

The most consequential diplomatic encounter between Washington and Tehran in nearly half a century ended in failure on Sunday morning, as United States Vice-President JD Vance emerged from a gruelling twenty-one-hour negotiating session in Islamabad to announce that a peace deal remained out of reach — and that America's delegation was heading home.

US-Israel vs Iran

"Iran and the US reached an understanding on a number of issues — but there are differences of opinion on two to three important matters." Esmail Baghaei, Iran Foreign Ministry Spokesman.



The US-Israel Offensive on Iran:
A Strategic Failure
Global



Page 11

Courage under constraint

Kenya's defining moment in Haiti
Haiti



Page 16

THE GOLDEN LIST 2026

The 20 Most Extraordinary Women to Follow – Icons of Beauty, Leadership & Empowerment
Asia



Page 18

BOOK REVIEW

THE ENGLISH PATIENT
Written BY MICHAEL ONDAATJE
Reviewed by Tajalla qureshi
Books



Page 20

Peace In The Balance:

US-Iran Talks Collapse After 21 Hours as Vance Walks Away Empty-Handed

By: **Diaspora Times Team** · International Desk

The most consequential diplomatic encounter between Washington and Tehran in nearly half a century ended in failure on Sunday morning, as United States Vice-President JD Vance emerged from a gruelling twenty-one-hour negotiating session in Islamabad to announce that a peace deal remained out of reach — and that America's delegation was heading home. Speaking to reporters at just after six o'clock in the morning local time, a visibly composed but unflinching Vance



JD Vance (right) with Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff. He insisted the US delegation had been 'flexible' Photo: Courtesy

Contd Page 10

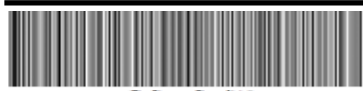
The Luo tradition of six lower teeth removal P 4

Culture Page 8

The threads that bind us: Culture, literacy, and the arts

News Backpage

Congo's Toxic Cobalt Crisis Exposes the Dirty Secret Behind the Green Energy Revolution



The Diaspora Times Global

Ghanaian Scientist Leverages AI for Rapid Drug Development

"Pharmacist, I have a prescription from my local clinic. The drug was unavailable there, so I had to get it elsewhere."

It is a familiar exchange in many pharmacies across Ghana. A patient arrives with a prescription, hoping the medicine will be in stock.

Few think about the long path that medicine travelled before reaching the shelf — the repeated experiments, the waiting, the validation. Fewer still imagine how that path is beginning to change with artificial intelligence. A Chip in Her Palm

Inside the AI in pharmaceutical discovery lab at Imperial College London's White City Campus, Dr Ofosua Klozie Adi-Dako holds out something small and transparent. "It looks simple," she says, passing it around, "but this is where the experiments are now."

The object resting on her palm is a thin, clear chip. It hardly resembles a place for serious scientific work. Yet this is where she now runs tests that

Contd Page 14

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438
+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com



SCAN TO REGISTER



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"

India Moves to Silence the Feed: New Rules Would Bring Podcasters, Influencers and Ordinary Users Under State Media Code

By: Diaspora Times Team

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

What the Proposed Rules Would Do:

- Extend India's existing media "code of ethics" to all users — not just registered publishers — who share news or current affairs content online
- Require social media platforms to comply with government orders to retain legal "safe harbour" immunity
- Bring podcasters, influencers, independent journalists and citizen commentators within state regulatory oversight for the first time
- Create a mechanism by which the government could require platforms to remove content without recourse to independent judicial review

India — the world's largest democracy and its most populous social media market — is moving to extend state editorial authority over news-related content shared by ordinary citizens online, in a sweeping regulatory proposal that press freedom advocates are warning could fundamentally reshape the boundaries of permissible political speech across the subcontinent and beyond.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) last week published proposed amendments to India's Information Technology rules — the legal framework governing digital media — that would bring within a government-mandated "code of ethics" not only registered news publishers but any user on platforms such as Facebook, YouTube or X who shares content relating to "news and current affairs." The breadth of that definition, legal experts say, is precisely the point — and precisely the danger.

"This is not a media regulation. This is a surveillance net cast over every citizen who dares to have an opinion in public. The target is not misinformation — it is dissent." — Digital Rights Advocate, Internet Freedom Foundation, New Delhi, April 2026

The proposed rules would also place new obligations on the major social media platforms themselves. Under the amendments, platforms wishing to retain "safe harbour" protection — the legal immunity that currently shields them from liability for content posted by their users — would be required to comply with government orders and guidelines. The effect, critics argue, would be to conscript Facebook, Google-owned



YouTube and Elon Musk's X into the machinery of state content enforcement, transforming them from independent platforms into instruments of regulatory compliance.

"Safe harbour is the backbone of the open internet. When you make it conditional on obeying government takedown orders, you have effectively handed the state a kill switch over online speech." — Technology Law Expert, Centre for Internet and Society, Bengaluru, April 2026

The implications for independent journalism and citizen media are stark. India has in recent years emerged as one of the world's most dynamic environments for digital-native news — a landscape of YouTube channels, independent podcasts and social media commentators that has, in many instances, filled the gap left by a mainstream media increasingly accused of proximity to political power. The new rules, if enacted, would

subject this ecosystem to the same code of ethics applied to large television networks and registered news agencies — entities operating under fundamentally different economic and institutional conditions. What the Proposed Rules Would Do:

- Extend India's existing media "code of ethics" to all users — not just registered publishers — who share news or current affairs content online
 - Require social media platforms to comply with government orders to retain legal "safe harbour" immunity
 - Bring podcasters, influencers, independent journalists and citizen commentators within state regulatory oversight for the first time
 - Create a mechanism by which the government could require platforms to remove content without recourse to independent judicial review
- The government has not

publicly detailed what enforcement mechanisms would apply to individual users found to be in breach of the code, nor how platforms would be expected to police compliance across billions of daily posts. MeitY did not respond to requests for comment. Digital rights organisations including the Internet Freedom Foundation have issued urgent warnings, arguing the rules are vague by design — a deliberate ambiguity that would give authorities wide discretion in determining who falls within their scope. Internationally, the proposal has drawn immediate comparisons to restrictive digital frameworks in authoritarian states. India ranked 159th out of 180 countries in Reporters Without Borders' 2024 World Press Freedom Index. The Committee to Protect Journalists documented multiple cases of digital news publishers facing government pressure, tax raids and legal harassment in the

past three years alone. "India's proposed rules follow a pattern we are seeing across the region — governments using the language of platform regulation and consumer protection to achieve what would, in any honest framing, be described as censorship." — Asia-Pacific Programme Director, Reporters Without Borders, Paris, April 2026

The amendments are open for public consultation, and civil society groups are mobilising responses. But the window for genuine deliberation is narrow, and the political will in New Delhi to tighten its grip on the digital information environment appears, by all observable indicators, entirely intact. In the world's largest democracy, the question of who gets to speak — and on whose terms — has never felt more urgent, or more precarious.

Reach Editorial Team on:

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Diaspora Times Global

Editor's Desk



Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson
Shashi Court, Ring Rd, Westlands
P.O Box 101 675-00101 Nairobi,
Kenya.
Tel/WhatsApp: +254720 918 828
Email: dan@mtkenyatimes.co.ke
Adverts: ads@moutkenyatimes.co.ke



Associate Publisher & Senior
Editor UK & G. Britain
Shamlal Puri, London
E: media@adlinkinternational.com
(advertising inquiries only)
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com
(editorial)
Phone 0044 330 606 1438.
WhatsApp 00447432220184



Senior Editor Botswana & S.
Paula.O.M Otukile
Africa Plot 15215, Tshikinyega,
Mahalapye, Botswana
P.O Box 20392 Mahalapye, Botswana
Tel/WhatsApp:
+267 77 458 029
Email: paula200500293@gmail.com



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



Senior Editor India & Asia
Nilanjana sarkar
Red Carpet Vogue
Tel/WhatsApp:
+91 95936 49888
Email: thequidditchink@gmail.com

NEXT GENERATION CLASSIFY

"ONE-STOP NATIONAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY"



"ALL BUSINESSES
ONE PLATFORM"



FREE
REGISTRATION



SCAN TO REGISTER

Contact Us:

+254 720 918 828 / +254 713 318 438

+254 706 237 040 / +254 724 613 401

business@exponentialinternational.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

CULTURE

Nego: The Luo tradition of six lower teeth removal

By: Antonina Aluoch
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

The origins of nego stretch back centuries. Scientific studies suggest the custom was rooted in both medical necessity and cultural symbolism. In times when lockjaw was prevalent, removing the lower teeth allowed patients to feed through straws or receive herbal medicine. Over time, the practice evolved into a rite of passage — a visible marker of belonging. As colonial influence and modern healthcare spread, it shifted again, from survival tool to identity statement.

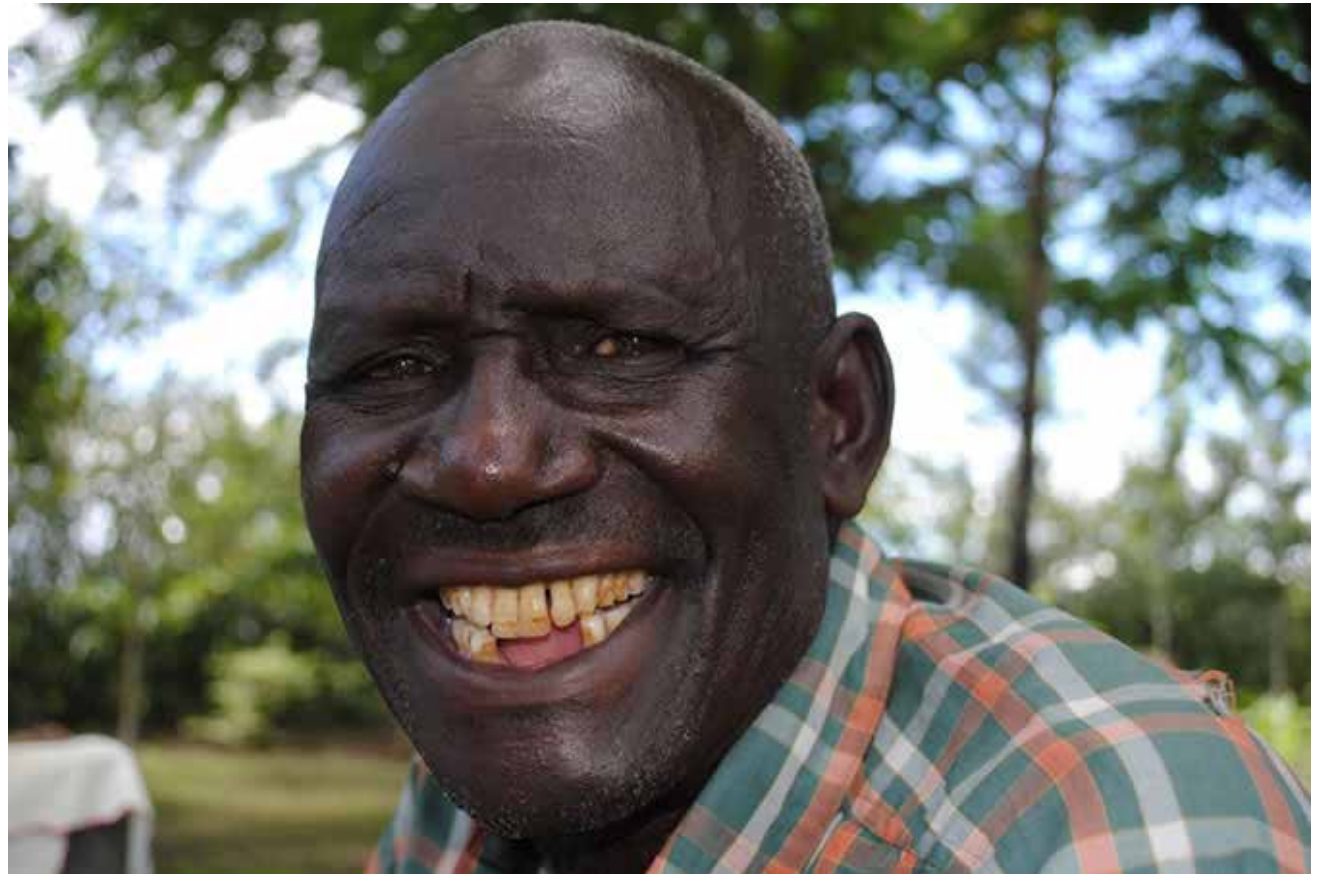
For many elders, nego was never merely a medical precaution. It was a badge of adulthood, courage, and communal pride. “Without the six gaps, you were incomplete,” recalls 82-year-old Mzee Oketch from Gem. “It showed you were Luo, and you carried the pride of your people.”

In rural villages along the shores of Lake Victoria, elders still recall the sharp sound of a chisel against their jaw — the ritual of nego, the removal of six lower teeth, once a defining mark of Luo identity. Though modern medicine and shifting cultural values have challenged its practice, nego continues to spark debate, particularly among members of the Legio Maria church, who regard it as both a spiritual and cultural obligation.

The origins of nego stretch back centuries. Scientific studies suggest the custom was rooted in both medical necessity and cultural symbolism. In times when lockjaw was prevalent, removing the lower teeth allowed patients to feed through straws or receive herbal medicine. Over time, the practice evolved into a rite of passage — a visible marker of belonging. As colonial influence and modern healthcare spread, it shifted again, from survival tool to identity statement.

For many elders, nego was never merely a medical precaution. It was a badge of adulthood, courage, and communal pride. “Without the six gaps, you were incomplete,” recalls 82-year-old Mzee Oketch from Gem. “It showed you were Luo, and you carried the pride of your people.”

In a homestead near Rangwe, a group of elders described their initiations vividly — the pain, the songs of encouragement, and the communal feasts that fol-



The Luo tradition of six lower teeth removal

lowed. Mama Apiyo laughed at the memory: “We cried, but we also danced. It was pain mixed with joy. Today, children fear even injections — but we faced the chisel.” Another elder added with quiet defiance: “Dentists call it mutilation. For us, it was beauty.”

Within the Legio Maria faith, nego carries deeper significance still. Believers hold that the removal of teeth symbolizes purification and readiness to receive divine truth. Brother Ochieng, a young devotee, explained: “We do it not just because our ancestors did, but because it connects us to God. It is a sacrifice — a

cleansing.” Near Rongo University, Sister Maria, who underwent the ritual recently, reflected: “It hurt, yes. But when I look in the mirror, I see faith. I see tradition. I see myself as part of something greater.”

Medical professionals, however, are unambiguous about the risks. The procedure can cause infections, excessive bleeding, and long-term dental complications. Cultural scholars push back against outright dismissal. Dr. Achieng, a cultural anthropologist at Maseno University, argued: “Traditions like nego remind us that culture is not static — it evolves, but it also resists.

The question is not whether it should exist, but how it should be understood.”

That question is felt most acutely by the younger generation. Kevin, a 23-year-old student at Rongo University, put it plainly: “I respect the elders and the church. But my teeth are part of my health. I want to carry my Luo identity through language, music, and education — not through losing teeth. Our generation must find new ways to honour tradition without harming ourselves.”

The story of nego is, at its core, a story about what communities choose to carry forward and what they

choose to leave behind. In villages, elders speak of pride. In churches, believers speak of faith. In clinics, doctors speak of risk. Each voice is part of the same unfinished conversation.

Mzee Oketch offered perhaps the most enduring reflection: “The gaps in our mouths are like the gaps in history — painful, but they tell a story. And stories must be told.”

The Diaspora Times Global

To advertise in Diaspora Times Global, read by the diaspora worldwide contact our exclusive **UK & Europe** Advertising and Marketing representatives. Special introductory incentives available to new advertisers



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP
16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF
Phone: 0330 606 1438 (44 330 606 1438)
Email: media@adlinkinternational.com
www.adlinkinternational.com
Contact: Mr Shamlal Puri

Digital MARKETING EXPERTS.

Grow your business
with us

SKYVIEW
Smart Solutions



OUR SERVICES:

- Digital Marketing
- SEO Campaign Strategies
- Web Design & Development
- Brand Build Business Strategies



Call us on

+91 811 576 6421 +966 53 879 2285



Visit our website

www.skyviewads.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

TECH

Advancing Wood Processing in Kenya: Modern Treatment Technologies and Digital Sawmilling for Durable and Efficient Timber Production



By: David Nyaga
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Introduction

Kenya's timber industry is at a critical turning point. With rapid urbanization, population growth, and expanding infrastructure projects, the demand for high-quality construction materials continues to rise. Current national timber demand stands at an estimated 45 to 50 million cubic metres annually against a supply of just 30 to 35 million cubic metres. This persistent deficit of 10 to 15 million cubic metres leads to an increased reliance on costly imports.

This gap highlights a fundamental challenge within the sector: the deficit is not solely a function of inadequate forest resources; it is largely driven by inefficiencies in wood processing technologies and systems. To address this, Kenya must shift from traditional, resource-intensive practices toward modern, engineering-driven solutions. In particular, advancements in digital sawmilling and timber treatment technologies present a significant opportunity to enhance durability, improve recovery rates, and promote the sustainable utilization of our forest resources.

Challenges in Traditional Wood Processing

The timber processing landscape in Kenya is largely dominated by small and medium scale saw millers, many of whom rely on outdated machinery, such as thick-blade circular saws, and manual operations. These conventional systems produce notoriously low recovery rates typically between 18% and 30%, averaging around 25% to 28% resulting in substantial material waste in the form of sawdust and offcuts.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), if national recovery rates were to exceed the 30% threshold, Kenya's overall domestic timber output would increase substantially, closing a significant portion of the supply deficit without the need to harvest additional acreage. In addition to inefficiency, inconsistent cutting methods lead to variable product quality, limiting the use of locally processed timber in structural and high-value applications.

Modern Sawmilling Technologies and Real-World Impact

Digital and modern sawmilling technologies are transforming primary processing by integrating automation, precision engineering, and thinner kerf blades. Advanced

systems allow for detailed analysis of each log, enabling optimal cutting patterns that maximize yield and minimize waste.

Globally, countries like Vietnam have successfully overhauled their forestry sectors by subsidizing similar upgrades, transforming from raw-log exporters to high-value processed timber hubs. In Kenya, the Flyover Timber Hub in Nyanjira County serves as the primary example of this shift toward value addition. Large-scale operations like Flyover Sawmill have demonstrated that moving beyond raw timber into processed products like tongue and groove (T&G) and door frames is essential for survival in a resource-constrained market.

Ruth Muraya, an industry leader at Flyover Master Sawmill, highlights the impact of this transition: "We used to lose nearly three-quarters of our logs to sawdust and offcuts with the old circular saws. By investing in state of the art value addition machines and precision milling, we have been able to significantly reduce the waste. This efficiency is what allows us to sustain a workforce of 200 people and turn local

timber into high-value materials that meet the standards of the modern building market."

Modern Timber Treatment Technologies

While efficient milling increases supply, modern treatment technologies ensure the longevity of that supply. One of the key limitations of locally available fast-growing timber species such as eucalyptus, pine, and cypress is their susceptibility to biological degradation. Without proper treatment, timber is prone to termite attacks, fungal decay, and weathering.

Modern wood preservation technologies, particularly pressure impregnation systems, enable deep penetration of chemical preservatives into wood fibers. For specialized applications such as utility poles, treated timber boasts a lifespan of over 20 years, compared to less than 5 years for untreated equivalents.

In parallel, there is a growing emphasis on environmentally friendly preservatives. Boron-based treatments and copper-organic compounds offer effective protection with a reduced ecological footprint.

These innovations align perfectly with Kenya's push toward sustainable construction and environmentally responsible material use.

Barriers to Adoption and Emerging Opportunities

Despite the clear benefits, the adoption of modern wood processing technologies in Kenya faces four distinct challenges:

- Capital Costs:** High initial investment costs for machinery like laser-guided band saws are prohibitive for small-scale operators.
 - Import Duties:** Tariffs on advanced forestry and milling machinery remain high, discouraging capitalization.
 - Skills Shortages:** Operating and maintaining computer-controlled milling and pressure-treatment systems requires specialized technical training currently lacking in many rural hubs.
 - Fragmented Value Chains:** Weak linkages between forest growers, processors, and end-markets dilute profit margins, making it harder for processors to secure financing for upgrades.
- Nevertheless, opportunities for

transformation are substantial. Research institutions such as the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) are actively developing localized wood utilization guidelines. Furthermore, increased interest in public-private partnerships presents a pathway for establishing shared-use processing hubs, allowing smaller operators to access modern equipment without bearing the full capital burden.

Conclusion

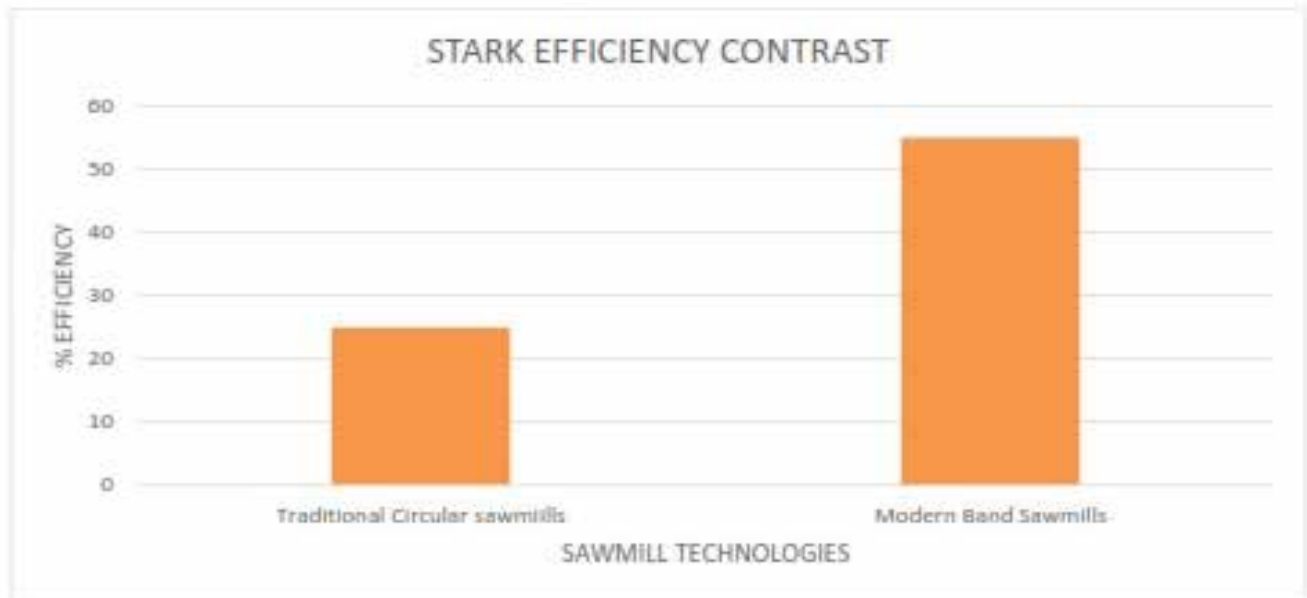
Advancing wood processing in Kenya requires a deliberate shift toward modern, technology driven approaches. With the gazettement of the National Building Code 2024 (NBC 2024), which mandates strict quality and durability standards for structural materials, the transition to treated, precision-milled timber is no longer just an industry option; it is a regulatory necessity.

Engineers and policymakers have a pivotal role in this transformation: designing efficient systems, optimizing resource utilization, and creating tax incentives for machinery upgrades. By integrating advanced timber treatment methods with digital sawmilling systems, Kenya can close its 15 million cubic metre supply deficit, reduce its dependence on imported timber, and build a resilient, high-value forestry sector. Ultimately, the future of Kenya's timber industry will depend not on how many trees are cut, but on how efficiently and intelligently each tree is utilized.

David Nyaga is a Communications Officer, State Department for Housing and Urban Development. B.A. Kiswahili and Journalism, Maasai Mara University

Visual 1: Sawmill Timber Recovery Rates in Kenya

The chart below illustrates the stark efficiency contrast between traditional machinery and modern digital/band sawmilling technologies.



Source: Synthesized from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) data.

Visual 2: Estimated Service Life of Kenyan Softwoods (Pine/Eucalyptus)

Application Environment	Untreated Lifespan	Treated Lifespan (Pressure Impregnation)
Indoor Structural (Dry)	5 - 10 Years	30+ Years
Outdoor / Exposed (Fencing/Cladding)	2 - 5 Years	15 - 25 Years
Ground Contact (Utility Poles/Posts)	< 3 Years	20 - 40 Years

The Africa Largest eCOMMERCE



www.gotyou.co.ke

**NOW
OPEN**

Call/Text/WhatsApp: +254 714 090 155

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

CULTURE

The threads that bind us: culture, literacy, and the arts

By: Devina Adhiambo
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- In growing communities especially, literacy opens doors. It gives young people the chance to learn about the world beyond their immediate surroundings, to understand different cultures and ideas, and at the same time, to tell their own stories with confidence. When people read, they gain knowledge. When they write, they create something new.
- The arts bring color and life to both culture and literacy. A painting can tell a story without words. A song can carry emotions that are difficult to explain. A dance can express history, joy, or struggle. The arts speak a universal language that transcends barriers. In many communities, art is not separate from daily life — it is found in a mural on a wall, a song played on the street, a handmade craft sold at a market. These may seem like small things, but they carry deep meaning. They reflect the identity of the people who create them, showing pride, creativity, and resilience.

Culture, literacy, and the arts are not distant ideas confined to books or museums. They live in the stories we tell, the songs we sing, the clothes we wear, and the way we speak to one another. They shape how we see the world and how we understand ourselves. In many ways, they are the quiet threads that bind us together.

In every community, culture functions as a living memory. It carries the past into the present, reminding us where we come from and giving us a sense of belonging. When elders share stories, when families gather for celebrations, or when traditions pass from one generation to the next, culture is at work. It is not fixed or frozen — it grows and changes as people live their lives.

Literacy plays a powerful role in this journey. It is more than the ability to read and write. Literacy allows people to record their stories, share ideas, and express feelings that might otherwise go unspoken. Through books, poems, and even simple notes, people speak across time and space. A story written generations ago can still move someone today. In this way, literacy keeps culture alive.

In growing communities especially, literacy opens doors. It gives young people the chance to learn about the world beyond their immediate surroundings, to understand different cultures and ideas, and at the same time, to tell their own stories with confidence. When people read, they gain knowledge. When they write, they create something new.

The arts bring color and life to both culture and literacy. A painting can tell a story without words. A song can carry emotions that are difficult to explain. A dance can express history, joy, or struggle. The arts speak a universal language that transcends barriers. In many communities, art is not separate from daily life — it is found in a mural on a wall, a song played on the street, a handmade craft sold at a market. These may seem like small things, but they carry deep meaning. They reflect the identity of the people who create them, showing pride, creativity, and resilience.

Modern life is changing how culture, literacy, and the arts are shared. Technology has made it easier than ever to



Luo Culture

connect and express — a young writer can publish their work online, an artist can reach a global audience, and music can travel across continents in seconds. These are real opportunities. But they come with real challenges too.

One of the most pressing is the risk of losing local voices. When global trends dominate, smaller and traditional forms of culture can be overlooked. Languages fade, stories are forgotten, and unique art forms disappear. Protecting local culture is not about rejecting new ideas — it is about finding a balance between the old and the new.

Schools, libraries, and community spaces are essential to this effort. They provide places to learn, read, and create, and they encourage young people to explore their talents. A simple reading program or art workshop can inspire someone in ways that last a lifetime. Families matter just as much. The stories told at home, the language spoken, and the values shared all shape how young people see the world. When children are encouraged to read, ask questions, and express themselves, they grow with confidence and a sense that their voice matters.

The connection between culture, literacy, and the arts is also evident in how they build understanding across difference. A story from one culture can help someone from another feel seen.

A piece of music can unite people who share no common language. Art creates space for empathy — and in a diverse world, that space is precious.

There is also a quiet power in creativity. When people write, paint, or perform, they are not just producing something beautiful — they are making sense of their experiences. In times of joy, art celebrates. In times of difficulty, art heals. This is why creative expression matters in every society.

Young people today are finding new ways to carry culture forward through literacy and the arts. They blend traditional ideas with modern styles, use digital tools to tell stories in new formats, and speak boldly about the issues that mat-

ter to them. Culture is not something that belongs only to the past. It is being created every day.

For this growth to continue, however, support is needed. Writers need spaces to share their work. Artists need platforms for their creativity. Readers need access to books and learning materials. When these needs are met, talent flourishes. When they are ignored, potential goes to waste.

Communities that value culture, literacy, and the arts tend to grow stronger and more united. People feel proud of who they are, more open to learning from others, and better equipped to express their ideas clearly and creatively. Everyone has a role to play in this — not just professional writers or

artists. Reading a book, attending a local performance, supporting a young artist, or sharing a story with a friend — these actions matter. They keep culture alive.

Culture, literacy, and the arts are not separate paths. They are deeply connected, and together they form a powerful force that shapes individuals and communities alike. They teach us, inspire us, and bring us closer together. This is why we must continue to value, protect, and share them — because in every story told, every word written, and every piece of art created, there is a piece of who we are. And when we share these pieces, we do not just express ourselves. We build a world where every voice can be heard.



Luo Culture

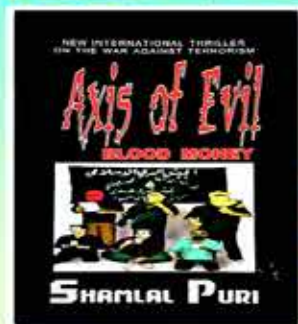
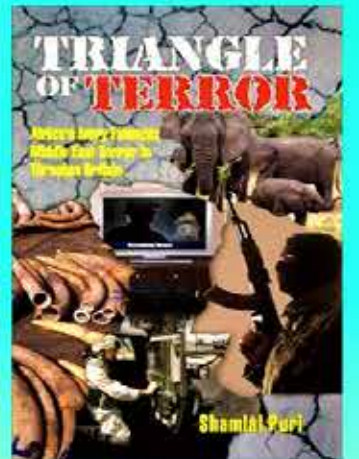
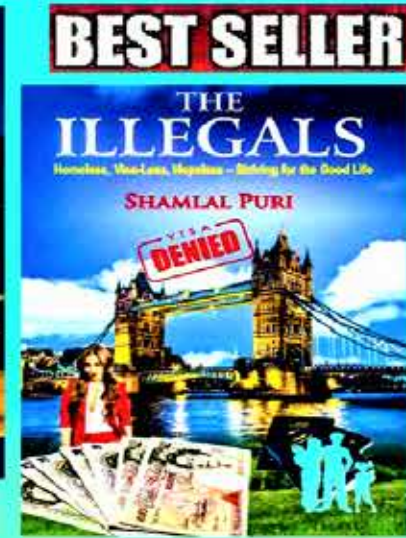
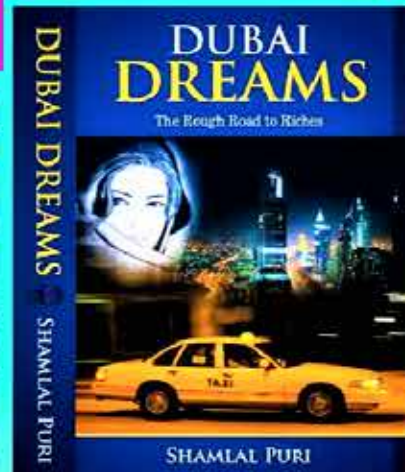
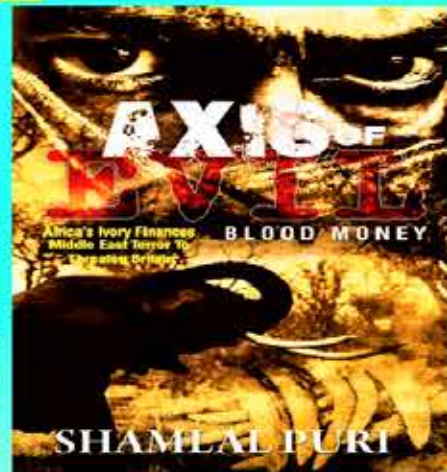
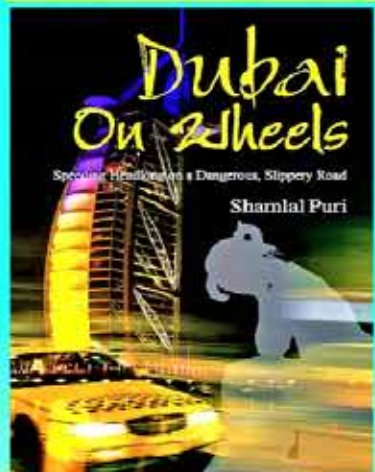
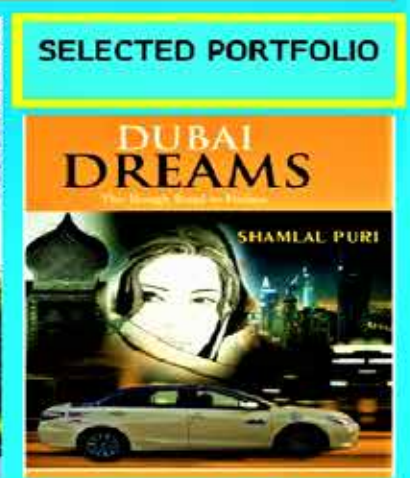
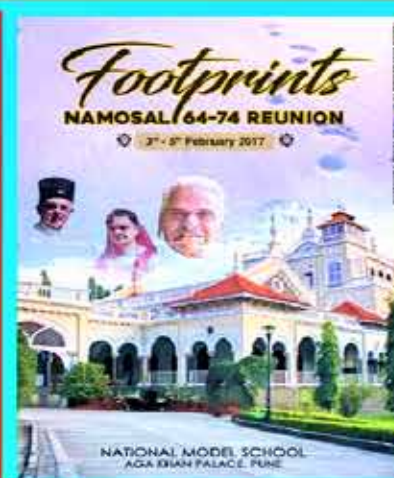
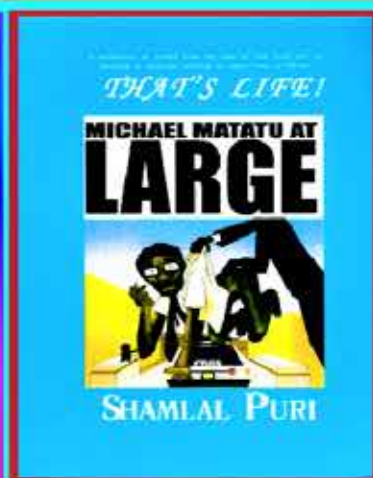
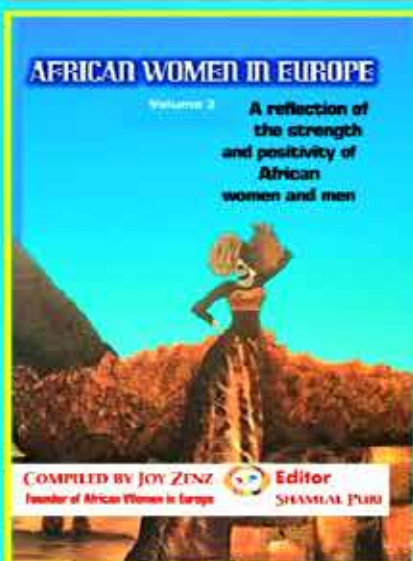
DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

ARE YOU A WRITER OR CORPORATE?
Let Professional Editors and Authors turn your story into a Dream Book.

THRILLERS - FICTION - FICTION - BIOGRAPHIES - TRAVELOGUES - HUMOUR- COFFEE TABLE - BROCHURES

London-based contract Publishers for independent and self-publish authors.

We offer one-stop top notch Editing, Expert Design, Proof Reading, Book Covers, Artwork, Digital, Litho Printing, E-Books, Corporate Brochures and UK ISBN number. Reasonable costs. We print and deliver books. Authors retain 100% sales profits.



The Crownbird Publishers logo and imprint owned by Adlink International (1989) Media Group London

Copies of some books available for sale: hard copy/ digital. Contact us: media@adlinkinternational.com Email Subject: Crownbird Books



ADLINK INTERNATIONAL (1989) MEDIA GROUP

Books Division

16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF (UK)

Tel: 44 330 606 1438

Email: media@adlinkinternational.com

www.adlinkinternational.com

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

US-IRAN NEGOTIATIONS

Peace In The Balance: US-Iran Talks Collapse After 21 Hours as Vance Walks Away Empty-Handed

A marathon diplomatic session in Islamabad has ended without agreement, leaving the world's most volatile stand-off unresolved — and the spectre of renewed conflict hanging over global energy markets.

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

delivered the news the international community had feared. “The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement,” he said, “and I think that’s bad news for Iran much more than it’s bad news for the United States of America.” The US delegation, he added, had tabled a “final and best offer” that the Iranian side had “chosen not to accept.”

“We’ve made very clear what our red lines are. The simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon — not just now, not just two years from now, but for the long term.”

— JD VANCE, US VICE-PRESIDENT, ISLAMABAD, APRIL 2025

It is the first time the United States and Iran have held high-level negotiations since the Islamic Revolution of 1979 — a historic convening that ultimately produced no breakthrough. The talks had been held in the Pakistani capital at Islamabad’s invitation, with Pakistan playing the role of reluctant host and cautious broker. The Iranian delegation, headed by parliament speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, departed the city around nine o’clock local time, shortly after Vance’s statement had been broadcast around the world.

THE THREE STICKING POINTS

- Reopening of the Strait of Hormuz — Iran demanded a final peace deal first; Washington insisted on immediate access.
- Fate of 900lbs of highly enriched uranium — the US demanded full surrender or sale of Iran’s stockpile; Tehran rejected the proposal outright.
- Release of \$27 billion in frozen Iranian revenues held across seven countries, including Japan, Germany and Qatar — Tehran sought the funds as reconstruction reparations; Washington refused to delink the issue from nuclear concessions.

Three interlocking demands proved insurmountable. Iran refused to offer what Vance described as a “long-term” commitment never to develop nuclear weapons; Tehran would not reopen the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz — through which roughly a fifth of global oil sup-

plies pass — until a comprehensive peace agreement was signed; and the two sides remained deadlocked over the fate of Iran’s approximately nine-hundred pounds of highly enriched uranium and the release of twenty-seven billion dollars in frozen Iranian revenues held in countries including Japan, Germany, Luxembourg, Qatar and Bahrain. Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei was characteristically measured but pointed in his post-session assessment. “These negotiations were held after forty days of imposed war, and were held in an atmosphere of mistrust and suspicion,” he told Iranian media. “It is natural that we should not have expected from the beginning to reach an agreement within one meeting. No one expected that either.” He added that some understandings had been achieved and insisted that “diplomacy never ends.”

“Iran and the US reached an understanding on a number of issues — but there are differences of opinion on two to three important matters,” Esmail Baghaei, Iran Foreign Ministry Spokesman

Back in Washington, the mood was strikingly incongruous. While Vance was conducting the most sensitive American diplomatic mission in a generation, President Donald Trump was in Miami attending UFC 327 at the Kaseya Center, accompanied by UFC president Dana White, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and members of the Trump family. The president entered the venue around nine o’clock Saturday evening lo-

cal time and remained there past eleven-thirty, even as the deadline in Islamabad ticked past two in the morning. On his Truth Social platform, Trump reposted an article by conservative journalist John Solomon suggesting he could “simply out-blockade Iran’s hold over the



JD Vance, the US vice-president, boards Air Force Two in Pakistan. Photo: Courtesy

Strait of Hormuz” should diplomacy fail — a signal, analysts suggested, that military options remain firmly on the table.

REGIONAL FALLOUT

The collapse of negotiations reverberated immediately across the region. In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia’s energy ministry announced that the East-West pipeline — carrying approximately seven million barrels of crude oil per day — had been restored to full operational capacity following attacks during the Iran conflict. The ministry confirmed that production of approximately three hundred thousand barrels per day had been recovered at the Manifa oilfield, with restoration work continuing at the Khurais site. Saudi Arabia had suspended operations at several facilities the previous Thursday following strikes on targets in Riyadh, the Eastern Province and Yanbu Industrial City.

In Lebanon, the human cost of the broader regional conflagration continued to mount with devastating precision. Israeli forces killed ninety-seven people and wounded one hundred and thirty-three others in Lebanon on Saturday alone, according to Lebanon’s health ministry, despite a two-week ceasefire announced jointly by the US and Iran. At least two thousand and twenty Lebanese have been killed since 2 March, among them one hundred and sixty-five children, two hundred and forty-eight women and eighty-five medical personnel. A fifth of Lebanon’s population remains displaced. Hezbollah, meanwhile,

claimed a drone attack on Israeli forces in northern Israel, vowing to continue its campaign “until the Israeli-American aggression against our country and our people ceases.” The US military reported that two destroyers had transited the Iran-patrolled Strait of Hormuz — a first since the onset of hostilities — to conduct mine-clearing operations even as talks were under way. “We’re sweeping the strait,” Trump told journalists during the night. “Whether we make a deal or not makes no difference to me.” Iran’s state media disputed the claim, with the joint military command denying the transit had taken place.

STRATEGIC DEADLOCK

International calls for restraint came swiftly. Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar urged both parties to honour their ceasefire commitments. “It is imperative that the parties continue to uphold their commitment to ceasefire,” he said, pledging that Islamabad would “continue to play its role to facilitate engagement and dialogue.” Australia’s Foreign Minister Penny Wong echoed the appeal, calling it “disappointing that the Islamabad talks have ended without agreement” and urging both governments to “continue the ceasefire and return to negotiations.”

The strategic calculus now facing both capitals is treacherous. Washington expected an Iran bloodied by six weeks of airstrikes — with much of its industrial capacity reduced to rubble and at least one million workers displaced — to capitulate at the table. Tehran, calculating that its

grip on the Strait of Hormuz and its surviving drone and missile arsenal give it residual leverage, refused to do so. For the Iranian regime, which has carefully cultivated a domestic narrative of victimhood in the face of an unprovoked US campaign, squandering a genuine chance at peace carries its own political risks. Ordinary Iranians, who have borne the heaviest burden of the conflict, may prove less forgiving if they conclude that their government sacrificed reconstruction for ideological intransigence.

For President Trump, the options narrowing ahead are equally uncomfortable. A tactical withdrawal by Vance — designed to force a Tehran climbdown in the coming days — may simply reproduce the present paralysis. A return to military operations risks deepening domestic unpopularity and unleashing prolonged turmoil in global energy markets already rattled by the Saudi pipeline attacks. And ending hostilities without a formal agreement, however tempting as a face-saving exit, would expose the administration to accusations of having waged a costly, inconclusive war that settled nothing.

As dawn broke over the Margalla Hills and Air Force Two lifted off from Islamabad’s Nur Khan airbase carrying the American delegation home, the world was left to contemplate the fragile arithmetic of a peace that almost was — and the dangerous void that follows when diplomacy fails and armies remain in the field.

Global News

The US-Israel Offensive on Iran: A Strategic Failure

By: **Irfan Khan Tareen**
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

The conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran — which erupted on February 28, 2026 — has, at least for now, come to a pause following a two-week ceasefire agreement among the parties involved. What makes this moment particularly striking is that the United States, unable to secure a decisive military victory, ultimately agreed to the ceasefire — raising serious questions about its strategic judgment and standing on the world stage. Despite relentless US-Israeli airstrikes that caused significant civilian casualties and widespread destruction of infrastructure, all efforts to force Iran into submission fell short. This article takes a closer look at the key dimensions of this conflict: the objectives behind the US-Israel offensive, Iran's response, global reactions, the scale of damage, and the critical lessons that the international community — particularly the Gulf region — must take to heart.

What the US and Israel Were Hoping to Achieve

The two allies shared several ambitious — and deeply controversial — objectives going into this conflict. Chief among them was regime change in Iran, which involved targeting Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Ali Larijani, and top military commanders. They also sought to cripple Iran's nuclear program and dismantle its missile production capabilities. Beyond that, US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — both widely criticized for their conduct — aimed to weaken the military strength of the Islamic Republic and its regional allies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in the Red Sea. Several analysts have noted that both leaders used religious rhetoric in an attempt to inflame geopolitical tensions and, to some degree, draw Muslim-majority countries into a direct confrontation with Iran. Iran's leadership, however, responded with composure and strategic resilience, continuing its retaliatory strikes and steadily eroding US-Israeli ambitions. In the end, neither country achieved what it set out to accomplish.

How the Conflict Escalated — and How the World Responded

After sustained aerial bombardment of civilian and strategic sites, Iran began launching retaliatory strikes across the Gulf, significantly raising the stakes of the conflict. The offensive drew widespread international condemnation. A number of European Union member states refused to back the United States, rejecting requests to use their airbases and military facilities. Even segments of Jewish and Christian communities inside the US voiced opposition, staging demonstrations in major cities across the country.

The United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and numerous other international organizations described the US-led actions as unjustified and raised alarm over serious human rights violations. Particularly disheartening was the muted response from the political leadership of many Muslim-majority states — despite their close ties with Washington, most failed to condemn the offensive in any meaningful or timely way, though some offered limited criticism of Israel.

On a more constructive note, Pakistan, Egypt, and China played active roles in facilitating negotiations and encouraging diplomatic engagement between Iran and the United States. However, framing Trump as a peacemaker in this context would be a stretch. Meanwhile, public sentiment in countries such as Pakistan, Egypt, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and much of the Arab world was firmly in support of Iran's position.

The Human and Economic Cost

Over the course of this 40-day confrontation, more than 2,000 people were killed in Iran, around 1,500 in Lebanon, with additional casualties recorded in Israel and across Gulf states. Oil refineries, major export terminals, power plants, and desalination facilities were severely damaged by continuous airstrikes and missile attacks, inflicting enormous financial losses on all parties involved.

Facing limited options, Iran moved to block the Strait of Hormuz — a critical waterway through which nearly 20 to 30 percent of global oil and LNG supplies pass — in an attempt to counter US economic and military pressure. The resulting spike in global energy prices hit developing countries particularly hard. At the same time, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar all suffered significant damage to civilian infrastructure, including homes, schools, and religious sites.

Violations of International Law and



Donald Trump, Ayatollah Khamenei, and Benjamin Netanyahu

Human Rights

For ordinary Iranians, this war was quite literally a matter of life and death. The conduct of both the United States and Israel raised grave concerns regarding violations of international law and basic human rights norms, particularly given the scale and nature of military operations against Iranian territory. Statements attributed to the US President — including phrases such as “the whole civilization will die tonight” and “today is Iran's last day” — only served to deepen tensions and alarm observers worldwide.

One of the most disturbing incidents of the conflict was an airstrike on a girls' elementary school in Minab, which killed more than 160 children. The attack drew near-universal condemnation as a flagrant violation of human values and the international laws of war.

A Fractured International Order

Institutions such as the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation were established precisely to promote peace, facilitate cooperation, and resolve conflicts through dialogue. Yet in this crisis, these bodies appeared divided, slow-moving, and frustratingly limited in what they could actually do. Beyond issuing condemnations, they struggled to hold the responsible parties accountable in any meaningful way.

A longstanding structural problem remains the veto power within the UN Security Council, which contin-

ues to block unified action on some of the world's most pressing crises. The persistent failure to take collective action on conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon — despite years of documented suffering — only deepens the perception that these institutions are losing their relevance. Without serious reform, they risk becoming little more than passive observers in a world that desperately needs active peacemakers.

The Lessons We Cannot Afford to Ignore

Iran, though outmatched in conventional military and economic terms, demonstrated remarkable resilience and defied the expectations of its adversaries through disciplined leadership and the effective use of advanced missile and drone capabilities. The most powerful lesson here is one of national unity — a nation's ability to hold together under external pressure can be a formidable force in its own right.

For the United States, this conflict should serve as a sobering reminder that shifting global dynamics and rapid technological change are reshaping the international order. A more balanced, inclusive, and diplomatically grounded foreign policy is no longer optional — it is a necessity. Israeli leadership, likewise, would do well to reconsider its long-term approach and engage seriously with the two-state framework as the only credible path to lasting peace.

For Gulf countries, the conflict underscored the risks of over-reliance on external military powers. Strengthening regional diplomacy,

deepening trade relationships with Iran, and building greater strategic autonomy should now be front-and-center priorities. There was also an encouraging sign amid the turmoil: some of the longstanding divisions within the Muslim world appeared to narrow, reflecting a growing sense of shared concern and common purpose.

Looking Ahead

In recent decades, prolonged conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Palestine — fueled by the interests of global powers and regional actors alike — have caused immense human suffering, instability, and destruction. And yet, despite it all, the world continues to yearn for peace, prosperity, and stability. Promoting diplomatic engagement, expanding international trade, upholding the right to self-determination, and collectively condemning human rights violations must be at the heart of responsible global foreign policy. Equally important is meaningful reform of international institutions — particularly addressing the outsized influence of veto powers in the UN Security Council — so that these bodies can evolve from passive commentators into genuine enforcers of peace and justice.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the ceasefire between Iran and the United States will hold — and that the Middle East will not once again be drawn into another cycle of devastating conflict.

KENYA / RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Sold a Lie, Sent to War: How Kenya's Missing Sons Ended Up on Europe's Most Dangerous Front Line

At least sixteen Kenyans remain unaccounted for in Russia after being lured abroad under false pretences and pressed into military service. Families are waiting. Diplomats are negotiating. And a silent crisis is growing darker by the day.

By: Diaspora Times Team • With reporting by Victor Ochieng
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

They left Kenya with the promise of good wages, steady work and a better life. They arrived at a war. Hundreds of Kenyan nationals — many recruited through fraudulent job advertisements offering security, logistics or technical roles abroad — have found themselves on the front lines of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a war that has now consumed not only European lives but African ones, in circumstances that human rights organisations are calling one of the continent's most under-reported humanitarian emergencies. As of early April 2026, Kenya's Foreign Affairs ministry has confirmed that at least sixteen citizens are missing inside Russia, their whereabouts unknown to both their government and their families. Whether they are alive, injured, held in detention, or dead, no one can say with certainty. Two others have been captured and are held as prisoners of war in Ukraine. Dozens more are understood to be hospitalised in Russian medical facilities with restricted consular access. A number have managed to return home — escaping or being repatriated — but earlier official tallies had placed the missing figure as high as twenty-eight individuals, suggesting the true scale of the crisis remains fluid and possibly significantly undercounted.

“This is not a story of soldiers who chose war. This is a story of workers who were sold a lie — and who are now paying for it with their lives.”
— HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVE, NAIROBI, APRIL 2026

An intelligence report presented to Kenyan lawmakers in recent weeks has delivered a figure that has alarmed officials across East Africa: more than one thousand Kenyan nationals are estimated to have been recruited into the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The networks responsible are sophisticated and layered. Rogue recruitment agencies operating in Nairobi and other urban centres have worked alongside transnational human trafficking rings and informal brokers stretching across the African continent and into the Gulf. To avoid scrutiny, many recruits were routed through third countries — Uganda, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates among them — before being moved onwards to Russia, where the terms of their employment were abruptly and brutally revised.

WHAT WE KNOW — THE SCALE OF THE CRISIS

- *At least 16 Kenyans confirmed missing inside Russia as of April 2026, with earlier figures reaching 28.*
- *Two Kenyans held as prisoners of war in Ukraine.*
- *Dozens hospitalised in Russian facilities under restricted consular access.*
- *Over 1,000 Kenyans estimated recruited into the conflict by Kenyan intelligence assessments.*
- *Recruits channelled through Uganda, South Africa and UAE to evade scrutiny.*
- *Hundreds of suspicious recruitment agencies shut down by Kenyan authorities.*
- *Kenya is one of several African nations affected; the wider continental figure may run into thousands.*

For the families left behind, the silence has become its own form of torment. Many relatives report that all communication with their loved ones ceased abruptly once the recruits were deployed to active combat zones. Mothers describe waiting beside phones that no longer ring. Fathers recount the last WhatsApp messages — cheerful, hopeful, routine — that were never followed by another. Human rights organisations monitoring the situation have described what is unfolding as a “silent crisis”: a tragedy unfolding largely beyond the reach of cameras, legal frameworks and diplomatic leverage.

“Contact stopped completely after he was sent somewhere near the front. We were told he was working in security. We have heard nothing for four months.”

— RELATIVE OF A MISSING KENYAN NATIONAL, SPEAKING TO MEDIA

Kenya's government has moved to address the crisis on several fronts simultaneously. Foreign Affairs officials have engaged in diplomatic talks with Moscow aimed at halting further recruitment of Kenyan nationals and securing access to those already in Russian custody. Domestically, authorities have cracked down on the recruitment networks enabling the pipeline — making arrests linked to human trafficking operations and shutting down hundreds of agencies operating without verified mandates. Citizens have been publicly warned against accepting unverified overseas employment offers, particularly those promising unusually high salaries for vague or unspecified work in Russia or its allied territories. Kenya's Foreign Affairs ministry,



Kenyans in Russia war

in a statement to parliament, confirmed that efforts to “trace, rescue and repatriate” affected citizens were ongoing. Officials have also engaged the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate access to Kenyans held as prisoners of war in Ukraine, and have sought diplomatic channels through friendly nations with closer ties to Moscow. Progress, by all accounts, has been slow. Russia has not formally acknowledged holding Kenyan nationals in military capacity, and the broader geopolitical complexities of the war make direct intervention exceptionally difficult.

A CONTINENT DRAWN INTO CONFLICT

Kenya's ordeal is not an isolated one. Across the African continent, thousands of nationals from multiple countries are believed to have been drawn into the Russia-Ukraine war through variations of the same deceptive recruitment model. Reports have emerged from Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria and beyond of young men promised a financial lifeline who instead found themselves handed weapons on unfamiliar terrain thousands of miles from home. The pattern reflects a grim innovation in how modern conflicts are staffed: not through traditional conscription, but through the industrial-scale exploitation of economic desperation in the Global South. Analysts tracking the phenomenon point to a confluence of factors —

high youth unemployment across East Africa, the relatively low cost of transporting recruits through informal trafficking networks, and Russia's documented need to supplement its own depleted front-line manpower after two years of grinding attrition warfare. “The vulnerability being exploited here is structural,” said one Nairobi-based security analyst, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of diplomatic discussions. “These are not men who went looking for a war. These are men who went looking for a wage.”

“We urge all Kenyans to exercise extreme caution when presented with overseas employment opportunities that have not been verified through official government channels. The consequences of proceeding otherwise can be fatal.”
— KENYA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PUBLIC ADVISORY, MARCH 2026

International pressure is beginning to mount. Human rights bodies including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have called for a full accounting of African nationals believed to be serving — willingly or otherwise — in Russian military formations. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been formally notified of the trafficking networks identified by Kenyan investigators. Several European governments with significant Kenyan diaspora communities have

also raised the issue bilaterally with Moscow, though without producing tangible results. What emerges from the totality of the evidence is a humanitarian crisis hiding in plain sight — one that connects the unemployment queues of Nairobi's outer estates to the shelled ruins of eastern Ukraine, mediated by criminal networks operating with near impunity across multiple jurisdictions. The men ensnared in this chain are not combatants by choice. They are, in the starkest sense, victims of a global system in which the desperation of the poor has become a tradeable commodity. Until the governments of both Kenya and its international partners treat the crisis with the full urgency it demands — and until accountability reaches the brokers, agency owners and trafficking middlemen who have profited from this human misery — families across Kenya will continue to stare at silent phones and wait for sons who may never come home.

Additional reporting and research by Victor Ochieng, Laikipia University. Sources: Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Reuters, Amnesty International, ICRC, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Christianity Today.

NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

The Mount Kenya Times

+254 724 439 949, +254 720 918 828, +254 721 103 040, +254 713 318 438

website: <https://mountkenyatimes.co.ke>

For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

GHANA

Ghanaian Scientist Leverages AI for Rapid Drug Development

By: Afia Agyapomaa Ofosu
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Where AI Comes In

Contd from Page 1

once demanded long hours and repeated trials.

Rethinking the Lab

Dr Adi-Dako is a lecturer at the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Ghana and a Schmidt Global Faculty Fellow. For years, she worked within the familiar rhythm of laboratory research.

“You run one experiment. If it doesn’t go well, you repeat it. Sometimes, when you are tracking what happens in certain conditions, you have to sit throughout the night to monitor it. After that, you still move to animal models to validate what you’ve done in the lab. That’s the traditional way.”

She explains that meeting research demands in a short time often requires many hands and extended periods of work.

“If you look at this critically, you may need about ten scientists working for a long time to meet the demand for results.”

The chip introduces a different pace. She designed it herself using Autodesk software before it was laser-cut into shape from a special plastic. Within it are tiny channels where droplets measured in nanolitres and picolitres move through micro-pathways.

“With this chip, I can run many experiments at the same time, instead of doing one experiment manually and repeating it for weeks.”

Mimicking the Human Body

Inside the chip, she recreates what happens in the human intestine.

“What we’re doing is mimicking what happens in the intestine. We create an artificial membrane and watch how a drug moves through it.” Before a medicine can treat disease, it must cross body membranes for absorption. On the chip, a drug is placed on one side of a delicate barrier. She then observes how it permeates through to the other side.

“Permeability is very important. If a drug cannot pass through membranes properly, then you don’t have treatment. And if the movement is inconsistent, that affects the outcome.”

Under a microscope, the setup reveals droplets in a liquid environment, separated by an artificial layer that behaves like a membrane. This is only one well. The full chip contains many wells, each running its own test.

“The setup is able to generate over a thousand data points within a very short time. Compared to the traditional approach, this would take many months.”

Handling the chip requires precision. She has trained herself to pipette carefully so droplets do not fuse, fragment, or disturb the delicate layer between them.

The large volume of data produced by the chip is analysed using artificial intelligence.

“Normally, within human capacity, we analyse data as we see it. But the AI model is able to detect anomalies and analyse patterns from different angles that I would not see traditionally. It unravels complex data patterns and gives us much more information.”

These insights guide the next stages of drug development and reduce the number of animal experiments needed for validation.

Since arriving in London in September 2025, she has trained with researchers at the I-X Center for AI in Science, working with programmers and other researchers to refine her modelling skills.

“This is a network science approach to finding solutions in healthcare,” she says. “It’s a unique opportunity to enhance my skill.”

Bringing It Home

The work is not meant to remain in London.

As part of her fellowship, she is developing a system she will carry back to Ghana. The same experiments she runs here will be possible in her lab in Accra, with continued collaboration after she returns.

“It’s going to have faster solutions. AI can predict what will happen, even with compounds you haven’t worked with before. It can also extend to the natural compounds that we have in Ghana.”

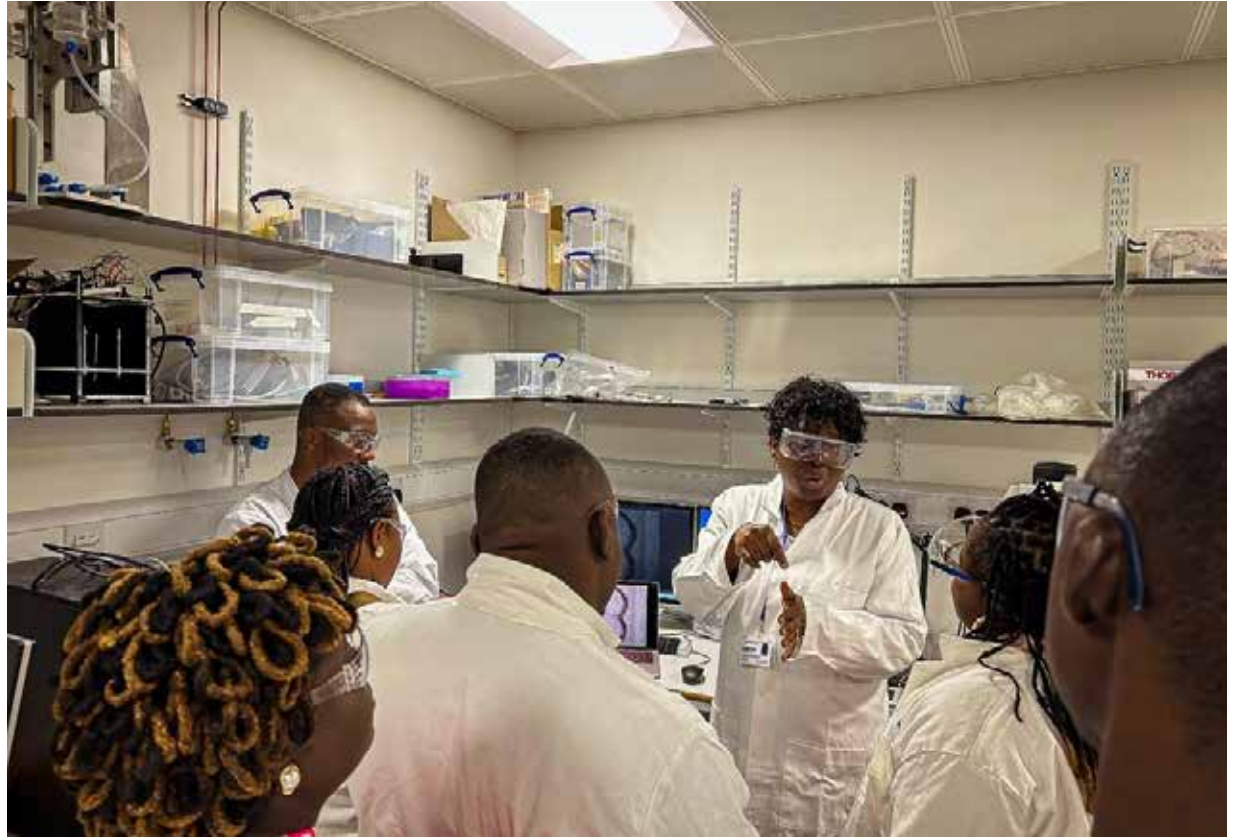
For researchers at home, this means earlier answers about which compounds are worth pursuing before entering expensive stages of testing. She sums it up simply: “It’s cost-effective, accurate, and it brings speed.”

When she returns to the University of Ghana, the small chip will sit quietly on a lab bench. Yet it will be doing work that once required long hours, repeated trials, and many hands — producing results in days instead of months, and changing how drug research is approached.

This report is part of the UK-Ghana ST&I Media Training Programme.

The writer is a science journalist.

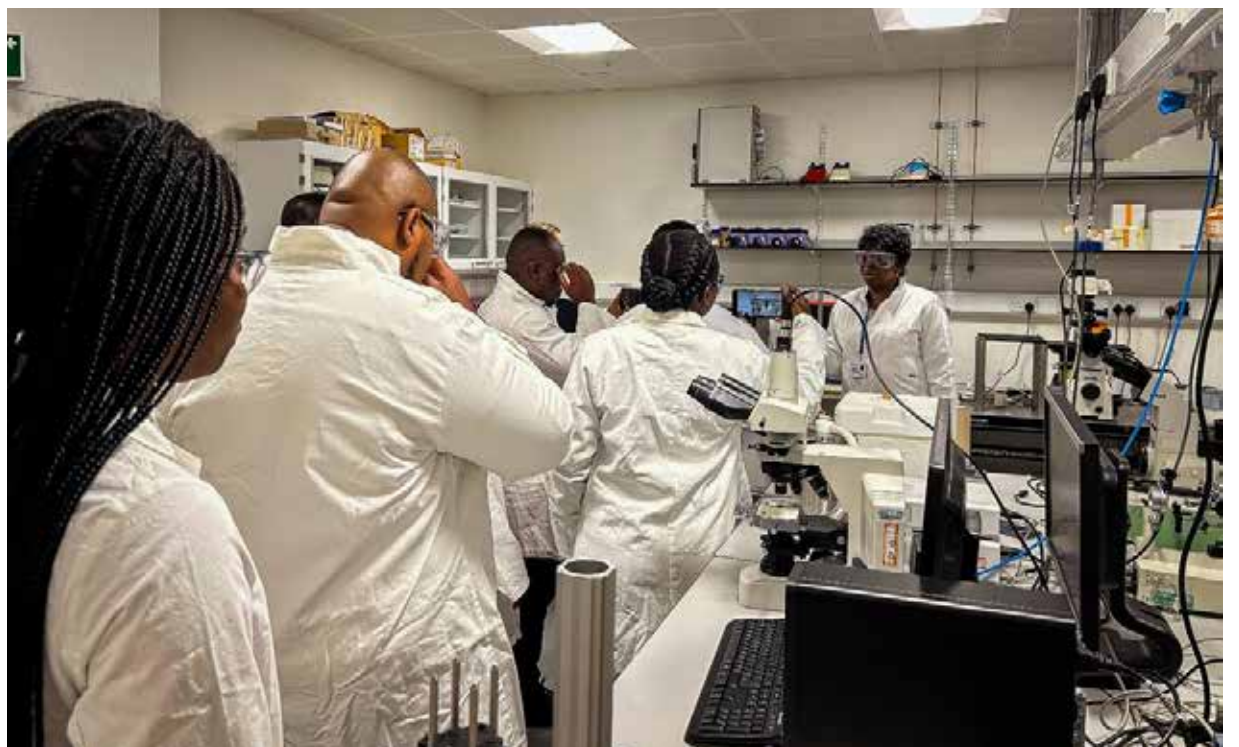
E-mail: prissyof@yahoo.com



Dr. Adi-Dako Explains Chip Technology



Inside the Drug Discovery Lab



Journalists Learn AI Drug Research

WORLD

Screen Addiction: A Growing Global Concern

By: Irfan Khan Tareen
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Children internet and social media

Worth Noting:

• Look around, and it becomes clear: every third person, whether at home or in public, is grappling with some form of screen dependency. Weakened critical thinking, poor problem-solving skills, emotional withdrawal, loneliness, physical health deterioration, and chronic mental fatigue are among the most significant consequences — and they are affecting children and adults alike. Yet this deepening social crisis continues to be overlooked by parents, teachers, institutions, and governments who ought to know better.

• Part of what makes screens so compelling is that they deliver precisely what human beings crave most: attention, validation, connection, entertainment, and a sense of belonging. The trouble is that engagement has grown so consuming that it leaves little room for family interaction, community bonding, or physical activity. The pattern is painfully predictable — the more one scrolls, the less fulfilled one feels, and the less fulfilled one feels, the more one returns to the screen for comfort. This is how the cycle sustains itself, quietly and relentlessly.

The more we connect with screens and surrender hours of our day to them, the more addictive — and damaging — they become. Gone are the days when children spent their afternoons in open fields, when families gathered around dinner tables to share stories, and when communities came together at fairs and social events. Today, the pull of the internet and social media has quietly eroded those rituals, leaving parents with shrinking windows of time to tend to the physical and mental well-being of their children.

From South Asia to Europe, screen addiction is no longer a personal habit. It has evolved into a global public health concern, backed by research and increasingly recognized by governments worldwide. The World Health Organization reports that 11 percent of adolescents now show problematic, addiction-like social media use — up from 7 percent in 2018. A further 12 percent are considered at risk of gaming addiction. Research published in JAMA Network journals links addictive screen use patterns — not simply screen time — to serious mental health issues among adolescents, including depression and heightened risk of suicidal behavior.

Look around, and it becomes clear: every third person, whether at home or in public, is grappling with some form of screen dependency. Weakened critical thinking,

poor problem-solving skills, emotional withdrawal, loneliness, physical health deterioration, and chronic mental fatigue are among the most significant consequences — and they are affecting children and adults alike. Yet this deepening social crisis continues to be overlooked by parents, teachers, institutions, and governments who ought to know better.

Part of what makes screens so compelling is that they deliver precisely what human beings crave most: attention, validation, connection, entertainment, and a sense of belonging. The trouble is that engagement has grown so consuming that it leaves little room for family interaction, community bonding, or physical activity. The pattern is painfully predictable — the more one scrolls, the less fulfilled one feels, and the less fulfilled one feels, the more one returns to the screen for comfort. This is how the cycle sustains itself, quietly and relentlessly.

The World Health Organization recommends zero screen time for children under two years of age, and no more than one hour per day for children aged four to five. Yet surveys consistently show that even infants under one year are being exposed to screens for more than an hour daily. A video circulating on social media captured this reality with unsettling clarity: a mother pretends to collapse in front of her three young children while they are watching tele-

vision. One child immediately jumps up and brings her water. The other two do not move — their eyes fixed on the screen. It is a small moment, but it speaks volumes about how digital absorption can quietly sever a child's connection to the real world around them.

Why does spending hours in front of a screen feel pleasurable in the moment, yet leave the mind depleted over time? The answer lies in biology. Excessive screen use triggers the release of dopamine — the brain's reward chemical — which produces short-lived bursts of pleasure. But when a person attempts to cut back, the brain pushes back. Mood turns irritable. Restlessness sets in. The withdrawal is real, and it mirrors patterns seen in other behavioral addictions. The physical consequences are equally well-documented. Research conducted in Finland found that every additional hour of screen time reduces sleep duration by approximately ten minutes. A separate study in China found that each additional hour of screen exposure increases the risk of sleep disorders by 12 percent. Insomnia, lethargy, and anxiety are among the most common outcomes of disrupted sleep linked to screens. Eye health is another casualty — prolonged screen exposure is strongly associated with myopia, headaches, and chronic eye strain. Screen addiction also fuels a sedentary lifestyle that contributes to obesity, one of the leading

drivers of chronic disease globally. And for younger children, excessive screen use has been linked to delays in language development — a warning sign that pediatric experts are increasingly sounding the alarm about. The mental health dimension may be the most alarming of all. Neuroscientists warn that prolonged screen exposure weakens executive function — the suite of cognitive abilities that govern emotional regulation, decision-making, focus, and social interaction. Anxiety, stress, depression, increased aggression, reduced attention span, and diminished learning capacity are all documented consequences, each capable of quietly undermining a young person's quality of life over time.

Addressing this challenge requires a collective response. Parents are the first line of defense — and the most powerful one. Children need presence, not placeholders. Offering time, conversation, encouragement, outdoor play, and the ritual of shared reading are not small gestures; they are the building blocks of healthy development. Keeping children under five away from excessive screen exposure is not a luxury — it is a responsibility.

Teachers, too, have an indispensable role to play. Fostering emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and genuine problem-solving skills creates the kind of inner resilience that makes screens less necessary as an escape.

Schools can reinforce this by promoting physical activity, restricting phone use during class time, and embedding mental health education into the curriculum. Training teachers to recognize early signs of screen addiction — and to model balanced digital habits — will go a long way toward helping students develop healthier routines built around study, sleep, and movement.

Governments, however, cannot be passive bystanders. Awareness campaigns and outright bans on certain content are not enough. What is needed is meaningful regulation — clear digital laws, accessible treatment pathways for those already struggling with addiction, and sustained public education efforts. In much of the developing world, enforcement and awareness remain dangerously weak compared to what is being done in Western countries, and that gap urgently needs to close. Screen addiction is a battle we cannot afford to lose. By protecting our children and adolescents from the grip of excessive screen use, and by equipping them with the tools to navigate the digital world with intention and discipline, we lay the foundation for a healthier, more connected, and more prosperous society — one where technology serves people, rather than the other way around.

Haiti

Courage under constraint: Kenya's defining moment in Haiti



By: Fredrick Kipchumba Chelimo
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- From the outset, the Kenyan contingent stepped into a theatre of conflict that many more resourced nations had hesitated to enter. Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, had become a complex mosaic of gang-controlled enclaves, fractured governance, and humanitarian distress. Armed groups exercised near-control over critical infrastructure and civilian movement, rendering conventional policing models largely ineffective. Into this volatile environment, Kenya deployed, not as an occupying force, but as a stabilizing presence anchored in international solidarity and human security.
- What followed was not a campaign of overwhelming dominance, but a disciplined, strategic efforts to reclaim operational space, restore order in key corridors, and reintroduce a semblance of normalcy in a city on the brink. Kenyan officers secured vital installations, facilitated the reopening of transport routes, and supported the operational resurgence of Haitian National Police. These were not symbolic gains: they were lifelines, allowing hospitals to function, commerce to resume and communities to breathe, however cautiously.

In the annals of modern peace support operations, there are missions defined not by overwhelming force or technological superiority, but by resolve under constraints, discipline under fire, and leadership in the face of uncertainty. Kenya's deployment in Haiti under the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) will, in time be remembered as one such defining moment.

From the outset, the Kenyan contingent stepped into a theatre of conflict that many more resourced nations had hesitated to enter. Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, had become a complex mosaic of gang-controlled enclaves, fractured governance, and humanitarian distress. Armed groups exercised near-control over critical infrastructure and civilian movement, rendering conventional policing models largely ineffective. Into this volatile environment, Kenya deployed, not as an occupying force, but as a stabilizing presence anchored in international solidarity and human security.

What followed was not a campaign of overwhelming dominance, but a disciplined, strategic efforts to reclaim operational space, restore order in key corridors, and reintroduce a semblance of normalcy in a city on the brink. Kenyan officers secured vital installations, facilitated the reopening of transport routes, and supported the operational resurgence of Haitian National Police. These were not symbolic gains: they were lifelines, allowing hospitals to function, commerce to resume and communities to breathe, however cautiously. To fully appreciate the magnitude of this performance, one must examine the extremities within which it is delivered. The mission operated significantly below its intended strengths, with personnel numbers falling short of operational requirements. Equipment limitations, constrained logistical pipelines, and gaps in aerial surveillance and intelligence support placed Kenyan officers at a critical operational disadvantage. Language barriers complicated engagement with local communities, while the dense, informal urban terrain presented constant tactical unpredictability. In many respects, the Kenya contin-



Kenya's deployment in Haiti under the Multinational Security Support Mission

gent was tasked with delivering stability in conditions that would have tested even the most advanced military formations.

And still they endured. At the heart of this endurance was not just professionalism of the rank and file, but the clarity of command and the coherence of operational coordination. Under the stewardship of IG Douglas Kanja and his team, Kenya's internal command architecture demonstrated a level of foresight and responsiveness that proved critical to the mission's overall integrity. While the operational theatre was thousand of miles away, the assurance of the officers safety remained firmly anchored at home. Strategic command decisions, ranging from deployment protocols and rotation planning to welfare oversight and real-time-coordination with mission leadership, reflected deliberate prioritization of human security within the force itself. In an environment where uncertainty was the only constant, this clarity of leadership translated into confidence on the ground. The emphasis on disciplined engagement, adherence to rules of engagement and restraint in the use of force not only safeguarded civilian population, but also insulated Kenyan officers from reputational and legal pitfalls that have historically characterized similar missions elsewhere.

It is to the credit of the command structure that, despite early scrutiny from human rights observers, the Kenya

contingent largely maintained operational integrity under intense global observation. Equally significant was the approach to risk mitigation. In a theatre characterized by asymmetric threats, ambush vulnerabilities, and fluid frontlines, the preservation of officer safety is neither accidental nor automatic, it is engineered. Through coordinated intelligence sharing, tactical caution, and adaptive deployment strategies, the Kenyan leadership ensured that risks were managed with prudence rather than bravado. The loss of lives, while deeply tragic, did not escalate into systemic vulnerability, a testament to the command robustness and oversight.

As the mission transitions towards the Gang Suppression Force, with a broader mandate and expanded international backing, it is important to recognize that

the ground upon which this next phase stands was, in many ways, stabilized by Kenya's initial intervention. Where there was no paralysis, there was now at least the possibility of coordinated international action. Beyond the immediate operational outcomes, Kenya's performance in Haiti carries broader implications for its global posture. This was not merely a deployment; it was a declaration – that Kenya is prepared to shoulder responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security even where the risks are high and the guarantees few. In doing so, the country has elevated its standing as a credible contributor to global security, particularly within the framework of South-South cooperation.

But perhaps the most enduring legacy of this mission lies not on geopolitics, but in the quiet professionalism of

the officers who served. Men and women who, far from home, navigated an unfamiliar language, unforgiving terrain, and an ever-present threat – yet remained anchored on duty, discipline and dignity.

For a nation such as Kenya, and for leaders and practitioners in the security sector, including those like yourself who understand the weight of operational command, Haiti offers a profound lesson; that effectiveness is not always measured by absence of constraint, but by the ability to act decisively under whatever circumstances. In Haiti, Kenya did not only participate – it stood firm where others hesitated. And in doing so, it refined the contours of its own capability, resilience and global responsibility. We bow and salute our gallant.



Emotional Homecoming as Kenyan Police Conclude Haiti Mission

The Diaspora Times Global



For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

FacebookK: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

THE GOLDEN LIST 2026

The 20 Most Extraordinary Women to Follow – Icons of Beauty, Leadership & Empowerment



By: Ayesha Talib
@themkenyatimes

Some women don't just shine they set the standard. We are proud to unveil The Golden List 2026, a handpicked selection of 20 remarkable women who are redefining excellence across pageantry, leadership, climate advocacy, education, and the arts. These inspiring icons are not just winning titles; they are creating lasting impact through their talent, vision, and dedication. Their stories remind us that beauty and strength are inseparable. Meet the names that will lead the global conversation throughout 2026.

The Elite Profiles



Dr. Manuela Alexandra

1. Dr. Manuela Alexandra (Dr. Manuela Jimenez, Ed.D.) – Global Visionary & Educational Leader

Known warmly as 'Doctor Nela', she is a brilliant blend of academic excellence and runway charisma. As a visionary educator, she has developed innovative K-12 programs that guide students toward collegiate success. A passionate advocate for gender equity and minority women in leadership, she continues to break barriers with her powerful mantra "Smart is Beautiful."



Gladys Habu

2. Gladys Habu – Climate Change Advocate & Global Humanitarian

A trailblazing voice from the Solomon Islands, Gladys captured hearts as a national icon before becoming a global activist for climate

justice. As a UNICEF Pacific Ambassador, she amplifies the voices of small island nations, proving that a crown can be the strongest platform for environmental policy reform and saving the planet.



HRD Queen Corazon Ugalde Yellen

3. HRD Queen Corazon Ugalde Yellen – International Cultural Ambassador & Philanthropist

Bringing a rich military family legacy to the global stage, Queen Corazon radiates royal grace and fierce determination. A multi-crowned beauty queen, TV host, and actress, she uses her international influence to promote cultural exchange, proving that true elegance is found in serving others.



Sabrina Bestel

4. Sabrina Bestel – Award-Winning CEO & Strategic Visionary Investor

With over two decades of entrepreneurial success, Sabrina turns market gaps into purpose-driven businesses. As a sustainability advocate and mentor, she builds companies that prioritize social impact alongside profit, paving the way for the next generation of women in high-stakes investment.

5. Lily Vo (Netherlands) – International Face of Empowerment & Social Impact

Lily represents leadership with deep compassion. Recognized globally for her transformative empowerment journeys, she leads women



Lily Vo

on cultural immersion programs that build self-belief and community resilience. She is a true bridge-builder who turns challenges into lifelong opportunities.



Lola Owolabi

6. Lola Owolabi – Purpose-Driven Coach, Author & Social Entrepreneur Lola has spent over 23 years empowering individuals to monetize their unique gifts. As a sought-after public speaker and mentor, she helps women step into their full potential through practical tools and spiritual clarity, creating a ripple effect of confidence across communities.



Thulisile Mabhena

7. Thulisile Mabhena – Ms Woman United States & Humanitarian Advocate

Thulisile channels her national title into direct action. By advocating for the homeless and uplifting underserved populations, she balances pageant poise with genuine humanitarian work, serving as a powerful role model for leaders who lead with heart.

8. Dr. Vanessa Atienza-Hipolito – Physician, Business Leader & Health Advocate
Merging medical expertise with entrepreneur-



Dr. Vanessa Atienza-Hipolito

ial drive, Dr. Vanessa is a champion of women's health and professional development. She mentors women in leadership roles while providing accessible healthcare solutions, proving that excellence in medicine and business go hand in hand.



Ella Wagner

9. Ella Wagner – The Global Voice for Empowerment Known as "Beauty with a Voice," Ella Wagner uses her platform to champion women's rights and inspire young leaders. Whether on a global stage or in grassroots community work, she proves that a leader's real power lies in lifting others to higher ground.



Scharrell Jackson

10. Scharrell Jackson – Champion of Cultural Diversity & Gender Equality Scharrell

THE GOLDEN LIST 2026

The 20 Most Extraordinary Women to Follow – Icons of Beauty, Leadership & Empowerment

Contd from Page 18

is a tireless advocate for inclusion, working to create spaces where every voice is valued. Through her strategic leadership in diversity initiatives, she helps global organizations build equitable environments that drive real cultural progress.



Ellien Chin

11. Ellien Chin – International Performance Artist & Accomplished

Actress Ellien seamlessly blends high-fashion beauty titles with a thriving career in the arts. Her captivating presence on screen reflects a deep discipline and talent, representing the pinnacle of grace and artistic excellence on the world stage.



Mandy-Jayne Lace

12. Mandy-Jayne Lace – Leader in Global Inclusion & Disability Advocacy A true trailblazer,

Mandy-Jayne uses her platform to break down barriers for people of all abilities. Her work in accessible education and employment challenges outdated perceptions, building a more inclusive world through resilience and bold representation.



Sharleen Jones

13. Sharleen Jones – Regional Universe Africa & Community

Founder Sharleen wears her continental crown with deep purpose. Through her dedicated foundation, she drives positive change in local communities, focusing on sustainable support and humanitarian aid, making her a beacon of hope across the region.



Jennifer Harwood

14. Jennifer Harwood – Pioneer of Micro-Business & Economic Independence Jennifer is a dynamic force in entrepreneurship, building thriving systems that support women’s financial freedom. Her mentorship programs help aspiring business owners launch sustainable ventures, proving that small businesses drive massive global change.



Roisin Hanora Airchinnigh

15. Roisin Hanora Airchinnigh – London-Based Fashion Icon & Brand Strategist

Roisin brings professional elegance to the heart of the UK’s fashion industry. As a brand ambassador and event coordinator, she is renowned for her creative vision and reliable presence in high-profile international campaigns.



Marci Shimoff

16. Marci Shimoff – #1 New York Times Bestselling Author & Mentor

A transformational leader whose books have touched millions, Marci guides women toward inner joy and authentic success. Her work blends deep wisdom with practical life tools, making her one of the most respected voices in personal growth today.



Kathryn Keller-Casper

17. Kathryn Keller-Casper – Elite Regional Representative & Authenticity

Advocate Kathryn shows the world that big dreams aren’t defined by size. Her journey in the competitive world of pageantry is a testament to the power of hard work, authenticity, and the courage to chase your own crown with total confidence.



Christina L. Woods

18. Christina L. Woods – High-Performance Coach & Spiritual Visionary

Christina helps women reconnect with their inner strength and clarity. Through transformative high-performance programs, she supports leaders in overcoming obstacles and stepping into a life aligned with their highest purpose and professional goals.



Dr. Cynthia Vuittonet

19. Dr. Cynthia Vuittonet – National Icon, Model & Medical Expert

Dr. Cynthia beautifully merges clinical expertise with international modeling. She stands as a powerful example that intelligence and beauty are a combined force, motivating women in both the healthcare sector and the global spotlight.



Dr. Daphne Soares

20. Dr. Daphne Soares – Physician & Leader in Gender

Empowerment Dr. Daphne uses her medical background to advance women’s health and leadership. She designs programs that empower women to take charge of their wellbeing while pursuing ambitious global careers, bridging the gap between health and success.

The women featured in The Golden List 2026 represent the pinnacle of what is possible when vision meets action. Curated by Ayesha Talib, this list celebrates the diverse paths to excellence and the universal impact of a woman’s leadership.

BOOK REVIEW

A Piece of Cloth Carried by Winds

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

Written BY MICHAEL ONDAATJE

Reviewed by Tajalla qureshi

By: Tajalla Qureshi
xxxxxxxxxxxx

"Diaries are the evidences of the wrenching treasures, Confrontations are the lips immersed in the ink of compassion, Pages retain the illustrations of past practices, Pen manifests sufferings, sensuousness and scars, Memories often haunt and displace physical presence"
~Tajalla Qureshi

The English Patient by Michael Ondaatje, is one of the most substantial contemporary figure known for his intermingling of poeticality and fictional-functionality. His worth-famous novel "The English Patient" is an opulently layered novel that reconnoiters the intricacy of memories and identities, compassion with devastating efforts of World War II. The title of the novel signifies a site to a fragmented soul, enduring displeasure, memorizing the suffers, blur identity. The setting from Villa San Girolamo located in the hummocks of Italy during the ultimate phase of War, reflecting the fragmented and wrenched inhabitants haunted by their past. On the other hand, the central location of the novel shifts to North African Desert, predominantly the regions of Egypt and Libya, grasping the memories of English Patient (Almasy). The symbolic rerepresentation of desert unclosed the aspects of freedom from national identity along its emptiness and loss characteristic. The past-present clicks wrap with emotionality and identity complex.

Moreover, the collective stances: "Reality and Memory" makes it worth-fascinating. Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient is, at its fundamental tone, a profound meditation relaying on how memories contour realities and how past refuses to stay buried deeply, how present and presence is always haunted by what came before. "Memories are untold and unspoken ashes, never erased, never vanished yet faints as heart fails to relish and mind stop belling" ~Tajalla Qureshi. However, the past is never dead, it waves along the time and swings in present. This is perhaps the core of discussion. The scenario of war might be over but the wounds still whisper stories as Almasy's love affair may have

concluded decades ago yet he still carries the living particles. It constitutes realities. The English Patient's reality isn't the burned villa but the recompense of his memories. Whereas, Carlo Roveli artistically elaborates that "Reality is formed only by memory. And memory, in its turn, is a collection of traces, an indirect product of the disordering of the world." These contemporary insights emulate Ondaatje's vision, what we call "real" is simply the accumulation of morsels left by the past. "Sometimes, the burns that reveal the skin-structure are less wrenching than the burns remain on the soul, cleared and unblurred" ~Tajalla Qureshi. Ondaatje seamlessly intertwine both perceptions in a non-linear configuration, from the punitive landscapes like desert into spaces of love-language and artistry. Desert symbolizes the stream of thoughts and Katharine is the only memory that left since ages, stitched with the pages she touched, words she pronounced and map she glanced on.

Furthermore, Michael Ondaatje's novel is worth-deeply concerned with the emblem of art as the nature and role of artist as the wholesome. It symbolizes that art is not something beyond luxurious funnel or an escape, art is a fundamental human response to trauma, damage or commotion of past memory or antiquity. To be human, Ondaatje entails, is to be an artist of anyway. Almasy, a mapmaker by profession, known as English Patient, accidentally departed and captured in order to accomplish the final desire of Katharine. He refuses identity, even nevertheless essentials something belongs to. "She was his England. He had never belonged to a country, but he belonged to her." - Micheal Ondaatje.

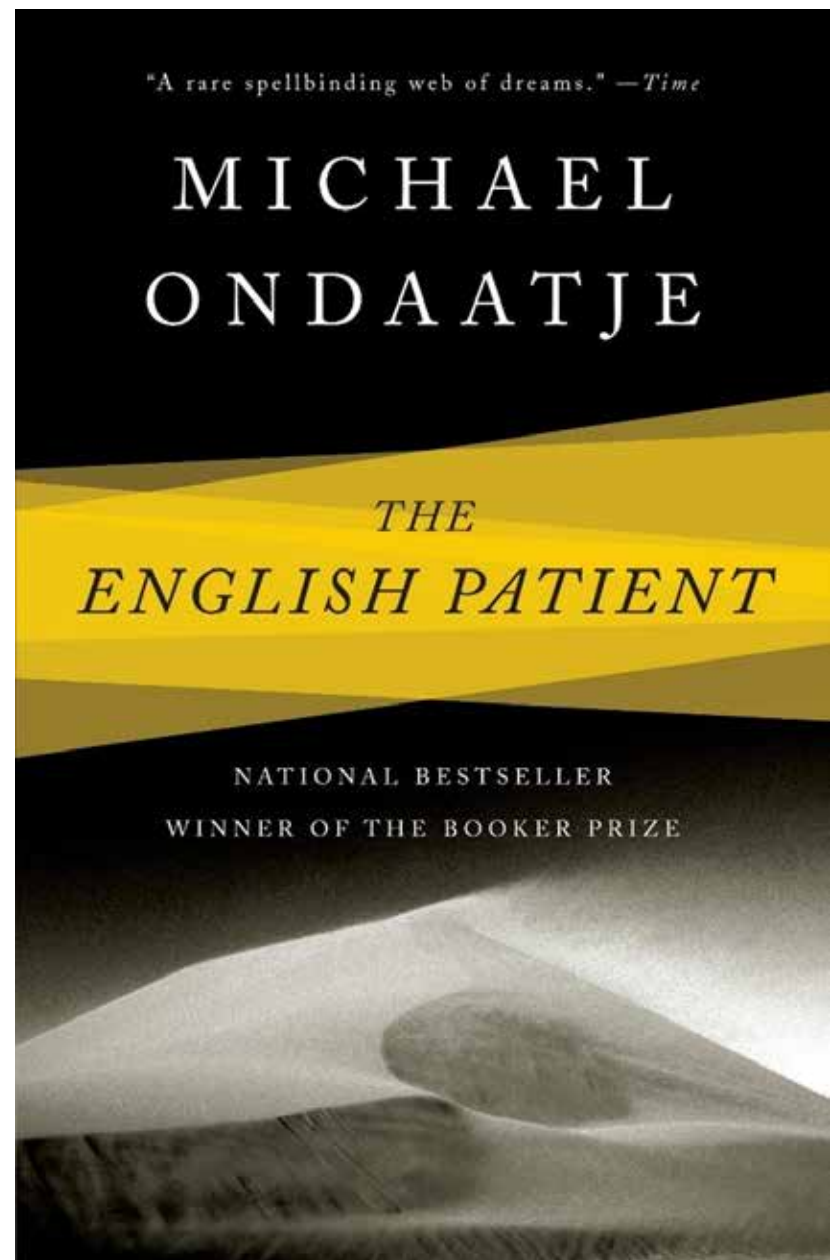
Count Laszlo De Almasy and Katharine Clifton are the symbolic representation of artistry, portraying emotional and spiritual magnificence. The Herodotus (The Histories), a source of liveliness for Almasy for that he envelopes maps, letters, pressed flowers, biographies, last love notes from Katharine,

all are pasted into it. An embodiment of his entire life" Katharine. She cherishes his artistic aspects. As Almasy's love for Katharine is not something he apprehends or chooses. It reaches like a desert hurricane, sudden, unexpected and transformative. A few lines from the book that transcends aesthetic visual through these expressions "She stood up and walked toward the cave entrance, and he watched the way the light fell on her shoulder. He had not touched her. But he was already lost". Katharine eventually become a landscape to be reconnoitered, a geography to be learned. She is his nee desert, his ultimate voyage and his last unmapped territory.

Particularly, when Almasy intermingles with Katharine, he familiarizes her to his book, enrich with engaging exposure, aesthetic journey, eager concerns, his compassion and passion towards map. Ondaatje states in his novel that "He had added to it, cutting and pasting in other pieces of writing, maps, a biography of the philosopher, a diary entry, a note from his lover. The book was a collage of his life. And now she was entering that collage." The book become an association, a passage to artistically communicate, a space to be inhabited together, Almasy and Katharine. I believe a truly artistic and authentic soul can entirely make you drunk and forget unartistic heaviness and burdens. It keeps heart swing and bring brilliance and brightness. Words capture moments, unheard, untold and unspoken for forever stitch to the soul. Art as compassion of Almasy, reveals through Herodotus, highlights the spaces where he breaths and Katharine sips. As Bob Dylan said "The purpose of art is to stop time." So the cave of swimmers discontinue the flow of time, when the Katharine was on her last breaths, she inks the pages and those expressions are become coagulated and solidified that Almasy senses them even after losing everything. In Art, Katharine lives forever since ages to ages ahead. The artist is possessed with an eye to grip and grasp beauty



"Art is for artist, non-artistic can turns it into ashes" ~Tajalla Qureshi



fascinatingly.

"The only remaining in heart is the memories, the untold stories, called the identity explorer, that's the actual reality of human which breathes since ages to ages ahead" ~Tajalla Qureshi

In conclusion, Katharine is not yet to be remember, she breathes within Almasy. The discrepancy between past and present, memory and reality collapses in his scorched body. Almasy inhabits Katharine's retentions. He dialogues her even through nothingness and darkness. She conquer his mind as it's her. "He was still in love with her. That was the truth of it. He had been in love with her for ten years, and he would be in love with her for the rest of his life. There was no cure for that. There was only the telling of it?."

Tajalla Qureshi

The University of Chenab, Gujrat, Pakistan
tajallaqureshi99@gmail.com

As a leading literary figure Tajalla Qureshi, a unique voice, an emblem of lyrical language, and profound insights entrancingly captivate readers, editors, founders and writers around the globe, hails from Paki-

stan. Moreover, her brilliant poems, short stories, columns and interviews work has been featured in over 200 national and international platforms including anthologies, journals, and electronic websites, spanning across the globe. As Co-Founder and Co-Editor of The Wordsmith E-Magazine, The Journal of Transnational Literature, Pakistan, she provides a sanctuary for language and artistry to flourish. Additionally, she serves as an international promotional director at Insight Magazine, United States, and Pakistani ambassador at Mount Kenya, bridging cultures and continents through her voice and intellect.

Furthermore, her literary journey has taken her to esteemed stages, from presenting poetry at conferences to delivering research papers internationally. Her creativity transcends frontiers, with her poems translated into multiple languages, including Indonesian, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Ukrainian, Italian, Vietnam and Spanish. With her rare synthesis of creativity, intellect, and passion, she is not just a writer - she is a movement, an era, and a voice that echoes across time."

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

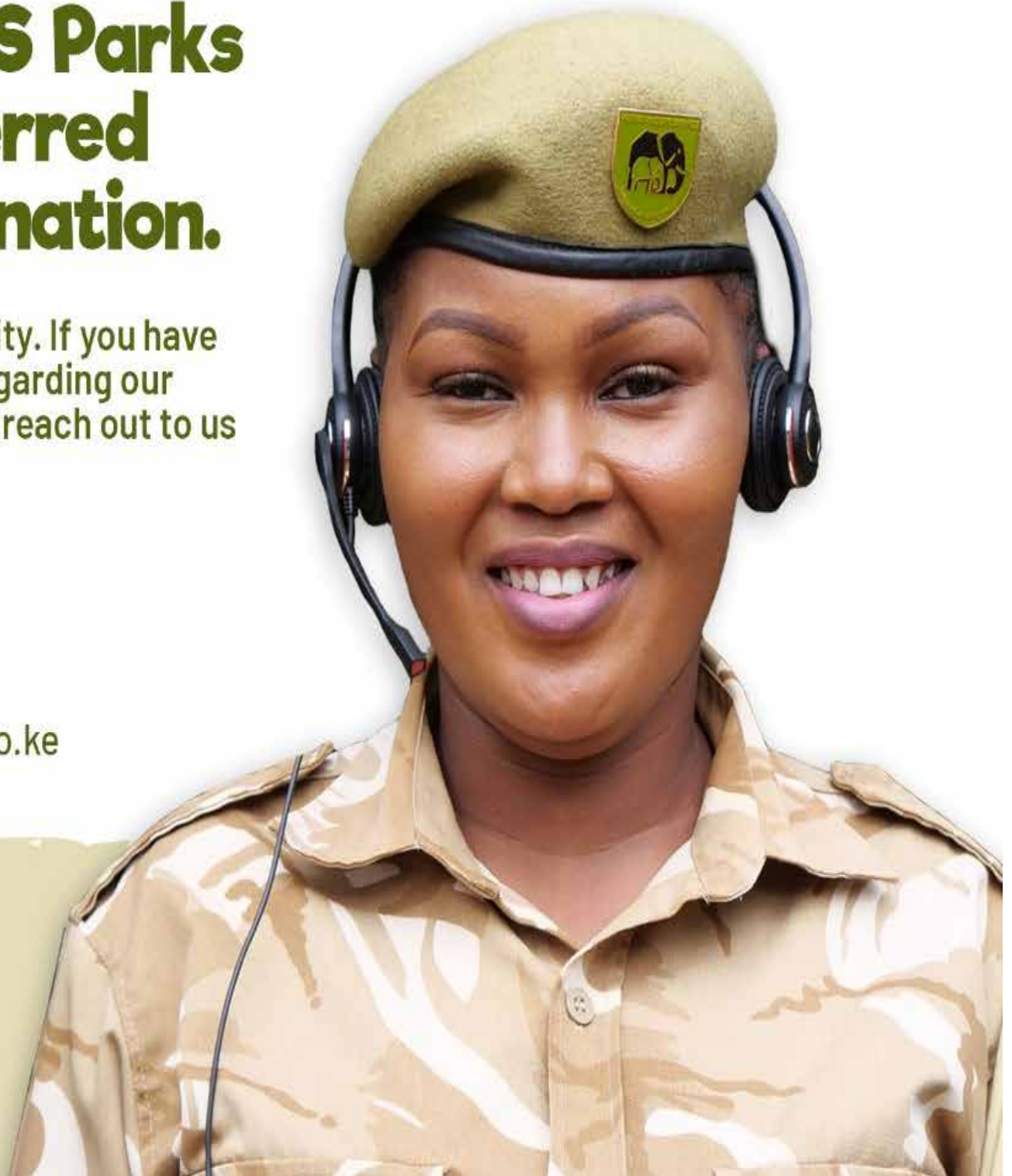
**Thank you for
choosing KWS Parks
as your preferred
tourism destination.**

Your satisfaction is our priority. If you have any concerns or feedback regarding our products or services. Please reach out to us via

☎ 0800 597 000

📞 0726 610 509

@ customerservice@kws.go.ke



For All your Advertisement needs

Email: ads@mountkenyatimes.co.ke

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DiasporaGlobal>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DiasporaGlobal1>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diaspora-global-1a15ab210/>

Intagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

The Effectiveness of Project-Based Learning in Developing Creativity Among Secondary School Students: A Pedagogical Perspective

Creativity is widely acknowledged as a key competency required for academic achievement and lifelong professional success in the twenty-first century.



By: Sirojiddinova Sevinch
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Abstract: Creativity is widely acknowledged as a key competency required for academic achievement and lifelong professional success in the twenty-first century. Contemporary education systems increasingly emphasize student-centered learning approaches that promote innovation, independent thinking, and practical problem-solving. Project-Based Learning (PBL) is one of the most influential pedagogical strategies designed to engage learners in authentic tasks and real-world challenges, potentially enhancing their creative abilities. This study investigates the effectiveness of project-based learning in developing creativity among secondary school students. The research applies a quasi-experimental design with a comparative approach between an experimental group exposed to PBL and a control group taught through conventional teacher-centered methods. Data were collected through classroom observations, structured questionnaires, creativity performance rubrics, and semi-structured interviews. The findings demonstrate that students participating in project-based learning exhibit stronger creative thinking skills, higher motivation, improved collaboration, and greater self-confidence in academic tasks. The study further highlights that PBL supports divergent thinking by providing learners with autonomy, opportunities for inquiry, and collaborative problem-solving experiences. The results confirm that project-based learning can significantly contribute to the development of creativity in secondary school education. The article recommends integrating PBL into national curriculum frameworks and improving teacher training programs to ensure the effective application of project-based learning strategies.

Key words: project-based learning, creativity development, secondary school students, student-centered learning, innovative pedagogy, 21st-century skills, critical thinking.

The global education landscape has undergone significant transformations due to technological progress, labor market demands, and the rapid expansion of knowledge-based societies. In the twenty-first century, learners are expected not only to acquire subject-specific knowledge but



Secondary School Students in Uzbekistan

also to develop higher-order skills such as critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. Among these competencies, creativity is often regarded as one of the most vital skills that supports innovation and adaptability in both academic and professional contexts (Runco, 2007; Sawyer, 2012). Creativity in education is frequently defined as the ability to produce original, valuable, and meaningful ideas, solutions, or products. It is strongly connected with divergent thinking, problem-solving, and flexible cognitive processes (Amabile, 1996; Torrance, 1974). Modern educational researchers argue that creativity should not be treated as an optional talent limited to gifted students but rather as a developable skill that can be nurtured through appropriate pedagogical strategies (Craft, 2005; Beghetto & Kaufman, 2014). Despite its importance, creativity is often underdeveloped in traditional classroom environments. Teacher-centered instructional models, where students are passive recipients of knowledge, may restrict independent exploration and reduce opportunities for innovative thinking. In many secondary schools, learning still heavily depends on memorization, standardized assessments, and rigid instructional procedures. Such approaches often discourage students from experimenting with new ideas or proposing alternative solutions (Robinson, 2011). In response to these challenges, student-centered learning approaches have gained attention worldwide. One of the most prominent methods is Project-Based Learning (PBL), which provides students with

opportunities to explore real-world problems, work collaboratively, and create meaningful products as a result of their learning process (Krajcik & Blumenfeld, 2006). PBL is grounded in constructivist learning theories, particularly those of Dewey (1938) and Vygotsky (1978), who emphasized learning through experience, social interaction, and active engagement. Project-based learning is often defined as an instructional approach in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period to investigate and respond to complex questions, problems, or challenges (Larmer et al., 2015). It requires learners to actively plan, research, design, implement, and present their work. The nature of PBL supports creativity by encouraging autonomy, inquiry, experimentation, and reflective thinking. However, despite its theoretical potential, the practical effectiveness of PBL in developing creativity among secondary school students still requires deeper investigation. While multiple studies have highlighted the general benefits of project-based learning, fewer research works focus on its measurable impact on creativity development in secondary education settings. This gap becomes particularly important in educational contexts where traditional methods remain dominant and innovation-based pedagogy is still limited. Therefore, the present study aims to examine the effectiveness of project-based learning in fostering creativity among secondary school students and to explore how PBL influences learners' motivation, collaboration skills, and creative thinking development.

Literature Review

Creativity has been widely studied across psychology, education, and cognitive sciences. Torrance (1974) introduced one of the most influential models of creativity measurement, emphasizing fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration as key components. Later, Amabile (1996) developed a componential theory of creativity, highlighting the role of domain-relevant skills, creativity-relevant processes, and intrinsic motivation. These theoretical perspectives suggest that creativity is not solely dependent on innate talent but can be developed through appropriate environments and teaching strategies. Educational researchers emphasize that creativity in schools is strongly linked with active learning environments. According to Craft (2005), creativity in education is best promoted through "possibility thinking," where students explore multiple alternatives and develop confidence in their own ideas. Similarly, Beghetto and Kaufman (2014) argue that creativity can be supported when learners are provided with opportunities to take intellectual risks, explore open-ended tasks, and engage in meaningful learning experiences. Project-Based Learning has gained international recognition as an effective strategy to enhance student engagement and higher-order skills. Thomas (2000) provides one of the most cited reviews on PBL, concluding that project-based learning improves problem-solving abilities and supports deeper conceptual understanding. PBL is based on the

idea that knowledge is constructed through active engagement rather than passive reception. Dewey (1938) argued that learning should be grounded in real-life experiences and that education must involve active participation. In this context, PBL offers a practical framework for applying Dewey's principles in modern classrooms. Constructivist learning theories also emphasize the social dimension of learning. Vygotsky (1978) argued that cognitive development occurs through social interaction and collaborative problem-solving. Project-based learning often includes group work, discussion, and peer feedback, which can create a learning environment where students exchange ideas and collaboratively generate creative solutions. A systematic review by Kokotsaki et al. (2016) indicates that project-based learning positively influences student motivation and engagement, particularly when tasks are authentic and connected to real-life problems. Moreover, Strobel and van Barneveld (2009) found that PBL promotes long-term retention of knowledge and enhances skill development more effectively than traditional lecture-based instruction. Research also suggests that PBL contributes to creativity development by encouraging learners to explore innovative approaches. Bell (2010) states that project-based learning supports creativity by requiring students to develop original products

The Effectiveness of Project-Based Learning in Developing Creativity Among Secondary School Students: A Pedagogical Perspective

Creativity is widely acknowledged as a key competency required for academic achievement and lifelong professional success in the twenty-first century.

xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 22

and make decisions independently. In PBL environments, students often have control over project design, which increases autonomy and intrinsic motivation. This aligns with Amabile's (1996) theory that intrinsic motivation is a major driver of creativity.

Furthermore, studies on 21st-century skills emphasize that creativity is not isolated from other competencies. According to Trilling and Fadel (2009), creativity is interconnected with collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. PBL integrates these skills by requiring learners to solve problems collectively and present outcomes effectively.

However, despite these findings, challenges remain. Teachers often face difficulties in implementing PBL due to lack of training, time constraints, and assessment issues (Hmelo-Silver, 2004). Additionally, not all students initially adapt to project-based learning because they may lack experience in independent work and teamwork. Therefore, the effectiveness of PBL depends on careful planning, teacher facilitation, and the availability of supportive resources.

Overall, existing research strongly suggests that project-based learning is a powerful tool for creativity development, but more empirical studies are needed to explore its measurable impact in secondary education contexts.

Methodology

Research Design

This study employed a quasi-experimental research design to evaluate the effectiveness of project-based learning in developing creativity among secondary school students. The research compared two groups: an experimental group exposed to PBL and a control group taught through traditional instructional methods. The study was conducted over an eight-week period.

Participants

The participants were secondary school students aged 13–16. The sample included two classes with similar academic levels. One class was selected as the experimental group (PBL-based instruction), while the other served as the control group (lecture-based instruction).

Research Instruments

Several instruments were used for data collection: Creativity assessment tasks based on originality, flexibility, and fluency.



Secondary School Students in Uzbekistan

Student questionnaires to measure motivation and engagement.

Observation checklists for monitoring classroom participation and collaborative behavior.

Project evaluation rubrics assessing creativity in final project products. Semi-structured interviews with selected students to identify attitudes toward PBL.

Procedure

Before the intervention, both groups completed a creativity pre-test. The experimental group was introduced to project-based learning principles and divided into small teams. Each team worked on projects related to real-life topics such as environmental sustainability, community improvement, and technology innovation. Students were encouraged to conduct research, brainstorm solutions, and create final products (posters, presentations, and reports).

The teacher acted as a facilitator, guiding students through project stages, encouraging discussion, and providing feedback. The control group studied the same content using teacher-centered lectures, textbook activities, and written exercises.

After eight weeks, both groups completed a creativity post-test. Additionally, questionnaires, observations, and interviews were conducted to obtain qualitative and quantitative data.

Data Analysis

Data analysis included descriptive statistics such as mean scores and

comparative analysis between pre-test and post-test results. Qualitative interview data were analyzed through thematic interpretation to identify common patterns related to creativity development and learning experience.

Results and Discussion

The findings of the study reveal that project-based learning significantly contributed to creativity development among secondary school students. The experimental group demonstrated higher improvement in creativity test scores compared to the control group. Students involved in PBL produced more original ideas and demonstrated greater flexibility in generating solutions. One of the most notable outcomes was the increase in student motivation. Questionnaire results indicated that learners in the experimental group reported greater interest in classroom activities and higher engagement levels. This aligns with Kokotsaki et al. (2016), who emphasize that project-based learning improves student motivation through meaningful tasks and authentic learning contexts.

Furthermore, observational data showed that students in the PBL group participated more actively in classroom discussions and demonstrated improved collaboration skills. Group-based project tasks required learners to negotiate responsibilities, exchange ideas, and evaluate alternative solutions. This social interaction may have contributed to creativity development, supporting Vygotsky's (1978) view that cognitive growth is enhanced through

collaboration.

The final project outcomes of the experimental group revealed a higher level of originality and innovation. Many student teams created creative presentations, designed models, and proposed unique solutions to real-life problems. Such findings confirm Bell's (2010) argument that project-based learning supports creativity by encouraging students to create meaningful products rather than simply memorizing information.

Interestingly, interview results showed that some students initially struggled with time management and decision-making. However, after several weeks, students became more confident in planning their work and distributing tasks. This suggests that PBL not only develops creativity but also strengthens self-regulation skills.

When comparing the results with existing literature, the findings strongly support previous research emphasizing the effectiveness of PBL in developing higher-order skills. Thomas (2000) and Strobel and van Barneveld (2009) similarly reported that project-based learning promotes deeper understanding and long-term skill development. Nevertheless, the study also identified limitations. Teachers reported that implementing PBL requires additional preparation time and careful monitoring. Additionally, some students needed more guidance to adapt to open-ended learning tasks. These challenges align with Hmelo-Silver's (2004) conclusion that project-based learning may be demanding for both students and teachers if adequate support is not

provided.

Overall, the results demonstrate that PBL is an effective approach for developing creativity among secondary school students by increasing autonomy, engagement, and collaborative learning experiences.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examined the effectiveness of project-based learning in developing creativity among secondary school students. The findings confirm that project-based learning significantly enhances students' creative thinking abilities, motivation, teamwork skills, and confidence. By engaging students in authentic problem-solving tasks, PBL creates an environment that encourages originality, flexibility, and innovation.

The research suggests that project-based learning should be integrated into secondary school curricula to support creativity development. Teachers should be provided with professional training on designing and implementing project-based lessons. Additionally, schools should ensure that learners have access to necessary resources such as digital tools, libraries, and collaborative learning spaces. Future research should involve larger samples across multiple schools and explore long-term effects of PBL on creativity development. Further studies may also focus on comparing different types of projects and identifying which project themes most effectively enhance creativity among students.

Poisoned Earth, Powered World: Congo's Toxic Cobalt Crisis Exposes the Dirty Secret Behind the Green Energy Revolution

A catastrophic leakage at one of the Democratic Republic of Congo's most productive cobalt mines has forced a reckoning with the human and environmental cost buried inside every electric vehicle battery — and placed China's dominant grip on the global minerals supply chain under renewed and uncomfortable scrutiny.

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

The water turned the colour of rust. Crops withered along the banks within days. Children in villages downstream began presenting at clinics with symptoms that local health workers struggled to explain. And high above, on the terraced hill-sides of Lualaba Province where the Tenke Fungurume mine — one of the world's most productive cobalt and copper operations — cuts deep into the red earth of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the machinery of that wound in the ground power the smartphones in our pockets, the laptops on our desks, and increasingly the electric vehicles hailed as the centrepiece of humanity's transition away from fossil fuels. What spilled alongside them this week is something the world's clean energy champions have preferred not to examine too closely: the true cost of cobalt.

A reported toxic leakage at the Tenke Fungurume mine has sent shockwaves through international environmental networks and commodity markets alike, triggering urgent calls for independent investigation and renewed demands for accountability across one of the most strategically critical — and least transparently governed — supply chains on the planet. The mine, majority-owned by China Molybdenum Co., Ltd. (CMOC), one of Beijing's leading minerals conglomerates, is a cornerstone of global cobalt production. The DRC alone accounts for more than seventy per cent of the world's cobalt output. Tenke Fungurume is among its crown jewels.

"What is being destroyed here cannot be rebuilt in a generation. The farmland is gone. The water is contaminated. And the companies responsible are still shipping ore out of the ground while our communities wait for answers."

— COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE, LUALABA PROVINCE, DRC, APRIL 2026

Local communities living adjacent to the mine reported contaminated water sources, damage to agricultural land, and a sharp uptick in respiratory and skin conditions in the days following the incident. Environmental advocacy groups, including several operating under the umbrella of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, described the

preliminary evidence as consistent with a significant chemical or mineral leachate event. The Congolese government's mining regulator, the Direction des Mines, has confirmed that an investigation is under way, though critics have noted that regulatory enforcement in the DRC's vast and poorly resourced mining sector has historically struggled to match the scale of the industry it is charged with overseeing.

COBALT & THE DRC — CRITICAL NUMBERS

- The DRC supplies over 70% of the world's cobalt — the mineral essential to lithium-ion batteries in EVs, smartphones and energy storage.
- China controls an estimated 70–80% of global cobalt refining capacity, giving Beijing decisive influence over the downstream supply chain.
- China Molybdenum (CMOC) holds majority ownership of Tenke Fungurume, the mine at the centre of the reported leakage.
- Global cobalt demand is projected to triple by 2030, driven by the electric vehicle transition.
- The DRC ranked 166th out of 180 countries in the 2023 Environmental Performance Index.
- The EU's Critical Raw Materials Act (2024) specifically identifies DRC cobalt as a strategic vulnerability requiring supply chain diversification.

China's position at the centre of this crisis is as significant as it is uncomfortable. Through CMOC and other state-linked entities, Beijing has systematically acquired controlling stakes in DRC mining operations over the past fifteen years, positioning itself as the indispensable intermediary between the earth's richest cobalt reserves and the world's battery manufacturers. Approximately seventy to eighty per cent of global cobalt refining capacity sits within China's borders. This means that cobalt mined in the DRC — regardless of the nationality of the mine's operator — flows almost universally through Chinese processing facilities before reaching automakers in Germany, South Korea, Japan and the United States.

"The green energy transition cannot be built on a foundation of environmental destruction and regulatory impunity in the Global South. If the cobalt in your electric vehicle battery came at this price, the transition



is not as clean as advertised." — SENIOR ANALYST, GLOBAL WITNESS, LONDON, APRIL 2026

That structural dependency has made it extraordinarily difficult for Western governments and corporations to apply meaningful pressure on environmental and governance standards in the DRC's mining sector. Major international automakers — among them Tesla, Volkswagen, BMW and Stellantis — have all made public commitments to responsible cobalt sourcing through initiatives such as the Responsible Minerals Initiative and the OECD's Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains. Yet civil society organisations and investigative journalists have repeatedly documented the gap between those public commitments and verifiable conditions on the ground in Lualaba and Haut-Katanga provinces.

"The certifications exist on paper," said one Brussels-based policy analyst tracking EU critical minerals strategy, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But the audit chains are weak, the documentation is frequently incomplete, and the communities most affected have no meaningful recourse when things go wrong."

GEOPOLITICS OF THE GREEN TRANSITION

The Tenke Fungurume incident arrives at a moment of acute geopolitical sensitivity around critical minerals. The European Union's Critical Raw Materials Act, which

came into force in 2024, explicitly identified DRC cobalt as a strategic vulnerability requiring supply chain diversification. Washington has similarly sought to reduce dependence on Chinese-controlled mineral processing through the Inflation Reduction Act's battery sourcing provisions and a series of bilateral agreements with African governments. Yet diversification takes years and billions in investment. In the near term, the world remains as dependent on Congolese cobalt — and Chinese refining — as it has ever been.

Any significant disruption to production at Tenke Fungurume — whether through regulatory shutdown, sustained community opposition, or remediation-mandated operational pause — would ripple immediately through global battery markets. Cobalt spot prices, already volatile, moved sharply on preliminary reports of the incident. Analysts at Wood Mackenzie cautioned that prolonged uncertainty at the site could accelerate price pressures on battery manufacturers already navigating supply chain restructuring.

"The DRC is not simply a supplier. It is the foundation on which the entire clean energy economy rests. When that foundation is shaken by scandal or disaster, the reverberations are felt from Shenzhen to Stuttgart."

— COMMODITY ANALYST, WOOD MACKENZIE, APRIL 2026

For the communities of Lualaba

Province, the geopolitical abstractions of supply chain security offer cold comfort. They live beside an open wound in the earth from which extraordinary wealth is extracted and exported — wealth that funds electric vehicles in affluent cities on the far side of the world, while leaving behind contaminated water, compromised farmland, and the quiet devastation of communities whose concerns have for too long been subordinated to the imperatives of global industry.

The Tenke Fungurume spill, if independently confirmed and rigorously investigated, must mark a turning point. The world's appetite for cobalt will only grow as the electric vehicle revolution accelerates. The question — urgent, moral, and long overdue — is whether the communities who live above the earth's most coveted mineral reserves will finally be treated as stakeholders in the wealth being extracted from beneath their feet, rather than simply as the human geography around which extraction is arranged.

Until that question is honestly answered, the green energy transition will remain, in one crucial and largely invisible dimension, anything but clean.

Sources: Global Witness, Wood Mackenzie, Congo Basin Forest Partnership, OECD Due Diligence Guidance, EU Critical Raw Materials Act 2024, Responsible Minerals Initiative, DRC Direction des Mines, Reuters, Financial Times, The Guardian.