistics, and equipment. In response, Russia launched a comprehensive modernization program, investing heavily in new weapons systems, professionalizing its armed forces, and restructuring its military command. As of 2024, Russia's military spending was estimated to be around \$149 billion, making it the third-largest in the world. The Russian armed forces consist of approximately 1.1 million active-duty personnel and over 2 million reservists. The Russian military is divided into three main branches: the Ground Forces, the Navy, and the Aerospace Forces. The Russian Ground Forces have been a key focus of the modernization effort, with the introduction of new tanks, such as the T-14 Armata, advanced artillery systems, and sophisticated electronic warfare capabilities. The Russian Navy, while not as large as its Soviet predecessor, has also been modernized, with the introduction of new submarines, frigates, and corvettes armed with long-range cruise missiles. The Russian Aerospace Forces have been equipped with new fighter jets, such as the Su-57, and have gained valuable combat experience in Syria. However, it is in the realm of strategic forces that Russia poses the most significant challenge to the United States. Russia possesses the largest

and most diverse nuclear arsenal in the world, with a triad of land-based ICBMs, SLBMs, and strategic bombers. Russia has also been a leader in the development of novel strategic weapons, such as hypersonic glide vehicles, nuclear-powered cruise missiles, and underwater nuclear drones, which are designed to circumvent U.S. missile defense systems.

Strategic Doctrine and Goals

Russia's military doctrine is shaped by a deep-seated sense of insecurity and a desire to restore its great power status. The 2014 Russian military doctrine identifies NATO expansion as the primary external threat and reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state. The key tenets of Russia's strategic doctrine can be summarized as follows:

Strategic Deterrence: Russia's nuclear arsenal is the ultimate guarantor of its sovereignty and security. It is designed to deter aggression from any potential adversary, particularly the United States and NATO.

Asymmetric Warfare: Recognizing that it cannot compete with the United States in a conventional, symmetrical conflict, Russia has focused on developing asymmetric capabilities, such as cyber warfare, information warfare, and the use of private military companies. These tools allow Russia to achieve its objectives below the threshold of open warfare, creating ambiguity and avoiding a direct confrontation with the West.

Near Abroad: Russia considers the former Soviet republics, which it refers to as the "near abroad," to be within its sphere of influence. It is willing to use military force to prevent these countries from aligning with the West, as demonstrated by its interventions in Georgia and Ukraine.

Multipolar World: Russia seeks to create a multipolar world order, in which it is one of several major powers, rather than a unipolar world dominated by the United States. It has forged strategic partnerships with countries like China and has sought to undermine U.S. influence in various parts of the world.

Technological Advancements

Russia has a long and proud tradition of scientific and engineering excellence, and it has leveraged this expertise to develop a range of advanced military technologies. Some of the key areas of technological focus include:

Hypersonic Weapons: Russia is widely considered to be the world leader in the development of hypersonic weapons. It has already deployed the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle and the Kinzhal air-launched hypersonic missile, and is developing the Tsirkon sea-



launched hypersonic cruise missile.

Electronic Warfare: Russia has some of the most advanced electronic warfare capabilities in the world. It has used these capabilities to jam GPS signals, disrupt communications, and disable drones in both Ukraine and Syria.

Cyber Warfare: Russia has a sophisticated and aggressive cyber warfare program, which it has used to conduct espionage, spread disinformation, and attack critical infrastructure in other countries. The 2016 U.S. presidential election and the 2017 NotPetya cyberattack are just two examples of Russia's prowess in this domain.

Arctic Warfare: With the melting of the Arctic ice cap, Russia has made the Arctic a strategic priority. It has established a network of military bases in the region and is developing new weapons and equipment specifically designed for Arctic warfare.

Challenges and Vulnerabilities

Despite its military resurgence, Russia faces a number of significant challenges and vulnerabilities. Its economy is heavily dependent on the export of oil and gas, making it vulnerable to fluctuations in global energy prices and to Western sanctions. Its population is declining, and it is facing a demographic crisis that could make it difficult to sustain a large military in the long term. Russia's military-industrial complex, while still capable of producing advanced weapons, is also facing challenges. It is struggling to mass-produce some of its most advanced systems, such as the T-14 tank and the Su-57 fighter jet, due to cost and technical issues. It is also heavily reliant on imported components for some of its weapons, making it vulnerable to sanctions. The war in Ukraine has also exposed some of the limitations of the Russian military. While it has made some gains, it has also suffered heavy losses in both personnel and equipment. The war has also shown that the Russian military is still plagued by some of the same problems that were identified in the 2008 Georgia war, such as poor logistics, inadequate command and control, and

low morale.

In conclusion, Russia has re-emerged as a major military power, one that is willing to challenge the United States and its allies. Its formidable nuclear arsenal, its advanced asymmetric capabilities, and its willingness to take risks make it a dangerous and unpredictable actor on the world stage. However, Russia also faces a number of significant challenges, which could limit its ability to sustain its military resurgence in the long term. The future of Russia's role in the world will depend on its ability to overcome these challenges and to adapt to a rapidly changing global security environment.

China: The Rising Dragon

China's rise as a military power is perhaps the most significant geopolitical development of the 21st century. For decades, China has been quietly and methodically building a modern and technologically advanced military, one that is now capable of challenging U.S. dominance in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. China's military modernization is driven by a long-term strategic vision, a desire to protect its growing global interests, and a determination to achieve what it calls the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Military Capabilities and Expansion

China's defense budget has seen double-digit growth for most of the past two decades, and in 2024, it reached an estimated \$314 billion, making it the second-largest in the world. This sustained investment has allowed China to transform the People's Liberation Army (PLA) from a large but technologically backward force into a modern and capable military. The PLA is the largest active-duty military in the world, with over 2 million personnel. It is divided into five main branches: the Ground Force, the Navy, the Air Force, the Rocket Force, and the Strategic Support Force. The PLA Navy has been a particular focus of China's military modernization. It is now the largest navy in the world by number of ships, and it is rapidly closing the technological gap with the U.S. Navy. China has

launched its third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, which is equipped with an advanced electromagnetic catapult system, and it is building a new generation of destroyers, frigates, and submarines.

The PLA Air Force has also been modernized, with the introduction of new stealth fighters, such as the J-20, and a growing fleet of transport aircraft and bombers. The PLA Rocket Force controls China's conventional and nuclear missiles, including a large and diverse arsenal of anti-ship ballistic missiles, which are designed to target U.S. aircraft carriers.

The PLA Strategic Support Force, established in 2015, is responsible for space, cyber, and electronic warfare. This reflects China's focus on what it calls "intelligentized warfare," a new form of warfare that integrates artificial intelligence, big data, and other advanced technologies.

Strategic Doctrine and Ambitions

China's military doctrine is guided by the concept of "active defense," which emphasizes the importance of striking first in the face of an imminent threat. China's long-term strategic ambitions are outlined in its national defense white papers, which call for the PLA to become a "world-class" military by the middle of the 21st century.

The key tenets of China's strategic doctrine can be summarized as follows:

Taiwan Unification: The unification of Taiwan with the mainland is a core national interest for China, and it has not ruled out the use of force to achieve this goal. The PLA's modernization has been largely focused on developing the capabilities needed to deter U.S. intervention in a Taiwan contingency.

Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD): China has developed a sophisticated A2/AD strategy, which is designed to prevent the U.S. military from operating freely in the Western Pacific. This strategy relies on a combination of anti-ship ballistic missiles,

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Diaspora

Zimbabwe's Mental Health Advocate Vicky Mlilo Maponga Spreads Joy At Zimbabwe Chikurubi Female Prison



By: Chimeno Azriel
azrielchimeno@gmail.com
Zimbabwe

Worth Noting:

- Chikurubi Female Prison was filled with renewed spirit and heartfelt transformation as renowned ZBC news anchor and mental health advocate, Vicky Mlilo Maponga, led a moving outreach to support female inmates and the children living with them through her organization, Another Chance.
- The outreach program brought hope and joy to the women and children at the prison, providing them with emotional support and a sense of connection to the outside world. Vicky Mlilo Maponga's initiative highlighted the importance of mental health support and rehabilitation in correctional facilities. The event was a testament to the power of compassion and kindness in transforming lives.
- Originally planned as a donation drive focused on babies behind bars, the event evolved into a powerful day of inspiration and restoration. Vicky Mlilo Maponga, joined by Apostle Milton Njole from House of Prayer as part of her Another Chance program, delivered a combined message of healing, resilience, and spiritual revival, touching the hearts and lives of the female inmates and their children at Chikurubi Female Prison.

Renowned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) news anchor and mental health advocate, Vicky Mlilo Maponga, demonstrated her commitment to giving back to the community through her organization, Another Chance.

In a heartwarming outreach program, Vicky visited Zimbabwe's Chikurubi Female Prison last week where she donated essential items such as clothes, food and toiletries to support the female inmates and their children. The visit was not only about providing material support but also about spreading hope, love and inspiration to those who need it most.

Through her advocacy and charity work, Vicky continues to make a positive impact on the lives of many Zimbabweans.

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The donation, coordinated by Another Chance, included a wide range of critical items such as diapers, baby porridge, blankets, stompies (plastic footwear), sanitary ware, and hygiene essentials, bringing comfort and dignity to the incarcerated mothers and their children at Chikurubi Female Prison. These thoughtful provisions

addressed some of the most basic yet essential needs of the women and children, providing them with a sense of care and support during a challenging time.

During her address, Vicky Mlilo Maponga bravely shared her personal journey through deep emotional challenges, including surviving three suicide attempts. Her raw and honest testimony resonated deeply with the inmates, as she spoke of self-discovery, mental wellness, and the transformative power of the mind in shaping one's future.

By opening up about her own struggles, Vicky inspired the women to confront their own challenges and find strength in their resilience.

"You are still yourselves, despite your circumstances and do not look down upon yourselves," said Vicky whose words resonated deeply with the women, evoking a powerful response of tears, applause and visible hope.

Apostle Milton Njole delivered a powerful sermon inside the prison walls, emphasizing that true happiness originates from within. "The walls and fences of prison should not distract your happiness," he said. "There are people out there without peace—the peace which you are enjoying," he said highlighting the importance of inner peace and contentment, regardless of external circumstances.

The visit was further enriched by the arrival of St Gerard's Catholic Church – Borrowdale, represented by Mrs. Loice Magwebwa, who brought spiritual nourishment and generous donations, including blankets, Vaseline, sanitary products, and uniform material for the facility, adding to the joy and sense of community at Chikurubi Female Prison.

Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, a member of St Gerard's Catholic Church's Class of 25, also contributed to the donations and his involvement symbolised national support for the well-being and rehabilitation of incarcerated women.

The atmosphere lifted further when Vicky Mlilo Maponga, known for her commanding presence on ZBC's main news bulletin, brought the house down by mimicking her iconic news reading style, much to the amusement and delight of the inmates, who couldn't

help but laugh and smile at the familiar cadence and flair.

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As formalities gave way to joy, the event transitioned into a lively outdoor recreational session, where Vicky and her team had organised traditional childhood games such as nhodo, pada, and raka raka. The inmates enthusiastically participated, laughing and competing for small prizes, which fostered a sense of community and nostalgia that is often unseen within the prison walls. The day was brought to life by music from the ZPCS Prison Band, inmate performances, and spontaneous celebration.

Vicky Mlilo Maponga's visit to Chikurubi Female Prison served as a poignant reminder of the impact that kindness, compassion, and support can have on the lives of others. Through her charity drive and inspiring message, Vicky brought hope and joy to the female inmates and their children, while also highlighting the importance of mental health advocacy and rehabilitation. The collaborative effort with St Gerard's Catholic Church – Borrowdale further underscored the value of community involvement in promoting positive change. As Vicky continues to make a difference through her organization, Another Chance, her visit to Chikurubi Female Prison will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on the lives of those she touched.



Renowned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) news anchor and mental health advocate, Vicky Mlilo Maponga



Renowned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) news anchor and mental health advocate, Vicky Mlilo Maponga

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advanced air defense systems, and a growing fleet of submarines.

Protecting Overseas Interests: As China's economic interests have expanded globally, the PLA has been tasked with protecting these interests. China has established its first overseas military base in Djibouti, and it is increasingly deploying its navy to protect its sea lanes of communication.

Shaping the International Order: China seeks to play a greater role in shaping the international order, one that is more aligned with its interests and values. It has launched a number of initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, to expand its economic and political influence, and it is taking a more active role in international institutions.

Technological Advancements
China has made remarkable progress in military technology, and in some areas, it is now a world leader. This has been achieved through a combination of domestic research and development, technology transfer, and cyber espionage. Some of the key areas of technological focus include:

Hypersonic Weapons: China has a very active hypersonic weapons program and has conducted numerous tests of hypersonic glide vehicles and cruise missiles. The DF-17, a medium-range ballistic missile armed with a hypersonic glide vehicle, is already in service.

Artificial Intelligence: China has made AI a national priority and is investing heavily in its military applications. It is developing autonomous weapons systems, AI-powered command and control systems, and AI-driven intelligence analysis tools.

Quantum Technology: China is a world leader in quantum technology, which has the potential to revolutionize warfare. Quantum computing could be used to break encryption, while quantum sensing could be used to detect stealth aircraft and submarines.

Cyber Warfare: China has a vast and sophisticated cyber warfare program, which it uses for espionage, intellectual property theft, and to prepare for future conflicts. The PLA's Strategic Support Force is responsible for conducting these operations.

Challenges and Vulnerabilities

Despite its rapid military modernization, China still faces a number of challenges and vulnerabilities. The PLA has not fought a major war in over 40 years, and its operational experience is limited. It is also still struggling to overcome some of the legacies of its past, such as a rigid command structure and a culture of corruption.

China's military is also heavily reliant on imported technology for some of its most advanced weapons systems, such as jet engines. While it is working to overcome this dependence, it is still a significant vulnerability.

Furthermore, China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea and its growing military power have alarmed its neighbors, leading to a backlash and a strengthening of alliances against it. The AUKUS security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States is a direct response to China's growing military might. In conclusion, China's rise as a military power is a game-changer for the 21st century. Its rapid military modernization, its long-term strategic vision, and its growing technological prowess have made it a formidable challenger to U.S. dominance. However, China also faces a number of significant challenges, which could constrain its ambitions. The future of the U.S.-China rivalry will be the defining feature of the 21st-century security landscape, and the choices that both countries make will have a profound impact on the future of the world.

The Triangular Competition: A New Cold War?

The simultaneous rise of China and resurgence of Russia have created a complex and dynamic triangular competition with the United States. While some have been quick to label this a "new Cold War," the current geopolitical landscape is far more complex than the bipolar standoff of the 20th century. The three powers are not divided into two rigid blocs, and their relationships are characterized by a mix of competition, cooperation, and confrontation.

A Three-Way Race

The military competition between the United States, Russia, and China is a three-way race, with each nation seeking to gain an advantage over the other two.

The U.S.-China Rivalry: The U.S.-China rivalry is the central dynamic of the 21st century. It is a competition between an established superpower and a rising one, and it is playing out across all domains, from trade and technology to military power and ideology. The main flashpoints in this rivalry are Taiwan and the South China Sea, where the risk of a direct military confrontation is highest.

The U.S.-Russia Rivalry: The U.S.-Russia rivalry is a continuation of the Cold War, albeit with a different ideological flavor. It is a competition between two nuclear-armed powers with a long history of mistrust and animosity. The main flashpoints in this rivalry are Eastern Europe, where NATO expansion is a major source of tension, and the Middle East, where the two countries have backed opposing sides in various conflicts.

The China-Russia Partnership: China and Russia have forged a strategic partnership based on a shared oppo-



sition to U.S. hegemony. They have conducted joint military exercises, cooperated on defense technology, and coordinated their positions in international forums. However, this is not a formal alliance, and there are underlying tensions and competing interests between the two countries, particularly in Central Asia.

The Dynamics of the Competition

The triangular competition is characterized by a number of key dynamics:

Action-Reaction Spiral: The military advancements of one power are seen as a threat by the other two, leading to a dangerous action-reaction spiral. For example, the development of U.S. missile defense systems has been a major driver of Russian and Chinese efforts to develop hypersonic weapons.

Asymmetric Competition: Russia and China, recognizing that they cannot compete with the United States in a symmetrical conflict, have focused on developing asymmetric capabilities, such as cyber warfare, information warfare, and A2/AD systems.

Technological Arms Race: The competition is increasingly being driven by technology, with all three powers investing heavily in areas such as artificial intelligence, hypersonic weapons, and quantum technology. This technological arms race is creating a new generation of weapons that are faster, stealthier, and more autonomous, raising new questions about strategic stability and the future of warfare.

Hybrid Warfare: The lines between peace and war are becoming increasingly blurred, with all three powers using a combination of military and non-military tools to achieve their objectives. This "hybrid warfare" includes everything from cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns to economic coercion and political subversion.

The Erosion of International Norms

One of the most dangerous consequences of the new arms race is the erosion of the international arms control architecture that was built

over decades to prevent nuclear war and limit the spread of destabilizing weapons. The very treaties and norms that have helped maintain a fragile peace are now being undermined, raising the specter of a new era of unchecked military competition.

The Collapse of Arms Control

The post-Cold War arms control regime is in a state of collapse. The United States has withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, and the Open Skies Treaty. Russia has suspended its participation in the New START Treaty, the last remaining nuclear arms control agreement between the two countries. The reasons for this collapse are complex. The United States has argued that these treaties are outdated and do not address the new threats posed by countries like China, which is not a party to any of them. Russia has accused the United States of seeking to achieve military superiority and of violating the spirit of these agreements. The collapse of arms control has a number of dangerous consequences. It removes important constraints on the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia, and it could lead to a new nuclear arms race. It also undermines transparency and predictability, making it more difficult to assess the intentions of other countries and increasing the risk of miscalculation.

The Weaponization of New Domains

The new arms race is also extending to new domains, such as space and cyberspace, where there are few, if any, rules of the road. The weaponization of these domains is creating new vulnerabilities and new possibilities for conflict.

Space: The United States, Russia, and China are all developing anti-satellite weapons, which could be used to disrupt or destroy the satellites that are essential for communication, navigation, and intelligence gathering. A war in space would have devastating consequences for the global economy and for modern society.

Cyberspace: Cyberattacks are becoming more frequent and more sophisticated, and they are being used to target everything from critical infrastructure to democratic processes. A major cyberattack could have the same effect as a physical attack, causing widespread disruption and even loss of life.

The lack of international norms and agreements in these new domains is a major source of instability. It creates a "Wild West" environment, where anything goes, and where the risk of escalation is high.

Conclusion: The Future of the Arms Race

The 21st-century military supremacy race is a dangerous and destabilizing trend that is reshaping the global security landscape. The competition between the United States, Russia, and China is a complex and multi-domain affair, driven by a mix of geopolitical ambition, technological innovation, and ideological rivalry.

The future of this arms race is uncertain. It could lead to a new era of great power conflict, with devastating consequences for the world. Or, it could lead to a new equilibrium, in which the three powers find a way to manage their competition and avoid a direct confrontation.

The path that the world takes will depend on the choices that are made by the leaders of the United States, Russia, and China. They have a responsibility to manage their rivalry responsibly, to avoid a new Cold War, and to preserve the international norms and institutions that have helped maintain peace and stability for decades.

This will require a renewed commitment to diplomacy and arms control. It will require a willingness to engage in dialogue, to build trust, and to find areas of common interest. It will also require a recognition that in the 21st century, security is not a zero-sum game. The security of one nation is inextricably linked to the security of all nations.

The new "Great Game" is a dangerous one, but it is not one that we are destined to lose. With wisdom, foresight, and a commitment to cooperation, we can navigate the challenges of this new era and build a more peaceful and prosperous world for all.

Diaspora

The Developmental Interpretation Of The Short Novel (Qissa) Genre In Uzbek Literature



By: Farangiz Abdurahmonova
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Worth Noting:

In the subsequent development of the genre, prominent writers like Abdulla Qahhor, Oybek, Asqad Muxtor, Mirmuhsin, Odil Yoqubov, and Otkir Hoshimov made significant contributions. These talented authors pushed the genre forward, producing short novels that aligned with the artistic and ideological needs of their times, creating enduring works that embodied the spirit of their eras

In literary studies, the term povest (from the Russian повествовать – to narrate) is often used as the equivalent of the Uzbek qissa. It typically depicts a relatively brief period in time through the life experiences, struggles, and emotions of one or several main characters. The genre holds a unique place in literature — it is longer and more substantial than a short story, yet more concise and focused than a novel. It is considered a medium-length epic genre.

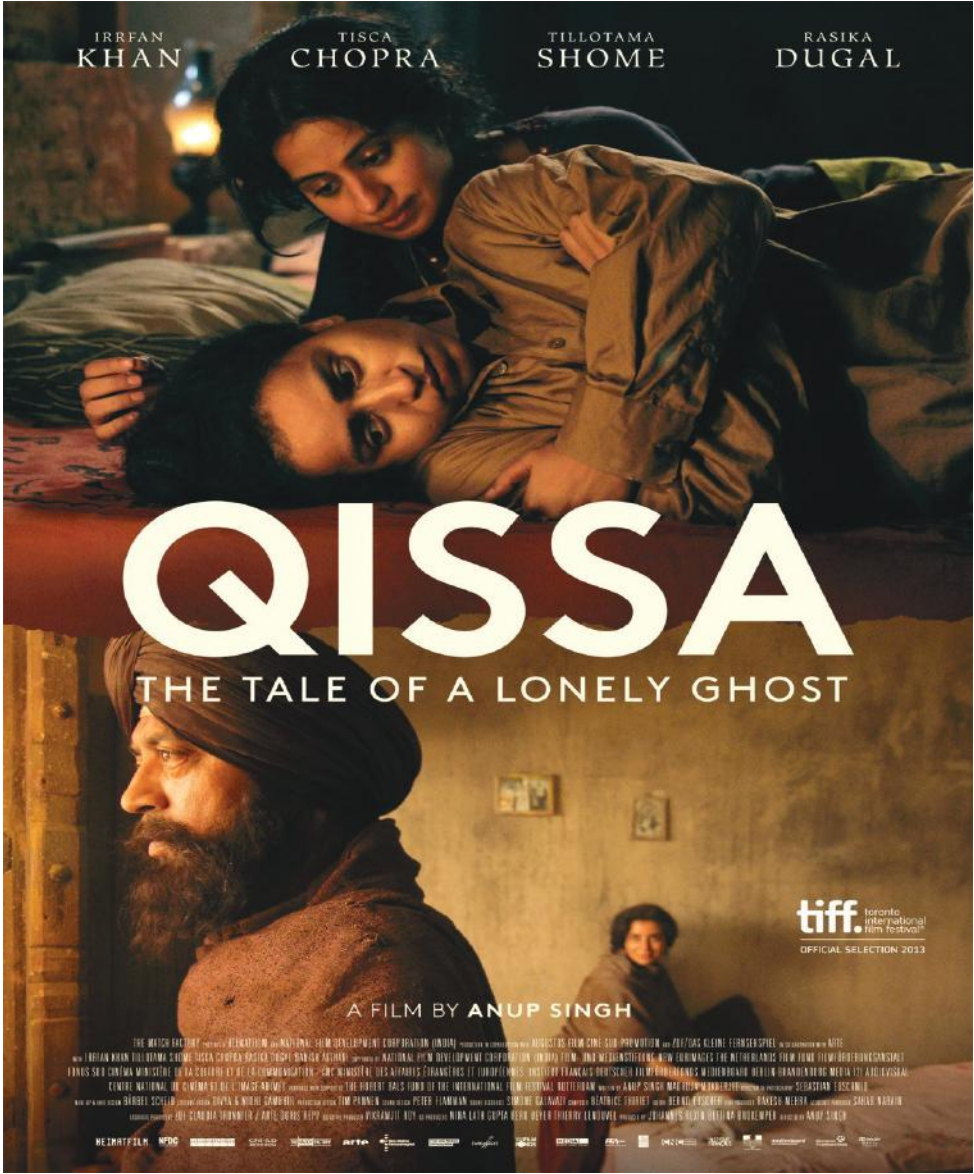
Abstract:
This article explores the historical development of the short novel (qissa) genre in Uzbek literature, from its emergence to its role in contemporary literary processes. It examines how the form and content of the genre have evolved over time. In particular, it compares the similarities and differences between Abdulla Qahhor’s “Tales from the Past” and Shoim Botayev’s “People Left Behind by the Soviet Era.”

Keywords: epic style, novel-la, short novel, social issues, psychology, protagonist.

Literature is a product of human thought and artistic creativity — a powerful medium that nurtures the soul and purifies the heart. It manifests itself in emotional expression, narrative structure, and dramatic movement, appearing in forms such as lyricism, epic, and drama. Prior to the 20th century and the Jadid literature movement, Uzbek literature was predominantly lyrical, with very limited use of prose. The rapid introduction of prose into Uzbek literature marked a new phase in its development and laid the groundwork for the emergence of new genres and literary forms. This transformation is particularly evident in the short novel (qissa) genre. While the qissa existed in classical literature, it was not used in the same sense as the modern short novel — one of the three primary forms of the epic genre alongside the short story and novel. Historically, “qissa” was a term used to refer to various types of narrative content. (The word “qissa” originates from the Arabic , meaning tale or adventure.) In oral folk traditions, storytelling — known as qisachilik or qissagoylik — also existed, although these tales were typically narrative accounts centered on a hero’s life and adventures. In folklore, such qissas were recited orally like epic poems and often had multiple versions. Over time, talented individuals — many of them anonymous — edited and transformed these oral tales into written texts, turning them into popular folk books. Examples include The Tale of Mashrab, The Tale of Ibrahim Adham, and The Tale of Zufunun. Similarly, legendary accounts of prophets, sages, and saints

were also referred to as qissa, such as Nasiruddin Raghuzi’s “Qissasi Raghuzi,” Majlisi’s “The Tale of Sayfulmuluk,” and Alisher Navoi’s “History of the Prophets and Sages.” These works are vivid examples of early storytelling traditions. However, these cannot be classified as modern qissas (short novels) in the true sense of the word, as their depictions of life were steeped in myth and legend. The first realistic qissas in Uzbek literature emerged in the 1920s. According to some scholars, the earliest short novel was Abdurauf Fitrat’s “The Story of an Indian Traveler” (also referred to in some sources as “The Testimony of the Indian Traveler”). This work, along with those by Jadid writers such as Saidrasul Azizi, Abdulla Avloniy, and Cholpon, contained elements characteristic of the short novel genre. The true development of Uzbek prose — especially the qissa genre — is tied to the works written in the 1930s, such as Gafur G’ulom’s “Shum Bola” (The Mischievous Boy), Sadridin Ayni’s “The Usurer’s Death,” Abdulla Qodiriy’s “Obid the Ketmon Wielder,” and Gayraty’s “The Trial of the Poet.” These texts helped define the genre of realistic short novels and left an indelible mark on the history of Uzbek literature. In the subsequent development of the genre, prominent writers like Abdulla Qahhor, Oybek, Asqad Muxtor, Mirmuhsin, Odil Yoqubov, and Otkir Hoshimov made significant contributions. These talented authors pushed the genre forward, producing short novels that aligned with the artistic and ideological needs of their times, creating enduring works that embodied the spirit of their eras

In literary studies, the term povest (from the Russian повествовать – to narrate) is often used as the equivalent of the Uzbek qissa. It typically depicts a relatively brief period in time through the life experiences, struggles, and emotions of one or several main characters. The genre holds a unique place in literature — it is longer and more substantial than a short story, yet more concise and focused than a novel. It is considered a medium-length epic genre. From a structural point of view, the povest stands be-



tween the short story and the novel, and ideologically it also occupies a middle ground. In a short story, the primary focus is on an event; in a novel, it is on the broader socio-historical era; but in a qissa, the focal point is the individual. That is why the protagonist in a novel may serve as a vehicle for the narrative, while in a qissa, the protagonist is the very purpose of the story. If we examine the term “hero” (qahramon), it originates from Persian and means brave, courageous, or champion. In literary theory, it refers to the central figure around whom all events are organized and who represents the core of the narrative’s artistic and ideological expression. The qissa genre centers on the protagonist — the life journey of a person through whom a certain facet of existence is revealed. The emergence of this genre is closely tied to the former Soviet regime and its authoritarian system. During that time, prose genres like drama, novel, and qissa — which were new to Uzbek literature — began to take root. Influenced by European literature, Uzbek writers began experimenting with these forms and eventually mastered them, so much so that today, some Uzbek short novels even rival the

finest works of European and Russian literature. Of course, every beginning is difficult, and the development of the qissa genre did not come easily. In the early works, the plot and storyline — their intrigue and entertainment value — were emphasized above all else, while the inner world of the characters was often secondary. Readers engaged with these stories much like they would with a compelling television series — captivated and entertained. Gafur G’ulom’s “Shum Bola” is a shining example of this. The novel’s narrative unfolds in a consistent, chronologically ordered manner, with the central theme tightly woven into the events that shape the young protagonist’s journey. Moreover, the social problems of the era were a major theme in the short novels of the 20th century. These works exposed the grim reality of the totalitarian regime that sought to enslave not only the bodies but also the minds and hearts of Uzbek people. The ruling system poisoned the lives of ordinary citizens, turning them against one another and stealing their sense of trust and dignity. The bitter truths of this painful era were captured vividly in the literature of the time — es-

pecially in the qissa genre. Even today, many contemporary short novels revisit and expose the injustices and wounds inflicted during the Soviet period. For instance, one of the early and iconic examples of Uzbek short novels is Abdulla Qahhor’s “Tales from the Past,” which parallels, in theme and spirit, Shoim Botayev’s contemporary work “People Left Behind by the Soviet Era.” Both narrate the plight of individuals during the Soviet regime, a time marked by hardship and repression. Yet despite their shared historical backdrop, these two works differ in tone, structure, and style. Abdulla Qahhor, a gifted writer with a distinct literary voice, imbues “Tales from the Past” with autobiographical elements that deepen its emotional resonance. The novel depicts the hardships faced by the writer’s father, Abduqahhor, a blacksmith, and his family — from their constant displacement from one village to another to the daily struggles of survival. The oppressive nature of the era is portrayed in stark and painful colors. Their need to relocate stemmed from various causes: the declining

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Worth Noting:

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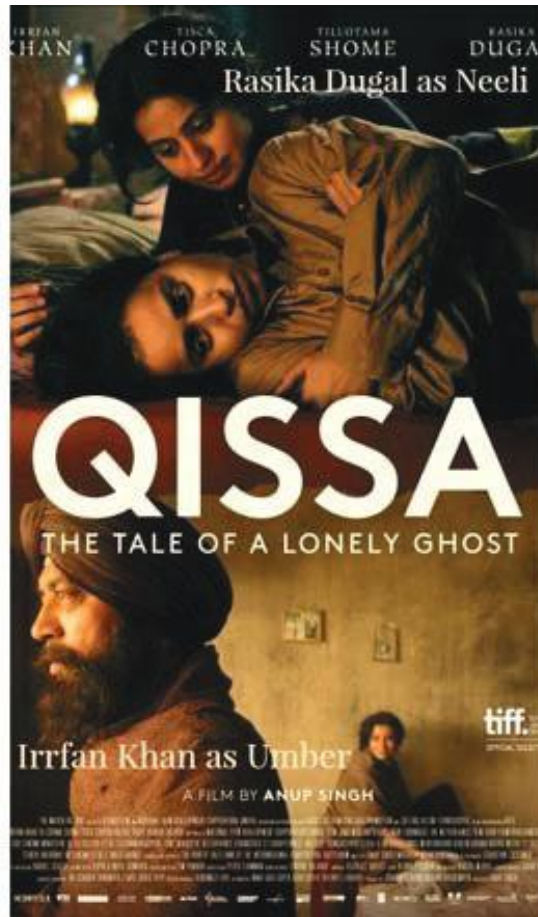
demand for blacksmithing, poverty, and occasionally even the ignorance and hostility of others.

Abduqahhor, the blacksmith, stays with his family at the home of Olim Buvá, an elderly baker in the village of Yaypan, continuing his trade. However, tensions arise due to misunderstandings. One day, for instance, the baker’s elderly aunt — who had never seen a motorcycle before — sees Abduqahhor riding one and faints in terror, mistaking it for a monster. She never regains consciousness and dies shortly after. Though Olim Buvá says nothing, he harbors resentment. In another incident, Abduqahhor removes a burdock burr from the robe of a veiled woman he sees in the street. She turns out to be Olim Buvá’s daughter, who then accuses him of impropriety. Deeply offended by the slander and sensing he is no longer welcome, Abduqahhor quietly leaves with his family for a new village.

Though a simple craftsman, Abduqahhor is portrayed as a literate, progressive-minded, and dignified man, unshaken by ignorance and adversity. He calmly endures even the malice of others with dignity and resilience. Yet, such individuals were few at the time — the majority, shaped by traditional mindsets, rejected or misunderstood them. At the root of all this stood the Soviet regime itself.

For example, when Abduqahhor tries to enroll his son in school, he turns to Valikhon Tora — a man revealed to be barely literate himself. After confronting the local mullah about his incompetence and pulling his son out of the religious school, Abduqahhor teaches him personally, later enrolling him in a Jadid (reformist) school. These Jadid schools, however, were eventually shut down by force, and intellectuals with independent thought were persecuted and falsely accused of rebellion.

Such episodes in the novel reflect the immense difficulties of the era — especially for enlightened individuals who dared to think freely. The narrative also includes historical figures like Oqposhsho, Anvarbek the military leader of the would-be Caliphate of Rum, Fitrat, and the basmachi rebels. Their presence adds authenticity to the work and enhances its value as a historical and literary testimony.



In essence, “Tales from the Past” enriched the treasury of Uzbek short novels, offering readers a crystal-clear reflection of a turbulent past. A powerful literary figure who entered the literary scene somewhat later, Sholim Botayev also vividly portrays the wounds inflicted by the former authoritarian regime in his creative work. His short novel “People Left Behind by the Soviet Era” offers a poignant critique of the injustices and psychological damage caused by Soviet rule. It exposes the oppressive system that chained the Uzbek people with metaphorical ropes of slavery, turning them into mere subjects without identity or will. The story paints a haunting picture of individuals forced to forget who they were, stripped of dignity and self-awareness. The novel begins with the tragic story of two brothers who, from childhood, grow up without love or compassion for one another. Even their mother fails to warm their hearts. As adults, their lives take separate paths: the younger brother becomes a live-in son-in-law, moving into his father-in-law’s house since his wife is an only child, while the older brother stays in their ancestral home. The toxic family environment they grew up in leads to destructive consequences. The older brother’s only son, Toshmurod, follows a crooked path, committing theft with two friends — stealing, of all things, a cow belonging to his own uncle. The trio is

caught, tried, and sentenced to prison.

Ironically, Toshmurod is sent to a penal colony where his father — a prison guard (nazoratchi) — works. The father is depicted as a man who has built his life around duty, discipline, and loyalty to a deceptive system. Entirely devoted to his job, he has spent his life in blind service to a regime that ultimately betrayed him. He represents the quintessential Soviet man — a faithful servant of the state who has sacrificed everything, including his family, for a false ideal.

When the guard’s wife dies, his superior allows Toshmurod to attend the funeral under supervision. The father is tasked with watching over his own son. Even during this moment of loss, his mind is consumed with duty, wondering how to manage his prisoner-son. He wears his work uniform to the funeral, standing stiffly by the grave as if still on duty. Only after the burial does he realize, far too late, that no responsibility is greater than family, no duty more sacred than love and connection.

Botayev masterfully captures the father’s internal breakdown:

“The prison guard felt a fatigue he had never known before.

Something inside him felt hollow.

He couldn’t recall a single thing that used to fill his thoughts — the prison, his

boss, his shifts... all had vanished from his mind.

Duty, responsibility, obligation — none of it meant anything now.

Sitting by the grave, he slumped forward like a statue, mechanically clenching and unclenching a handful of earth he had taken from the grave.”

(Botayev, p.431)

He finally realizes that he had destroyed the pillar of his life — his wife, the tree that had shaded and protected him — with his own hands. She had pleaded with him to let her see her son one last time before she died, but asking his boss for permission had felt like death itself. Thus, the grieving mother died in sorrow, never seeing her child. The guard, consumed with guilt and regret, falls into despair. Yet in a tender turn, Toshmurod comforts his father, offering him emotional support, and the father finally calls him “my son” with heartfelt affection — as if embracing him for the first time.

In conclusion, the genre of the short novel (qissa) in Uzbek literature has undergone various transformations over time, evolving through each stage of literary development and steadily improving with every new work. These stories enrich the treasury of Uzbek literature with their diversity and artistic depth.

What’s more, the thematic scope of the genre has expanded significantly. Contemporary short novels now explore not only social and historical issues, but also

delve into personal tragedy, inner emotional turmoil, and the unpredictable nature of the human psyche. Encouragingly, this maturation of the qissa genre is being warmly welcomed by readers and literature enthusiasts alike.

Given its growing depth and resonance, there is every reason to believe that Uzbek short novels will one day stand shoulder to shoulder with the finest European novellas. They will continue to serve as a mirror reflecting the culture, identity, and core values of the Uzbek people.

Farangiz Abdurahmonova was born on February 3, 2005. She is currently a second-year student at the Faculty of Uzbek Philology at Termiz State University. She is a very active and inquisitive student. To date, she is the author of about 20 individual and co-authored articles. In addition, she has participated in various competitions at the university, regional, and national levels, winning honorable places. For example, she won 2nd place in the science Olympiad organized by the Termiz University of Economics and Service and was awarded a cash prize of 7 million soums. She also took 3rd place in the regional stage of the national “Language Experts” competition and actively participated in the national stage of the competition.

Fortress of the Old Guard: An Analysis of the Southern African Liberation Movements Summit



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
@themtkenyetimes

Introduction: A Gathering Storm in Johannesburg

In the sterile, climate-controlled environment of the Radisson Blu Hotel in Johannesburg, a world away from the dusty battlefields and clandestine safe houses of their revolutionary past, the elder statesmen of Southern Africa's historic liberation movements have gathered. From the 25th to the 28th of July 2025, the leaders of South Africa's African National Congress (ANC), Namibia's SWAPO Party, Zimbabwe's ZANU-PF, Mozambique's FRELIMO, Angola's MPLA, and Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) are meeting under a theme heavy with portent: "Defending the Liberation Gains, Advancing Integrated Socio-Economic Development, Strengthening Solidarity for a Better Africa."

On the surface, this is a reunion of comrades, a reaffirmation of a shared, heroic struggle that dismantled the brutal architecture of colonialism and apartheid. The presence of observers like the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), the Polisario Front of Western Sahara, and FATAH of Palestine reinforces this narrative, casting the summit as a contemporary front in a global anti-colonial struggle. The attendance of the Communist Party of China (CPC) signals a strategic alignment and a search for alternative models of development and political sustenance, far from the critical gaze of the West.

However, beneath the veneer of solidarity and the powerful rhetoric of liberation, this summit represents a critical and perhaps final juncture for these movements. It is a defensive crouch. Decades after leading their nations to political freedom, these parties are facing a profound crisis of legitimacy. The "liberation gains" they seek to defend are increasingly seen by their own populations not as collective national achievements, but as the power and privilege of a new elite. The central, unavoidable question that hangs over the proceedings is this: Are these historic movements still delivering on the promise of liberation, or have they become entrenched ruling parties, clinging to a fading narrative to justify their tightening grip on power? This analysis will argue that the 2025 Liberation Movements Summit is less a forum for charting a bold new future for the 130 million citizens of these nations and more a council of war for the political survival of the parties themselves. It is an attempt to invoke the powerful magic of a shared past to address a perilous present. The impact of these movements, once undeniably heroic and transformative, is now a

deeply contradictory legacy. While their initial achievement—the attainment of sovereignty and political rights—remains a monumental gain, their subsequent decades in power have been characterized by widespread governance failures, endemic corruption, and a catastrophic failure to deliver economic liberation to the masses. They now preside over some of the most unequal societies on earth, where the dreams of the liberation generation have soured into disillusionment for their children, the "born-frees," who are shackled by unemployment and inequality. The summit, therefore, is a fortress of the old guard, a place to close ranks against a rising tide of popular discontent that threatens to sweep them away.

The Summit's Agenda: Narrative, Survival, and the Specter of Neo-Colonialism

The theme of the Johannesburg summit is a masterclass in political framing, revealing more about the anxieties of the conveners than their ambitions. Each phrase is a carefully chosen pillar in the ideological fortress they seek to construct.

1. "Defending the Liberation Gains" This is the foundational premise, and it is inherently defensive. The immediate question it provokes is, defending from whom? The answer is twofold. Externally, the movements point to the specter of "neo-colonial pressures." This is a broad, often ill-defined term that encompasses everything from the stringent conditions of Western financial institutions and the perceived meddling of foreign NGOs to the exploitative practices of multinational corporations. In the summit's narrative, these external forces are actively working to undermine the sovereignty that was so dearly won, seeking to re-establish economic and political dominance through new, more insidious means. This rhetoric serves to frame internal challenges as the result of external sabotage, a powerful tool for deflecting domestic criticism.

Internally, however, the "gains" being defended are the political dominance of the liberation parties themselves. The threat comes from a growing chorus of opposition parties, a vibrant and critical civil society, an independent media, and, most importantly, a restless and youthful electorate that is no longer bound by the loyalties of the past. For this generation, the ruling party is not a liberator but simply the government—and a failing one at that. By framing political opposition as an attack on liberation itself, these parties attempt to delegitimize dissent and cast their political rivals as puppets of neo-colonial masters. This was a central theme in ZANU-PF's rhetoric against the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in Zimbabwe and is increasingly a feature of the ANC's response to the Democratic Alliance (DA) and other opponents in South Africa.

2. "Advancing Integrated Socio-Eco-



conomic Development"

This clause is an admission of the movements' most profound failure. The ultimate promise of liberation was not just the right to vote, but the right to a dignified life: access to land, jobs, education, and healthcare. Decades after taking power, the socio-economic reality for the majority of citizens in these countries is grim. This part of the theme is a tacit acknowledgment that the first phase of liberation—political freedom—is incomplete without the second: economic emancipation.

The summit aims to find a collective solution to this shared crisis. The presence of the Communist Party of China is crucial here. China offers a tantalizing alternative to the Western-prescribed model of liberal democracy and free-market capitalism. It presents a path of state-led development, massive infrastructure projects (often funded by Chinese loans), and authoritarian control, all without the West's lectures on human rights and democracy. For ruling parties struggling with delivery and legitimacy, the "Beijing Consensus" can seem far more appealing than the "Washington Consensus." This objective, therefore, is not just about development; it's about finding a development model that is compatible with the preservation of their political power.

3. "Strengthening Solidarity for a Better Africa"

This is the call to close ranks. The six core parties in attendance are no longer revolutionary movements; they are incumbent governments facing remarkably similar challenges. Their leaders can commiserate over declining electoral margins (ANC), stubborn insurgencies (FRELIMO), crippling foreign debt (MPLA, FRELIMO), systemic corruption scandals (all), and the demographic time bomb of youth unemployment.

This solidarity serves a practical purpose. It is a platform for sharing strategies of political management and control. How does one manage internal party factions? How can state media be used to reinforce the party's narrative? How can the

security apparatus be deployed to contain protests? How can electoral commissions be managed to ensure favorable outcomes? While the public communiqués will speak of unity for the continent's benefit, the private discussions are likely focused on the far more pressing matter of regime durability. The summit acts as a mutual support group for an endangered political class, a space to reassure each other that their struggles are shared and their cause remains just, even as evidence on the ground suggests otherwise. The rotation of summit leadership is a mechanism to ensure this network of mutual reinforcement endures, providing a united front against both internal and external pressures.

The Verdict on the Ground: A Legacy of Contradiction

The rhetoric of the summit clashes violently with the lived reality in the nations these movements govern. A detailed, country-by-country analysis reveals a consistent pattern: the initial, heroic act of liberation has given way to a post-liberation era of stagnation, inequality, and corruption.

South Africa: The ANC's Squandered Inheritance

The Foundational Impact: The ANC's achievement is monumental and undeniable. It led the struggle that defeated apartheid, one of the most odious systems of racial oppression in human history. It delivered a constitutional democracy with a world-renowned bill of rights, established a non-racial state, and created a social safety net through grants that provide a lifeline for millions. This is the "liberation gain" in its purest form.

The Contemporary Failure: The post-1994 record is a story of tragic decline. The ANC has overseen an economy that has failed to create jobs, leading to one of the world's highest unemployment rates, with youth unemployment exceeding 60%. South Africa is now the most unequal country on earth, with the

Gini coefficient showing that the economic structures of apartheid remain firmly in place, albeit with a new, multi-racial elite. The era of "State Capture" under President Jacob Zuma saw the systematic looting of state resources on an industrial scale, hollowing out critical state-owned enterprises like the power utility Eskom, which now subjects the country to crippling daily blackouts, and the logistics company Transnet. For ordinary South Africans, the failure of the state to provide reliable electricity, safe communities, or economic opportunity is the dominant reality. The ANC's loss of its parliamentary majority in the 2024 elections for the first time was a seismic event, a clear verdict from the electorate that the party's liberation credentials are no longer enough to excuse its catastrophic failures in governance.

Zimbabwe: ZANU-PF and the Pathology of Power

The Foundational Impact: ZANU-PF, under Robert Mugabe, freed Zimbabwe from white minority rule in 1980. In its first decade, the government made impressive strides in expanding access to education and healthcare, creating one of the most literate populations in Africa. This initial period represented the promise of liberation being fulfilled.

The Contemporary Failure: ZANU-PF provides a chilling case study of how a liberation movement can mutate into an oppressive, predatory state. The party has maintained its grip on power for over four decades through political violence, intimidation, and rigged elections. The chaotic and violent land reform program starting in 2000, while addressing a historical injustice, destroyed the country's commercial agricultural sector, triggering economic collapse and hyperinflation that wiped out the savings of millions. Corruption is endemic, with the nation's vast mineral wealth being siphoned off by a small elite. The result is a country that has lost its way, where the promises of liberation have been replaced by a new form of oppression. The path of liberation has led to a dead end, where the state is a fortress of the old guard, a place to close ranks against a rising tide of popular discontent that threatens to sweep them away.

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political and military elite. Today, Zimbabwe's economy is a shadow of its former self, and its political environment remains repressive under President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who came to power via a military coup. For most Zimbabweans, the "liberation gain" has been a poisoned chalice.

Namibia: SWAPO's Long, Complacent Reign

The Foundational Impact: SWAPO led a long and arduous armed struggle against South African occupation, finally achieving independence in 1990. Its primary impact has been the establishment and maintenance of a stable, peaceful, and democratic state, a significant achievement in a volatile region.

The Contemporary Failure: SWAPO's long, uninterrupted rule has bred complacency and corruption by individuals in SEOs, public offices or even in SWAPO itself as an organization. Like its neighbor South Africa, Namibia suffers from extreme inequality, a legacy of its apartheid past that SWAPO has failed to dismantle due to systematic complexities. Youth unemployment is a ticking time bomb. The party's moral authority was severely damaged by the "Fishrot" scandal, which exposed how senior government ministers and business leaders took bribes from an Icelandic fishing company in exchange for lucrative fishing quotas. The scandal laid bare the rot at the heart of the state and showed how the individual liberation elites were enriching themselves at the expense of the nation. While SWAPO still commands significant support, its electoral dominance is waning as a new generation questions what the party has done for them lately.

Mozambique: FRELIMO, Gas, and Guns

The Foundational Impact: FRELIMO won a hard-fought war of independence against the Portuguese in 1975. After a devastating civil war against the RENAMO insurgency (a conflict it had a hand in creating), it has successfully maintained peace and transitioned the country from Marxism to a market economy, attracting significant foreign investment.

The Contemporary Failure: FRELIMO's rule has been marred by one of Africa's biggest corruption scandals: the "\$2 billion hidden debts" affair, where state-owned companies took out massive secret loans, supposedly for maritime security, much of which was siphoned off by officials. The scandal plunged the country into a financial crisis. Furthermore, the discovery of one of the world's largest natural gas reserves in the northern province of Cabo Delgado

has proven to be a curse. The wealth has not benefited the local population, fueling grievances that have morphed into a brutal Islamist insurgency. FRELIMO has struggled to contain the violence, highlighting the weakness and corruption of its security forces. The party maintains a firm grip on power, but its promise of development rings hollow in a country where vast resource wealth coexists with deep poverty and violent conflict.

Angola: The MPLA and the Oil Curse

The Foundational Impact: The MPLA led the fight for independence from Portugal and, after a protracted and brutal civil war against UNITA that lasted until 2002, finally brought peace to the nation. It has used the country's immense oil wealth to fund post-war reconstruction, rebuilding roads, bridges, and cities.

The Contemporary Failure: Angola is the archetypal example of the "resource curse." For decades, billions of dollars in oil revenue enriched a tiny elite surrounding former President José Eduardo dos Santos, while the majority of Angolans remained in abject poverty without access to basic services. The capital, Luanda, became one of the most expensive cities in the world, a playground for the rich, while its sprawling slums languished. The current president, João Lourenço, has launched an anti-corruption campaign targeting the dos Santos family, but many see it as a selective purge to consolidate his own power. The fundamental problem remains: the economy is entirely dependent on oil, and the state has failed to translate this wealth into sustainable, broad-based development.

Tanzania: CCM, Stability, and the Authoritarian Turn

The Foundational Impact: Under its founding father, Julius Nyerere, the Tanganyika African National Union (a precursor to CCM) forged a strong, unified national identity out of a mosaic of ethnic groups, a remarkable achievement. CCM has maintained peace and stability for over 60 years, a beacon of tranquility in a historically turbulent Great Lakes region.

The Contemporary Failure: The price of this stability was often one-party rule that stifled political pluralism. While Tanzania has transitioned to a multi-party system, CCM's dominance remains entrenched. The presidency of the late John Magufuli (2015-2021) saw a sharp and alarming authoritarian turn, with a brutal crackdown on the opposition, media, and civil society. His successor, Samia Suluhu Hassan, has softened this approach, but the structures of repression remain. Economically, Tanzania has seen growth, but struggles with corruption and creating enough formal jobs for its rapidly growing youth population. CCM's legacy is one



of successful nation-building and peace, but its democratic credentials and human rights record are deeply flawed.

The Generational Chasm and the Crisis of Legitimacy

The country-by-country analysis reveals a stark, unifying truth: the language of liberation no longer resonates with the majority of the population, particularly the youth. For the millions of young people born after independence—the "born-frees"—the stories of armed struggle are abstract history, not lived experience. Their reality is defined by the failures of the post-liberation state: joblessness, inequality, corruption, and crumbling public services. They see a political class that invokes a heroic past to justify its present-day privileges.

This generational divide is the single greatest threat to the long-term survival of these movements. The summit's stated objective to promote "youth engagement and intergenerational dialogue" is a clear admission of this crisis. They know they are losing the youth, who are increasingly drawn to opposition parties or, more worryingly, to political apathy and disillusionment. The question is whether this dialogue is a genuine attempt at reform and inclusion or simply a new public relations strategy to co-opt youth leaders and repackage the old narrative for a new audience. The track record of these parties suggests the latter is more likely.

It is in this context that the theme of "neo-colonialism" must be critically examined. While the external pressures and historical economic imbalances faced by African nations are real, the liberation movements increasingly use this rhetoric as a convenient scapegoat. It is easier to blame the IMF, former colonial powers, or Western NGOs for domestic problems than to confront the systemic corruption, misman-

agement, and poor policy choices that are the true source of so many of their woes. When a government official steals public funds meant for a hospital, it is an act of corruption, not an act of neo-colonialism. By conflating the two, these parties seek to immunize themselves from accountability.

Conclusion: A Contradictory but Enduring Legacy

The Liberation Movements Summit in Johannesburg is a poignant spectacle. It is a gathering of parties that were born in the crucible of righteous struggle, that inspired millions, and that fundamentally changed the map and political destiny of Southern Africa. Their initial impact was nothing short of revolutionary.

Yet, decades later, the verdict on their contemporary impact is damning. They have largely failed to transition from being liberation movements to becoming effective, accountable, and democratic governing parties. The solidarity and discipline that were strengths during the struggle have, in power, morphed into a culture of cronyism, secrecy, and an intolerance of dissent. They have failed to dismantle the core economic structures of colonialism and apartheid that perpetuate inequality, and in many cases, have simply inserted a new elite at the top of the old pyramid. The summit, therefore, is an exercise in nostalgia and self-preservation; an attempt to rally around the flag of a glorious past as a defense against a turbulent present.

However, amidst this stark verdict, it would be a profound mistake to dismiss their foundational achievements as insignificant. These movements accomplished tangible, visible, and monumental tasks that must not be forgotten. They ended colonial and racist minority rule, an act of historical justice that granted sovereignty, freedom of speech, de-

mocracy and basic human dignity to tens of millions. They forged nations out of disparate territories, and in cases like Tanzania and post-war Angola and Mozambique, they secured a lasting peace and a sense of national unity that remains a powerful and emulatable achievement. Crucially, they built the very institutions that are now used to challenge them. The ANC, for example, delivered a constitution that is a global model for human rights, creating the democratic space for opposition to flourish. The initial post-independence investments in education and healthcare across the region, from Zimbabwe to South Africa, created a generation of citizens capable of critical thought and demanding more from their leaders. Namibia has institutions that can arrest even cabinet ministers, put them behind bars and be tried for contravening with the established laws. These are not minor accomplishments and the public should know that it is the very same old guards that established all these systems; they are the bedrock upon which any future progress must be built. The tragic irony is that for a new generation of Africans, the struggle for true liberation—for economic justice, for a life of dignity, for a government that is accountable to the people—is now a struggle that must often be waged against the very parties that once claimed the mantle of liberators, using the very democratic and national institutions those movements first created. The old guard may be in the fortress, but the ground they built it on is fertile for change.

President Dr Emmerson D Mnangagwa’s Presidential Title Deeds Settlement Regularization Programme working towards economic development



By: Chimeno Azriel
azrielchimeno@gmail.com
Zimbabwe

Worth Noting:

- Presidential Title Deeds Programme is a practical expression of President Mnangagwa’s commitment to VISION2030, building a prosperous, upper-middle-income Zimbabwe that leaves no one behind. This programme gives hope to millions in high-density suburbs and growth points who never imagined owning legal, bankable land, let alone leaving behind an inheritance.
- The Presidential Title Deeds Settlement Regularisation Programme, launched by President Dr Emmerson D Mnangagwa, has given rise to a vibrant affiliate, TITLEDSEEDS4ED, which is working tirelessly to realize the President’s vision of economic development and growth. By championing the regularization of property rights and promoting the issuance of title deeds, the movement is playing a crucial role in unlocking economic potential, stimulating investment, and improving5 livelihoods. As a key stakeholder in the programme, TITLEDSEEDS4ED is helping to drive the agenda for economic empowerment and development, underscoring the President’s commitment to transforming the lives of citizens and driving national progress.

The Zimbabwean government, under the leadership of President Dr Emmerson D Mnangagwa, launched the Presidential Title Deeds Settlement Regularization Programme, a flagship initiative aimed at promoting economic development and growth. The programme seeks to address the long-standing issue of irregular land ownership and settlement, providing a framework for regularization and formalization of property rights. By providing title deeds to residents and investors, the programme aims to unlock economic potential, stimulate investment, and improve livelihoods, ultimately contributing to the country’s overall development and prosperity.

When President Dr ED Mnangagwa announced on 22 April 2023 in Epworth about the Presidential Title Deeds and Settlement Regularisation Programme, the whole nation realized the leader the President, was to the people of Zimbabwe. Celebrations vibrated across the country in all high density suburbs and growth, the hope was now reality.

On 22 April 2023, in the heart of Epworth, President Mnangagwa brought this same spirit to life again. In a historic moment, 265 Title Deeds were handed over to beneficiaries, transforming informal settlements into recognized homes of opportunity and value. That day was not just a ceremony, it was a declaration of a new chapter of economic empowerment, land security, and inheritance for future generations.

Presidential Title Deeds Programme is a practical expression of President Mnangagwa’s commitment to VISION2030, building a prosperous, upper-middle-income Zimbabwe that leaves no one behind. This programme gives hope to millions in high-density suburbs and growth points who never imagined owning legal, bankable land, let alone leaving behind an inheritance.

The Presidential Title Deeds Settlement Regularisation Programme, launched by President Dr Emmerson

D Mnangagwa, has given rise to a vibrant affiliate, TITLEDSEEDS4ED, which is working tirelessly to realize the President’s vision of economic development and growth. By championing the regularization of property rights and promoting the issuance of title deeds, the movement is playing a crucial role in unlocking economic potential, stimulating investment, and improving5 livelihoods. As a key stakeholder in the programme, TITLEDSEEDS4ED is helping to drive the agenda for economic empowerment and development, underscoring the President’s commitment to transforming the lives of citizens and driving national progress.

Speaking to TITLEDSEEDS4ED National Chairman, Dr. George Dhliwayo said they stand firmly behind this historic initiative and were resolute in their belief that this visionary programme was not only about land ownership, but was about restoring dignity, creating generational wealth, and accelerating the economic transformation of the people. He said It echoes the very spirit of the liberation struggle that was land to the people, empowerment to the masses, and trust in our leadership.

“We stand firmly behind this historic initiative and we are resolute in our belief that this visionary programme is not only about land ownership, but it is about restoring dignity, creating generational wealth and accelerating the economic transformation of our people,” he said. “It echoes the very spirit of our liberation struggle that is land to the people, empowerment to the masses and trust in our leadership.”

said the Chairman who is also known as Dr Commander GD6

The National Chairperson described the progas a seismic shift in Zimbabwe’s developmental trajectory and the programme was a game-changer, giving legal recognition, unlocking value and enabling families to build with security and pride and all was the legacy of a listening President.

Dr. Dhliwayo emphasised

that TITLEDSEEDS4ED exists as the amplified voice of the great works being delivered by President Dr. ED Mnangagwa through this historic programme and the broader VISION2030 agenda. He described the title deeds initiative as more than just land ownership, but was a legacy of dignity, empowerment, and economic freedom.

“TITLEDSEEDS4ED exists as the amplified voice of the great works being delivered by President Dr. ED Mnangagwa through this historic programme and the broader Vision 2030 agenda and this title deeds initiative is more than just land ownership, it is a legacy of dignity, empowerment, and economic freedom,” he said

As vision 2030 foot soldiers of President Dr. ED Mnangagwa, the affiliate is on a mission to unite and mobilize 17 million Zimbabweans behind the visionary leader and it was now time for all patriotic Zimbabweans to stand up in full support.

The National Chairperson said the Presidential Title Deeds Programme was a practical expression of President Mnangagwa’s commitment to building a prosperous, upper-middle-income Zimbabwe that leaves no one behind and he said that this programme gives hope to millions in high-density suburbs and growth points who never imagined owning legal, bankable land, let alone leaving behind an inheritance.

“The Presidential Title Deeds Programme is a practical expression of President Mnangagwa’s commitment to, building a prosperous, upper-middle-income Zimbabwe that leaves no one behind and this programme gives hope to millions in high-density suburbs and growth points who never imagined owning legal, bankable land, let alone leaving behind an inheritance,” he said

Family property disputes will soon be a thing of the past with the rollout of digitised and tamper-proof Title Deeds, introduced through President Dr. ED Mnangagwa’s bold and transformative



TITLEDSEEDS4ED National Chairman, Dr. George Dhliwayo

Presidential Title Deeds and Settlement Regularisation Programme. These digital documents offer long-term security, transparency, and protection from manipulation by unscrupulous individuals.

When asked about the target of their membership drive. Dr Commando GD6 passionately outlined the movement’s focus.

“Membership mobilisation is not an event, but it is a daily call to actions and every citizen has the responsibility to work towards one people, one Nation, one Zimbabwe and one President,” he said

He urged all patriotic Zimbabweans to join the movement not just for today but for the benefit of the generation to come securing the inheritance and building a stronger united Zimbabwe.

Speaking to some of the beneficiaries who spoke highly of the Titledseeds they said the Presidential Title Deeds Settlement Regularization Programme has been a game-changer for them and they had finally received their title deeds, and given to them as security and confidence to invest in their properties.

“We’re proud to call our homes our own, and we’re grateful to President Dr Emmerson D Mnangagwa for this initiative. The programme has not only improved our livelihoods but also opened up new economic opportunities for us. We’re now able to access credit and other financial services, which will help us to further develop our properties and businesses.” said Timothy Kapita and Joana Rugube.

The emotional scenes mirrored the jubilation of first independence when Zimbabwe gained its independence. Today, through this world-class, first-of-its-kind programme for high-density suburbs and growth point homeowners, President Mnangagwa has restored dignity and delivered lasting value to families who never imagined legal land ownership.