

Within minutes of the sentence being handed down, Malema walked out of court a free man

## Africa Justice

Malema, in characteristic theatrical fashion, produced a firearm and discharged live rounds into the air in what his supporters understood as a celebratory political performance.



### CONVICTED BUT FREE:

# Julius Malema, the Constitutional Right to Appeal, and What Africa's Justice Systems Reveal About the Soul of Democracy

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande



Julius Sello Malema

South Africa's most debated legal judgments in recent memory: Julius Sello Malema, leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), was sentenced to five years of direct imprisonment for charges under the Firearms Control Act, arising from an incident at the EFF's birthday rally in the Mdantsane stadium in 2018; where he unlawfully discharged a firearm in a public place. And yet, within minutes of the sentence being handed down, Malema walked out of court a free man; not

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An Analysis of Traditions, Ignorance, and Social Inequality

Based On Sotiboldi's Tragedy In Abdulla Qahhor's "Bemor" Uzbekistan



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Raising the Empowered:

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A Government That Has Failed to Step Up Asia



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The Lobito Corridor and The Walvis Bay Corridor

Rival Routes or Complementary Arteries? Africa



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#### The Scene Outside the Court: A Nation Watching

On 17 April 2026, a crowd of red-clad supporters gathered outside the East London Regional Court in KuGompo City; the city formerly known as East London, in South Africa's Eastern Cape province. They sang. They chanted. They waved placards. Inside, in a packed courtroom that crackled with political tension, Magistrate Twanet Olivier delivered a sentence that would immediately become one of

Labor rights P 4

Entrepreneurs Page 8 From Lecture Halls to Side Hustles

News Backpage The best teaching technologies and methods in primary classes



## Truth at Birth: Why Namibia Must Embrace Mandatory DNA Testing to Protect Children, Fathers, and Family Justice

When a man cradles a newborn in his arms and whispers, "This is my child," he does not yet know whether biology affirms that declaration. For most of human history, that uncertainty was simply accepted — a private sorrow absorbed quietly into the fabric of families. But in the

twenty-first century, where science can resolve that uncertainty with a swab and a laboratory result, continued acceptance of biological ambiguity is not tradition. It is injustice. A recent opinion piece published in The Namibian by Legal Assistance Centre researcher Dianne Hubbard

argues that mandatory DNA testing of newborns violates privacy, dignity, and equality. These concerns deserve respectful engagement. However, as Tuhafeni Hailonga rightly observed in his published rejoinder, the argument overlooks equally vital values: a child's right to identity, a

man's right to legal certainty, and the role of accountability in strengthening the family unit.

This article goes further. Drawing

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# The Gift of Corruption: Madzivanyika Blasts CAB3 - 'Gifts are Dangerous

By: Norman Mwale  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

*When cash flows before a constitutional vote, parliament's independence is the first casualty.*

**In a bold and unapologetic interview, Mbizo Constituency MP Hon. Corban Madzivanyika addresses the alleged \$110,000 payout to MPs ahead of the CAB3 vote, dissecting the government's track record and laying bare what he sees as the sinister motives behind the proposed constitutional amendment.**



Mbizo Constituency MP Hon. Corban Madzivanyika

In a bold and unapologetic interview, Mbizo Constituency MP Hon. Corban Madzivanyika addresses the alleged \$110,000 payout to MPs ahead of the CAB3 vote, dissecting the government's track record and laying bare what he sees as the sinister motives behind the proposed constitutional amendment.

Q1: Can you confirm or deny reports that MPs are set to receive \$110,000 each ahead of the CAB3 vote?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "I deny the reports as false, unless such negotiations for bribes are happening on an individual basis. I've seen social media claims about a \$10,000 offer from Chivhayo, allegedly for CDF purposes. However, I can't comment on unofficial

social media issues."

Q2: Did you or your party receive any assurances or promises of financial benefits in exchange for supporting CAB3?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "Neither I nor the party received any assurances of any benefits."

Q3: How do you respond to allegations that this is a case of vote-buying and an attempt to sway lawmakers?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "Offering trinkets or making promises in the face of a huge national debate on a matter of national interest is tantamount to vote-buying"

Q4: Will you be voting in favour of CAB3, and what are

your reasons?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "I will vote against CAB3. President Mnangagwa has failed Zimbabwe and does not require an additional two years. Our health sector is in shambles, education is crumbling, infrastructure is decaying, and corruption is rampant. The past eight years have been a nightmare — two more would be disastrous."

Q5: Do you think it is acceptable for MPs to receive such large sums of money just before a critical vote?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "It is absolutely unacceptable. Parliament's role is to hold the Executive accountable, and accepting gifts compromises its independence. This is precisely why CAB3

is dangerous — it could lead to MPs being bought to support a presidential candidate with deep pockets."

Q6: Have you signed any agreements or documents related to this funding, and if so, will you make them public?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "I have not seen any such documents."

Q7: How will this funding benefit your constituents, and what is the plan for accountability?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "There is no funding to speak of. My focus is on representing my constituents' interests and holding the government accountable."

Q8: Do you think this move

will erode public trust in the government and the electoral process?

Hon. Madzivanyika: "Yes, it sets a dangerous precedent. Gifts are meant to influence, and in this case, it is a clear attempt to sway lawmakers. It is unacceptable and undermines democracy."

A message to President Mnangagwa and ZANU-PF:

Hon. Madzivanyika: "To President Mnangagwa and the ruling party, I say: listen to the people, not the voices of self-interest. Zimbabwe deserves better than another term of misrule and corruption. Step down and allow for a peaceful transition."

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## Labor rights

# Labor rights in a changing world: Why strong legal foundations matter



By: **Otanazarov Kamronbek**  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

• What makes this system particularly noteworthy is its hierarchical structure. International agreements often take precedence when they offer more favorable conditions for employees. This reflects a broader global trend where countries align their labor policies with international standards to ensure fairness and competitiveness.

• At its core, labor legislation is designed to regulate the relationship between employees and employers. This includes not only the execution of work duties but also associated social aspects such as professional training, workplace safety, dispute resolution, and social partnership. These elements form the backbone of a healthy labor environment, where both parties can operate with mutual respect and clear expectations.

In today's rapidly evolving world, the value of work has never been more significant. As populations grow and labor markets expand, the demand for stable employment and fair income continues to rise. This reality places increasing pressure on governments and institutions to ensure that the rights of workers are not only protected but actively strengthened.

In Uzbekistan, labor relations are primarily regulated by the Labor Code, which serves as the cornerstone of employment law. However, it is not the only legal instrument governing the workplace. A wide range of additional нормативно-legal documents, including collective agreements, internal regulations, and international treaties, contribute to shaping a comprehensive legal framework. As noted in the provided document, "labor legislation consists of the Labor Code and other legal acts regulating individual labor relations and related social relations".

What makes this system particularly noteworthy is its hierarchical structure. International agreements often take precedence when they offer more favorable conditions for employees. This reflects a broader global trend where countries align their labor policies with international standards to ensure fairness and competitiveness.

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associated social aspects such as professional training, workplace safety, dispute resolution, and social partnership. These elements form the backbone of a healthy labor environment, where both parties can operate with mutual respect and clear expectations.

However, not all employment relationships are straightforward. One of the pressing challenges highlighted in the analysis is the misuse of civil - law contracts to disguise actual labor relations. Such practices undermine workers' rights and bypass legal protections. To address this, the law clearly prohibits replacing labor contracts with civil agreements when the nature of the work reflects an employment relationship. This safeguard ensures that workers receive the benefits

and protections they deserve.

Another important aspect is the differentiation of labor law application across various sectors. While the Labor Code provides a universal framework, certain professions - such as military personnel, law enforcement officers, and judges - are governed by specialized legislation. In these cases, general labor norms apply only when they do not conflict with sector-specific regulations. This dual approach allows for flexibility while maintaining legal consistency.

Moreover, labor law does not apply equally to all individuals. For instance, those working under civil contracts, members of supervisory boards, or individuals performing compulsory military service may

fall outside the full scope of labor legislation unless specific conditions are met. This selective application reflects the complexity of modern labor systems, where one-size-fits-all solutions are no longer sufficient.

Beyond legal definitions, the human dimension of labor law cannot be overlooked. Collective agreements and internal workplace policies often provide additional guarantees, such as extended leave, financial support, or incentive programs. Importantly, these provisions must always improve - not worsen - the employee's position compared to the minimum standards set by law. This principle reinforces the idea that labor rights are a floor, not a ceiling.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of labor legislation lies in its ability to balance the inter-

ests of employers and employees while safeguarding fundamental human rights. As emphasized in the conclusion of the source material, the primary goal is to ensure the realization of citizens' constitutional right to decent work.

In an era defined by economic uncertainty and technological transformation, strong labor laws are more than just legal tools - they are essential pillars of social stability. By continuously refining these frameworks and ensuring their proper implementation, societies can build a future where work is not only a means of survival but a source of dignity and opportunity.

*Otanazarov Kamronbek  
Student, Urgench State University*

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# An Analysis of Traditions, Ignorance, and Social Inequality Based On Sotiboldi's Tragedy In Abdulla Qahhor's "Bemor"

By: Avduvafoyeva Sabina Vohid  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Author:** Avduvafoyeva Sabina Vohid qizi  
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## Abstract

This article analyses the themes of tradition, ignorance, poverty, and social inequality as portrayed in Abdulla Qahhor's short story "Bemor." Through the tragedy experienced by Sotiboldi's family, the work reveals how misguided attitudes toward illness, alienation from modern medicine, and the grip of outdated beliefs can devastate human life. The article also examines the story's characters, literary devices, and central ideas.

**Keywords:** Sotiboldi, tragedy, ignorance, poverty, traditions, social inequality, literary analysis, Abdulla Qahhor, "Bemor"

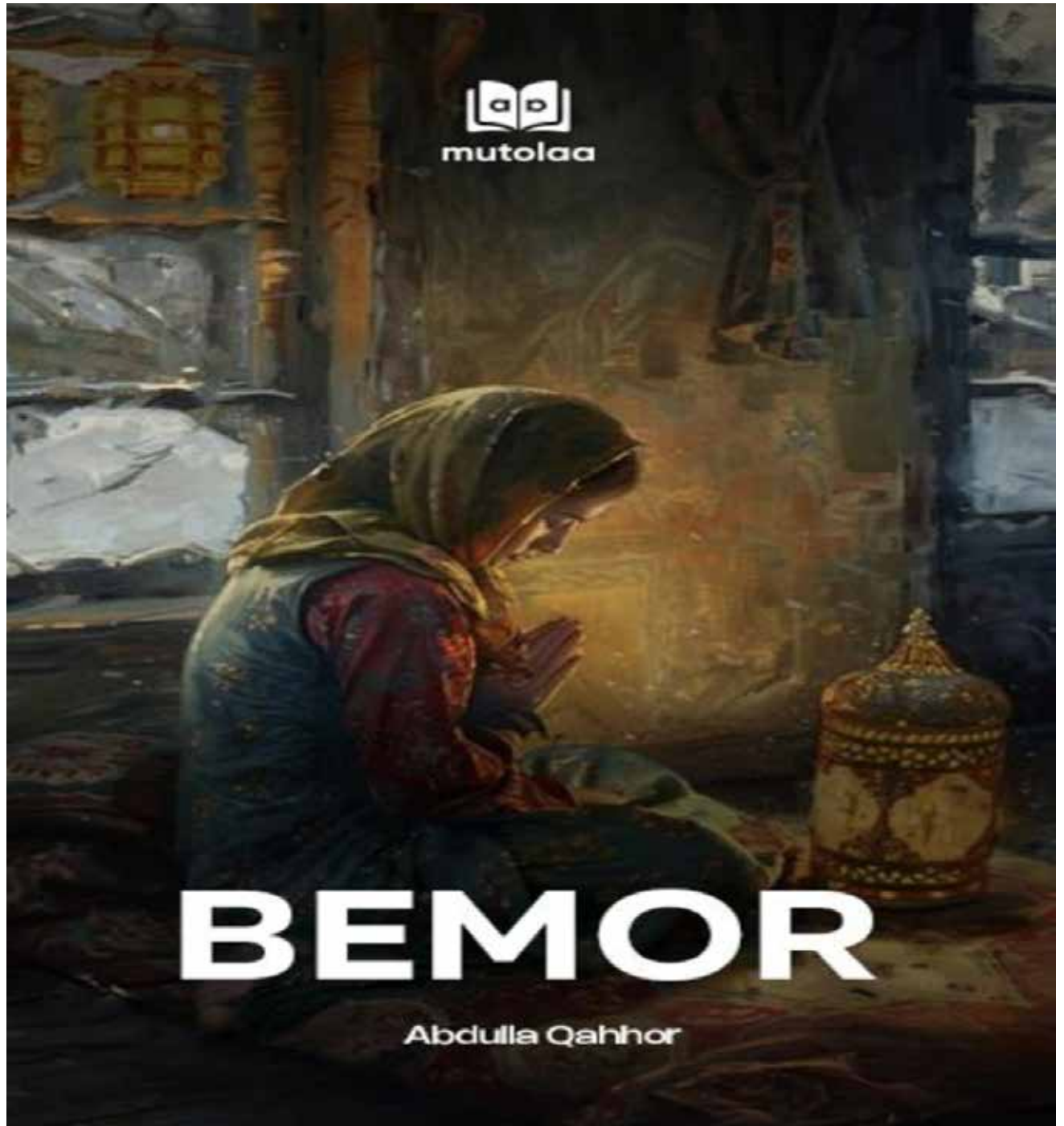
## Introduction

Fiction is among the most powerful forms of art for reflecting social reality. Through literature, we encounter the textures of people's lives — their struggles, dreams, social conditions, and quiet defeats. Uzbek literature, in particular, has a rich tradition of works that confront poverty, ignorance, and inequality with honesty and artistic depth.

Abdulla Qahhor's short story "Bemor" stands firmly within that tradition. Through the unravelling of one ordinary family, the story surfaces significant social problems — among them, harmful attitudes toward illness, the absence of medical literacy, an excessive dependence on tradition, and the crushing weight of poverty. The work does not simply recount a personal tragedy; it holds up a mirror to the society that shaped it. This is precisely what makes "Bemor" enduring. It invites readers to think beyond one family's grief and to interrogate the broader conditions that made that grief almost inevitable.

## Main Part

**Summary of the Story**  
The story follows Sotiboldi, a man of modest means, whose life is upended when his wife falls gravely ill. Desperate to save her, he turns to every remedy within his reach — prayers, traditional healers, bloodletting, fortune-tellers, and shamans. Each avenue is pursued with



sincerity, yet none yields results.

The prospect of a city hospital feels both financially ruinous and deeply frightening to Sotiboldi, so he turns away from modern medicine entirely. Meanwhile, the woman's condition continues to deteriorate. At her bedside, their young daughter keeps vigil — tending to her mother with quiet devotion and praying fervently for her recovery. Neighbours, too, arrive with rituals and goodwill. But nothing is enough, and the woman dies.

Literary and Social Analysis  
The problem of ignorance sits at the heart of the story. Sotiboldi's instinct is not to seek a doctor but to seek the familiar — traditional remedies, spiritual intervention, communal ritual. Qahhor does not mock this instinct; rather, he traces its consequences with unflinching clarity, offering a measured critique of unscientific healing practices and the cultural conditions that sustain them.

Poverty reinforces ignorance at every turn. Sotiboldi is not indifferent to his wife's suffering — he is financially trapped. The city hospital represents a cost he cannot bear and a world he does not feel entitled to enter. In this way, the story maps the relationship between economic deprivation and unequal access to healthcare, showing how the gap between rich and poor is, quite literally, a matter of life and death.

The figure of the young daughter is among the story's most affecting elements. She embodies purity, compassion, and unconditional love — qualities that stand in quiet contrast to the helplessness surrounding her. Her presence deepens the emotional weight of the narrative and reminds the reader of what is truly at stake. Symbolism enriches the story's texture throughout. Flies, hovering over the ailing woman, convey the severity of her condition in visceral terms. The daughter's prayers, by contrast, represent hope and

innocence — fragile but persistent. Together, these images create an emotional architecture that extends well beyond the surface plot. At its core, "Bemor" stages a conflict between science and tradition, and it does not flinch from taking a position. Scientific knowledge, Qahhor argues, is not merely useful — it is essential. Its absence, particularly among the poor, carries a cost measured in human lives.

From a psychological standpoint, the story renders Sotiboldi's inner world with considerable depth. His sense of responsibility, his helplessness, and his anguish as a husband and father are portrayed with realism and empathy. He is not a villain — he is a man undone by the limits of what he knows and what he can afford. The story also touches on gender inequality, quietly revealing the vulnerable position of women in the social world it depicts. The woman at the centre of the tragedy remains largely voiceless — a condition that is itself part

of the critique.

## Conclusion

"Bemor" is far more than the story of one family's loss. It is a pointed literary examination of the social forces — ignorance, poverty, inequality, and the tension between tradition and progress — that shape ordinary lives in extraordinary ways. Qahhor achieves this through restrained, precise storytelling that trusts the reader to draw the necessary conclusions.

Those conclusions are clear: human life is irreplaceable; knowledge and enlightenment are the foundations of social progress; and ignorance, compounded by poverty, can have consequences that are both devastating and preventable.

The story ultimately calls on its readers to pursue knowledge, to trust modern medicine, and to build societies in which access to both is not a privilege of the wealthy but a right extended to all.

## Worth Noting:

- The problem of ignorance sits at the heart of the story. Sotiboldi's instinct is not to seek a doctor but to seek the familiar — traditional remedies, spiritual intervention, communal ritual. Qahhor does not mock this instinct; rather, he traces its consequences with unflinching clarity, offering a measured critique of unscientific healing practices and the cultural conditions that sustain them.

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## Entrepreneurs

# From Lecture Halls to Side Hustles: The Rise of Student Entrepreneurs

*Kenya's university students are not waiting for graduation to build their futures — they are doing it now, one hustle at a time.*

By: Oliver Ouma  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- These stories are not isolated. They represent a broader shift in how students perceive education and financial independence. Entrepreneurship is no longer a post-graduation plan, it is happening in real time, alongside lectures, assignments, and exams.
- However, the journey is not without challenges. Balancing business and academics, dealing with limited capital, and navigating competition require discipline and determination. Yet, for many students, the benefits outweigh the struggles.
- Student entrepreneurship is redefining campus life. It is teaching financial literacy, time management, and problem-solving—skills that are often not fully covered in lectures.
- As more students embrace side hustles, universities are slowly transforming into ecosystems of innovation and enterprise. The message is clear: today's students are not just preparing for the job market, they are creating their own opportunities.

Across Kenyan universities today, a quiet revolution is unfolding. Lecture halls are no longer the only spaces shaping students' futures. Corridors, hostels, and nearby market centres have become breeding grounds for small businesses. Faced with rising living costs, delayed allowances, and limited financial support, students are turning to entrepreneurship — not just as a survival tactic, but as a pathway to independence.

At Rongo University, this trend is particularly visible. From food vending to fashion, students are building brands, managing finances, and learning resilience far beyond the classroom.

Christine Moraa, a third-year student, balances her academic schedule with running a mini boutique. Her small but vibrant collection of clothes attracts fellow students looking for affordable fashion.

"This business has really helped me," she says. "I can pay part of my rent and at least ease the burden on my parents."

Her boutique, though modest, reflects a growing culture of self-reliance among students who are unwilling to wait until graduation to start earning.

For Ezra Mapesa, also a third-year student, the idea was straightforward — food is always in demand. Selling chapati and beans, a popular and affordable meal among students, he has built a steady stream of income.

"This hustle helps me meet my personal needs and even contribute to my school fees," Ezra explains.

His food stall has become a familiar spot, especially during lunch hours, proving that consistency and a keen understanding of customer needs can turn a small idea into a reliable business.

Lewis Azenza took a different route, combining creativity with commerce. Selling jewellery, phone stickers, and fashion items, he has tapped into student culture and evolving campus trends. "I don't have to depend fully on my parents anymore," Lewis says. "This business gives me freedom."

His hustle reflects a broader shift among students toward ventures that align with personal interests and campus

lifestyles.

Second-year student Olivent Nzuma has found her niche in food vending, selling chips to meet her daily needs. Her business caters to students looking for quick, affordable meals.

"It helps me cater for my personal needs without struggling," she shares.

Her story highlights how even simple ventures, when pursued consistently, can sustain a student through the demands of campus life.

Kevin Mugathia's mtura business adds a street-food flair to the entrepreneurial mix. Popular among students for its taste and affordability, it has become his primary source of income.

"I use the money to meet my needs and even pay part of my school fees," Kevin explains.

His hustle underscores the importance of identifying high-demand products within the campus environment.

These stories are not isolated. They represent a broader shift in how students perceive education and financial independence. Entrepreneurship is no longer a post-graduation plan — it is happening in real time, alongside lectures, assignments, and exams.

The journey is not without its challenges. Balancing business and academics, working with limited capital, and navigating competition demand discipline and determination. Yet for many students, the benefits far outweigh the struggles.

Student entrepreneurship is quietly redefining campus life, teaching financial literacy, time management, and problem-solving — skills that lectures alone rarely cover in full.

As more students embrace side hustles, universities are slowly transforming into ecosystems of innovation and enterprise. Today's students are not simply preparing for the job market — they are creating their own opportunities within it.

In the end, these young entrepreneurs are proving that success does not always begin after graduation. Sometimes it starts with a small idea, a little courage, and the willingness to hustle between classes.



Christine Moraa attending to a customer at her mini boutique near campus.



Ezra Mapesa preparing chapati and beans for students during lunch hour.



Lewis Azenza displaying jewellery, phone stickers, and fashion items for sale



Olivent Nzuma serving freshly prepared chips to fellow students.



Kevin Mugathia grilling mtura at his roadside setup near campus

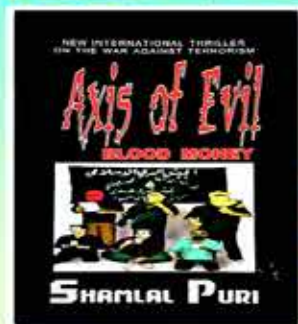
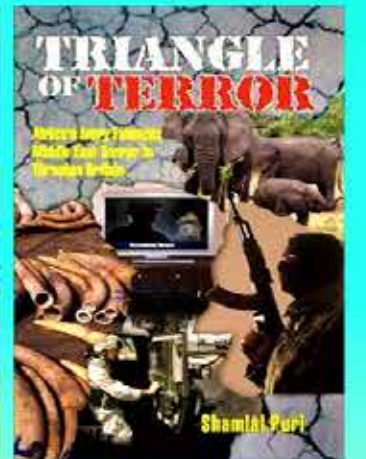
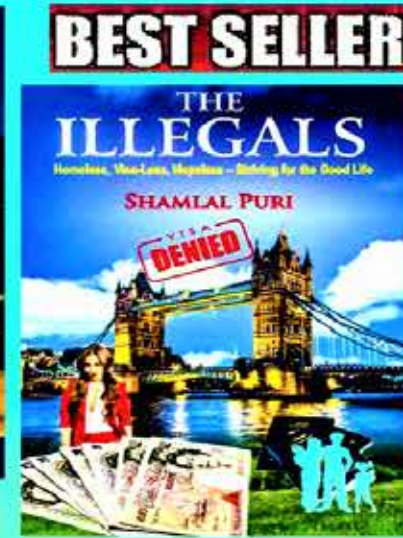
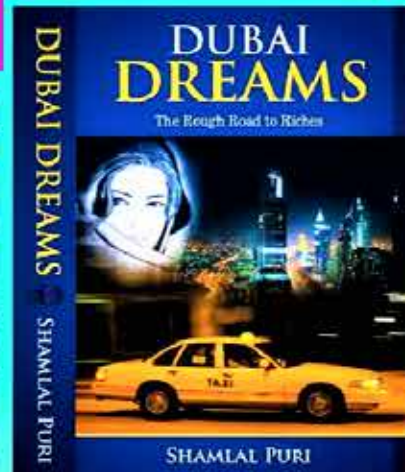
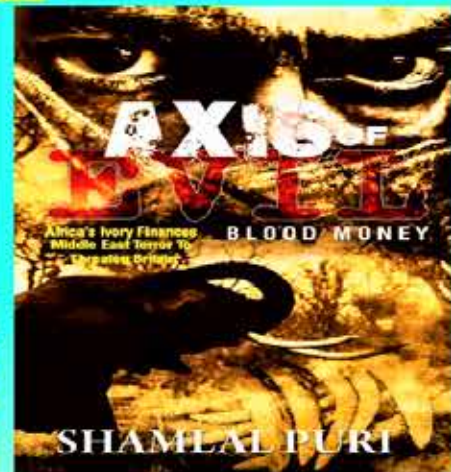
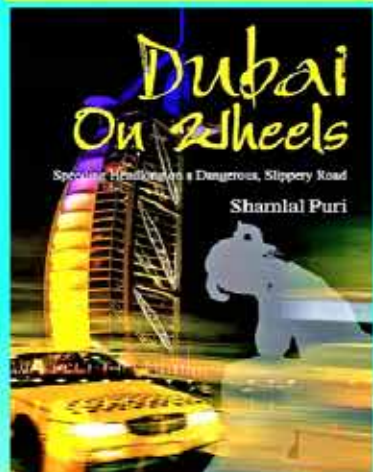
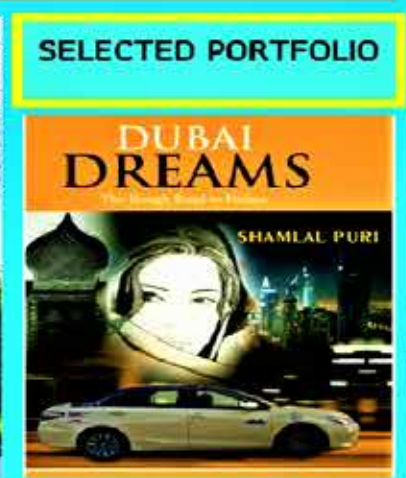
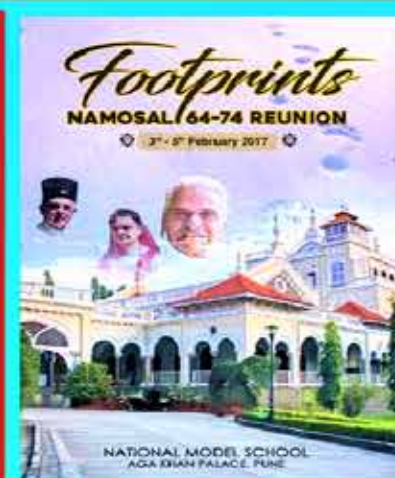
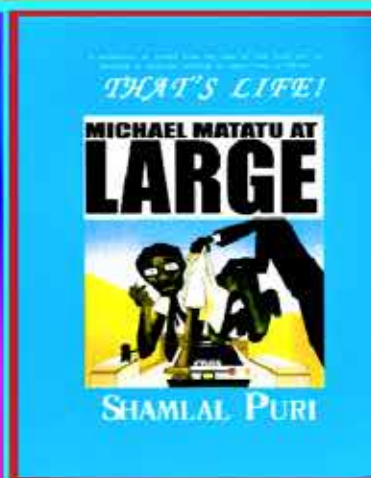
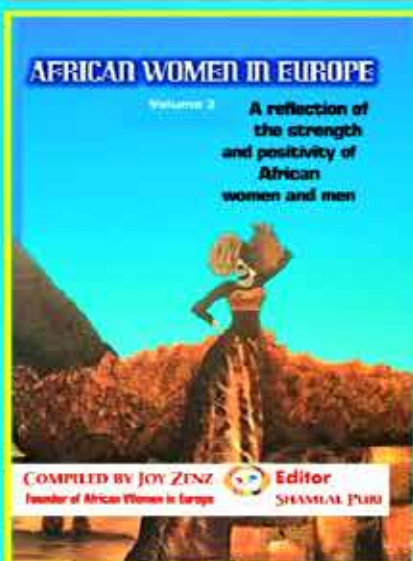
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## African News

**CONVICTED BUT FREE:****Julius Malema, the Constitutional Right to Appeal, and What Africa's Justice Systems Reveal About the Soul of Democracy**

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande  
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on bail in the traditional sense, but released on warning after his legal team immediately applied for and was granted leave to appeal. The crowd outside erupted. Confusion spread on social media. For many South Africans, and for observers across the continent, the question became urgent and immediate: How can a man be sentenced to five years in prison and still sleep in his own bed that same night? Is this justice? Is this a loophole? Or is it, in fact, the very thing that distinguishes a constitutional democracy from a police state?

This article narrates the Malema case in full, examines the constitutional architecture that made his continued freedom possible, interrogates whether this architecture is good for South Africa, surveys how other African countries handle similar situations, and ultimately engages the deeper philosophical question at the heart of it all: what do we mean when we say someone has been sentenced, if that sentence can be held in suspension while the wheels of appeal slowly turn?

#### The Narrative: From a Gunshot at a Rally to a Courtroom in April

The story begins in August 2018, at an EFF birthday rally held at a stadium in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape. Malema, in characteristic theatrical fashion, produced a firearm and discharged live rounds into the air in what his supporters understood as a celebratory political performance. It was, in the court's later assessment, anything but a harmless gesture. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) enrolled the matter, and Malema's first court appearance came only in August 2021; three years after the incident; reflecting both the complexity of the case and the grinding pace of South Africa's criminal justice system.

The trial that followed stretched across several years. The prosecution called 19 witnesses and built its case methodically, charging Malema with five counts: unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, discharge of a firearm in a built-up area, failure to

take reasonable precautions to person or property, and reckless endangerment of persons or property. In 2023, Malema's legal team attempted a Section 174 application; an argument that the state had failed to establish a prima facie case sufficient to require the defence to answer. The court dismissed the application. Malema took the stand and, in a moment that would later prove deeply damaging to his credibility, told the court that 'it must have been the Holy Spirit' that caused the firearm to discharge. Magistrate Olivier, in her eventual judgment, found Malema was 'not a credible witness' and deemed him 'evasive.'

On 1 October 2025, the verdict arrived: guilty on all five counts. Sentencing proceedings were postponed for pre-sentencing hearings, during which a social worker testified in mitigation on Malema's behalf. The state pushed aggressively for a harsh sentence; prosecutor Advocate Joel Cesar asked for up to 15 years' imprisonment, or alternatively 10 years with three suspended, along with fines on the remaining counts. On 17 April 2026, Magistrate Olivier handed down the sentence: five years of direct imprisonment on the primary count of unlawful possession of a firearm, with additional sentences on the other counts running concurrently. The maximum sentence under the Firearms Control Act was 15 years. Malema received five.

Before the courtroom had finished processing the gravity of what had just been said, Malema's legal team was on its feet, applying for leave to appeal. The application was granted. Malema was released on warning. He emerged from the court, addressed his supporters, and accused Magistrate Olivier of bias, alleging external political influence on the judgment. He called the prosecution politically motivated; a campaign to silence him ahead of the 2026 local government elections. The EFF; South Africa's fourth-largest parliamentary party; immediately backed its leader, framing the entire process as judicial persecution.

#### The Constitutional Architecture: Why Malema Did Not Go to Jail

To understand why a man sentenced to five years in prison walked free the same day, one must understand Section 35(3)(o) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. This provision guarantees every accused person the right to appeal to, or review by, a higher court. This is not a discretionary benefit granted by judges at their pleasure. It is a constitutional right; one of the foundational protections of South Africa's post-apartheid democratic order, written into the Bill of Rights



Julius Sello Malema

as a response to decades of a justice system that denied black South Africans any meaningful recourse against state power.

The mechanics are further governed by the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA), which provides that an accused person who has been convicted and sentenced may apply for leave to appeal against conviction, sentence, or both. When such an application is granted, the execution of the sentence is suspended pending the outcome of the appeal. This means that Malema's five-year sentence, though real and legally pronounced, does not take physical effect until all appeals are exhausted; or until a court orders otherwise.

There is additionally a critically important provision in Section 47(1)(e) of the Constitution, which states that a member of the National Assembly is disqualified from serving as a Member of Parliament if sentenced to more than 12 months in prison without the option of a fine. Malema's five-year sentence, with no fine option on the primary count, would ordinarily trigger this disqualification. However, the same constitutional framework provides a saving clause: a person is not regard-

ed as having been sentenced 'until an appeal against the conviction or sentence has been determined.' Malema's immediate application for leave to appeal, and the granting of that application, therefore preserved his parliamentary seat; at least for the duration of the appeal process, which could take months or years to conclude.

Legal experts have emphasised that this architecture is not a loophole exploited by a clever lawyer. It is the deliberate design of a constitutional democracy that takes the presumption of innocence; and the fallibility of courts; seriously. The right to appeal exists precisely because courts make mistakes. Lower courts, magistrates' courts, even high courts have been reversed on appeal. The history of justice systems worldwide is littered with wrongful convictions that were only corrected on appeal. South Africa's own apartheid-era legal history provides ample, tragic evidence of what happens when the right of appeal is weakened or denied.

That said, the granting of leave to appeal was not automatic. Malema's legal team had to satisfy the court that there were reasonable prospects

of success on appeal; a legal test that requires more than mere hope or political argument. Legal analysts have noted that Magistrate Olivier's judgment was unusually thorough and carefully reasoned for a magistrates' court, which may make it harder to overturn on appeal. Lawson Naidoo of the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (Casac) observed that an appeal court would need to be persuaded that the magistrate made a specific error in law; and that will not be easy given the meticulous construction of the judgment.

#### Is This Constitutional Right Good for South Africa?

For those who have read the Constitution of South Africa have asked critical questions. The question of whether South Africa's constitutional architecture; particularly the right to appeal as a mechanism that suspends the execution of sentences; is good for the country is one that admits of genuinely competing

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## African News

**CONVICTED BUT FREE:****Julius Malema, the Constitutional Right to Appeal, and What Africa's Justice Systems Reveal About the Soul of Democracy**

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**Worth Noting:**

• The story begins in August 2018, at an EFF birthday rally held at a stadium in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape. Malema, in characteristic theatrical fashion, produced a firearm and discharged live rounds into the air in what his supporters understood as a celebratory political performance. It was, in the court's later assessment, anything but a harmless gesture. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) enrolled the matter, and Malema's first court appearance came only in August 2021; three years after the incident; reflecting both the complexity of the case and the grinding pace of South Africa's criminal justice system.

• The trial that followed stretched across several years. The prosecution called 19 witnesses and built its case methodically, charging Malema with five counts: unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, discharge of a firearm in a built-up area, failure to take reasonable precautions to person or property, and reckless endangerment of persons or property.

answers. The debate is not between those who believe in justice and those who do not. It is between those who weigh the values of justice differently.

The case for the right to appeal as a constitutional good is compelling. Every functioning democracy that respects the rule of law guarantees the right of appeal. The United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Australia; none of these countries require a convicted person to begin serving a custodial sentence before their appeal has been heard, except in extraordinary circumstances. The logic is straightforward: if the appeal succeeds and the conviction is overturned, an imprisoned appellant cannot be unimprisoned. The damage to liberty and dignity is irreversible. A justice system that sends people to prison first and hears their appeals second is one in which the process itself becomes the punishment.

Furthermore, South Africa's courts have not been infallible. The Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court have on numerous occasions reversed convictions and sentences from lower courts. In a society still healing from the wounds of a justice system that was weaponised for racial oppression, the architecture that prevents the state from imprisoning people on the basis of potentially flawed lower court decisions carries profound moral weight.

However, the case against; or at least for a more nuanced view; is also serious. Critics note that the suspension of sentences pending appeal creates an inequality in the justice system: those with access to expensive, skilled legal representation can pursue appeals through multiple courts for years, delaying the execution of their sentences indefinitely, while ordinary South Africans without such resources serve their sentences immediately. The appeal process, in practice, operates differently for the wealthy and the poor. Malema has access to top-tier legal counsel. The average convicted person in South Africa does not. There is also a democratic le-

gitimacy argument. Section 47(1)(e) was designed to ensure that convicted criminals could not continue to exercise legislative power. The constitutional saving clause that allows Malema to retain his parliamentary seat during the appeal process arguably undermines the spirit of this provision, even if it complies with its letter. Malema currently sits on the Judicial Service Commission; the body that interviews and recommends judges for appointment. His continued participation in that process as a convicted felon, whatever the appeal status, has drawn sharp criticism from legal analysts and opposition parties.

The balanced assessment is this: the constitutional right to appeal is not only good for South Africa; it is essential. But the system that surrounds it must be reformed to ensure that justice delayed does not become justice denied, and that the benefits of this constitutional protection are available equitably to all South Africans, not only to those who can afford the best lawyers.

**Across the Continent: How Other African Countries Handle Conviction and Sentencing**

The Malema case raises a broader comparative question: how do other African countries manage the tension between the right to appeal and the principle that sentences should be carried out? The answer reveals a continent of profound legal diversity, shaped by colonial inheritance, post-independence constitutional reform, and the ongoing struggle to build accountable institutions.

Kenya, like South Africa, inherited a British common law system and enshrines the right of appeal in its Constitution. Kenya's 2010 Constitution, widely regarded as one of the most progressive on the continent, guarantees every person the right to a fair trial, including the right to appeal to a higher court. In practice, Kenyan courts have grappled with similar tensions: convicted politicians have used appeal processes to delay the execution of sentences and retain



Julius Sello Malema

public office. The acquittal of President Uhuru Kenyatta before the International Criminal Court; after Kenya refused to cooperate with the ICC; demonstrated how the space between conviction and imprisonment can be manipulated, even at the highest levels.

Ghana, another former British colony with a relatively robust constitutional tradition, operates a similar appeal architecture. Convicted persons are generally released on bail pending appeal unless the offence is non-bailable, and the courts have maintained a degree of independence that, while imperfect, has generally preserved the integrity of the appeal process. Ghana has had its share of high-profile political prosecutions, and the appeal system has in several instances corrected convictions that were politically motivated or legally flawed. Nigeria presents a more complex picture. With a federal system of 36 states and a history of significant judicial capture by political elites, Nigeria's criminal justice system has been marked by inequality of access. High-profile politicians and businesspeople convicted of corruption and other offences have routinely used the appeal process to delay or ultimately avoid imprisonment, a pattern so ingrained that it has bred

deep public cynicism about whether the law applies equally to the powerful. This is not a failure of the constitutional right to appeal as a principle; it is a failure of institutional integrity in its application.

Rwanda occupies a distinctive position in the African justice landscape. Its post-genocide legal architecture was shaped by the traumatic necessity of processing over a million suspects. The Gacaca community court system, which handled most genocide-related cases, operated outside the conventional appeal architecture and resulted in many convictions that were executed swiftly. Rwanda's current justice system reflects President Kagame's emphasis on order and accountability, but critics; including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; have raised concerns about fair trial guarantees and the independence of the judiciary from executive influence.

Zimbabwe and Uganda represent cautionary examples of what happens when constitutional protections of accused persons are eroded. In Zimbabwe, President Emerson Mnangagwa signed into law a constitutional amendment in 2021 giving the executive greater control over judicial appointments, including annual contract

renewals for Constitutional Court judges. In Uganda, the judiciary has operated in a context where executive pressure on courts is documented and persistent. In these contexts, the right to appeal risks becoming a hollow formality; available in principle but meaningless in practice.

Tanzania's experience is instructive. After withdrawing its declaration recognising the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in 2019, Tanzania sent a clear signal about its relationship with external judicial accountability mechanisms. Domestically, the country's appeal system exists, but delays and political interference have undermined its effectiveness as a genuine safeguard.

Namibia; where this writer is based; offers a constructive example of a country that has worked deliberately to build an independent judiciary and a functional appeal architecture since independence in 1990. Namibia's Constitution guarantees the right to appeal, and the courts have demonstrated a willingness to rule against the government when the law requires it. The country's relatively small size and political stability have enabled

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## African News

**CONVICTED BUT FREE:****Julius Malema, the Constitutional Right to Appeal, and What Africa's Justice Systems Reveal About the Soul of Democracy**

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a judicial culture that, while not perfect, takes constitutional rights seriously. Namibia's experience suggests that the right to appeal is not merely a formal constitutional provision; it requires sustained institutional investment and political will to make it real.

**What Other Countries Do When a Person Is Sentenced**

Comparative criminal justice offers a rich spectrum of approaches to the question of what happens between the moment of sentencing and the execution of that sentence. Understanding this spectrum illuminates both what is distinctive about South Africa's constitutional framework and what its limitations are.

In the United States, the federal system generally allows defendants to apply for bail pending appeal after conviction. However, the standard is high: the defendant must demonstrate that the appeal raises a substantial legal question that, if decided in the defendant's favour, would likely result in reversal, a new trial, or a reduced sentence below the time already served. In practice, high-profile defendants with resources often succeed in securing release pending appeal, while those without resources frequently serve their sentences before appeals are resolved. This creates the same inequality that critics identify in South Africa's system.

In the United Kingdom, after a conviction in Crown Court, a defendant is generally remanded in custody while awaiting the outcome of an application for leave to appeal, unless the court grants bail. The presumption in the UK system, unlike in South Africa's constitutional framework, leans toward custody during the appeal period for serious offences. This reflects a different balancing of the competing values of liberty and public safety.

In most Continental European civil law jurisdictions; France, Germany, the Netherlands; the right of appeal is also constitutionally guaranteed, but the mechanism varies. In Germany, the Revision (appeal on points of law) is a standard feature of criminal proceedings, but defendants serving custodial sentences are generally required to begin serving them unless the appeal court specifically orders otherwise. The presumption is against free liberty post-conviction, except in specific circumstances.

In China, a convicted person has the right to appeal within 10 days of sentencing. However, China's justice system operates within a single-party political framework that fundamentally compromises judicial independence. The acquittal rate in Chinese courts is extraordinarily low; below 0.1 percent; meaning that by the time a person is sentenced, the outcome of any appeal is largely predetermined. The formal right to appeal exists, but its practical value is minimal.

What emerges from this comparison is that the South African model; which constitutionally guarantees the right to appeal and suspends sentence execution pending its outcome; sits closer to the liberty-protective end of the spectrum. It takes seriously the risk of wrongful conviction. It treats the fallibility of lower courts with appropriate humility. But it does so in ways that create unequal outcomes based on access to legal resources, and in ways that can allow convicted persons to continue exercising public power for extended periods while their appeals proceed.

**The Deeper Question: What Is Justice For?**

The Malema case ultimately forces us to confront a question that legal systems struggle to answer with any single definitive response: What is criminal justice for? Is it for punishment; the proportional imposition of suffering on those who have broken the law? Is it for deterrence; the prevention of future offending by the convicted person and by others who observe the consequences? Is it for rehabilitation; the transformation of the offender? Or is it for the protection of constitutional rights; the guarantee that the machinery of state is never permitted to wrong an individual without adequate checks and balances?

South Africa's constitutional framework answers unambiguously: justice is, at its foundation, for the protection of rights. The Bill of Rights; forged in the crucible of apartheid's systematic denial of rights; prioritises the protection of the individual against state power above almost all else. Section 35 exists because the apartheid state routinely imprisoned people unjustly, denied them meaningful recourse, and used the machinery of criminal justice as an instrument of racial oppression. The right to appeal is, in this context, not an abstract legal technicality. It is a scar on the country's constitutional memory.

Malema himself has invoked this history with characteristic skill and



Julius Sello Malema

effectiveness. His claim that the prosecution is politically motivated; that the state is using the Firearms Control Act to silence an outspoken critic of white capital and the ANC establishment; resonates with a significant section of South African society that remains deeply suspicious of state institutions. Whether or not this claim is accurate; and the magistrate's meticulous, carefully reasoned judgment provides no obvious basis for it; it reflects real social anxieties about whether the justice system operates equally across South Africa's deeply unequal society.

The risk, however, of a justice system that is too easily characterised as politically motivated, or that delays its consequences indefinitely through appeal processes, is that it loses legitimacy in the eyes of ordinary citizens. When the powerful routinely walk free after sentencing while the ordinary person goes to prison immediately, the justice system ceases to be a symbol of equal citizenship and becomes instead a mirror of social inequality. This is not merely a South African problem. It is Africa's justice crisis, and it is the world's.

**Conclusion: Freedom Is Not Impunity, and Justice Is Not Vengeance**

Julius Malema is a convicted man. That is now beyond legal dispute; his leave to appeal was granted only against the sentence, not the conviction. His guilt on five counts of firearms offences is confirmed. Whether he ultimately serves a day in prison is a question that the ap-

pellate courts will answer, potentially through multiple levels of the judicial hierarchy, over months or years. South Africa's constitutional architecture permits this. It does so deliberately, and with full awareness of the trade-offs involved.

This architecture is, on balance, right. A democracy that rushes convicted persons into prison before their appeals are heard is a democracy that has made its peace with the possibility of imprisoning the innocent. South Africa; of all countries; cannot afford that peace. Its history has cost too much. But a democracy that permits this architecture to become a tool of indefinite delay, available only to the wealthy and well-connected, is a democracy that has made a different and equally dangerous peace: with the inequality of its justice.

The Malema case is therefore both a test of South Africa's constitutional maturity and a mirror in which the continent can examine itself. Across Africa, from Namibia's quietly functional courts to Nigeria's captured judiciary, from Kenya's progressive constitutional framework to Zimbabwe's executive-pressured bench, the struggle to make the right to appeal a genuine safeguard; rather than either a hollow formality or an instrument of elite evasion; is the struggle for the rule of law itself.

Malema will argue his appeal. The courts will decide. If the appeal fails, he will face the consequences. If it succeeds, the system will have done exactly what it was designed to do: catch an error before an irreversible injustice was committed. Either way,

the principle that no one is truly sentenced until every legitimate avenue of legal challenge has been exhausted is not a weakness of democracy. It is one of its most important and hard-won achievements.

For Africa, the lesson is not that convicted politicians should walk free. The lesson is that the architecture of justice; appeals, constitutional rights, independent courts; must be built honestly, funded adequately, and protected fiercely. Not for Julius Malema's sake. For the sake of every ordinary person who will one day stand before a court and need those protections to work.

*Silas Mwaudasheni Nande is Principal of Kornelius Combined School in the Ohangwena Region, Namibia, and a doctoral candidate at the International University of Management (IUM), Windhoek, pursuing a PhD in Education Leadership Management ad Policy Studies. He writes on governance, justice, culture, and public policy. Views expressed re his own and do not represent his institution of employment nor do they represent the institution of his studies.*

# NEWS PAPER



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Namibia

# Truth at Birth: Why Namibia Must Embrace Mandatory DNA Testing to Protect Children, Fathers, and Family Justice



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande  
@themtkenyatimes

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## Worth Noting:

• **Johann Bezuidenhout, a South African teacher from the Eastern Cape, raised his daughter as his own for sixteen years. He worked two jobs to cover school fees and medical bills. When a routine medical procedure required a blood transfusion and his blood type was incompatible with the child's, the question of paternity arose. A DNA test revealed he was not the biological father. Johann, speaking to South African newspaper City Press in a 2018 interview, described the moment: "I did not lose a daughter that day. I lost myself. I lost sixteen years. I lost every memory I thought I had, because I did not know if any of it was real." Johann subsequently suffered clinical depression and was unable to teach for two years. He continues to pay maintenance, as South African courts have held that psychological paternity — the role of a social father — carries legal obligations.**

on comparative evidence from countries that have implemented or debated birth DNA testing, and on the painful, documented experiences of men who have suffered the consequences of paternity deception, it argues that Namibia — a country with high rates of gender-based violence, family instability, and disputed parentage — has a compelling and urgent case for making voluntary, confidential DNA testing routinely available at birth, with a structured pathway toward broader implementation under a rights-respecting legal framework.

"Truth is not the enemy of the home. Uncertainty and suspicion are far more volatile than the truth." — Tuhafeni Hailonga

### THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM: WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Paternity discordance — the scientific term for when the presumed father of a child is not the biological father — is more prevalent globally than polite conversation allows. Studies across multiple continents estimate non-paternity rates between 1% and 30%, with most peer-reviewed research settling between 2% and 10% of the general population. In Southern Africa, where high-density informal settlements, transient labour migration, and limited access to family planning intersect, independent studies have noted higher-than-average rates of paternity uncertainty. A 2019 study published in the journal *Human Reproduction* noted that in populations with high male labour migration, paternity uncertainty rates could approach 15% in certain demographic groups.

These are not abstract statistics. Each percentage point represents a living child registered under the wrong father's name, a man who may be paying child maintenance for a child who is not biologically his, and a biological father whose child grows up without ever knowing him. In Namibia, where the Children's Act and the Maintenance Act impose significant legal and financial obligations on registered fathers, the stakes are acutely real.



Mandatory DNA Testing

The Namibian legal system currently operates on a presumption of paternity: the man who is present at birth, who signs the birth certificate, or who cohabits with the mother at the time of birth, is presumed to be the father. This presumption, rooted in practicality, has not kept pace with the possibilities of modern science. What was once a reasonable default has become, in many cases, a mechanism through which deception — whether intentional or not — is institutionalised.

### VOICES FROM THE DARKNESS: THE HUMAN COST OF PATERNITY DECEPTION

Behind the legal debates and policy papers are human beings — men who have built their identities, finances, and emotional lives around children later discovered not to be theirs, and children who grow up without knowing their true medical history, their biological heritage, or their genetic identity. The following cases, drawn from documented accounts and published reports, illustrate the devastating personal toll.

#### The Story of Johann Bezuidenhout, South Africa

Johann Bezuidenhout, a South African teacher from the Eastern Cape, raised his daughter as his own for sixteen years. He worked two jobs to cover school fees and medical bills. When a routine medical procedure required a blood transfusion and his blood type was incompatible with the child's, the question of paternity arose. A DNA test revealed he was not the biological father. Johann, speaking to South African newspaper *City Press* in a 2018 interview, described the moment: "I did not lose a daughter that day. I lost myself. I lost sixteen years. I lost every memory I thought I had, because I did not know if any of it was real." Johann subsequently suffered clinical depression and was unable to teach for two years. He continues to pay maintenance, as South African courts have held that psychological paternity — the role of a social father — carries legal obligations.

#### The Story of a Namibian Civil Servant, Windhoek

A mid-ranking civil servant in Windhoek — who requested anonymity and is referred to here as "M.N."

— spent eleven years believing he was the father of twin boys. He described in a 2022 community radio interview how he had foregone career advancement opportunities, declining two postings to other towns to remain close to his children. When his wife initiated divorce proceedings, a court-ordered DNA test as part of the maintenance dispute revealed he was not the biological father of either child. "I do not know how to describe what happened inside me," he said. "I loved those boys. I still love them. But I was cheated out of the truth for eleven years. That was not my choice to make." The court dismissed his application for maintenance relief, leaving him liable for continued payments.

#### The Story of Carlos Morales, United States

In the United States, where paternity fraud is the subject of active legislative reform in several states, Carlos Morales of Texas became an unlikely advocate after discovering through an Ancestry DNA genealogy kit that the son he had raised for fourteen years was not biologically his. Morales, who spoke to the *Dallas Morning*

*News*, said he continued to love his son and chose to remain in his life. But his case ignited debate about the absence of routine paternity verification at birth, with Morales asking: "Why does the system make it so easy for deception to happen, and so hard for the truth to come out?" Texas subsequently became one of the first U.S. states to significantly reform its paternity fraud laws.

#### The Tragedy of Generational Medical Ignorance

Beyond the emotional dimensions, paternity deception carries direct medical consequences. Genetic conditions — from hereditary cancers to haemophilia, sickle cell disease, and rare metabolic disorders — require accurate knowledge of biological parentage. A child raised under a false paternal identity may never receive testing for conditions to which they are genetically vulnerable. In 2020, a case reported in the *British Medical Journal* described a child in the United Kingdom who was not screened for a hereditary cardiac con-

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Namibia

# Truth at Birth: Why Namibia Must Embrace Mandatory DNA Testing to Protect Children, Fathers, and Family Justice

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dition because the registered father’s medical history, not the biological father’s, was used as the reference point. The child suffered a preventable cardiac event at age nine.

### WHAT COUNTRIES THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED DNA TESTING AT BIRTH HAVE LEARNED

While no country has yet implemented universal mandatory DNA testing of all newborns as standard birth registration practice, several countries and jurisdictions have moved significantly closer to this model, and their experiences offer valuable lessons for Namibia.

#### Kuwait: Mandatory Paternity Testing in Disputed Cases

Kuwait has implemented one of the most formalised systems in the world for resolving paternity disputes through DNA testing. Under Kuwaiti Personal Status Law, DNA testing is admissible and, in disputed cases, routinely ordered by courts. The Ministry of Health maintains a framework for genetic testing linked to birth registration that has been cited by regional legal scholars as a model for the Arab world. The result has been a significant reduction in prolonged custody disputes and a notable increase in accurate birth registration. Critically, Kuwaiti family courts have noted that early resolution of paternity disputes reduces the incidence of family violence associated with later-life discoveries.

#### Portugal: The “Affiliation Action” and DNA Transparency

Portugal’s legal system provides one of Europe’s most progressive frameworks for establishing biological parentage. Under Portuguese law, any person has the right to pursue an “affiliation action” to legally establish or contest paternity through DNA testing, with the state covering the cost for low-income applicants. Crucially, Portugal has moved toward a model where hospitals routinely offer voluntary paternity testing at birth as part of standard newborn screening. Portuguese

family law scholars have documented that voluntary uptake of these tests has increased year on year since 2015, with over 12% of births in Lisbon now accompanied by a voluntary paternity screen. Early evidence suggests this is reducing downstream litigation, family disruption, and the number of children growing up without accurate identity documentation.

#### The Netherlands: Voluntary Neonatal DNA Screening

The Netherlands has a comprehensive neonatal screening programme that, while primarily focused on metabolic and genetic disease detection, has established the infrastructure, laboratory capacity, ethical frameworks, and public trust necessary for broader genetic testing at birth. Dutch bioethicists, writing in the European Journal of Human Genetics, have argued that adding voluntary paternity confirmation to neonatal screening programmes is ethically defensible, administratively straightforward, and socially beneficial. The Dutch model demonstrates that the concern about “mass surveillance” of genetics need not be a barrier to targeted, consent-based testing.

#### South Africa: Legislative Pressure and Judicial Activism

South Africa, Namibia’s closest neighbour and a country with deeply comparable social conditions, has seen growing judicial and legislative pressure to formalise access to paternity testing at birth. The South African Law Reform Commission has received multiple submissions calling for voluntary DNA testing to be offered as part of the Births and Deaths Registration process. While mandatory testing has not been legislated, South African courts have increasingly ordered paternity tests as a matter of course in maintenance disputes, effectively creating a post-hoc version of what early testing would have prevented. A 2021 academic paper in the South African Journal of Human Rights argued: “The failure to offer early paternity testing is not a protection of women’s rights; it is a deferral of



Mandatory DNA Testing

truth that ultimately harms all parties, including women who benefit from legal clarity.”

“The Constitution does not protect deception; it protects fairness and the rule of law.” — Tuhafeni Hailonga

### RESPONDING TO THE RIGHTS-BASED OBJECTIONS

The most serious objection to mandatory or routine DNA testing at birth is the one raised by Hubbard and others: that such testing violates women’s rights to privacy and dignity under the Namibian Constitution, specifically Articles 13 (privacy) and 8 (dignity). This argument must be taken seriously and answered directly.

First, rights are not absolute. The Namibian Constitution, like all constitutional instruments, operates on a framework of proportionality. Rights must be balanced against each other. The privacy interest of a mother in her sexual history must be weighed against the identity interest of the child under Article 15, the equality interest of the father under Article 10, and the public interest in accurate family records and reduced family violence. A proportionality analysis does not automatically favour either side; it requires a genuine weighing of competing values.

Second, voluntary and confidential testing, as proposed by Hailonga, does not violate privacy at all. If a test is offered at birth on an opt-in basis, conducted confidentially, and results are provided only to the family, there is no invasion of privacy greater than any other medical test a mother already consents to at birth. The privacy objection applies most forcefully to mandatory testing; it is far weaker against a well-designed voluntary scheme.

Third, the claim that DNA testing harms women by “exposing their sexual history” conflates two things: the act of testing biological parentage and the act of criminalising or stigmatising sexual behaviour. A DNA result establishes biological fact; it does not prosecute anyone. The legal and social response to that fact is a separate matter, and one that law and society can and must handle with sensitivity. The test itself is neutral.

Fourth, there is a gendered asymmetry in the current system that the privacy argument glosses over. Maternity is established at birth with biological certainty; paternity is not. This asymmetry means that, under the current system, women have legal certainty about their biological relationship to a child from the first moment, while men do not. Equality under Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution demands that both parents

have access to the same legal certainty. A system that deliberately preserves uncertainty for one party, on the grounds that the other party’s privacy interests override it, is not a neutral system; it is a system that structurally privileges deception.

### THE GBV CONNECTION: WHY EARLY TRUTH PREVENTS LATER VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence remains one of Namibia’s most serious public health and human rights crises. The 2022 Namibia Demographic and Health Survey found that Namibia has among the highest rates of intimate partner violence in sub-Saharan Africa. There are multiple drivers of this crisis, and no single intervention will solve it. But the relationship between paternity uncertainty and family violence is better documented than is often acknowledged in public debate.

When a man discovers, years into a relationship, that the child he has been raising is not his biological offspring, the psychological and emotional impact can be catastrophic. In many documented cases, this discovery coincides with episodes of serious domestic violence. The British Journal of Criminology published a 2017 study examining domestic homicide reviews in England and Wales and

Namibia

# Truth at Birth: Why Namibia Must Embrace Mandatory DNA Testing to Protect Children, Fathers, and Family Justice

By: Diaspora Times Team  
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found that paternity deception was a documented precipitating factor in a statistically significant minority of intimate partner homicides. The logic is not that men are justified in violence — they are not, under any circumstances — but that the volatility of discovering a long-running deception, combined with social shame and grief, creates acute risk.

Early certainty dissolves this risk at the source. If paternity is confirmed voluntarily at birth, there is no later discovery. There is no explosive revelation in a relationship already under stress. There is no years-long grief detonated by a DNA ancestry kit or a chance medical test. As Hailonga noted: “Uncertainty and suspicion are far more volatile than the truth.” This is not merely rhetorical; it is supported by the literature on intimate partner violence and deception.

Namibia’s commitment to eliminating GBV must include honest engagement with all of its drivers, including the structural conditions that permit and even entrench domestic deception. Offering DNA testing at birth is not anti-woman. It is pro-family, pro-truth, and ultimately pro-safety.

## THE CHILD AT THE CENTRE: IDENTITY AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

If there is one argument that should settle this debate above all others, it is the rights of the child. Under Article 15 of the Namibian Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child — to which Namibia is a signatory — every child has the right to a name, a nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by his or her parents. The CRC Committee has consistently interpreted this to include the right to know one’s biological origins.

A child raised under a false paternal identity is denied this right from birth. They may grow up without access to half of their genetic medical history. They may form deep emotional bonds with a man who is legally their father but biologically a stranger. And when the truth eventually emerges — as it increasingly does in the



age of consumer DNA testing — the disruption to their psychological development can be severe.

Child psychologists consistently find that the discovery of paternity deception in adolescence or adulthood is among the most destabilising identity-related experiences a person can face. It undermines the foundational narratives through which individuals understand who they are. Early knowledge, provided sensitively and within a supportive family framework, is almost universally less harmful than late discovery in a context of conflict, divorce, or grief.

Namibia’s Child Care and Protection Act places the best interests of the child as the paramount consideration in all decisions affecting children. It is difficult to argue that a policy of deliberate biological ambiguity, maintained under the guise of privacy protection, genuinely serves the best interests of children. Clarity, provided with care, serves children better than uncertainty maintained for the convenience of adults.

## A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR NAMIBIA

This article does not argue for coercive, mandatory testing that overrides all consent. It argues for a rights-respecting, phased framework with the following elements:

**Voluntary Confidential Testing at Birth:** DNA testing should be offered as a

standard voluntary option at all state hospitals and clinics at the time of birth registration. Results should be confidential to the family, processed by an independent accredited laboratory, and recorded only in secure family health records. No result should be disclosed to third parties, employers, or government agencies without a court order.

**Free Access for Low-Income Families:** The cost of testing should be fully subsidised for families below the income threshold for legal aid, ensuring that access to biological certainty is not a privilege of the wealthy.

**Court-Ordered Testing in Maintenance Disputes:** Where paternity is disputed in maintenance, custody, or inheritance proceedings, courts should have a clear statutory mandate to order DNA testing promptly, with expedited processing to reduce the duration of proceedings and the associated stress on all parties, particularly children.

**Legislative Reform:** Namibia’s Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act and the Maintenance Act should be amended to create an explicit legal framework for voluntary paternity testing, including provisions for how results affect legal parentage, maintenance obligations, and birth registration.

**Public Awareness and Destigmatisation:** A national public education campaign should be developed to normalise voluntary pa-

ternity testing as a responsible, caring act — not an accusation, not a violation, but a gift of certainty to a child and fairness to both parents.

## CONCLUSION: THE TRUTH BELONGS TO THE CHILD

There is a profound moral asymmetry at the heart of this debate. Those who oppose routine DNA testing at birth do so, ostensibly, in the name of protecting privacy and dignity. But whose privacy, and whose dignity? The privacy protected by deliberate ambiguity is, in many cases, the privacy to deceive. The dignity preserved is not the dignity of truth, but the dignity of a comfortable lie.

The child who grows up not knowing their biological father has not been protected by this system. The man who spends decades raising another man’s child in good faith and later discovers the truth has not been treated with dignity by this system. The families torn apart by late discoveries, the women whose children bear the wrong father’s name on official documents, the biological fathers who are never given the chance to know their own children — none of them have been served by a policy of enforced ambiguity.

Namibia is a constitutional democracy committed to equality, dignity, and the rule of law. It is also a country in which gender-based violence, disputed paternity,

and fractured families impose enormous human costs every day. The tools to reduce those costs exist. They are scientifically reliable, ethically defensible when implemented with appropriate consent frameworks, and increasingly regarded internationally as consistent with rather than contrary to a human rights framework.

The question is not whether Namibia can afford to offer DNA testing at birth. The question is whether Namibia can afford to continue without it.

Truth is not the enemy of the home. It is its most secure foundation.

**Note on Sources:** This article draws on peer-reviewed literature in family law, human genetics, gender-based violence, and child rights, as well as published interviews and judicial records. Case studies involving private individuals are sourced from published news reports and radio transcripts; identifying details are as reported. The views expressed are those of the author and do not represent the official position of any institution.

*Nande Silas Mwaudasheni is Principal of Kornelius Combined School in the Ohangwena Region of Namibia, and a doctoral candidate at the International University of Management (IUM). He writes in his personal capacity.*

## Worth Noting:

• Portugal’s legal system provides one of Europe’s most progressive frameworks for establishing biological parentage. Under Portuguese law, any person has the right to pursue an “affiliation action” to legally establish or contest paternity through DNA testing, with the state covering the cost for low-income applicants. Crucially, Portugal has moved toward a model where hospitals routinely offer voluntary paternity testing at birth as part of standard newborn screening.

• Portuguese family law scholars have documented that voluntary uptake of these tests has increased year on year since 2015, with over 12% of births in Lisbon now accompanied by a voluntary paternity screen. Early evidence suggests this is reducing downstream litigation, family disruption, and the number of children growing up without accurate identity documentation.

• The Netherlands has a comprehensive neonatal screening programme that, while primarily focused on metabolic and genetic disease detection, has established the infrastructure, laboratory capacity, ethical frameworks, and public trust necessary for broader genetic testing at birth.

## Profile

# Raising the Empowered: Brian Kharis Okello's Quiet Revolution

*Across Uganda and beyond, one man's sacrifice is becoming a continent-wide movement.*

By: Diaspora Times Team  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- A trained information scientist and certified sustainability leader, Brian is also an activist and advocate for reading culture, literacy, youth empowerment, human rights, and climate change. He is a passionate poet and writer whose words, much like his work, are rooted in purpose.
- Brian draws his inspiration from the giants who came before him — Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Wangari Maathai, Barack Obama, and Maya Angelou, among others. Their voices found him while he was still a teenager and have never quite left. He finds creative fuel in the music of Bob Marley, Lucky Dube, and Peter Tosh, as well as in the poetry of revolutionary rappers and spoken word artists. A committed Christian, he also draws strength from scripture, gospel music, and faith-grounded literature.

Brian Kharis Okello is a man on a mission. A sustainability champion, advocate, mentor, and storyteller, Brian has spent years quietly transforming lives across Uganda, East Africa, and beyond — one community, one child, one conversation at a time.

At the heart of his work is a deep belief that young people deserve more than circumstance allows them. Through his programmes and volunteer efforts, Brian equips children and students with mentorship, coaching, networking opportunities, and practical skills for life and career development. He engages learners in book clubs, reading initiatives, book drives, and open discussions on issues that affect children, communities, and the wider world — all in pursuit of a more just and sustainable future.

Brian is the founder of Raising Empowered Foundation, formerly known as Charis Initiative for Sustainability — a movement built on sacrifice, commitment, and voluntary effort. The foundation works at the intersection of social justice and climate action, tackling quality education, mental health, teenage pregnancy and early marriage, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and child protection. Through its campaigns and outreaches, thousands of people have been directly and indirectly impacted, inspired, and transformed over the years.

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ists. A committed Christian, he also draws strength from scripture, gospel music, and faith-grounded literature.

His recognition has grown alongside his impact. Brian is a fellow and sustainability leader with United People Global (Switzerland), a member of the African Union Youth Assembly, and a Rotarian. He was acknowledged in the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award among individuals making a meaningful difference. In 2023, Raising Empowered Foundation was nominated for the African Rising Movement of the Year Award.

Much of Brian's most formative work has unfolded over approximately seven years in Kiryandongo District, in Uganda's Bunyoro sub-region — a low-income area that is home to diverse communities, including Lord's Resistance Army war survivors from Northern Uganda, Bududa landslide victims from Eastern Uganda, South Sudanese refugees and nationals, and Banyarwanda residents. After completing his undergraduate studies at Makerere University and gaining experience in church ministry, civil society, and non-profit work, Brian planted himself in this district and got to work.

He began at the Kigumba Town Council Library, engaging children, youth, and community readers in meaningful programmes. He then served for approximately six years as a librarian at a government-aided secondary school in Kiryandongo town, where he championed reading culture, literacy, and youth empowerment with quiet but steady determination. He encouraged students to stay in school, campaigned actively against early pregnancy and marriage, and supported young people both morally and financially wherever he could.

Brian was also a familiar and trusted figure at Kiryandongo General Hospital, where he volunteered his time to support patients — particularly children — during a period when he lived in the Senior Doctors' Quarters. He later relocated to Bweyale, a neighbouring town with a significant South Sudanese refugee



and internally displaced persons population. There, he offered a wide range of support — education, human rights guidance, psychosocial assistance, cultural interpretation, financial counselling, mediation, and mentorship. His work with displaced communities has extended beyond Kiryandongo's Bweyale-Panyadoli settlement to include Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, and communities in Makindye Division, Kampala.

Today, Raising Empowered Foundation has a growing network of champions, activists, advocates, ambassadors, and country representatives across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone — all driving noble causes in their corners of the continent.

The foundation also partners with companies and



organisations on corporate and social responsibility initiatives, helping businesses align their resources with community impact.

Brian Kharis Okello serves as Team Lead and Vision Bearer of Raising Empow-

ered Foundation. Together, he believes, we can build an Africa — and a world — that is more empowered, more equitable, and more sustainable for generations to come.



## Diaspora

## The Declining Civic Sense

*This article explores how civic sense has declined over the years, what consequences that decline has brought, and — more importantly — what we can still do about it before the damage becomes irreversible.*

By: IrfanUllah Khan  
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One of the most pressing challenges facing our society today is the steady decline of civic sense — that quiet, everyday awareness of our shared responsibilities to one another and to the spaces we inhabit. People aren't born without civic consciousness; that much is clear. But when rules go unenforced and accountability disappears, that awareness slowly erodes. Most of us would openly condemn littering, reckless driving, polluting rivers, or poisoning the air with industrial fumes. And yet, if we're honest with ourselves, we've all — in one way or another — shown disregard for public property, shared spaces, or the basic rights of those around us.

This article explores how civic sense has declined over the years, what consequences that decline has brought, and — more importantly — what we can still do about it before the damage becomes irreversible.

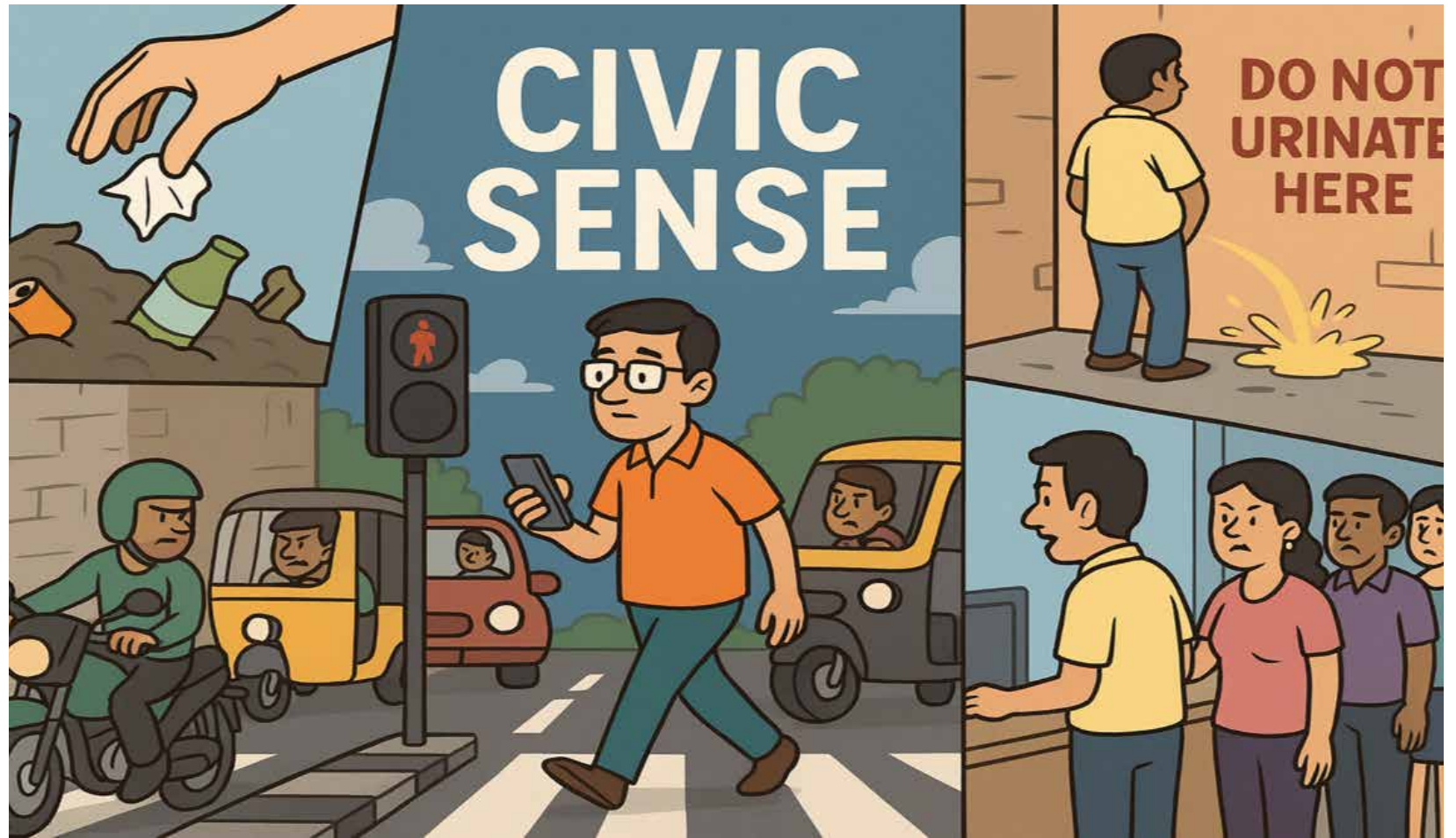
#### The Everyday Reality on Our Streets

In most of our cities, the signs of civic breakdown are impossible to miss. Constant lane violations, reckless driving, missing road signs, and the near-universal disregard for helmets and seatbelts have made our roads genuinely dangerous. Traffic discipline has weakened, road safety is compromised, and pedestrians pay the price with their lives.

The picture is just as grim off the roads. Public dustbins are a rarity. Public toilets are even rarer. Drainage systems are crumbling, recycling infrastructure barely exists, and litter is everywhere — in streets, parks, and waterways alike. Garbage routinely ends up in rivers and canals, degrading ecosystems and creating serious public health risks. And underneath all of this runs a deeply troubling cultural thread: in many communities, cleaning — whether your own home or a public street — is quietly viewed as something shameful, beneath a person of standing.

#### Classism: The Hidden Rot

One factor that rarely gets the attention it deserves is how deeply classism and casteism have shaped our relationship with civic responsibility. The workers tasked with keeping our cities clean are routinely demeaned — called “bhangi” rather than cleaners or sanitation workers — stripped of both fair wages and basic dignity. Feudal attitudes, exploitative labor practices, and widespread social apathy toward the un-



derprivileged have worked together to entrench the idea that cleanliness is someone else's problem — specifically, the problem of those at the bottom of the social ladder.

This mindset is corrosive. It weakens community bonds, reinforces feudalism, and obscures a fundamental truth: keeping shared spaces clean is a collective responsibility. It belongs to all of us.

#### A Government That Has Failed to Step Up

Governments, too, bear significant responsibility for this crisis. The persistent failure to invest in public services, enforce regulations consistently, and hold violators accountable has created the conditions for civic breakdown. Stark disparities exist between cities in terms of parking, recreational spaces, sanitation facilities, and waste management systems. In densely populated urban areas, people struggle to find clean drinking water, functional public toilets, or accessible green spaces. There's a deep contradiction at the heart of the current approach: How can a government reasonably fine citizens for traffic violations or water pollution when it hasn't provided properly maintained roads, adequate waste management systems, or clean public spaces to begin with? Accountability must run in both directions.

#### A Society That Has Normalized the Wrong Things

At the social level, a troubling shift has taken place. Littering, jumping

queues, illegal parking, and tossing rubbish in public spaces have gradually become normalized — behaviors people engage in openly, without embarrassment. The more people witness others breaking the rules without consequence, the more acceptable it becomes to do the same. It becomes a cycle. Rapid, unplanned urbanization and industrial expansion have only accelerated the damage — trees felled, habitats destroyed, and natural landscapes swallowed by concrete without a second thought.

#### An Education System That Missed the Lesson

Our schools have largely failed to fill this gap. Focused heavily on rote learning and academic performance, the education system has done little to cultivate civic responsibility in young minds. While it pays lip service to holistic development and critical thinking, the lived practice of community care — respecting shared spaces, taking responsibility for one's environment — has never truly been part of the curriculum.

#### The Blame Game Goes Nowhere

From politicians to ordinary citizens, blame has become the default response. One government begins a major public infrastructure project; the next dismantles it out of political rivalry. One person throws rubbish from a car window; another watches, shrugs, and does the same. Nothing changes, and everyone points fingers. This cycle of deflection is

perhaps the most insidious obstacle of all.

#### What the World Can Teach Us

Countries like Denmark, Switzerland, New Zealand, Germany, and Japan offer a compelling counter-narrative. The Danish concept of Samfundssind — literally “community spirit” or “social-mindedness” — captures an ethos where individual behavior is understood in relation to its effect on the wider community. In Japan, students clean their own classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms every day as part of school life, a practice known as O-soji. Cleanliness isn't outsourced — it's owned.

Crucially, the people in these countries were not born more civic-minded than anyone else. What's different is the system that shaped them: investment in public infrastructure, consistent enforcement of rules, well-designed public spaces, clean drinking water, accessible parks and toilets in every neighborhood — and a government that citizens genuinely trust to use public funds responsibly. Equal access to good facilities creates a sense of shared stake. And when people feel that stake, they tend to protect it.

#### So What Can We Actually Do?

The path forward is clear, even if it isn't easy.

Government must lead by example. Public taxes must be channeled into real infrastructure — better roads, green parks, clean water, waste management systems. Urbaniza-

tion must be planned and regulated. Rules must be enforced equally, for everyone, regardless of wealth or status.

Classism must be actively dismantled. Sanitation workers deserve fair pay, legal protections, and genuine social respect. The language we use to describe them matters. Words like “bhangi” dehumanize people and reinforce the dangerous fiction that cleaning is beneath the rest of us — which only deepens our collective disconnection from the responsibility.

Schools must make civic education real. Teaching children the value of cleanliness, respect for shared spaces, and a sense of community responsibility — from an early age, through practice rather than just words — will pay dividends for generations to come.

And each of us must look inward. Self-reflection is not weakness; it's the beginning of change. Children learn from adults. If we model empathy, consideration for others, and genuine care for public spaces, we are already building the civic culture we want to live in.

When civic sense grows, so does society. People become more coordinated, more unified, more willing to look out for one another. Conflicts soften. Communities strengthen. The connection between individual behavior and collective wellbeing becomes visible — and suddenly, throwing rubbish on the street doesn't feel like a small thing anymore. It feels like a choice about what kind of society we want to be. That choice is ours to make.

# YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

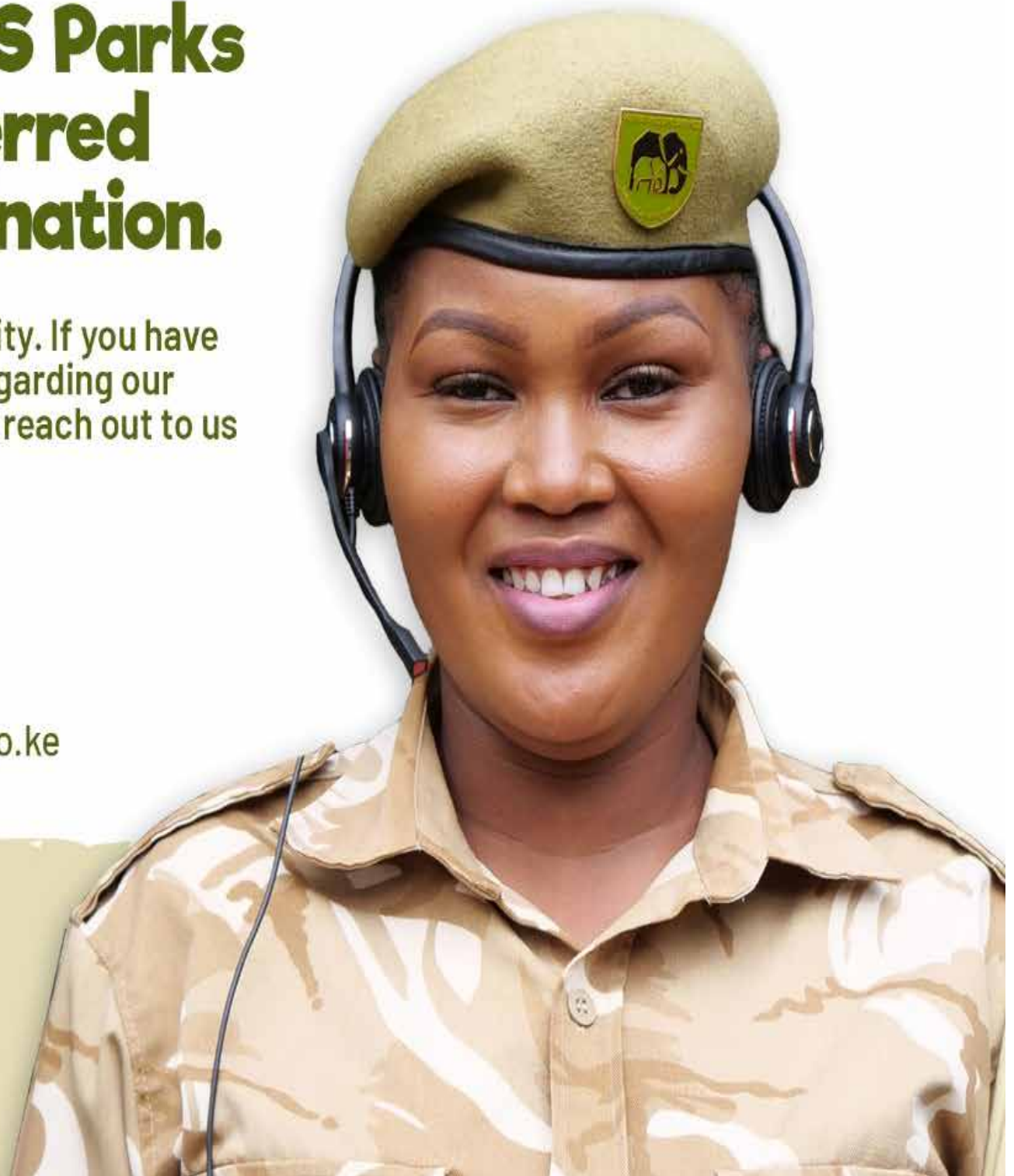
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## Diaspora

# The Lobito Corridor And The Walvis Bay Corridor: Rival Routes or Complementary Arteries?

*An Analytical Assessment of Trade Opportunities, Infrastructure Realities, and Competitive Dynamics for Namibia, Angola, the DRC, Zambia, and the Southern African Region*

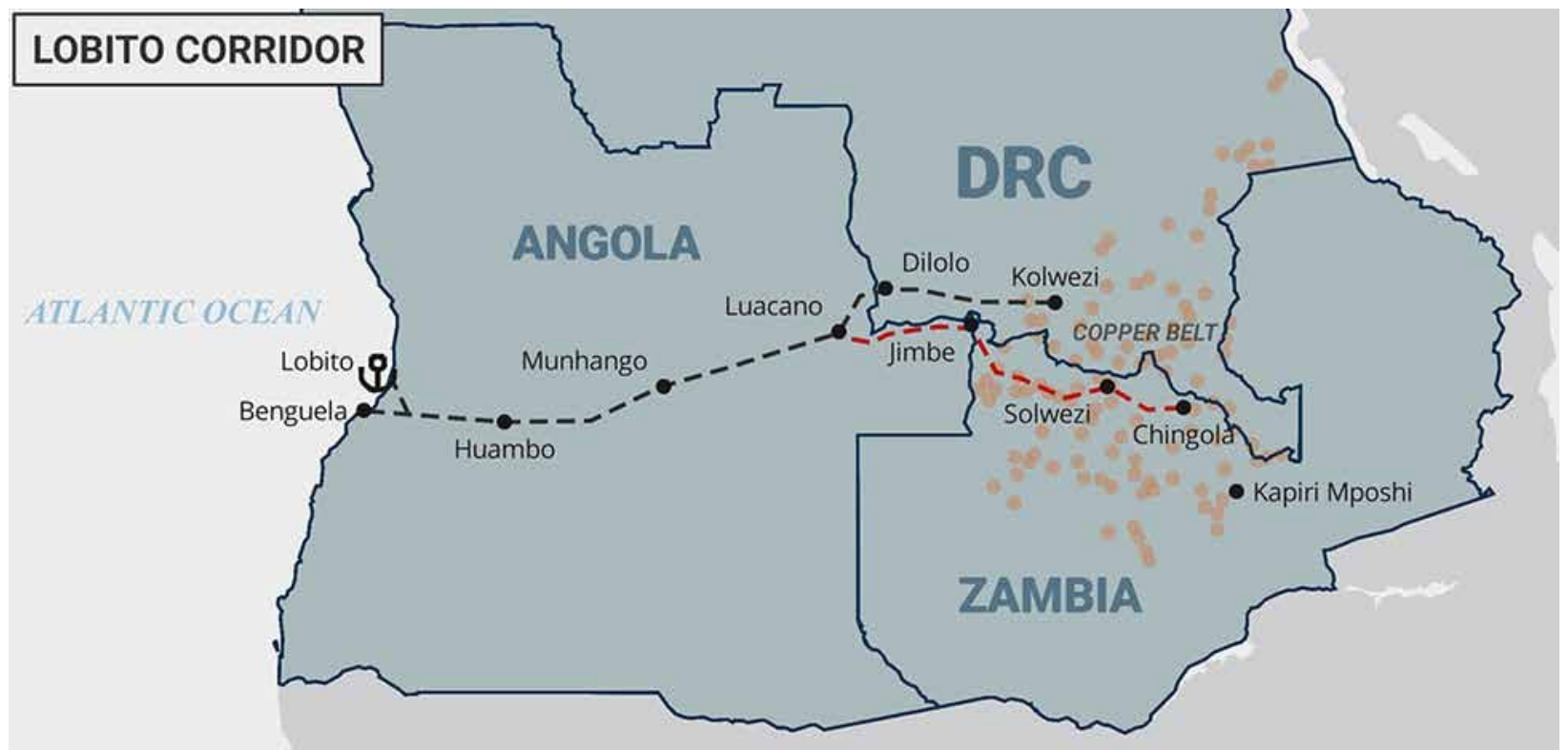
By: Diaspora Times Team  
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## Introduction: Witnessing Africa's Infrastructure Moment

I come across a short Tik-Tok video posted by Julius at @globalnomad2030 account, posted a day ago and wished it was long enough to be watched and listened by many people who could tap something out of it. This video, that prompts this article, is a remarkable piece of visual testimony; a documentary glimpse into what many analysts and policymakers are describing as one of Africa's most consequential infrastructure initiatives of the 21st century. The footage traverses the physical geography of the Lobito Corridor: a railway-centred trade artery that stretches from Angola's Atlantic coastline at the Port of Lobito, cutting eastward through the country's central highlands, before crossing into the mineral-rich provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and extending towards Zambia's legendary Copperbelt region. Across the landscapes shown; from Angola's coastal port infrastructure, through dusty highland terrain, to the DRC's mine-scarred earth and Zambia's industrial towns; the video presents a story not just of rails and roads, but of geopolitical ambition, economic hope, and the practical challenges of transforming an entire region's trade architecture.

What the camera captures is both the promise and the incompleteness of this project. One sees modern locomotives beginning to traverse tracks that had lain dormant or degraded for decades. One sees the Benguela Railway; Angola's 120-year-old colonial-era rail line; being rehabilitated for a new era. One sees communities along the corridor beginning to experience early economic activity. But one also sees the stark reality: sections of track still operating at painfully slow speeds, border crossings not yet fully optimised, and entire segments between the DRC town of Dilolo and Kolwezi where the railway barely functions at walking pace.

This article uses the video's narrative as its departure point and proceeds to conduct a rigorous analytical examination of four interconnected questions: What are the genuine trade opportunities the Lobito Corridor presents for Angola, DRC, Zambia, Namibia, and the broader southern African sub-region? What are the consequences; economic and political; if infrastructure development stalls or fails? Is the Lobito Corridor a direct competitive threat to Namibia's Walvis Bay Corridor? And, ultimately, are these two cor-



The Lobito Corridor

ridors locked in a zero-sum rivalry, or does the region's trade map have room for both?

## The Lobito Corridor: Geography, History, and the New Momentum

The Lobito Corridor is not a new idea. Its bones; the Benguela Railway; were laid by colonial-era Portuguese administrators in the early 20th century, designed to extract mineral wealth from the Congolese and Zambian interior and ship it westward to Atlantic Ocean ports. For decades, the corridor functioned as a vital artery for copper, cobalt, and other critical minerals. However, Angola's devastating civil war (1975–2002) brought the railway to its knees. Track was sabotaged, rolling stock destroyed, and the infrastructure fell into severe disrepair. For nearly three decades, the corridor was effectively non-functional, and the region's mineral trade was rerouted through southern and eastern corridors; through Namibia's Walvis Bay, South Africa's Durban, Tanzania's Dar es Salaam, and Mozambique's Beira.

The post-civil war period saw Angola begin rehabilitating the Benguela Railway with Chinese loan financing between 2006 and 2014. However, the rehabilitation did not immediately generate the transformative commercial momentum that many had anticipated. It was not until the mid-2020s, with a remarkable convergence of geopolitical interest from the United States, the European Union, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the African Finance Corporation (AFC), that the Lobito Corridor emerged as a flagship infrastructure project of global significance.

The physical scope of the corridor is substantial. The Angolan section;

the Benguela Railway; spans approximately 1,300 kilometres from the Port of Lobito to the town of Luau at the Angolan-DRC border. In the DRC, the critically important but severely degraded section from Dilolo to Kolwezi adds a further stretch into the heart of the Katanga mining province. The planned greenfield extension from Luacano in Angola to Chingola in Zambia; an entirely new rail line of approximately 800 kilometres; will link the corridor directly to Zambia's Copperbelt for the first time, creating what would be Africa's first open-access transcontinental rail link.

The international investment architecture supporting this project is without precedent in African infrastructure history. A joint venture between Trafigura, Mota-Engil, and Vecturis SA; operating under the name Lobito Atlantic Railway (LAR); secured a 30-year concession in July 2023, committing to invest USD 455 million in Angola and USD 100 million in the DRC. The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) committed a USD 553 million direct loan to LAR. The African Development Bank pledged over USD 1 billion in corridor investments across multiple projects. The European Union, through its Global Gateway initiative, mobilised over EUR 2 billion for infrastructure, agriculture, energy, and skills development along the corridor. By the end of 2024, total committed investment across all international partners had reached an estimated USD 6 billion.

## Trade Opportunities: A Country-by-Country Analysis

### Angola

For Angola, the Lobito Corridor

is transformational in ways that transcend simple transit revenues. Angola's economy has been dangerously oil-dependent since independence, and the government has long sought to diversify into logistics, agriculture, and manufacturing. The corridor now positions Angola as the region's Atlantic gateway; a transit nation through which the mineral wealth of the DRC and Zambia must pass to reach global markets. This creates multiple revenue streams: port handling fees at Lobito, rail concession revenues, logistics and warehousing income, and crucially, agricultural trade facilitation. Provinces along the corridor's path; including Huambo, Benguela, Bié, and Moxico; are some of Angola's most productive agricultural zones. The corridor opens these zones to regional and international markets, creating opportunities for agro-processing industries and export diversification. Angola's Carrinho Industries, with 17 factories and 1.5 million tonnes of annual output near Benguela, exemplifies what value-added industrial activity along the corridor can look like.

### The Democratic Republic of Congo

For the DRC, the Lobito Corridor addresses what has long been one of the country's most crippling competitive disadvantages: the extraordinary cost and time required to move minerals from mine to port. The DRC holds approximately 70 percent of the world's cobalt reserves and significant portions of global copper deposits; minerals that are essential to the global electric vehicle revolution and the broader energy transition. Yet much of this mineral wealth travels by road, in convoys of trucks that

battle unpaved roads, border delays stretching over 30 kilometres, and journey times of over a month to reach ports like Durban or Dar es Salaam. The Lobito Corridor reduces this journey to approximately eight days by rail. For a country desperate to capture more value from its mineral exports; and to attract investment in local processing and refining; this reduction in transport cost and time is economically decisive. Ivanhoe Mines, operator of the world's fastest-growing copper mine at Kamoakakula, has already made its first commercial shipments via the Lobito Corridor and has committed to transporting between 120,000 and 240,000 tonnes of copper annually through the route.

### Zambia

Zambia's trade interests in the Lobito Corridor centre on its Copperbelt; one of the world's great mineral provinces and the backbone of the Zambian economy. The planned greenfield rail extension from Luacano to Chingola would give Zambia its first direct rail link to an Atlantic Ocean port, fundamentally reshaping the country's export logistics options. For Zambian farmers in the North-Western Province, the corridor also offers new access to markets for agricultural products that currently rot or sell at low prices due to poor connectivity. Zambia's government under President Hichilema has publicly and emphatically embraced the corridor, recognising that diversified export routes reduce dependence on any single logistics partner and give Zambian producers greater bargaining power

## Diaspora

# The Lobito Corridor And The Walvis Bay Corridor: Rival Routes or Complementary Arteries?

*An Analytical Assessment of Trade Opportunities, Infrastructure Realities, and Competitive Dynamics for Namibia, Angola, the DRC, Zambia, and the Southern African Region*

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in freight negotiations.

## Namibia and Other Neighbouring States

Namibia's relationship with the Lobito Corridor is complex and deserves extended analysis, which this article undertakes in its later sections. But in the context of regional trade opportunities, it is worth noting that the corridor's success would increase the overall volume of regional trade, stimulate demand for complementary logistics services, and create spillover benefits for Namibia in areas such as financial services, professional services, and transshipment. Countries like Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Malawi; which currently use the Walvis Bay corridor as part of their own trade logistics; would be less immediately affected, but even they would benefit from a more competitive and efficient southern African trade environment.

## Infrastructure Gaps: What Happens If the Corridor Does Not Work?

The video's most sobering contribution is its honest portrayal of infrastructure incompleteness. At the time of filming, the DRC section of the corridor; specifically the 472-kilometre Dilolo to Kolwezi stretch operated by the national railway company SNCC; was functioning at less than 5 percent of its operational capacity. Trains crawled at 10 to 15 kilometres per hour on degraded track. As of late 2025, an EU/US pre-feasibility study for rehabilitation was only just presented, and the DRC Minister of Finance had submitted a request to the World Bank for a USD 500 million rehabilitation loan. The greenfield Zambia rail extension, meanwhile, was still in environmental and social impact assessment phase, with a ground-breaking target of early 2026 that was ambitious at best.

If the corridor does not achieve full operational functionality, the consequences ripple outward in multiple directions. For Angola, the failure of the corridor to attract sufficient cargo volumes would undermine the financial viability of the 30-year LAR concession,

potentially triggering defaults, renegotiations, and the kind of infrastructure collapse that has preceded this moment before. Angola's strategic aspiration to become a regional logistics hub would be severely set back, and the diversification of its oil-dependent economy would stall.

For the DRC, continued infrastructure dysfunction means continued transport poverty; the ongoing haemorrhage of economic value from a country that should be among Africa's wealthiest, but whose mineral riches are extracted at enormous cost and without the value-addition that efficient logistics would enable. Without the Lobito Corridor functioning, DRC mining companies will continue routing their exports through longer, more expensive, and less reliable routes, depressing returns and discouraging the investment in local processing capacity that could fundamentally transform the country's economic trajectory.

For Zambia, the failure of the greenfield extension to materialise on schedule would leave its Copperbelt producers as dependent as ever on the roads through Namibia, South Africa, and Tanzania; all of which are subject to congestion, political instability, and rate fluctuations. The bargaining power that corridor diversification promises would remain unrealised.

For regional geopolitics, a failed or stalled Lobito Corridor would be a significant setback for the Western-led infrastructure investment model that is explicitly positioned as an alternative to Chinese Belt and Road Initiative lending. The United States, European Union, and their partners have staked enormous credibility; and billions of dollars; on demonstrating that high-standard, transparent, private-sector-led infrastructure investment can compete with Chinese state-backed financing. A corridor that does not deliver would strengthen the case for Chinese financing models in Africa and undermine Western strategic objectives in the critical minerals race.

## Is the Lobito Corridor a Threat to the Walvis Bay



Walvis Bay Corridor

## Corridor?

This is the question that the video implicitly raises in nature and that Namibian policymakers, port authorities, and logistics operators are actively grappling with. The answer, examined honestly, is: yes; it is a competitive threat, but not an existential one, and the degree of threat depends heavily on variables that remain uncertain.

## The Case for Competitive Threat

The Walvis Bay Corridor; and specifically the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor (WBNLDC); has long served as one of the primary trade arteries linking the landlocked Copperbelt of the DRC and Zambia to the Atlantic Ocean. This corridor runs from the Port of Walvis Bay northward through Namibia's Caprivi Strip (Zambezi Region) to Katima Mulilo, crossing into Zambia and extending to the mining towns of Ndola and Lubumbashi. It has been, for decades, Namibia's single most important trade corridor in volume terms. The Lobito Corridor is geographically shorter. As the crow flies, the distance from the DRC's Kolwezi copper mines to the Port of Lobito is approximately 1,500 kilometres; substantially less than the distance to Walvis Bay via the WBNLDC route, which exceeds 3,000 kilometres. The rail jour-

ney time of approximately eight days compares favourably to the multi-week road journeys that currently characterise much of the Walvis Bay corridor traffic. If rail infrastructure is fully rehabilitated on both the Angolan and DRC sections, and if the greenfield Zambia extension is built, Zambian and DRC mining companies would have strong economic incentives to divert copper and cobalt exports from Walvis Bay to Lobito. Namibia's port authority, Namport, has explicitly acknowledged this competitive pressure. The port undertook a USD 5 billion container terminal upgrade; one of the most expensive infrastructure investments in Namibian history; in part to maximise cargo volumes from the DRC and Zambia Copperbelt. Industry analysts have warned that the Lobito Corridor, if fully operational, could significantly reduce the cargo volumes on which that investment depends.

## The Case Against Existential Threat

However, several factors moderate the competitive threat. First, the Lobito Corridor is years away from full operational capacity. The DRC section remains critically degraded, operating at a fraction of its potential. The Zambia greenfield extension does not yet exist. Even optimistic projections place full corridor function-

ality at the end of this decade at the earliest. During this extended period, Walvis Bay will continue to handle the bulk of Copperbelt mineral exports.

Second, logistics choices are not determined by distance alone. They are determined by the total logistics cost, including port handling fees, customs efficiency, rail and road reliability, and the availability of return loads. Industry experts point out that the Port of Lobito currently relies heavily on charter shipping, with insufficient regular liner services calling at the port. This limits its utility for cargo owners who require predictable shipping schedules. The Port of Walvis Bay, by contrast, is a mature logistics hub with established shipping line relationships, efficient customs systems, and a comprehensive logistics ecosystem. Namport has moved to privatise container handling operations through a 30-year concession with Terminal Investment Limited (TiL), a subsidiary of global shipping giant MSC; a move explicitly designed to boost efficiency and deepen shipping line relationships.

Third, the Walvis Bay Corridor Group has begun developing a new North-West Corridor (NWC) through Namibia's Zambezi panhandle, which would substantially shorten the hinterland

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## Worth Noting:

• The Walvis Bay Corridor; and specifically the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor (WBNLDC); has long served as one of the primary trade arteries linking the landlocked Copperbelt of the DRC and Zambia to the Atlantic Ocean. This corridor runs from the Port of Walvis Bay northward through Namibia's Caprivi Strip (Zambezi Region) to Katima Mulilo, crossing into Zambia and extending to the mining towns of Ndola and Lubumbashi. It has been, for decades, Namibia's single most important trade corridor in volume terms.

• The Lobito Corridor is geographically shorter. As the crow flies, the distance from the DRC's Kolwezi copper mines to the Port of Lobito is approximately 1,500 kilometres; substantially less than the distance to Walvis Bay via the WBNLDC route, which exceeds 3,000 kilometres. The rail journey time of approximately eight days compares favourably to the multi-week road journeys that currently characterise much of the Walvis Bay corridor traffic.

# The Lobito Corridor And The Walvis Bay Corridor: Rival Routes or Complementary Arteries?

*An Analytical Assessment of Trade Opportunities, Infrastructure Realities, and Competitive Dynamics for Namibia, Angola, the DRC, Zambia, and the Southern African Region*

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road distance from Walvis Bay to the Zambian Copperbelt, partially offsetting the distance advantage that the Lobito Corridor holds. This strategic response demonstrates that Namibia is not passive in the face of competition.

Fourth, as industry analysts note, Angola's economy remains heavily oil-dependent, and infrastructure investment commitments in Angola have historically been vulnerable to collapse when oil prices fall. The current international commitment to the Lobito Corridor is unprecedented, but Angola's institutional capacity to sustain and manage a complex multi-national infrastructure concession is still being tested. Fifth, and perhaps most importantly, the global demand for critical minerals; particularly copper and cobalt for electric vehicle batteries and clean energy infrastructure; is projected to grow dramatically over the coming decades. The quantum of mineral exports from the DRC and Zambia is expected to increase substantially. In this context, the region may well require multiple functioning corridors to handle export volumes that a single corridor could not accommodate.

## Complementarity vs. Competition: A Strategic Reframing

The framing of Lobito Corridor versus Walvis Bay Corridor as a zero-sum competition is analytically convenient but strategically misleading. The more sophisticated frame is one of complementarity and corridor specialisation.

Consider the cargo types each corridor is best positioned to serve. The Lobito Corridor, with its rail backbone, is optimised for bulk mineral exports; high-volume, heavy-gauge cargo that benefits from rail's efficiency advantages. Its natural primary market is copper and cobalt from the DRC Copperbelt, particularly from mines in the Kolwezi-Lubumbashi axis. The Walvis Bay Corridor, meanwhile, serves a much broader trade geography. It handles not only Copperbelt minerals but also general cargo for Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia's southern regions, Malawi, and even parts of the DRC not served by the Lobito route. Its Trans-Kalahari corridor is a vital artery for Botswana's beef, diamond, and coal exports. Its Trans-Oranje and Trans-Cunene corridors serve entirely different trade flows that the Lobito Corridor does not touch.

From Namibia's perspective, the strategic response to the Lobito Corridor is not to compete head-to-head on the DRC mineral export route where Lobito may eventually have a distance advantage, but to double down on those corridor functions where Walvis Bay is irre-

placeable: general cargo for southern African landlocked states, bulk cargo diversification into coal and agricultural products, container transshipment for southern Atlantic trade lanes, and the higher-value logistics services that a mature port ecosystem can provide.

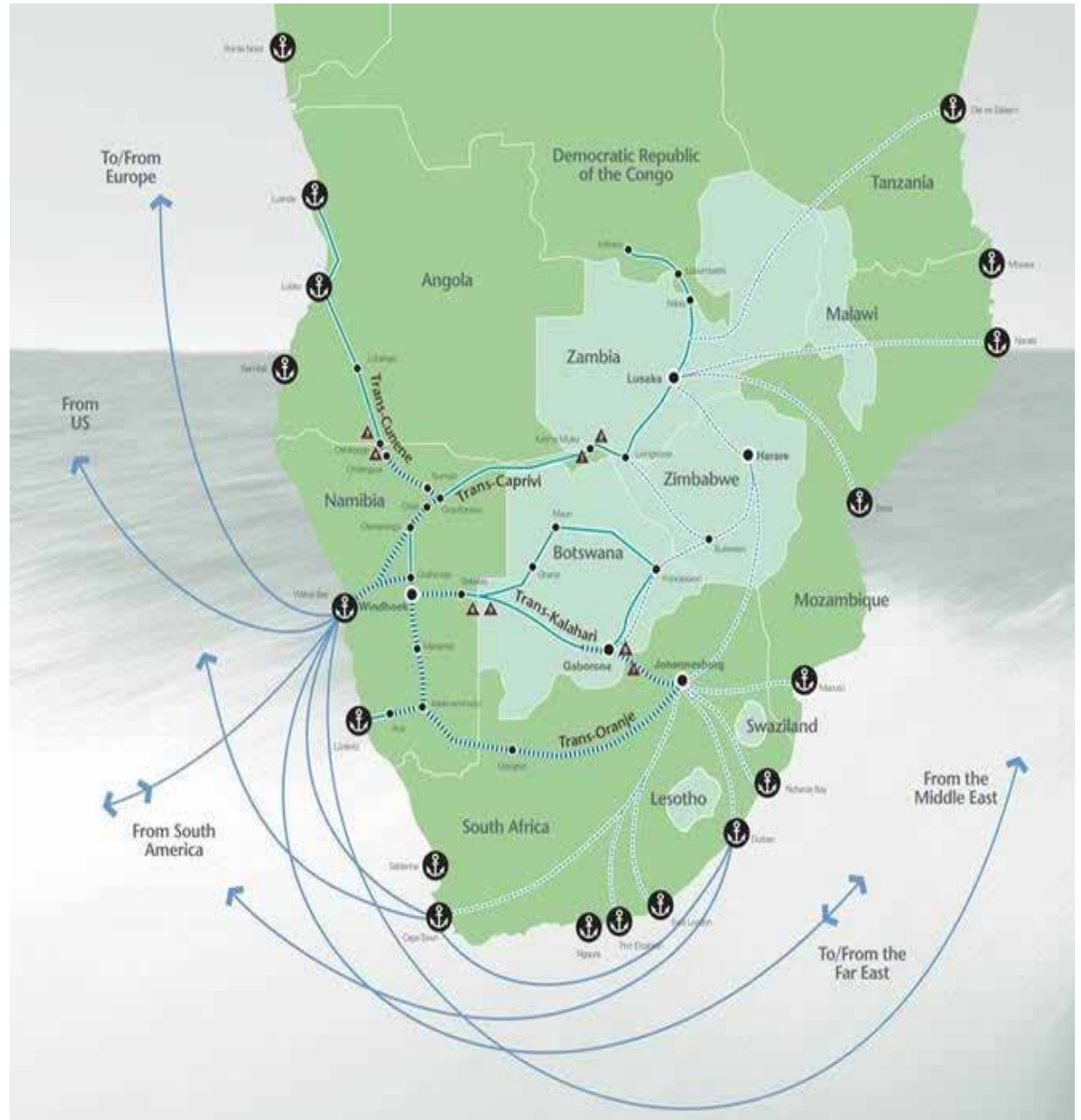
There is also a compelling argument from SADC regional integration. The Southern African Development Community's long-term infrastructure development framework envisions a network of complementary corridors linking coastal ports to landlocked hinterlands; not a winner-takes-all competition. Multiple functioning corridors create redundancy, resilience, and competitive pressure that ultimately benefits shippers and producers across the region. A region served only by Walvis Bay would be as strategically vulnerable as one served only by Lobito.

Moreover, Namibia could actively position itself as a beneficiary rather than a victim of the Lobito Corridor's success. As trade volumes along the Lobito route grow, the demand for Namibian professional services, logistics insurance, financial instruments, and regional headquarters functions would also grow. Windhoek, with its political stability, relative institutional quality, and English-language business environment, is well-placed to serve as a regional logistics and financial services hub; a role that the growth of corridor trade would amplify rather than diminish.

## Geopolitics, Critical Minerals, and the Global Stakes

No analysis of the Lobito Corridor can be complete without acknowledging its deeply geopolitical character. The United States and European Union did not commit billions of dollars to an African railway out of pure development altruism. Their investment is driven by the recognition that the DRC and Zambia sit atop mineral reserves that are essential to the global energy transition; and that China, through decades of Belt and Road Initiative investment and strategic commercial relationships, has established dominant positions in the supply chains for cobalt and copper from this region. The Lobito Corridor is, in significant part, a supply chain security project for Western economies seeking to reduce their dependence on Chinese-controlled mineral processing and logistics networks. Most DRC minerals currently ship east, to Chinese ports, for processing in Chinese refineries. The Lobito Corridor, by routing minerals west to Atlantic ports with connections to European and American markets, is designed to reshape these supply chains. The Memoranda of Understanding on critical raw materials that the EU has signed with both the DRC and Zambia make this explicit.

For African countries, this geopolitical competition creates genuine



Walvis Bay Corridor

leverage. Angola, DRC, and Zambia now have multiple powerful partners; the US, EU, China, and multilateral development banks; competing for their infrastructure and minerals partnerships. The ability to play these interests against one another creates negotiating space that landlocked mineral exporters have rarely enjoyed. However, this leverage also creates risks such as dependence on geopolitical alignment that can shift, and the danger of corridor investments being abandoned if Western strategic priorities change. The potential scaling back of US foreign investment under changing administrations is a risk that corridor planners must factor into long-term financial modelling.

## Recommendations and Conclusion

For policymakers in the region, several strategic conclusions emerge from this analysis. Angola should prioritise the rehabilitation of the DRC section of the corridor as the single most important lever for corridor viability; a corridor that ends at the Angolan border with a degraded DRC section is, commercially, no corridor at all. The USD 500 million World Bank rehabilitation loan must be pursued aggressively and the DRC government held to its commitments. For Zambia, the

greenfield rail extension must be treated as a generational infrastructure project, with funding structures that do not depend entirely on any single geopolitical partner. For the DRC, the corridor's success requires governance reforms; particularly around customs, border management, and the royalty frameworks for mining; that reduce the transaction costs which currently make exports more expensive than they need to be.

For Namibia, the appropriate response to the Lobito Corridor is strategic differentiation, not defensive retreat. Walvis Bay should accelerate its port efficiency improvements, deepen its shipping line relationships through the TiL private concession, and invest in the North-West Corridor shortcut to the Copperbelt. Simultaneously, Namibia should invest in making its full corridor network; Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Capriivi, Trans-Cunene, Trans-Oranje; so efficient and commercially attractive that shippers serving the broader southern African market continue to choose Walvis Bay for its service quality, even if they choose Lobito for bulk mineral exports.

The Lobito Corridor is a project in mid-birth; physically present in some sections, embryonic in others, and still entirely hypothetical

in the sections that do not yet exist. Its success is not guaranteed. Infrastructure projects of this complexity, spanning multiple sovereign jurisdictions, with investment from competing geopolitical blocs, in countries with histories of instability, have failed before. But if it succeeds; if the DRC section is rehabilitated, the Zambia extension built, and the multi-country governance framework sustained; it will genuinely transform southern African trade, create jobs, lower logistics costs, and accelerate the region's integration into global value chains. The question is not whether the Lobito Corridor is a threat to Walvis Bay. The question is whether southern Africa's leaders; in Namibia, Angola, the DRC, Zambia, and beyond; have the strategic clarity to see that Africa's infrastructure deficits are still so vast that the region needs both corridors, and more besides. Rivalry narrows the frame. Complementarity expands the possibility. The choice between these framings is, ultimately, a political one; and it is a choice that the region's leaders are only beginning to make.

## Diaspora

## Okello is not alone: The uncharged killers among us

*“Four graves in Ggaba, a thousand more in our silence — after Okello, and after the silence that followed”*

By: Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza  
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I hear you asking about Okello — the name they tentatively gave to four small coffins in Ggaba, four kindergarten breaths traded for dirt before they could even spell their own names. A new vocabulary for murder, still waiting for the law’s approval. The air at that burial smelled like fresh sawdust and rain, like cheap perfume on mourners who held back their wailing until the cameras left.

Yes — chain him. Try him. Let the wood of the dock remember the weight of his hands. Let the courtroom smell of old varnish and sweat and the metallic tang of justice gone rusty. But while we wait for that one gavel to fall, let me tell you about the murderers we clap for — the killers we call “sir,” “honourable,” “uncle,” “bae,” whose cologne costs a nurse’s monthly wage.

**The Lovers Who Leave Corpses**

Some kill with machetes. Others kill with a smile and a zipped-up promise, with breath that smells like whiskey and Dior Sauvage and lies told between borrowed bedsheets. They plant their seed in the warm dark of a girl’s trust, water it with “I’ll marry you in December,” then vanish by October — leaving behind the sour-milk smell of baby formula and a birth certificate with a blank line where “Father” should be. That is a funeral too. The death of sleep. Of school fees. Of a girl’s name, now replaced by “that single mother,” her house forever smelling of boiled porridge at midnight because that’s when the baby cries and electricity is cheaper.

Count the bodies: one man, two lives erased. No police report. No obituary. Just a woman learning to be both father and mother, while the killer posts selfies with his next victim, the leather of his car seats still warm from someone else.

**The Investors in Ruin**

Some kill with betrayal. Others kill with a degree you paid for — with receipts that smell like school fees and sacrifice, and your mother’s pension cashed out in small, faithful instalments. You starved your own dreams to feed hers, your stomach growling through night classes while her future sat in your wallet, breathing.

You smelled of cheap soap and overtime, of metal dust from the garage, of matooke boiled on a kerosene stove — all so her name could smell like diplomas and office cologne. You rehearsed the word “wife” in your sleep, drew house plans in the margins of her lecture notes, count-

ed bride price in goats you didn’t own yet.

Then graduation came — with heels and a new tongue. She looked at your hands: cracked, honest, calloused — and said they didn’t match her manicure. Said your English smelled like the village, your trousers like the boda stage, your ambition like last season’s rent.

“You’re not my type,” she said, the words reeking of wine you never afforded and men whose wallets don’t do homework. “Standards,” she said — while the air filled with the sour smell of tuition, tears, and your name being deleted.

That is a death too. Not only of a man, but of his faith in building. No grand funeral. Just a boy who now walks like interest on a loan the bank of love won’t honour — going home with empty hands and a heart that reeks of receipts.

**The Envy That Eats**

Some kill with poison. Others kill with envy — green and slow — with the acid smell of jealousy fermenting in the chest. You see your brother buy land, and your breath turns to vinegar. Your chest becomes a courtroom where you sentence him to fail.

You whisper at funerals, where the air is thick with lilies and false grief. At staff meetings that reek of stale tea and ambition. In family WhatsApp groups that ping like flies on a wound: “He’s using witchcraft.” “She slept her way up.” You push his name off lists. You hold his file under your desk until it grows mould — the paper smelling of damp and delay — and you call it “competition.”

That is blood too. You didn’t stab him. You just made sure the smell of food never comes from his kitchen again. How many dreams have you buried with your tongue as the shovel, your breath as the soil?

**The Thieves in Silk Ties**

Some kill with guns. Others kill with a pen and a government stamp — with ink that smells like new money and old sin. They sit in leather chairs, under fans we paid for, the air-conditioned room scented with imported freshener to mask the stench of rot underneath.

They sign our taxes into their wives’ boutiques, where the smell of fresh nylon and nail polish covers the odour of a clinic that ran out of gloves. Their sons’ Range Rovers smell like new tyres and stolen futures. Their girlfriends’ apartments in Kigali, Nairobi, Kampala, Abuja, and Dubai smell like vanilla candles and offshore accounts.

Meanwhile, the hospital in Ggaba smells like iodine and despair. The kindergarten has no fence, so the wind carries the sharp smell of the lake and the fear of mothers. The road to court is a pothole that swallows witnesses, reeking of diesel and stagnant water.

You say Okello killed four? They kill four hundred every morning when



Okello

the clinic opens to empty shelves. They kill a thousand every term when the capitation grant becomes a private loan that smells like leather-bound ledgers and sealed lips. But they wear cologne, not handcuffs. We call them “Mheshimiwa” and beg them for selfies, breathing them in as though they are not poison.

**The Silence That Strangles**

Some kill with fists. Others kill with silence when the neighbour screams — with the smell of fried onions next door trying to cover the sound of a slap. With “family matters” when she comes with a broken jaw and the copper smell of blood in her mouth. With “boys will be boys” when he’s forty and she’s fourteen, and her childhood now smells like beer and old mattresses. With “don’t shame the clan” when the uncle visits at night, and the whole house learns to sleep through the smell of shame.

You didn’t lay a hand on her. You just taught her that her pain is louder than your comfort — so she learned to die quietly, to perfume her bruises with baby powder and God. That is murder too — the slow assassination of voice, until the only thing left in the room is the smell of her silence.

**The Merchants of Air**

Some kill with greed. They sell you air and call it land, and the title deed smells like fresh fraud. They sell you exams and call it education, and the classroom smells like chalk dust and broken promises. They sell you justice and adjourn it until you die, and the courthouse smells like dust and folders that will outlive the complainant. They sell you “jobs” and take your sister as the deposit, and the office smells like cheap cologne and locked doors. They sell you religion and buy a new microphone to shout you into giving more, and the church smells like sweat and collec-

tion-basket panic.

Every tithe that builds a mansion while the church orphanage leaks smells like wet concrete and children’s flu. Every bribe that makes a file move smells like brown envelopes and an innocent man’s cell reeking of urine and lost years.

**The Mirror’s Indictment**

So don’t just light candles for the four in Ggaba — candles that smell like wax and short-lived grief. Light one for the girl who terminated her pregnancy with a hanger because the boy said “my mum won’t approve,” and the backroom smelled like rust, antiseptic, and fear. Light one for the graduate who sold his kidney because the “connection fee” was two million, and the clinic smelled like ethanol and exploitation. Light one for the mother who chose which child eats today, because the MP’s cow eats better — and her kitchen smells like one onion frying in hope. Light one for you. For me. For the times we saw and said “it’s not my business,” while the air around us turned to the smell of burning futures.

Indifference is a killer too. It wears our face. It borrows our cologne. Okello may rot in Luzira, where the air smells like disinfectant and remorse. But these others?

They are mayors, pastors, CEOs, executive directors, in-laws, Twitter influencers, “mentors,” landlords. They kill and then go for lunch that smells like nyama choma and impunity. They kill and then lead praise and worship, lifting hands that smell like frankincense and theft. They kill and then post #FamilyFirst, with captions that smell like filters and lies.

No warrant. No trial. No headline. Just bodies — of trust, gone rancid. Of futures, stillborn. Of girls. Of boys. Of a country learning to spell “justice” but forgetting what it smells like.

**The Stadium Mourners**

Some kill with knives. Others kill with a missed penalty, a deflected cross — a headline that smells like ink and heartbreak at 6 p.m. Ask the Premier League die-hards dressed in red and white, chests painted with hope, throats raw from chants that smelled like lager, vuvuzelas, and May. They watched Arsenal lose the title again — the trophy slipping like soap in wet hands, like breath from a dying man.

The whole world howled with joy, the air suddenly thick with the yeasty smell of rival pubs and schadenfreude served cold on Twitter timelines. Memes flew like vultures. Blue laughed. Red wept. For everyone else, it was carnival: the stench of fireworks, barbecue, and “we told you so.”

But in North London kitchens, in Nairobi bedsits, in Kampala kiosks with cracked TVs, it was a funeral. Silent, except for the hiss of a beer left open too long. The jersey now smells like mothballs and 2004, like damp hope folded back into a drawer.

No body in the casket — just a season. Just “next year” rotting on the tongue. That is a death too. Not of flesh, but of faith.

And the uncharged killers? They wear VAR badges, away kits, and the grin of a rival striker who smells like champagne and your broken summer.

So ask me again about Okello. I’ll say: convict him.

Then convict the rest. Start with the ones whose scent you know by heart. Starting with the mirror — and the way it smells like us.

## The best teaching technologies and methods in primary classes



By: **Makhmudova Dilrabo Turgunpulatovna**  
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Teaching kids effectively can be both rewarding and tricky. This article shares simple, practical ways for parents and teachers to help children learn better. The main idea is to make learning enjoyable instead of stressful. By using games, stories, hands-on activities, and short lessons with plenty of breaks, kids stay interested and remember things longer. The piece also explains why it's important to match different learning styles, encourage active participation, read aloud every day, and let children learn through play. When we create a positive, supportive environment, children build confidence, develop important skills, and actually enjoy learning.

**Keywords:** teaching kids, effective strategies, fun learning, hands-on activities, play-based learning, reading aloud, child development

### Annotation

This guide offers down-to-earth advice on how to teach children successfully, whether you're a parent helping at home or a teacher in the classroom. Instead of boring lectures, it recommends turning lessons into fun experiences with games, songs, storytelling, and simple experiments that match kids' natural curiosity. The author stresses keeping sessions short (15–20 minutes) with regular movement breaks, because young children can't concentrate for long. It also highlights using different methods — pictures, real objects, movement, and talking — so every child can learn in their own way. Other useful tips include reading books together daily, giving specific praise for effort, and letting kids learn through play and outdoor games. Overall, these approaches help build not just knowledge, but also confidence, motivation, and a real love for learning that lasts.

**Keywords:** effective teaching methods, engaging lessons, multisensory learning, flexible routine, active participation, play-based education, reading aloud.

Nowadays, the government of Uzbekistan pays great attention to teaching English from an early age. It is already known that our young

people have all the opportunities and surroundings to study. It is a fact that language learners learn throughout their entire lives, always trying to break limits and be perfect. While teaching pupils, teachers have different ideas about this process. Some of them think that teaching is a pleasure and rewarding. Others say that it is stressful and hard work. In order to make this work easier, we must not forget one important thing: the earlier we identify the learning styles of our pupils, the more creative and effective lessons we shall have. From my everyday experience and observation, in the following paragraphs, I want to give information about the 7 types of learning. The first type is visual learners who learn through pictures, images, and spatial understanding. You can help your visual learners grasp concepts faster by educating them through pictures, icons, charts, diagrams, and colored and illustrated pictures.

For example, if you are teaching a kid how to tie their shoes, walk them through step-by-step instructions. Use shoelaces that are half one color and half another color. Consequently, they will be able to classify which one is which, as you can see in the following picture.

Another example: when you are teaching grammar, you ought to categorize parts of speech with colors and shapes in poems:

“The Parts of Speech” poem  
Every name is called a noun,  
As field and fountain, street and town.

In place of a noun, the pronoun stands,

As he and she can clap their hands.  
The adjective describes a thing,  
As a magic wand and a bridal ring.  
The verb means action, something done,

As read and write, jump and run.  
How things are done, the adverbs tell

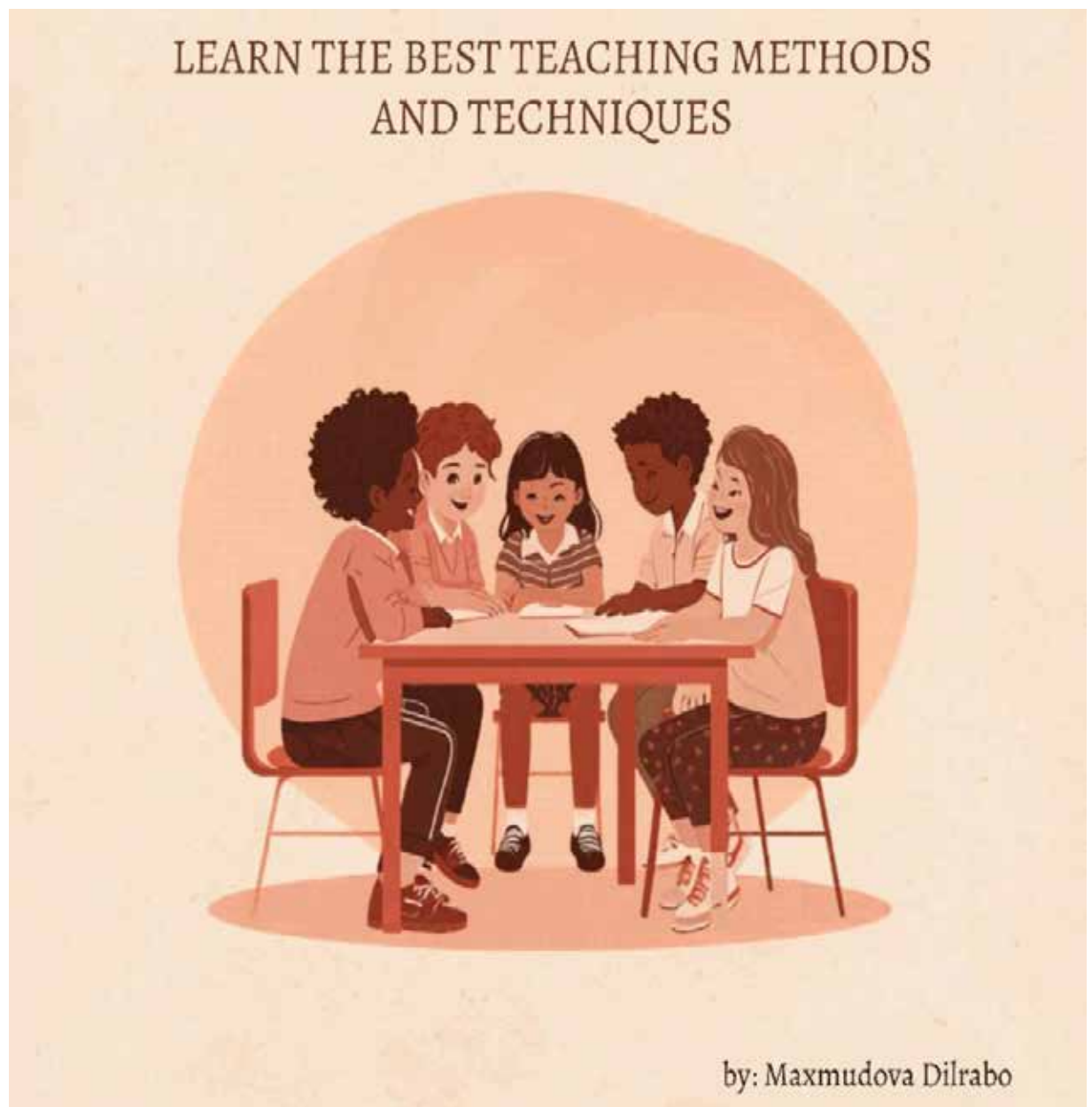
Adverbs are quickly, slowly, badly, and well.

The preposition shows a relation,  
As in the streets or at the station.

In the following text, you can see the parts of speech in different shapes. Kids can identify it easily.

Here I should mention, not only teachers, of course parents can also help teachers. If teachers share ideas and contact regularly, they will develop their children's hidden talents. Every teacher should work with pupils equally, because even passive pupils have best abilities, but they are shy.

Continuing the discussion of learning styles, it is important to understand that every child is unique and learns in their own way. Teachers should not rely on only one method of teaching, because it may not



be effective for all students. Instead, they should try to combine different approaches in order to reach every learner in the classroom.

Visual learners, for example, understand information better when they see it. They prefer pictures, diagrams, charts, and videos. For these students, teachers can use colorful presentations, mind maps, and drawings to explain complex ideas. Showing examples on the board or using multimedia tools can greatly improve their understanding.

Another important aspect is motivation. When students are interested in the topic, they learn faster and remember information longer. Teachers should try to connect lessons with real-life situations. This helps learners see the value of what they are studying and keeps them engaged.

It is also necessary to create a positive learning environment. Students should feel comfortable asking questions and expressing their opinions. When teachers support and encourage their pupils, it builds confidence and improves academic performance.

Teaching children is one of the most rewarding yet challenging

tasks for both parents and educators. Young minds are curious and full of energy, but they also need guidance, patience, and the right approach to learn successfully. Whether you are a teacher in the classroom or a parent helping at home, using effective methods can make a huge difference. Here are some proven strategies to create a positive and productive learning environment. First, make learning fun and engaging. Children learn best when they enjoy the process. Instead of long lectures, incorporate games, songs, and hands-on activities. For example, use storytelling to teach new vocabulary or simple experiments to introduce basic science concepts. This approach keeps their attention and helps them remember information longer. Interactive classroom moments build excitement and confidence.

Another important tip is to create a flexible routine with short sessions and regular breaks. Young children have limited attention spans, so plan lessons in 15–20 minute blocks followed by movement or “brain breaks.” This prevents frustration and helps them stay focused. A consistent daily schedule also gives kids

a sense of security, which supports emotional development.

In conclusion, effective teaching combines creativity, structure, and genuine care. By mixing fun activities, varied methods, and consistent routines, you can help children not only gain knowledge but also develop a lifelong love of learning. Start with small changes today, and you will soon see the positive results in their confidence and curiosity.

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