

More than 10,000 children across Kenya have been caught up in the country's child protection system in just fifteen months

Missing Children

Of the total cases, 6,820 involve abandonment — children left behind by parents or caregivers unable or unwilling to cope :



Africa's Digital Transformation:
A Missed Opportunity or a Bright Future?
Africa



Page 12

China's Strategic Push Into Africa's Political Space

China's state-driven development
China



Page 16

The Human Side of Pharma
People Power Behind The Pain Relief Pills
Asia



Page 18

Blanca Rigau
Inspiring fashion through creativity, inclusion, and social impact
Inspiration



Page 20

Kenya's Hidden Crisis: More Than 10,000 Children at Risk as Nairobi Tops Missing and Abandoned Cases

By: Diaspora Times Team

Behind the gleaming skyline of one of Africa's most dynamic capitals, a quieter and more disturbing crisis is unfolding. More than 10,000 children across Kenya have been caught up in the country's child protection system in just fifteen months — abandoned on roadsides, reported missing from their homes, abducted from their communities, or trafficked across county lines. The numbers, now made public by the government for the first time in a comprehensive



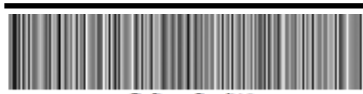
Illustration

Contd Page 10

Government scholarships are out there P 4

Tech Page 8
Kenya's \$1 Billion Digital Dream Hits a Wall

News Backpage
Modi's UAE Visit Signals India's Push for Energy Security Amid Gulf Tensions



When thieves become patriots: Africa's great political theatre and the digital memory that will refuse to forget

By Mr. Fredrick Kipchumba
Chelimo PWD
Email: fkipchelimo@yahoo.com

Africa has for long been associated with witches, sorcery, and bad things, I am not writing this article to validate, invalidate or argue about such

virtues. I am writing to acknowledge the rich predictive literary knowledge of some of the greatest foretellers, prophets and predictors. Our writers. They used their knowledge and contemporary understanding of the society to accurately tell what is ailing Africa. They are the men who

looked beyond the excitement of independence celebrations and saw, what is hidden behind the waving flags and liberation songs, a darker future quietly sharpening its teeth. They saw this long before the first billion disappeared through suspicious procurement deals, before par-

liaments transformed into constitutional laundromats for public theft, before citizens mastered the painful art of laughing at their own suffer-

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"

Leaders Rally for Biodiversity Conservation as Kenya Launches CHERISH Programme in Elgeyo Marakwet

By: Presley Akbar
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Held under the 2026 global theme "Acting Locally for Global Impact," the event also served as the official launch of the Cherangany Hills Ecosystem Restoration for Livelihood Improvement, Sustainability and Harmony (CHERISH) programme — an ambitious initiative designed to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems while meaningfully improving the livelihoods of communities living within the Cherangany landscape.
- The celebrations drew an impressive roster of senior government officials, including Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration Kipchumba Murkomen, and Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa, alongside governors, principal secretaries, members of parliament, conservation partners, and community representatives.

Kenya joined the global community in marking the International Day for Biological Diversity with a landmark event in Kapyego, Elgeyo Marakwet County. The gathering brought together government leaders, environmental agencies, development partners, and local communities around a shared and urgent mission: championing biodiversity conservation and restoring the ecosystems that millions of lives depend on. Held under the 2026 global theme "Acting Locally for Global Impact," the event also served as the official launch of the Cherangany Hills Ecosystem Restoration for Livelihood Improvement, Sustainability and Harmony (CHERISH) programme — an ambitious initiative designed to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems while meaningfully improving the livelihoods of communities living within the Cherangany landscape. The celebrations drew an impressive roster of senior government officials, including Deputy President Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration Kipchumba Murkomen, and Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry Dr. Deborah Barasa, alongside governors, principal secretaries, members of parliament, conservation partners, and community representatives. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) was represented by Chairman Emilio Mugo and Director General Dr. Mamo B. Mamo, EBS, both of whom joined other leaders in driving home a clear message: protecting biodiversity is not optional — it is the very foundation of sustainable development.

Local Action, Global Impact

Speaking at the event, Dr. Mamo made a compelling case for why every individual, institution, and government has a role to play in addressing environmental challenges. He pointed to the day's theme as more than just a slogan. "Acting locally for global impact is a reminder that the things we do every day — restoring degraded landscapes, protecting water catchments, planting trees, keeping our environments clean — add up," he said. "Collectively, they contribute to something far greater than any one of us can achieve alone."

Dr. Mamo was also careful to broaden the conversation beyond the more visible symbols of conservation. Biodiversity, he noted, is not just about wildlife and forests. It encompasses entire ecosystems that provide food, water, medicine, climate regulation, and a host of other services that underpin human well-being and economic growth. And protecting those ecosystems, he stressed, goes well beyond planting trees — it means nurturing them, protecting indigenous species, safeguarding water sources, and committing to long-term ecosystem restoration. NEMA Chairman Emilio Mugo echoed that call, urging stronger collaboration among all stakeholders to accelerate conservation efforts and promote sustainable management of the country's natural resources.

The CHERISH Programme: Restoring a Vital Landscape

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the launch of the CHERISH programme. The initiative is squarely focused on restoring the Cherangany Hills ecosystem — one of Kenya's most ecologically significant



Cherangany Hills Ecosystem Restoration for Livelihood Improvement, Sustainability and Harmony (CHERISH)

landscapes and a critical component of the country's water tower systems. The Cherangany Hills are not just beautiful — they are essential. The ecosystem supports rich biodiversity, regulates water resources, and sustains the livelihoods of thousands of households across the region and beyond. Yet, like many of Kenya's critical ecosystems, it faces mounting threats: deforestation, unsustainable land-use practices, climate change, and growing human pressure continue to chip away at its integrity. CHERISH aims to reverse that trend by combining ecosystem restoration with community-centred livelihood support — recognising that lasting conservation only works when the people who live alongside nature have a genuine stake in protecting it. Environmental experts at the event stressed the need for integrated approaches that balance conservation goals with the socio-economic realities of local communities. The day's programme reflected that philosophy, featuring rich discussions on ecosystem

restoration, climate resilience, sustainable resource management, and the indispensable role communities play in environmental stewardship. Demonstrations and exhibitions further showcased ongoing conservation initiatives and highlighted practical ways for the public to get involved.

Protecting What Belongs to Communities

NEMA also took the opportunity to spotlight the implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations, 2006 — a framework that governs the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources while ensuring local communities receive a fair share of the benefits derived from indigenous genetic resources and traditional knowledge. The authority emphasised that these regulations are not just a legal formality. They promote equity, protect biodiversity, and create the conditions for meaningful scientific research and innovation within the environmental sector.

A Renewed Call to Action

As the world continues to grapple with accelerating biodiversity loss, climate change, and environmental degradation, the voices gathered in Kapyego were united in their call for renewed commitment — from governments, communities, development partners, and the private sector alike — to protect ecosystems for the generations that will inherit them. The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on 22 May, following its designation by the United Nations, to raise awareness of biodiversity issues and inspire action toward the protection of ecosystems worldwide. For those present in Kapyego, the message landed with quiet but unmistakable force: meaningful global environmental change starts close to home. Through initiatives like CHERISH, and through the kind of genuine, cross-sector collaboration on display that day, Kenya is taking important steps — not just toward restoring a hillside, but toward securing a sustainable future for all.

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@mountkenyatimes.co.ke



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



Senior Editor Botswana & S.
Africa.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

Scholarships

Government scholarships are out there — you just need to know how to find them!



By: Hafizov Diyorbek
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

What is given to entrepreneurs who employ persons with disabilities and to disabled people who start their own business? Imagine you run a small business. There is a person with a disability working in your workshop or shop. What if the state gives you extra money every month because of this? Conversely, if you are a person with a disability and want to start your own business, what if the state gives you an interest-free loan? Subsidies from the state fund to support employment, that is, money provided without the obligation to repay, are allocated. There are four cases below.



Worth Noting:

- If you want to train an employee, the state will cover the expenses. If you train, retrain, or improve the qualification of an employee who came with a referral from the employment office, the state will give you an amount equal to four times the monthly calculation index (MCI) per month for six months. Example: if the current MCI is 375,000 soums, then 1,500,000 soums per month, 9,000,000 soums for 6 months.
- You employed a socially needy person - one year subsidy. If you hire more people than the designated quota from categories in need of social protection, such as the disabled, long-term unemployed, single mothers, for each such employee, twice the minimum wage will be allocated per month for 12 months. Example: if there are 3 such employees, you will receive $3 \times 750,000 = 2,250,000$ soums per month.

1. If you want to train an employee, the state will cover the expenses. If you train, retrain, or improve the qualification of an employee who came with a referral from the employment office, the state will give you an amount equal to four times the monthly calculation index (MCI) per month for six months. Example: if the current MCI is 375,000 soums, then 1,500,000 soums per month, 9,000,000 soums for 6 months.
2. You employed a socially needy person - one year subsidy. If you hire more people than the designated quota from categories in need of social protection, such as the disabled, long-term unemployed, single mothers, for each such employee, twice the minimum wage will be allocated per month for 12 months. Example: if there are 3 such employees, you

will receive $3 \times 750,000 = 2,250,000$ soums per month.

3. Adapt the workplace for a disabled person - a one-time large payment. To adapt a workplace and working conditions for a person with a disability — such as installing a ramp, providing a special chair, or purchasing equipment — a one-time subsidy of up to 40 times the MSL is granted for each adapted workplace. Example: if the MSL is 375,000 soums, this means up to 15,000,000 soums.

4. You have hired a person who has been released - reward payment. If you hire a person coming out of a penal institution and they continue to work for more than 3 months, three times the one-time MCM - currently approximately 1,125,000 soums - is paid.

- Interest-free loans

for people with disabilities. If you are a person with disabilities and want to start your own business or expand your existing business, the state will provide you with an interest-free loan. This money can be used for:

- Purchase of equipment, tools, labour instruments and raw materials
- Connection to Internet service
- Starting a new entrepreneurial activity
- Expanding an existing business

There are several conditions in providing funds. The amount of money can be up to 75 times the MHI (currently about 28,125,000 UZS). The term is up to 3 years. Grace period: 6 months (no payment during this period). Interest: 0% — meaning you only repay the principal amount received.

Additionally, there is news for teachers as well. From 1 July 2026 to 1 January 2028, temporary additional opportunities are available.

- Teachers and vocational education masters who receive an international or national certificate will have 50% of their expenses covered, but up to 20 times the minimum wage.
 - Entrepreneurs who establish an assessment centre will receive 30% of the cost of assessment tools - up to 200 times the minimum wage.
- The question of how to submit an application may arise. Without going anywhere, it is possible to submit an application through three electronic platforms. My.gov.uz — the Unified State Services Portal, the „Unified National Labour System” electronic platform, or the „Online Mahalla” electronic plat-

form can be used to submit an application.

In conclusion, the document No. 3832 adopted by the Ministry of Justice can practically address two important issues. It ensures the active participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market and encourages employers to hire them. Funds are allocated directly from the State Employment Support Fund. If you are an employer, contact the employment office immediately to organise hiring through the recruitment system. If you are an entrepreneur with a disability, apply for an interest-free loan via my.gov.uz.

Hafizov Diyorbek
Tashkent State University of Law
Faculty of Criminal justice
2-nd-year student.

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

STRUGGLE

By: Mehriniso Ergashova
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Life — a grand stage that bears witness to the joyous and sorrowful moments of our existence. Upon this vast arena, a human being sometimes reflects a face illuminated by happiness, and at other times reveals a soul shadowed by grief after stumbling over the deceptive barriers of fate. For the roads of life are woven with trials. Life itself resembles an endless ocean, and to steer our fragile ship safely toward the shore, we must raise the sails of courage, patience, and hope against the storms that rise before us.

The force that summons us into the battlefield of existence is the very law of survival. Even to breathe beneath the boundless blue sky, one must struggle. At times, defeating the illness that dwells within us like an unseen enemy demands a merciless battle of spirit and endurance. Indeed, the strongest foundation and the truest guardian of the fortress of life is struggle itself.

The world is ruled entirely by competition. And to emerge victorious within that rivalry, one needs not only strength, but also a battle strategy forged through lofty thought and unwavering determination. Upon the unshakable foundations of the arena of struggle, one seems to read a powerful inscription:

“While you are lost in sweet dreams, somewhere in the world your rival is building a magnificent castle for his future. Wake up. Strive harder than you did yesterday. The person you were yesterday belongs to the past. In today’s race, yesterday’s speed is no longer enough. Think faster, think wiser, move further.”

One must learn to awaken before the sun itself.

Yet struggle has one sacred condition: whenever you fall, rise again. Falling is inevitable, but the true essence lies in standing taller after every blow. The invisible thread that helps us rise is hope. Never confess defeat — no, for what awaits you ahead is still greater than what lies behind.

There is a famous aphorism often quoted in Europe:

“Every morning in Africa, a gazelle awakens knowing it must outrun the fastest lion, or it will perish. Every morning, a lion awakens knowing it must outrun the slowest gazelle, or it will starve. It does not matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle. What matters is this: when the sun rises, you must already be running.” Therefore, do not stop. Run forward without surrender. For the towering podium of victory awaits you with longing, and life reserves its greatest rewards only for those who dare to struggle.

Mehriniso Ergashova
Uzbekistan



Mehriniso Ergashova

Biofuel

Kenya Advances Biofuel Blending to Strengthen Energy Security and Reduce Fuel Import Dependence

By: Lenah Kendi
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Kenya is moving forward with the implementation of the Energy (Biofuels) Regulations, 2025, which will support the phased rollout of locally produced biofuel blends across the country’s fuel supply chain. The initiative is part of broader national efforts to strengthen energy security, diversify energy sources, and reduce dependence on imported fuel.

As part of the implementation process, the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum and the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA) convened a high-level stakeholder consultation that brought together regulators, oil marketing companies, ethanol producers, manufacturers, logistics entities, and other industry participants. The discussions focused on sector preparedness, infrastructure needs, implementation priorities, and the operationalisation of Kenya’s biofuels blending framework.

The regulations set the framework for blending local biofuels with petroleum through phased E5 and E10

introductions (E5 has 5% bioethanol, E10 has 10% bioethanol). Gazetted in December 2025, the Energy (Biofuels) Regulations, 2025, cover biofuel production, licensing, blending, transportation, storage, distribution, and sales. The rollout comes at a time when countries are reassessing their energy security and fuel resilience amid ongoing global oil market volatility and geopolitical disruptions.

Bioethanol is produced from feedstocks such as sugarcane molasses, cassava, maize, and sorghum through fermentation and distillation, while biodiesel is produced from vegetable oils, waste cooking oil, and other organic materials via chemical processing. Bioethanol and biodiesel can also be further processed to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which is increasingly being adopted globally as part of efforts to decarbonise the aviation sector.

Governments worldwide promote biofuels to boost energy resilience, reduce oil dependence, support agriculture, diversify fuel sources, and lower transport emissions. Countries such as Brazil, India, the US, Thailand, and South Africa have expanded biofuel blending. Kenya

aims to use local feedstocks to support a similar shift, creating economic opportunities across agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and renewable energy.

Speaking during the stakeholder consultation, Dr. Eng. Joseph Oketch, Acting Director General of EPRA, said, “The Biofuels Regulations provide Kenya with an important opportunity to strengthen energy security while building new local industries around agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy. As we scale domestic bioethanol production and structured blending, we can gradually reduce exposure to external fuel shocks while creating new opportunities for farmers, investors, manufacturers, and other players across the value chain.”

Eng. Isaac Kiva, Secretary for Renewable Energy in the State Department for Energy at the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, noted that the Government remains committed to creating an enabling environment that supports long-term sector growth and investment.

“Kenya’s ethanol plants can process 83 million litres a year, yet we currently produce only 26.5 million litres. Scaling domestic bioethanol production will be important not



only for supporting cleaner transport fuels, but also for expanding clean cooking solutions, strengthening local industry, and reducing costly fuel imports.”

Beyond energy security, stakeholders noted that the regulations could unlock significant economic opportunities across agriculture, agro-processing, logistics, transport, manufacturing, and rural economies. The blending programme is expected to create new markets for agricultural feedstocks, stimulate investment in

local processing capacity, strengthen domestic value chains, and support the growth of green industries and jobs.

Stakeholders highlighted the need for ongoing coordination among government agencies, ethanol producers, oil marketing firms, investors, logistics providers, and standards organisations to guarantee the effective rollout of the blending program and the sector’s long-term sustainability.

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

Tech

Kenya's \$1 Billion Digital Dream Hits a Wall: Microsoft Data Centre Stalls Over Power Crisis

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

The original vision was ambitious: a data centre campus in Olkaria, south-west Kenya, powered entirely by geothermal energy, with an initial capacity of 100 megawatts that could eventually rise to one gigawatt. The facility was intended to host Microsoft Azure services through a new East Africa cloud region, positioning Kenya as a regional hub for cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

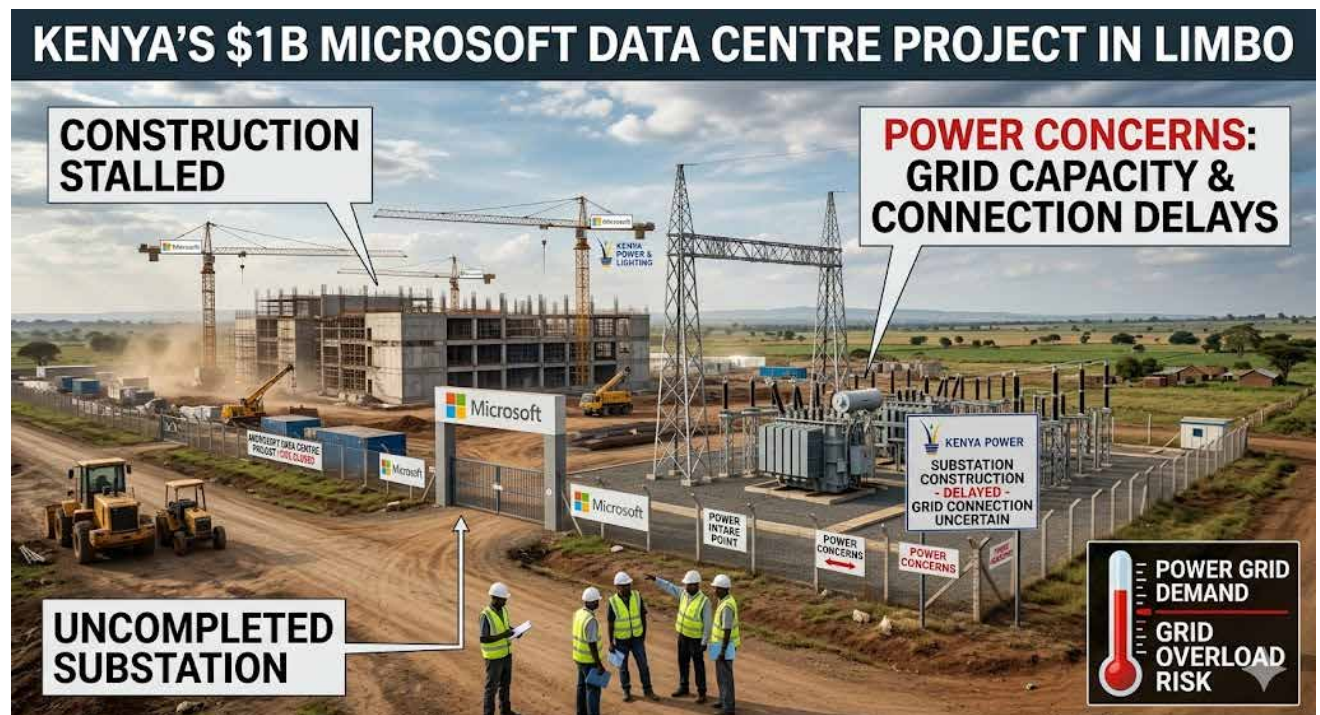
What changed between the fanfare of the Washington signing and the cold reality of implementation was not the ambition — it was the arithmetic. Negotiations between the consortium and Kenya's energy ministry broke down, according to people familiar with the talks, over a demand that the government underwrite the entire one-gigawatt load through a mix of state-owned geothermal plants and long-term power purchase agreements with independent producers. Officials balked at the financial exposure, which could have run into hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and questioned whether Kenya's grid could reliably deliver that much capacity to the remote site near Olkaria.

It was billed as the deal that would transform Kenya into Africa's premier technology powerhouse. Announced with considerable ceremony during President William Ruto's state visit to Washington in May 2024, the \$1 billion partnership between Microsoft, Abu Dhabi-based artificial intelligence firm G42, and the Kenyan government promised to deliver a world-class, geothermal-powered data centre at Olkaria — the anchor of a new East Africa cloud region that would bring AI-era infrastructure squarely to the continent. Two years on, that dream is gathering dust. The electricity grid that was supposed to power it simply cannot keep up.

Kenya is still trying to revive the Microsoft-G42 data centre plan, but power and approval constraints keep it stalled. The proposed facility would draw roughly a third of the country's installed capacity, while Treasury clearance and guarantee terms remain unresolved. The delay leaves East Africa without a flagship Microsoft-G42 cloud build as rival infrastructure projects and regional demand continue moving forward.

The numbers that have brought this flagship project to a standstill are, in hindsight, stark. The proposed data centre would require about one gigawatt of power supply. Considering that Kenya currently has a total installed power capacity of approximately three gigawatts, the facility would consume a disproportionate share of the country's entire energy supply. It was President Ruto himself who made the contradiction plain — and public — while addressing Kenyans living in Doha, Qatar, in November 2025. "When I returned to the country, we were told one data centre requires 1,000 MW and yet we have 2,300 MW. For us to do the data centre, we have to shut down half the country," he said, in remarks that sent shockwaves through Kenya's technology and investment communities.

The original vision was ambitious: a data centre campus in Olkaria, south-west Kenya, powered entirely by geothermal energy, with an initial capacity of 100 megawatts that could eventually rise to one gigawatt. The facility was intended to host Microsoft Azure services



Kenya's \$1 Billion Digital Dream Hits a Wall illustration

through a new East Africa cloud region, positioning Kenya as a regional hub for cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

What changed between the fanfare of the Washington signing and the cold reality of implementation was not the ambition — it was the arithmetic. Negotiations between the consortium and Kenya's energy ministry broke down, according to people familiar with the talks, over a demand that the government underwrite the entire one-gigawatt load through a mix of state-owned geothermal plants and long-term power purchase agreements with independent producers. Officials balked at the financial exposure, which could have run into hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and questioned whether Kenya's grid could reliably deliver that much capacity to the remote site near Olkaria.

Microsoft and G42 countered that the guarantee was necessary to secure financing from international lenders. Banks and export credit agencies demanded a sovereign-backed assurance that the power would be both available and paid for over a twenty-year horizon. Without that, the consortium argued, the project's economics would be too uncertain. It is the kind of impasse that exposes the gap between headline diplomacy and the hard engineering reality of building infrastructure at scale.

Kenya's Special Technology Envoy Philip Thigo has pushed back against sug-

gestions that the project has been abandoned outright. "His point has not been that the project was suspended, but Kenya must confront the scale of energy required to support next-generation digital infrastructure," Thigo said in a statement. He maintained that the government remains committed to scaling electricity generation to at least 10,000 megawatts by 2030 — a target that would make facilities like the Microsoft-G42 campus feasible. It is an admirable goal. It is also a long way from where Kenya stands today.

John Tanui, principal secretary at Kenya's Ministry of Information, told Bloomberg that the project has not been withdrawn and that discussions are continuing, adding that the "scale of the data center they [Microsoft] wanted to do still requires some structuring." Measured words, perhaps, for a project that once promised to reshape the continent's digital architecture.

The Olkaria region remains, in principle, one of Africa's most promising locations for energy-intensive digital infrastructure. The Olkaria geothermal field, located in Hell's Gate National Park north-west of Nairobi, has the steam reserves to support significant generation expansion. But reserves in the ground and watts on the grid are two very different things, and the investment and development timelines required to bridge that gap are measured in years — not months.

Meanwhile, Kenya's broader data centre sector has not

stood still. Smaller, modular, carrier-neutral facilities have quietly been delivering. iX Africa's NBOX1 facility came online in early 2025 with 4.5 megawatts of IT power, with a much larger 18 megawatt phase planned. Oracle then selected iXAfrica to host its Nairobi cloud region, bringing AI-ready rack density to East Africa. The pattern is clear: four-to-twenty megawatt carrier-neutral facilities are being absorbed by the grid without drama. Hyperscale sites that demand a third of the national supply are not. The Olkaria EcoCloud project — a separate 60-megawatt campus on geothermal power — continues on a more modest and grid-compatible trajectory.

The lesson being absorbed, somewhat painfully, across Kenya's technology policy circles is one that other emerging economies have learned before: digital ambition must be grounded in energy reality. The delay leaves East Africa without a flagship Microsoft-G42 cloud build, as rival infrastructure projects and regional demand keep moving. South Africa, Egypt, and Nigeria are all pressing forward with their own data centre expansions. Every month of uncertainty in Nairobi is a month in which those competitors consolidate their advantage.

The broader stakes extend well beyond corporate investment. The government's eCitizen platform — which processes millions of digital public service transactions — was expected to form part

of the initial demand base alongside private-sector customers across East Africa. A functional East Africa Azure cloud region would have reduced latency for businesses and governments across the region, lowered costs for cloud-dependent services, and provided the AI-processing backbone for the next generation of public services. That vision has not disappeared — but it has been deferred.

President Ruto has acknowledged that Kenya requires at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity to industrialise and support future technologies such as AI data centres, estimating that the country would need more than one trillion Kenyan shillings in investment to expand generation through projects such as the High Grand Falls Dam. It is the right diagnosis. Whether the political will and financial engineering exist to act on it — and to act fast enough — is the question on which Kenya's digital future now turns.

Kenya marketed itself to the world as Africa's Silicon Savannah. To earn that title in the age of artificial intelligence, it will need to do something far more fundamental than signing agreements in Washington — it will need to keep the lights on.

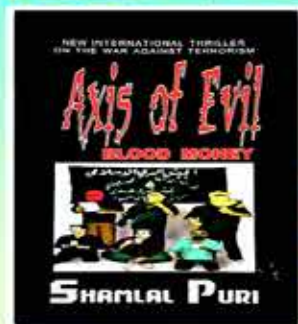
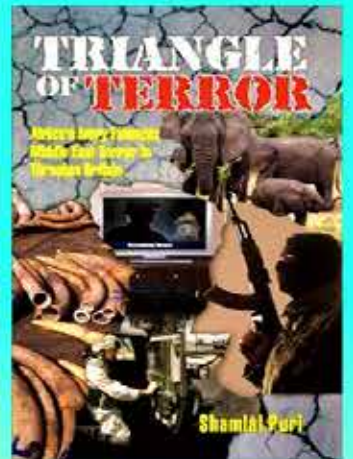
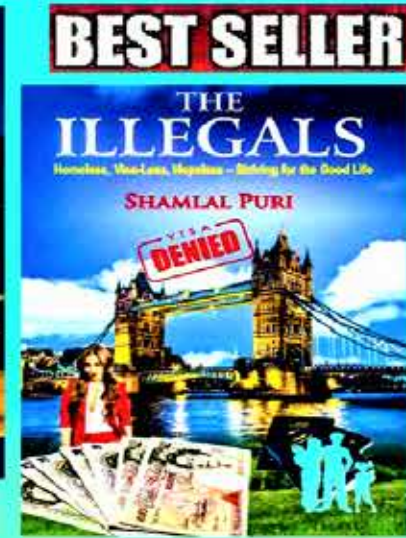
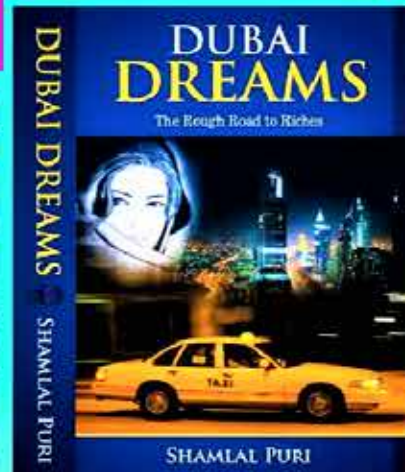
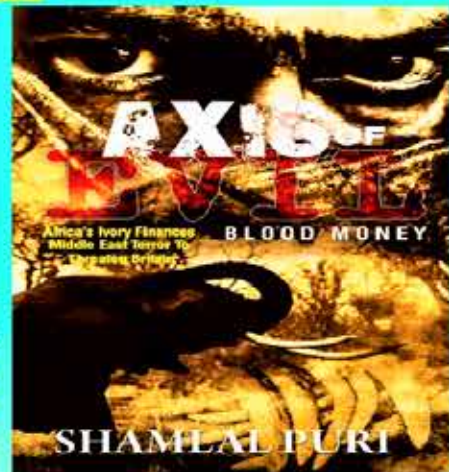
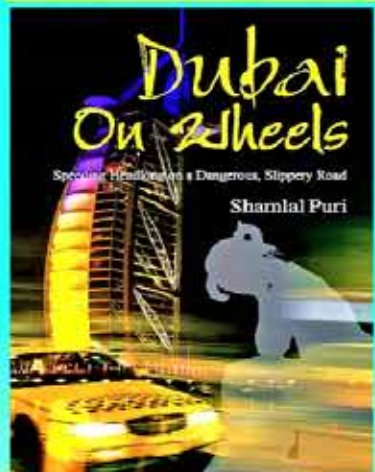
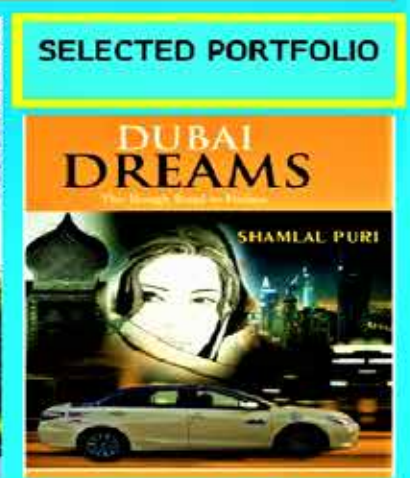
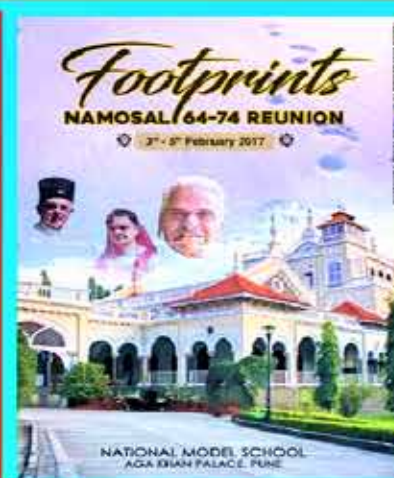
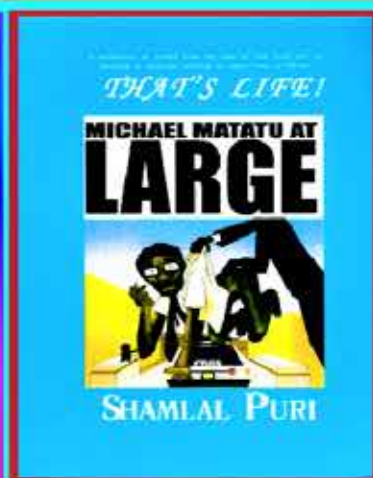
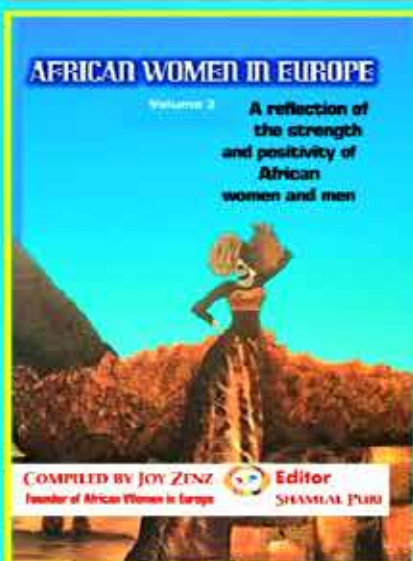
DO YOU WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

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

African News

Kenya's Hidden Crisis:**More Than 10,000 Children at Risk as Nairobi Tops Missing and Abandoned Cases**By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

• Nairobi County recorded the highest number of reported child protection cases, followed by Nakuru, Kakamega, Homa Bay, and Kiambu counties. That Nairobi leads the count is, in one sense, unsurprising — it is Kenya's most populous county, and its sprawling informal settlements concentrate the poverty, displacement, and social stress that drive child vulnerability. But it is also a damning indictment of the pressures facing urban families in a city where inequality remains extreme and social safety nets are thin.

• Child protection agencies note that thousands of children are reported missing in Kenya each year, and few of these cases are ever fully resolved, with some remaining unresolved for months or even years. Weak security systems, poverty, and limited access to child protection services have made urban informal settlements and remote rural areas among the most vulnerable regions.



More Than 10,000 Children at Risk as Nairobi Tops Missing and Abandoned Cases illustration

data release, tell a story that can no longer be whispered. The State Department for Children Services has confirmed that 10,581 child protection cases were reported between January 2025 and March 2026, captured within the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) — a digital repository that, for all its clinical detachment, represents thousands of shattered childhoods and desperate families. The breakdown is sobering. Of the total cases, 6,820 involve abandonment — children left behind by parents or caregivers unable or unwilling to cope. There were 1,952 abductions, 1,636 missing and found children cases, and 173 cases of trafficking. Each figure is not merely a statistic. Each represents a child.

Principal Secretary for Children Services CPA Carren Ageng'o, who released the figures, was measured but unambiguous in her assessment of what they demand of the nation. "The Department has implemented targeted interventions across all categories, including alternative family care arrangements, rescue operations, family tracing and reunification, reintegration support, and appropriate judicial action depending on case specifics," she said. It is the language of a system under pressure, doing its best — but under pressure

nonetheless.

Nairobi at the Sharp End

Nairobi County recorded the highest number of reported child protection cases, followed by Nakuru, Kakamega, Homa Bay, and Kiambu counties. That Nairobi leads the count is, in one sense, unsurprising — it is Kenya's most populous county, and its sprawling informal settlements concentrate the poverty, displacement, and social stress that drive child vulnerability. But it is also a damning indictment of the pressures facing urban families in a city where inequality remains extreme and social safety nets are thin.

Child protection agencies note that thousands of children are reported missing in Kenya each year, and few of these cases are ever fully resolved, with some remaining unresolved for months or even years. Weak security systems, poverty, and limited access to child protection services have made urban informal settlements and remote rural areas among the most vulnerable regions.

The patterns emerging from non-governmental tracking organisations add texture to the government data. According to Missing Child Kenya, 69 out of 158 disappearance reports from 2025 alone remain unresolved. Teenagers aged 13 to 17 account for the largest

group among unresolved cases, with 41 children still missing. Many of these cases are linked to runaways, peer pressure, school transitions, and urban mobility. Maryana Munyendo, the organisation's founder and chief executive, has pointed to the particular vulnerability of this age group — old enough to navigate the city alone, young enough to be manipulated by those who would exploit them.

The second largest group among unresolved cases was children aged six to twelve, accounting for 22 cases — many of whom disappeared while playing or commuting. Six of the unresolved cases involved children under five, including children with disabilities who had wandered away or been separated from caregivers.

A System Responding — But Stretched

The government has been at pains to frame its response as robust and coordinated. PS Ageng'o noted that Kenya has adopted a multi-sectoral approach grounded in Sections 54 and 55 of the Children Act, 2022, which provide for Children Advisory Committees at county and sub-county levels. "These Committees bring together key actors in the child protection ecosystem to ensure that all child protection concerns are addressed in a structured, timely, and ho-

listic manner," she stated.

The commitment is real. So is the scale of the challenge. A costing exercise in Kenya found that levels of spending on child protection represented only 27 per cent of what would be required to implement a comprehensive child protection system, according to UNICEF. That is a shortfall no committee structure, however well-intentioned, can paper over.

The government has also increasingly turned to digital tools to respond faster. Digital platforms are being used to disseminate alerts on missing children, with the aim of enhancing response time and broadening public involvement in missing child tracing. It is an encouraging development, but technology is only as effective as the infrastructure — and the will — behind it.

The Trafficking Shadow

Of all the categories within the data, it is the 173 trafficking cases that carry perhaps the most disturbing resonance internationally. Kenya sits at a crossroads of regional trafficking routes, and its children are among the most targeted in East Africa.

Globally, one in three identified victims of trafficking is a child. The UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons recorded an increase in the percentage of child survivors, from 28 per

cent in 2014 to 35 per cent in 2021. The East and Horn of Africa region faces significant challenges related to human trafficking, with children being particularly vulnerable — driven by poverty, conflict, and the effects of climate change.

UNICEF's Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Etleva Kadilli, has called the situation urgent. "UNICEF will continue, through its advocacy and programmes in support of Africa's development agendas, to promote policies to end child trafficking and support cross-sectoral and cross-border programmes that uphold child rights, safety, gender equity, survivor protection, and access to justice for all children," she said.

Within Kenya, the high degree of orphaned and abandoned children has also driven a rise in child trafficking, conducted for both sexual and labour exploitation. The link between abandonment — the largest single category in the CPIMS data — and trafficking is not incidental. It is structural. A child abandoned in Nairobi at the age of seven does not simply disappear from the statistics. They disappear

Contd Page 11

into a world where predatory adults are often the first to

African News

Kenya's Hidden Crisis: More Than 10,000 Children at Risk as Nairobi Tops Missing and Abandoned Cases

xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 10



More Than 10,000 Children at Risk as Nairobi Tops Missing and Abandoned Cases illustration

Worth Noting:

• The government has been at pains to frame its response as robust and coordinated. PS Ageng'o noted that Kenya has adopted a multi-sectoral approach grounded in Sections 54 and 55 of the Children Act, 2022, which provide for Children Advisory Committees at county and sub-county levels. "These Committees bring together key actors in the child protection ecosystem to ensure that all child protection concerns are addressed in a structured, timely, and holistic manner," she stated.

• The commitment is real. So is the scale of the challenge. A costing exercise in Kenya found that levels of spending on child protection represented only 27 per cent of what would be required to implement a comprehensive child protection system, according to UNICEF. That is a shortfall no committee structure, however well-intentioned, can paper over.

offer help.

A Fragile Bright Spot: Recognition on the Global Stage

Against this difficult backdrop, the government has pointed to one significant piece of international recognition. Kenya was recently ranked first in Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa in the Out of the Shadows Index, which assesses government efforts in preventing and responding to sexual violence against children and adolescents. "This recognition affirms the country's sustained investment in strengthening child protection systems and safeguarding the wellbeing of children," said PS Ageng'o. It is a distinction that deserves acknowledgement. Kenya has prioritised child sexual abuse through successive national strategies, including the National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children 2019–2023 and the National Plan of Action to Tackle Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 2022–2026. This level of organisation contributes to Kenya's relatively high rankings in the Out of the Shadows Index, including the highest ranking for any country in Africa, with high scores for national capacity, commitment, and support services. But the same assessment offers a caution that policymakers would do well to

heed. Even with these new strategies in place, there is a long way to go to deliver on the stated commitments, including through the allocation of resources to enable effective implementation. Ranking first in a region is not the same as solving the problem. It is, at best, evidence of a foundation upon which to build.

The Community Is the First Line of Defence

The government's public messaging has placed growing emphasis on community reporting — and rightly so. "Timely reporting is critical to enable swift intervention, protection, investigations, family tracing, rescue operations, and access to justice for affected children," said PS Ageng'o, urging Kenyans to use the National Child Helpline 116, the nearest police station, Sub-County Children's Offices, or local administration offices when they become aware of a child in danger.

It is a call that experts in the sector echo strongly. Under-reporting, a family's failure to report, and suboptimal coordination between law enforcement and child protection institutions mean the actual scale of the crisis could be significantly worse than official figures suggest. The 10,581 cases recorded in CPIMS may, in other words, represent the visible tip of a much larger iceberg.

Child protection experts identify human trafficking, domestic violence, online grooming, family disputes, child labour, poverty, neglect, and exploitation as among the major factors behind rising disappearances. Some children run away from abusive home situations; others are lured through online channels. The internet, which offers so much promise for education and opportunity, has also become a hunting ground for those who prey on the young — and Kenya's rapidly expanding digital access has not been matched by commensurate investment in online child safety.

What Must Change

The figures released by the State Department are, in one sense, a sign of progress — not because the numbers are good, but because they exist at all. A functioning data system that tracks abandonment, abduction, missing children, and trafficking across 47 counties is itself an institutional achievement in a continent where such systems are the exception rather than the rule.

But data without decisive action is merely bookkeeping. Kenya now needs to match its reporting capability with matching levels of financial commitment to prevention, family support, and rapid-response infrastructure. It needs to fund

its Children Advisory Committees adequately, ensure that sub-county children's officers are trained and resourced, and invest aggressively in the community-level networks that are always the first to know when a child is in danger.

It also needs the honest conversation about poverty that underpins so much of this crisis. According to UNICEF and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics data, 45 per cent of children under 18 in Kenya — approximately 9.5 million — experience poverty. Child abandonment does not occur in a vacuum. It occurs in households where mothers face impossible choices, where fathers are absent or unemployed, and where the informal safety nets of community and family have been eroded by urbanisation, displacement, and economic hardship. No child helpline, however well-staffed, can substitute for the economic conditions that allow families to stay together and keep their children safe.

A Nation at a Crossroads

Kenya has, to its credit, built the architecture of a serious child protection system. It has the legislation — the Children Act, 2022, is among the most comprehensive in the region. It has the data infrastructure. It has international recognition for its policy frameworks. What it

has not yet fully assembled is the political will to fund those frameworks at the level the crisis demands, and the cultural shift required to make every Kenyan citizen a guardian of every child in their community.

The 10,581 cases recorded between January 2025 and March 2026 are not a statistic to be managed. They are 10,581 individual children — each with a name, a face, and a family that was either unable to protect them or is desperately searching for them right now.

As Kenya marks International Missing Children's Day this month, the nation faces a choice: treat this data as evidence of a system working, or treat it as a call to do far more. For the sake of the children still unaccounted for — and the many more who will enter that system in the months ahead — the answer must be the latter.

If you have information about a missing child or are aware of a child in danger, call Kenya's National Child Helpline 116. Reports can also be made to the nearest police station, Sub-County Children's Office, or local administration office.

Digital

Africa's Digital Transformation: A Missed Opportunity or a Bright Future?

In countries like Kenya and Nigeria, digital transformation is already paying dividends — spurring economic growth, improving governance, and sharpening competitiveness.

By: Norman Mwale
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

Digital technologies are also quietly reshaping the sectors that matter most to everyday Africans. In agriculture, digital platforms are connecting farmers to markets, information, and financial services — improving livelihoods and boosting productivity in ways that would have seemed out of reach a decade ago. “Digital technologies have the potential to transform Africa’s agricultural sector, improving yields and reducing post-harvest losses,” says Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Africa. Similar shifts are unfolding in healthcare and education, making once-distant services increasingly accessible.

There’s also something uniquely exciting about Africa’s digital journey: the opportunity to leapfrog traditional infrastructure altogether. With mobile penetration rates soaring continent-wide, Africans are embracing digital tools at a remarkable pace. “Mobile technology has been a game-changer for Africa, enabling millions of people to access financial services and other essential services,” says Jack Ma, Co-Founder of Alibaba Group. Where legacy systems once posed a ceiling, mobile connectivity is blowing the roof off.



Africa's Digital Transformation

The digital revolution sweeping across Africa is, without question, a double-edged sword. On one hand, it opens remarkable doors — growth, innovation, and inclusion on a scale the continent has never seen before. On the other, Africa risks missing the moment entirely if governments and the private sector don’t step up to clear the roadblocks standing in the way. With the continent’s digital economy projected to reach \$2 trillion by 2025, the stakes couldn’t be higher. The time to act is now.

In countries like Kenya and Nigeria, digital transformation is already paying dividends — spurring economic growth, improving governance, and sharpening competitiveness. But the benefits aren’t flowing equally. Too many countries are being left behind. “The digital economy is a game-changer for Africa, offering opportunities for economic diversification and job creation,” says Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank. Events like the Africa Blockchain

Festival 2026, scheduled to take place in Nairobi, are encouraging steps forward. Yet they’re not enough on their own. Inadequate infrastructure, glaring skills gaps, and tangled regulatory hurdles continue to hold the continent back.

Governments must take the lead. Creating an environment where innovation and entrepreneurship can genuinely thrive means investing seriously in digital infrastructure, crafting forward-thinking policies, and tackling the skills shortages that are slowing progress. “Governments must prioritise digital transformation and create an ecosystem that supports innovation and entrepreneurship,” says Clare Akamanzi, CEO of the Rwanda Development Board. But this can’t be a government-only effort. The private sector has just as critical a role to play — investing in transformation initiatives and championing a culture of innovation from the ground up.

The stakes are real. Get it right, and Africa could emerge as a formidable

player in the global digital economy, reaping the full rewards of the digital age. Get it wrong, and the continent risks being left even further behind. The numbers make the case plainly: the World Bank estimates that every dollar invested in digital infrastructure returns an average of \$5 in economic growth. For any government serious about its people’s prosperity, prioritising digital transformation should be a straightforward call.

“The digital revolution is not just transforming Africa’s economy — it’s transforming the way Africans live, work, and interact with each other.”

One of the continent’s greatest assets in this journey is its people — particularly its youth. Young African entrepreneurs are already leveraging technology to build innovative startups and homegrown solutions at an inspiring pace. But they need more support: more resources, more mentorship, and more opportunity. Governments and the private sector must work hand in hand to build ecosystems

where young innovators don’t just survive, but thrive. A McKinsey report underscores the promise: Africa’s digital revolution is still in its early chapters, and the continent is well-positioned to become a global hub for digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

Digital technologies are also quietly reshaping the sectors that matter most to everyday Africans. In agriculture, digital platforms are connecting farmers to markets, information, and financial services — improving livelihoods and boosting productivity in ways that would have seemed out of reach a decade ago. “Digital technologies have the potential to transform Africa’s agricultural sector, improving yields and reducing post-harvest losses,” says Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Africa. Similar shifts are unfolding in healthcare and education, making once-distant services increasingly accessible. There’s also something uniquely exciting about Af-

rica’s digital journey: the opportunity to leapfrog traditional infrastructure altogether. With mobile penetration rates soaring continent-wide, Africans are embracing digital tools at a remarkable pace. “Mobile technology has been a game-changer for Africa, enabling millions of people to access financial services and other essential services,” says Jack Ma, Co-Founder of Alibaba Group. Where legacy systems once posed a ceiling, mobile connectivity is blowing the roof off.

Ultimately, Africa’s digital transformation is not a challenge any single actor can solve alone. It demands a coordinated, committed effort from governments, the private sector, and development partners — all pulling in the same direction. The opportunity is real, the potential is vast, and the window, while still open, won’t stay that way forever. Africa’s digital future is there for the taking. The question is simply whether the right people will have the courage and the will to claim it.

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

POLITICS

When thieves become patriots: Africa's great political theatre and the digital memory that will refuse to forget



BY Fredrick Chelimo
@themkenyatimes

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

• Achebe understood something many citizens grapple to understand to date; Africa would not be destroyed by obvious villains, but would be destroyed by performers. Men gifted with speeches, symbolism, theatrics, and emotional manipulation. Men with capability to steal during the day and leading national prayers against corruption in the evening. Men who inaugurate a bridge that existed only in budget documents and still receive applause from desperate citizens hoping crumbs might eventually fall from banquet table.

• Roads are launched repeatedly like television reruns. A single hospital project receives more commissioning ceremonies than actual medicine supplies. Leaders arrive in helicopters to inspect poverty from a safe altitude before returning to air-conditioned conferences to discuss "grass-root empowerment". Every scandal is accompanied by a dramatic press briefing, urgent committee formations, strongly worded statements, and promises of "thorough investigations" whose report disappears with astonishing efficiency. The public watches this spectacle with astonishing familiarity. Corruption is no longer hidden but televised, branded, defended and occasionally sponsored.



Illustration

ing, African writers had already diagnosed the disease with frightening accuracy. They warned that colonialism would not really end, but would change managers. The oppressor would lose his foreign accent, acquire a local name, and continue the business of extraction with even greater appetite. The continent had and overtime produced one of the sharpest minds, Africa was never short of prophets. The tragedy is not that it lacked warning, the tragedy is that it celebrated the warnings as literature and ignored them as prophecy. Chinue Achebe in his book "A man of the people" saw it with clarity and exposed the birth of a new political species; the smiling liberator who steals while preaching patriotism. Independence had barely settled when politicians began behaving like hungry tenants accidentally handed ownership of the building. Ministers and senior government officials expanded physically alongside corruption scandals. Revolutionary slogans suddenly discovered imported whisky, motorcades, and urgent needs for foreign medical attention. They found suddenly a wired species that they could not live alongside them.

Achebe understood something many citizens grapple to understand to date; Africa would not be destroyed by obvious villains, but would

be destroyed by performers. Men gifted with speeches, symbolism, theatrics, and emotional manipulation. Men with capability to steal during the day and leading national prayers against corruption in the evening. Men who inaugurate a bridge that existed only in budget documents and still receive applause from desperate citizens hoping crumbs might eventually fall from banquet table.

Roads are launched repeatedly like television reruns. A single hospital project receives more commissioning ceremonies than actual medicine supplies. Leaders arrive in helicopters to inspect poverty from a safe altitude before returning to air-conditioned conferences to discuss "grassroot empowerment". Every scandal is accompanied by a dramatic press briefing, urgent committee formations, strongly worded statements, and promises of "thorough investigations" whose report disappears with astonishing efficiency. The public watches this spectacle with astonishing familiarity. Corruption is no longer hidden but televised, branded, defended and occasionally sponsored. The absurdity has further matured. Money disappears electronically with impressive speed, while public institutions lose files manually with equal dedication. A poor citizen stealing a chicken or chicken egg is

publicly paraded as a dangerous criminal, yet individuals stealing billions arrive in courts surrounded by politicians, lawyers and in some situations, worshippers singing solidarity songs. Entire churches pray passionately for leaders whose greatest miracle is surviving anti-corruption investigations. Meanwhile the citizen continues financing his suffering with admirable patriotism through taxation. He is taxed while earning, taxed while travelling, and eventually buried on roads budgeted for repeatedly, but build only on political speeches. In his book "the beautiful ones are not yet born" Ayi Kwei Armah warned that corruption would move beyond politics and become spiritual decay. He opined that filth is everywhere because the moral condition of society itself has decomposed. Armah understood that the most dangerous phase of corruption arrives not when leaders begin stealing, but when citizens stop being shocked by thefts. Once society starts admiring criminals because they are wealthy, collapses has already rented permanent accommodation.

Today in most parts of Africa, we find entire communities defend corruption provided the thief belongs to the correct tribe, party or region. Public morality has become negotiable. Citizens who cannot afford

hospital bills passionately defend leaders accused of stealing health funds. Young graduates on hopelessness celebrate politicians whose watches costs more than an entire classroom. Political rallies increasingly resemble emotional hostages' situations where suffering citizens applaud the architects of their suffering simply because the alternative feels unfamiliar.

Corruption includes even the language. Bribery becomes "facilitation", theft becomes "misappropriation", lies become "clarification", economic suffering becomes "temporary adjustment", public outrage becomes "noise from critics". The continent perfect the dangerous art of renaming disasters until they appear manageable. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o probably understood the Kenyan situation most painfully. In his book "petals of blood" independence is revealed as a tragic exchange programme where colonial administrators depart ceremoniously while the local elites inherit both the whip and the plantation. The faces changed, and the structures remained. Ngugi predicted the rise of local elites who would align themselves with foreign economic interests while abandoning ordinary citizens to unemployment, inequality and carefully managed hopelessness.

What he foresaw now unfolds daily with frightening

precision. Governments celebrate economic growth explained in figures, graphs, charts, while citizens survive through debts, online fundraising, and motivational quotes. Universities produce graduates for economies that no longer have room for dreams. Parliament debates citizens' suffering after heavily subsidized lunches. Leaders urge sacrifice from populations already surviving on economic skeletons. Fuel prices rise astronomically. Food prices climb like ambitious politicians. Hospitals prescribe patience because medicine is unavailable. Yet somehow, somewhere, parliament allowances remain healthier than the healthcare system.

Under such environments, political class still manage to speak with confidence about "shared pain". One almost admires the courage required to discuss the austerity measure form inside fuel guzzling helicopters, convoys escorted by armed security officers.

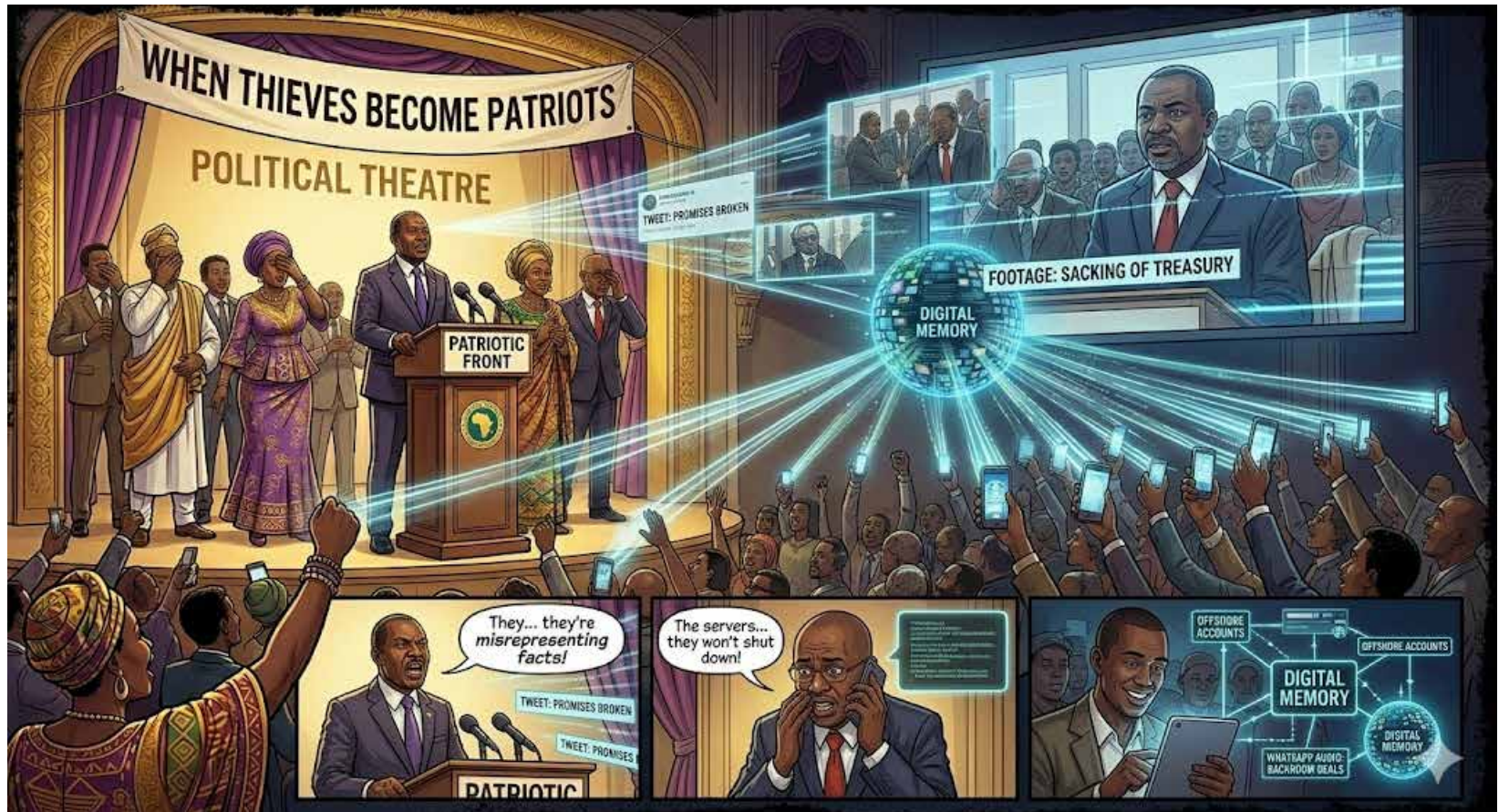
Wole Soyinka, laughing the dangerous laughter of a man who fully understood the absurdity of power. In his book "a play of giants, Soyinka transformed dictators into grotesque theatrical figures swollen by ego, praise songs, and unchecked authority. Yet beneath the humour lay

Contd Page 15

POLITICS

When thieves become patriots: Africa's great political theatre and the digital memory that will refuse to forget

Contd from Page 14
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

Corruption includes even the language. Bribery becomes “facilitation”, theft becomes “misappropriation”, lies become “clarification”, economic suffering becomes “temporary adjustment”, public outrage becomes “noise from critics”. The continent perfect the dangerous art of renaming disasters until they appear manageable. Ngūgī wa Thiong’o probably understood the Kenyan situation most painfully. In his book “petals of blood” independence is revealed as a tragic exchange programme where colonial administrators depart ceremoniously while the local elites inherit both the whip and the plantation. The faces changed, and the structures remained. Ngugi predicted the rise of local elites who would align themselves with foreign economic interests while abandoning ordinary citizens to unemployment, inequality and carefully managed hopelessness.

What he foresaw now unfolds daily with frightening precision. Governments celebrate economic growth explained in figures, graphs, charts, while citizens survive through debts, online fundraising, and motivational quotes. Universities produce graduates for economies that no longer have room for dreams. Parliament debates citizens’ suffering after heavily subsidized lunches. Leaders urge sacrifice from populations already surviving on economic skeletons.

a terrifying truth; African politics survives not merely through force, but through spectacle. Leaders become actors. Government become choreography. National crisis becomes opportunities for televised compassion. Every disaster receives a slogan, failure receives re-branding, scandal receives distraction, protests receive patriotically packaged suppression and even apologies become theatrical productions. A politician accused of stealing public money quotes the scripture with precision, visits the church, donates a water tank, and emerges politically purified before cameras. Redemption in moder day politics no longer requires accountability, it merely requires strategic photography. Meanwhile, ordinary citizens have adopted psychologically to national dysfunction with remarkable creativity. Humour became survival equipment, citizens laugh at fuel prices because sustained crying causes dehydration, they create memes about collapsing healthcare systems while organizing online fundraisers for relatives abandoned by those same systems. They joke about corruption because anger without power eventually mutates into comedy. Yet beneath this laughter lies a dangerous exhaustion. A Society can survive poverty longer than it can survive hopelessness and perhaps that is why much of Africa

now stand: trapped between democratic language and feudal realities, between constitutional promises and economic humiliation, between patriotic speeches and institutional betrayal. The writers, our foretellers and our predictors warned early enough that this moment would come. They warned that once corruption becomes normalized, would stop being a scandal and become governance philosophy. That parliament might eventually legalize exploitation procedurally, that citizens would gradually lower expectations from justice to merely survival and that truth would become negotiable depending on political convenience. But there is now a new and deeply ironic development emerging within this era; the digital age that governments and powerful elites have increasingly weaponized to monitor, manipulate, intimidate, and economically suffocate citizens is simultaneously becoming history’s most unforgiving archive. Previously historical injustices depended heavily on records with its attendant inadequacies, and courage of historians willing to challenge official narratives. Regimes survived partly because memory itself could be buried. Files disappeared mysteriously, witnesses died, records burned conveniently in government offices during suspicious midnight fires. Entire scandals dissolved into rumor

because evidence travelled slowly and vanished easily. This is not any more. Dr Edmond Locard concept that every contact leaves a trace also known as Locard exchange principle has emerged in the digital platform. This time we could say, whatever one did during the digital age and captured digitally will be reproduced faithfully in future. Today corruption leaves fingerprints everywhere. Speeches are uploaded online, parliament vote, procurement trails, audios, viral videos, deleted tweets, bank transactions, tender documents, GPS locations including campaign promises can all be preserved and achieved permanently in high definition. The same digital ecosystem used to spread propaganda, surveil dissent, weaponize misinformation, and distract citizens with endless political theatrics is also quietly constructing the most detailed forensic memory Africa ever possessed. For the first time in history, future generations may not need to guess who betrayed the nation. They will know. They will know who signed or authorised what, who voted for what, who defended what, who remained silent, who stole, who enabled theft, who normalized injustice, who privatized public resources, who inflated contracts while hospitals lacked oxygen. They will also know who borrowed recklessly in the name of develop-

ment, who sold patriotism while purchasing properties abroad. More painfully, they would know the exact consequences. They will calculate how many hospitals were never built, how many classrooms collapsed, how many children dropped out of school, how many citizens died while waiting for treatment, and probably how many youths drowned in unemployment and ended up in foreign countries as slaves while leaders discussed economic transformation in the most luxurious hotels. Our great grandchildren may one day sit under cleaner governments or perhaps under different thieves with better suits and scroll through archived videos of today’s leaders making promises they never intended to fulfill. They would replay parliamentary debates with forensic precision. They will examine digital evidence like historians examining war crimes. And unlike previously, they will possess the truth. No rumors, no folklore, no distorted mythology, true evidence. clear, timestamped, recorded, searchable and undeniable. Whether such evidence or clarity will be a basis for reparations, justice, institutional reform or merely a sophistication of anger is a matter of another day. The grandchildren of affected and perpetrators would be able to view from a perspective whether their inequality

is a natural state or caused by a great-grandfather of one. While any emerging technology historically has been manipulated to serve the rich, powerful and mighty, the emergence of digital technology accelerated by AI and universal accessibility potent a different level ball game. The old political class stole from citizens and escaped into retirement protected by disappearing files and faded witnesses. Today’s political actors operate under invisible cameras history never switches off. Perhaps that is the final irony of modern African state; in attempting to control information absolutely, it may have accidentally created the most powerful instrument of accountability future generations will ever inherit. The writers warned that nations will collapse when the truth dies. The digital age may ensure that truth, however delayed, never fully disappears again. And somewhere in the future, long after today’s political slogans have faded and architects of modern scandals have become portraits hanging quietly in government archives, a child may ask a simple but pertinent question. “If they knew history would remember them this clearly, why did they still do it?” Our great grandchildren should remember and find us in the right side of historical recollection.

China

China's Strategic Push Into Africa's Political Space

By: Agencies
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- China's economic influence has grown rapidly across the continent over the past decade. Fifty-two of Africa's 54 countries have signed onto the Belt and Road Initiative, making Africa one of the most significant theatres of Chinese global expansion.
- Yet many BRI projects have attracted criticism for saddling countries with expensive debt, limited local employment and infrastructure arrangements that disproportionately benefit Chinese firms and labour.
- Critics argue that while African governments often celebrate these projects as symbols of development, ordinary citizens frequently see limited benefits beyond debt burdens, environmental degradation and displacement.
- For Beijing, however, the returns are not only economic.
- African states collectively represent one of the largest voting blocs within international institutions such as the United Nations. China increasingly relies on diplomatic support from African countries to shield itself from criticism over issues such as Xinjiang, Hong Kong and broader human rights concerns.

As China intensifies its quest to reshape the global order in its favour, Africa has emerged as a central arena in Beijing's geopolitical strategy. What began largely as an economic relationship anchored on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is increasingly evolving into a broader political, technological and security partnership with authoritarian regimes across the continent.

At the heart of this strategy lies a simple calculation: autocratic governments are easier partners for Beijing. Unlike democracies, which are constrained by public scrutiny, institutional checks and demands for accountability, authoritarian regimes can push through opaque agreements and controversial projects with minimal resistance.

This suits China's state-driven development model perfectly.

Western-backed multilateral lenders often tie financial assistance to democratic reforms, transparency and respect for human rights. China imposes no such conditions. Beijing's financing model under the BRI prioritises access, influence and strategic leverage over governance standards.

For many African regimes accused of corruption, repression or democratic backsliding, Chinese financing therefore becomes highly attractive.

But China's engagement in Africa today extends far beyond roads, railways and ports.

Beijing is increasingly building political alliances with ruling parties, expanding military cooperation, exporting surveillance technologies and shaping elite political thinking in ways that critics say strengthen authoritarian rule while weakening democratic institutions.

The implications for Africa's political future are profound.

China's economic influence has grown rapidly across the continent over the past decade. Fifty-two of Africa's 54 countries have signed onto the Belt and Road Initiative, making Africa one of the most significant theatres of Chinese global expansion.

Yet many BRI projects have attracted criticism for saddling countries with expen-



AU HQs. in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

sive debt, limited local employment and infrastructure arrangements that disproportionately benefit Chinese firms and labour.

Critics argue that while African governments often celebrate these projects as symbols of development, ordinary citizens frequently see limited benefits beyond debt burdens, environmental degradation and displacement.

For Beijing, however, the returns are not only economic. African states collectively represent one of the largest voting blocs within international institutions such as the United Nations. China increasingly relies on diplomatic support from African countries to shield itself from criticism over issues such as Xinjiang, Hong Kong and broader human rights concerns.

In return, Beijing has often acted as a diplomatic protector for African governments facing scrutiny over governance failures or political violence.

This mutually reinforcing relationship has become increasingly visible.

When Sudanese security forces violently dispersed protesters in Khartoum in June 2019, killing more than 100 people, China reportedly blocked proposed United Nations action against Sudan. Beijing has similarly supported efforts to ease international pressure on Zimbabwe despite longstanding allegations of political repression and electoral violence.

China's broader objective appears to extend beyond

diplomacy and into governance itself.

Beijing is increasingly exporting its authoritarian governance model through political training programmes, media influence, educational exchanges and digital surveillance infrastructure.

One of the clearest examples is the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Tanzania, established with Chinese support to train ruling party elites from several African countries in governance methods closely aligned with the Chinese Communist Party's political philosophy.

The school promotes state-led development, political centralisation and social control as alternatives to Western liberal democracy. At the same time, China has become a dominant player in Africa's digital infrastructure.

Chinese technology giants Huawei and ZTE are estimated to have built roughly 70 per cent of Africa's 4G infrastructure. Under "Safe City" initiatives rolled out across multiple African countries, Chinese firms have supplied facial recognition systems, AI-powered surveillance tools and extensive monitoring infrastructure.

Supporters argue the technology helps combat crime and improve urban management. Critics warn it is increasingly being used to monitor activists, journalists and political opponents.

A study by the UK-based Institute of Development Studies and the African Digital

Rights Network found that 11 African countries have collectively spent more than US\$2 billion on AI-powered surveillance systems, many linked to Chinese suppliers and financing institutions. Reports have emerged alleging that facial recognition technologies were used to monitor opposition activists in Uganda and protesters during Kenya's Gen Z-led anti-government demonstrations between 2024 and 2025.

China's role in African security sectors is also deepening.

Beyond arms sales, Beijing now provides military training, joint exercises and law enforcement cooperation to several African governments. Under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), military ties between China and African states have expanded significantly.

In May this year alone, more than 100 military officers from 40 African countries visited China as part of military exchange programmes aimed at strengthening defence cooperation.

Critics fear such partnerships risk enhancing the coercive capacities of already repressive governments.

The danger is particularly acute in Africa's multi-ethnic societies, where political competition often follows ethnic rather than ideological lines. Strengthening one-party dominance in such environments can deepen exclusion, fuel ethnic tensions and undermine fragile democratic progress. Indeed, democratic gov-

ernance remains uneven across much of Africa.

Studies by the Economist Intelligence Unit have consistently shown that only a handful of African states qualify as full or functioning democracies. Mauritius remains the continent's only consistently ranked full democracy, while countries such as Botswana, Namibia, Ghana, South Africa, Zambia and Cabo Verde continue to show relative democratic resilience.

But many others remain hybrid or authoritarian systems vulnerable to external influence.

China's growing role in Africa is not inherently negative. Beijing has undeniably financed critical infrastructure, expanded trade and offered African governments alternatives to Western financial institutions.

However, the long-term political implications of exporting authoritarian governance models, expanding surveillance states and entrenching ruling-party dominance cannot be ignored.

Africa's future should ultimately be shaped by the democratic aspirations of its people — not by the geopolitical ambitions of external powers seeking to remake the global order in their own image.

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

Diaspora

The Human Side of Pharma:

PEOPLE POWER BEHIND THE PAIN RELIEF PILLS

By: Manish Kumar
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• In the world of the multi-billion-dollar global pharma industry, where molecules, trials, and regulations dominate headlines, it's easy to forget the role of the people who power the industry.

• From field teams in remote towns to scientists in labs and HR teams shaping careers — the human engine behind the pharmaceutical strength is what truly drives change. Without their sterling contribution, the wheel of the pharma industry would hardly move,

• This piece aims to shed light on the people-centric side of pharma that deserves just as much attention as the products themselves.

• Why the title – “People Before Pills”? Because behind every pill produced, prescribed, or promoted, there is a person — a Medical Rep, a Researcher, a Plant worker, or a Patient. The pharma industry is not just science-driven; it's people-led. Recognising that is crucial for sustainable growth.

When you go to a surgery with an ailment, the doctor prescribes medicine to help with your recovery. You take that prescription to a pharmacy and take the strip of tablets home. You swallow the prescribed pill with water and wait for it to start its work,

Have you thought of the people behind these pills? The hard work they have put in to ensure these pills reach the end user, helping people like us to recover and bounce back to good health. In the world of the multi-billion-dollar global pharma industry, where molecules, trials, and regulations dominate headlines, it's easy to forget the role of the people who power the industry.

From field teams in remote towns to scientists in labs and HR teams shaping careers — the human engine behind the pharmaceutical strength is what truly drives change. Without their sterling contribution, the wheel of the pharma industry would hardly move, This piece aims to shed light on the people-centric side of pharma that deserves just as much attention as the products themselves.

Why the title – “People Before Pills”? Because behind every pill produced, prescribed, or promoted, there is a person — a Medical Rep, a Researcher, a Plant worker, or a Patient. The pharma industry is not just science-driven; it's people-led. Recognising that is crucial for sustainable growth.

What is unique about talent in the Indian pharmaceutical sector? Indian pharma professionals are agile, hard-working, and extremely resilient. Whether it's adapting to regulatory shifts, digital transformation, or pandemic challenges, this workforce has consistently stepped up. They are the silent warriors behind our global pharma dominance.

As an HR leader, what do you believe is the biggest challenge? Retaining top talent while also nurturing ground-level teams. Many employees come from tier-2 and tier-3 cities and work under demanding conditions. Creating a culture that values empathy, learning, and well-being is essential — beyond just targets.

What kind of on-ground challenges do field teams

face? A lot, actually. From long waits to meet doctors, restrictions in hospital access, pressure to meet targets, to working in extreme weather — these professionals often operate under intense conditions. Yet they remain among the most disciplined and dedicated workforces in the corporate world.

What shift do you hope to see in the industry? A shift from “Performance-Only” to “People-First” thinking. The future of Indian pharma depends not just on the next drug, but on how we attract, support, and grow the people who make those discoveries and bring them to life.

Manish Kumar is the HR Head, Canixa Life Sciences, a leading Dermatology-focused Pharmaceutical Company in Noida, India.

Editing: Shamlal Puri, Senior Editor, London



Pills are a lifeline for patients in need of recovery. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



The human touch in the production of pills and the pharma industry is often overlooked by many of us. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

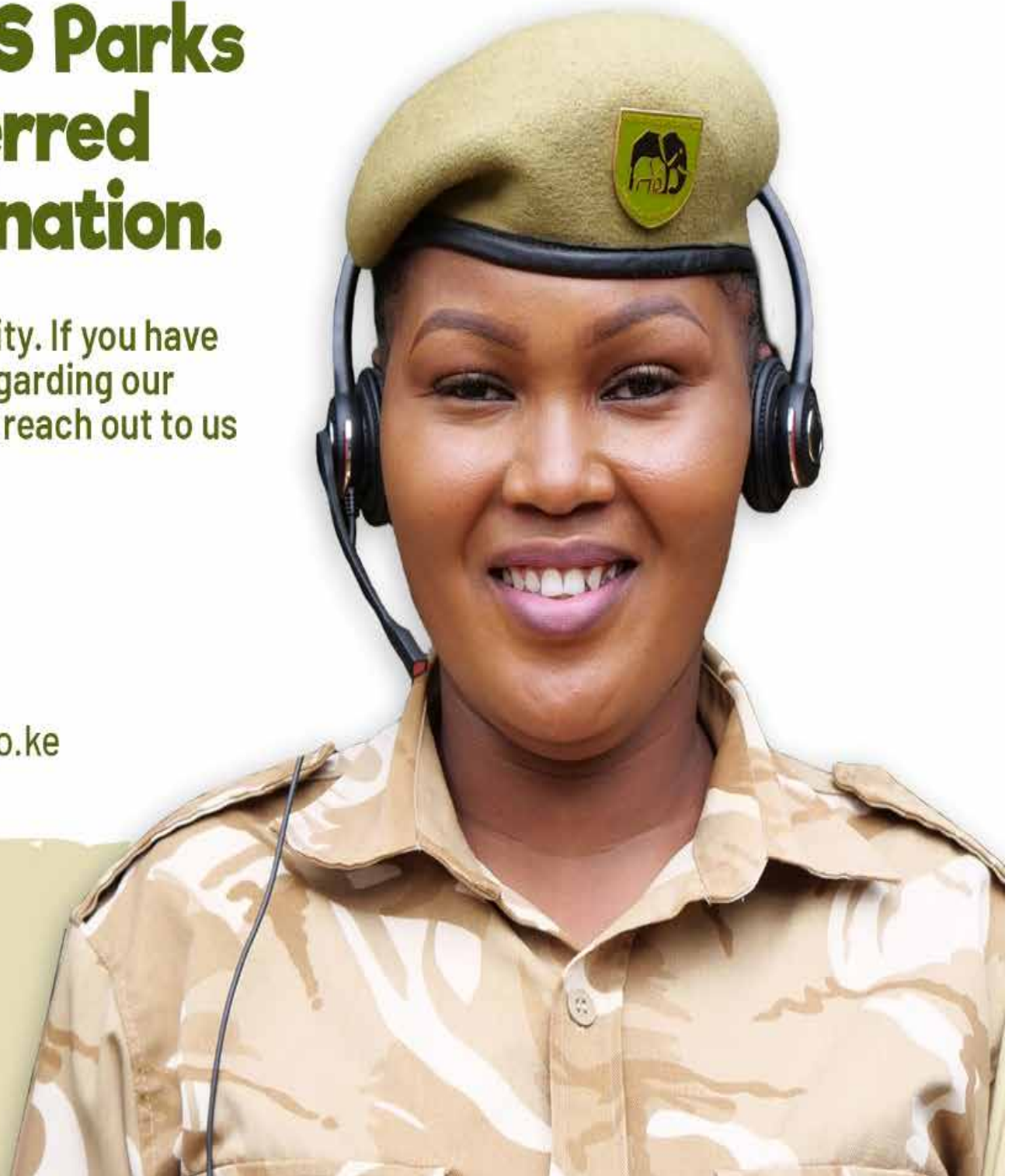
**Thank you for
choosing KWS Parks
as your preferred
tourism destination.**

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/>

Instagram: @DiasporaGlobal1, TikTok: @DiasporaGlobal

YouTube: Diaspora Global

Diaspora

Senegal's Revolution Eats Its Own: President Faye Sacks Prime Minister Sonko as Debt Crisis Deepens

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• The shock announcement was made on state television in a decree read out by presidential aide Oumar Samba Ba, who said Faye "has ended the duties of Ousmane Sonko... and consequently those of the ministers and secretaries of state who are members of the government." The outgoing cabinet has been instructed to manage day-to-day affairs until a new administration is formed. As of publication, no replacement for Sonko had been named.

• The reaction from the dismissed prime minister was characteristically composed — and pointedly symbolic. In a brief social media post, Sonko wrote: "Tonight I will sleep with a light heart in the Keur Gorgui neighbourhood," referring to his private residence in Dakar. It was the response of a man who has navigated persecution, imprisonment, and political exclusion before — and who has no intention of disappearing from the stage.

They were the closest of allies — two former tax officials who endured prison together, built a movement together, and swept to power together on a wave of popular fury against a political establishment they swore to dismantle. On Friday evening, that alliance ended with the stroke of a presidential decree, broadcast on state television across a stunned nation. Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye has sacked Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko, dissolved the entire government, and plunged West Africa's most celebrated reformist experiment into its deepest political crisis yet.

The shock announcement was made on state television in a decree read out by presidential aide Oumar Samba Ba, who said Faye "has ended the duties of Ousmane Sonko... and consequently those of the ministers and secretaries of state who are members of the government." The outgoing cabinet has been instructed to manage day-to-day affairs until a new administration is formed. As of publication, no replacement for Sonko had been named.

The reaction from the dismissed prime minister was characteristically composed — and pointedly symbolic. In a brief social media post, Sonko wrote: "Tonight I will sleep with a light heart in the Keur Gorgui neighbourhood," referring to his private residence in Dakar. It was the response of a man who has navigated persecution, imprisonment, and political exclusion before — and who has no intention of disappearing from the stage. The sudden collapse of the government is expected to deepen uncertainty in Senegal, where many had hoped the Faye-Sonko partnership would bring political stability and economic reform after years of unrest and opposition-led protests. That hope, for now, lies in pieces.

A Bromance Turned Battleground

To understand the scale of Friday's rupture, one must understand what Faye and Sonko once meant to each other — and to Senegal. Faye and Sonko rose to prominence together as key figures in the opposition against former President Macky Sall. After Sonko was disqualified from the 2024 presidential race due to legal issues, he threw his full sup-

port behind Faye under the popular slogan "Diomaye mooy Sonko" — "Diomaye is Sonko." The message was unambiguous: to vote for one was to vote for both.

Both men are former tax officials who were jailed ahead of the 2024 election. They were released ten days before the rescheduled contest, which Faye went on to win with 54 per cent of the vote. Faye then appointed Sonko as prime minister. It was a partnership that appeared unbreakable. It was not.

Relations between the two leaders gradually deteriorated. Reports of internal disagreements within the ruling Pastef party surfaced in recent months, with Faye allegedly criticising what he described as Sonko's growing personalisation of the movement. In return, Sonko accused the president of lacking character and failing to defend him against political attacks. The move followed a parliamentary session earlier in the week in which Sonko openly criticised President Faye, exposing widening cracks within the ruling political establishment.

The Economy at the Heart of the Split

Behind the personal drama lies a fundamental disagreement over how to manage a country in severe financial distress. The political fallout comes at a time when Senegal's economy and financial stability have been under increasing pressure following revelations that public debt figures had been misreported. The International Monetary Fund estimated Senegal's debt burden at approximately 132 per cent of gross domestic product by the end of 2024, significantly higher than earlier official figures — a discovery that prompted the IMF to freeze a \$1.8 billion lending programme with Dakar. Sonko had strongly opposed restructuring Senegal's estimated \$13 billion debt, accusing the IMF of pushing the country toward such a move. Faye has remained more cautious and less vocal on the issue. It is precisely that divergence — between Sonko's fiery, pan-Africanist populism and Faye's more pragmatic instincts — that ultimately proved irreconcilable.

The timing of the dismissal is particularly fraught. Earlier on Friday, before Sonko's dismissal, Finance Minister



Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye

Cheikh Diba told parliament that Senegal expected to resume negotiations with the IMF during the week beginning June 8 and hoped to reach agreement on key issues by June 30. Diba also warned that the country's fuel subsidy bill could exceed the 2026 budget allocation by as much as 1.15 trillion CFA francs — approximately \$2 billion — if global oil prices rise to \$115 per barrel. He added that Sonko had opposed proposals to increase domestic fuel prices. The message from Dakar's finance ministry was stark: the old approach was not working, and someone had to go.

Faye's move raises the risk of further delays in reaching a new agreement with the IMF, seen as key to reviving the economy. International markets, already wary of Senegal's fiscal position, will be watching closely. Moody's downgraded Senegal's sovereign rating twice since October 2024, and the country's Eurobonds have dropped significantly on the London market.

Sonko's Shadow Remains

The dismissal of a prime minister does not erase the political reality of Ousmane Sonko. His Pastef party dominates the National Assembly, a fact that could complicate the formation of any new government and the passage of the IMF-aligned reforms that Faye may now wish to pursue. In March, Sonko had already signalled his willingness to take his party back into opposition if Faye departed from its founding agenda — a warning that now reso-

nates with fresh urgency.

Political analysts warn that the rift could destabilise the ruling coalition ahead of future elections in 2029 and complicate efforts to secure international financial support amid economic pressures. Lawmakers earlier approved electoral code changes that could pave the way for Sonko to run for president in 2029 — a contest that, after Friday's events, now looks almost certain to pit the two men directly against each other. During his tenure, Sonko pursued an aggressively pan-Africanist agenda that earned him both passionate supporters and powerful enemies. He launched an audit of Senegal's resource deals, including those governing its emerging oil and gas sector, declared a BP gas contract for the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim project unfair, and revoked some 71 mining licences. He argued, with characteristic force, that renegotiating oil and gas contracts would lower domestic energy prices and help rebuild Senegal's battered finances. Whether those instincts were right or wrong, they were unmistakably Sonko's — and they are now abruptly out of power.

A Movement at a Crossroads

Pastef swept to power in 2024 on a promise of profound change: an end to corruption, a rebalancing of wealth, and a new relationship between Senegal and the world. Despite Sonko's popular appeal, Faye holds all the real power as president and can fire his head of government with a simple

decree. That constitutional reality has now been exercised — but constitutional authority and political legitimacy are two very different things, and Sonko retains enormous reserves of the latter.

Supporters of the former prime minister expressed disappointment, with small protests reported near universities and among youth groups in Dakar. Online reactions among Pastef loyalists were divided, with some accusing Faye of betrayal and others viewing the move as necessary for stability. Senegal stands at a fork in the road. The country that once embodied West Africa's democratic promise — stable, well-governed, a model for the region — now faces a leadership vacuum, a debt crisis of historic proportions, stalled IMF negotiations, and the very real possibility that its ruling movement will fracture beyond repair. The revolution, it appears, has begun to eat its own.

Faye took office promising that Senegal's best days were ahead. To prove it, he will now need to do something that has so far eluded this administration: govern effectively without the man whose face once defined the movement — and whose supporters may not forgive the president for what happened on Friday night.

Phonetic Changes in the Uzbek Language



By: Nuriddinova Dilnoza Xayriddin
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Abstract

In today's rapidly developing society, a significant number of researchers are engaged in scientific activities aimed at the development of the Uzbek language. In particular, every linguistic change in Uzbek is of great importance. This article provides information about phonetic changes in the Uzbek language and their types.

Keywords

Synharmonism, assimilation, dissimilation, metathesis, prosthesis, epenthesis, epithesis, procope, syncope, syneresis, reduction.

Introduction

In the process of speech production, meaningful linguistic units are formed through the sequential combination of sounds. For example, words such as tosh, bosh, and qol are constructed in this way. Sounds

within words are not pronounced separately but in a continuous flow. During continuous speech, while one sound is being articulated, the speech organs are already preparing for the next one. This creates a chain of sounds.

Due to the tendency toward ease of articulation, various phonetic changes occur in this sound chain during speech production. For instance, when the suffix -ga is added to the stem tog', the transition from the deep back consonant g' to the back consonant g becomes articulatorily difficult, resulting in pronunciation adjustments.

Main Phonetic Processes in Uzbek

1. Synharmonism (Vowel Harmony) Synharmonism refers to the adaptation and harmony of vowels in a word and is a characteristic feature of Turkic languages.

There are two main types:

Tongue harmony: vowels harmonize in terms of frontness/backness and softness/hardness.

Labial harmony: vowels harmonize in terms of lip rounding as well as tongue position.

2. Assimilation

Assimilation (from Latin assimilare – "to make similar") is a phonetic process in which sounds become similar to adjacent sounds.

Example: yoz + sin → yossin

3. Dissimilation

Dissimilation refers to a process where similar sounds become different under the influence of neigh-



UZBEK SCHOOL CHILDREN

boring sounds.

Example: zarur → zaril

4. Metathesis

Metathesis is the interchange of adjacent sounds in spoken language.

Example: daryo → dayro

5. Prosthesis

Prosthesis is the addition of a vowel at the beginning of a word.

Example: stol → istol

6. Epenthesis

Epenthesis is the insertion of vowels (usually i, u, or a) between consonant clusters in the middle, beginning, or end of a word.

Examples: fikr → fikir, hukm → hukum, doklad → dakalad

7. Epithesis

Epithesis is the addition of a vowel, usually a, after two final consonants.

Examples: disk → diska, bank → banka

8. Procope

Procope is the loss of a sound at the beginning of a word.

Examples: yiroq → iroq, yigna → igna

9. Syncope

Syncope refers to the omission of a vowel in the middle or end of a word or its weakening in pronunciation.

Examples: valochka → valichka, traktor → traktir

10. Syneresis

Syneresis is the weakening of one vowel when two vowels occur together in a word.

Examples: maorif → morif, jamoat → jamot

11. Reduction

Reduction is the weakening of a

vowel, usually in the first syllable of a word.

Examples: bir, bil, til

Phonetic changes in the Uzbek language are important linguistic phenomena that occur due to articulatory ease and speech economy. These processes reflect the dynamic nature of spoken language and play a crucial role in the development of phonetic structure in Uzbek.

Author: Nuriddinova Dilnoza Xayriddin

Qarshi State University, Faculty of Pedagogy

1st-year student, Primary Education

BRICS

BRICS Advances Core Agenda Despite Divisions Over Middle East Conflict at Delhi Meeting

By: Agencies
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Deep divisions over the escalating conflict in West Asia overshadowed the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting held in New Delhi on May 14–15, forcing member states to forgo a traditional joint communiqué and instead issue a Chair's Statement and Outcome Document reflecting unresolved disagreements.

The expanded BRICS bloc, now comprising 11 member states and 10 partner countries, struggled to bridge differences stemming from the Gulf conflict, with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates aligned with the United States and Israel, while Iran stood firmly opposed.

Despite days of intensive preparations, including a Sherpas' meeting from May 11–13, negotiators failed to secure consensus on several contentious geopolitical issues.

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar acknowledged the divisions, noting that "there were differing views among some members regarding the situation in West Asia/the Middle East."

The outcome document, spanning

63 paragraphs, stopped short of becoming a full joint statement after disagreements emerged over references to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and maritime navigation rights in the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Reports indicated Iran objected to two specific paragraphs, although its reservations were not formally detailed.

Even so, the meeting was not viewed as a failure.

India's BRICS Sherpa and Foreign Ministry Secretary Sudhakar Dalela defended the final document, saying it reflected the "common position of members on almost all subjects."

While tensions over the Middle East dominated headlines, BRICS members still managed to advance several core priorities ahead of the next summit expected in Delhi in September.

The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the bloc's strategic partnership under its three pillars — political and security cooperation, economic and financial collaboration, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

They also reiterated support for the "BRICS spirit" of mutual respect, equality, solidarity, inclusiveness and consensus.

A key area of agreement was the growing role of the Global South and emerging economies in shaping a multipolar world order.

The ministers described BRICS as a crucial platform for amplifying the concerns and priorities of developing nations while advocating for a more inclusive global governance system.

The meeting also reaffirmed support for BRICS' flagship institutions — the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

Members backed efforts to expand local currency financing, increase innovation funding and broaden NDB membership, while also supporting the inclusion of newer BRICS members into the CRA framework.

The issue of BRICS expansion, previously a source of internal disagreement, appeared to move closer to consensus.

Foreign ministers agreed that the bloc's expansion reflected its growing influence and credibility globally, although they stopped short of endorsing the creation of a formal BRICS Secretariat due to lack of agreement.

The ministers further support-



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. /FILE.

ed efforts to advance secure and transparent cross-border payment systems among BRICS nations and their partners, a move that could gradually reduce dependence on the US dollar in international trade.

Another major area of convergence was support for stronger people-to-people exchanges and cultural dialogue, aligned with the United Nations resolution establishing the International Day for Dialogue among Civilisations.

The Delhi meeting also reflected many of India's strategic priorities,

including stronger language on United Nations Security Council reform, food security, digital public infrastructure, disaster management and counterterrorism cooperation.

Despite the sharp disagreements over the Middle East crisis, the meeting demonstrated that BRICS continues to evolve as a major geopolitical and economic platform for the Global South, even as internal divisions become increasingly visible within the expanded bloc.

Blanca Rigau — Inspiring fashion through creativity, inclusion, and social impact

One of Blanca's earliest and most important projects was the "Aladdin Collection," showcased during the Mrs Girona+30 pageant in February 2024.



By: Anila Bukhari
@themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

On February 18, 2024, Blanca achieved one of her first major public recognitions after winning the Mrs Girona+30 beauty pageant. This victory became a turning point in her life, opening the doors to larger opportunities within the fashion and advocacy world. At the same time, she was coaching a remarkable group of 11-12-year-old girls in Girona, a role she proudly carried out for five years. For Blanca, coaching was about much more than basketball skills. She believed that sports could teach discipline, confidence, teamwork, emotional strength, and important life values that children would carry into adulthood.

During this stage of her life, Blanca also collaborated as Manager and designer for Xander Pratt Collection, founded by artist Xander Pratt. The experience allowed her to strengthen her understanding of luxury fashion, creative direction, and international presentation projects. Blanca quickly became deeply involved in the creative development of collections while refining her own artistic identity as a designer.

Blanca Rigau is a Spanish fashion designer, entrepreneur, humanitarian advocate, and former basketball coach whose inspiring journey reflects resilience, creativity, and determination. Recognized for combining luxury fashion with inclusivity and social awareness, Blanca has built a career that extends far beyond the fashion world. Through her work in design, youth empowerment, anti-bullying advocacy, and humanitarian initiatives, she has become an influential figure who inspires others to embrace confidence, individuality, and perseverance.

Blanca graduated in Biotechnology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and later completed Master's degrees in Pharmacology and Neuropsychology through UAB and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). Despite building a professional career as a quality technician in a pharmaceutical company, Blanca always carried two strong passions in her heart: basketball and fashion. These passions would later shape her future and become the foundation of her inspiring journey.

On February 18, 2024, Blanca achieved one of her first major public recognitions after winning the Mrs Girona+30 beauty pageant. This victory became a turning point in her life, opening the doors to larger opportunities within the fashion and advocacy world. At the same time, she was coaching a remarkable group of 11-12-year-old girls in Girona, a role she proudly carried out for five years. For Blanca, coaching was about much more than basketball skills. She believed that sports could teach discipline, confidence, teamwork, emotional strength, and important life values that children would carry into adulthood.

During this stage of her life, Blanca also collaborated as Manager and designer for Xander Pratt Collection, founded by artist Xander Pratt. The experience allowed her to strengthen her understanding of luxury fashion, creative direction, and international presentation projects. Blanca quickly became deeply involved in the creative development of collections while refining her own artistic identity as a designer.

One of Blanca's earliest and most important projects was

the "Aladdin Collection," showcased during the Mrs Girona+30 pageant in February 2024. Inspired by the colors, beauty, and cultural elegance of Marrakech, the collection symbolized dreams, empowerment, and inner strength. Blanca included the collection at La Mamounia and received attention for promoting inclusive luxury fashion. Blanca challenged traditional fashion standards by creating designs ranging from size S to 3XL, proving that elegance and exclusivity should be accessible to all people regardless of body type, race, or age.

In April 2024, Blanca participated in a fashion television project with Asia TV for Xander Pratt Collection. During the same period, she traveled to Marrakech with Xander Pratt to develop the "Afrokimono Collection." Inspired by both African and Asian cultures, the collection represented cultural fusion, diversity, and global unity through fashion. Blanca included these designs at Be in Touch store in La Mamounia and were later showcased during the Mrs Barcelona+30 beauty pageant on May 19, 2024.

Alongside her growing fashion career, Blanca remained deeply committed to humanitarian work and youth empowerment. While in Morocco, she collaborated with organizations supporting scholarship-funded rural girls and organized basketball activities for young women living in the Soroptimist Club Marrakech residence. Through sports, she encouraged young girls to build confidence, discipline, resilience, and emotional strength. Blanca believed that sports could become a powerful tool for helping children discover their potential while promoting positive values and teamwork. Blanca's commitment to children and emotional well-being was also evident during her years as a basketball coach. She created a safe environment where young players felt comfortable expressing themselves and discussing personal challenges. Many times, training sessions were paused to address emotional concerns and even identify cases of school bullying. Blanca strongly believed that a coach has the responsibility not only to train athletes but also to support children emotionally and mentally. She worked to create unity among her



players both on and off the court, encouraging empathy, friendship, and mutual respect.

In mid-2024, Blanca decided to take a courageous new step by launching her own independent fashion brand, Blanca Rigau. Becoming an entrepreneur marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life and allowed her to fully express her creative vision. Her brand focused on exclusive, elegant, and versatile designs that empower individuals while remaining fully inclusive. Blanca believed that fashion should help people embrace their individuality and feel confident in their own identity. On June 16, 2024, Blanca presented a preview of her first men's summer collection, "Essence," during the Mrs Spain+30 event in Málaga. The collection featured sophisticated and modern designs suitable for different body types while maintaining her signature focus on inclusivity. This presentation represented the realization of one of her biggest dreams and established her as an emerging independent designer with a distinctive artistic identity.

As her career continued

to grow, Blanca's talent began receiving international recognition. At the end of 2024, she designed an exclusive collection for a professional NBA basketball player. Shortly afterward, she created bespoke designs for a EuroLeague basketball player in early 2025. These opportunities reflected her growing reputation in the luxury fashion industry and demonstrated that persistence and passion can lead to extraordinary achievements.

On February 16, 2025, Blanca showcased her Spring/Summer "Mirage Collection" during the Mrs Catalunya+30 beauty pageant. The collection symbolized emotional growth, transformation, hope, and inspiration through lightweight fabrics and exclusive designs. On the same day, Blanca also won the Universal Woman Catalunya+30 2025 title, another important achievement in her evolving journey.

During her speech, Blanca courageously shared her childhood experiences with bullying and insecurity caused by negative comments about physical appearance. She encour-

aged young girls and boys facing similar struggles to believe in themselves and focus on inner values rather than external criticism. Her powerful message promoted self-confidence, resilience, and the importance of following one's dreams despite challenges and negativity. Beyond fashion and beauty pageants, Blanca became highly dedicated to fighting school bullying. In April 2024, she created the Girona branch of the Spanish Association for the Prevention of School Bullying (AEPAE). She gathered a professional team in Girona to help identify bullying cases and provide support to affected children. In October 2024, the organization launched a bullying prevention plan at Aldric School in Cassà de la Selva, successfully implementing sensibilization and assertiveness workshops. Throughout 2025, AEPAE Girona Delegation also imparted mental health workshops in different high schools of Girona province with very positive results.

Blanca Rigau — Inspiring fashion through creativity, inclusion, and social impact

One of Blanca's earliest and most important projects was the "Aladdin Collection," showcased during the Mrs Girona+30 pageant in February 2024.

Contd from Page 22
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

In 2026, Blanca imparted sensibilization workshops at Lloret de Mar school and high school.

On April 11, 2025, Blanca received the Europa Award for Excellence and Social Commitment in Madrid. This prestigious recognition honored her achievements in fashion, social activism, youth empowerment, and anti-bullying advocacy. The award represented not only professional success but also proof that compassion, dedication, and perseverance can create meaningful change in society.

On February 14, 2026, Blanca received the Iberoamerica Business Award in the fashion category in recognition of her entrepreneurial achievements and successful journey in the fashion industry. Beyond fashion and advocacy, she also continued developing creative projects in multiple professional fields while expanding her international presence.

Through every stage of her journey, Blanca Rigau has shown that true success comes from using one's talents to inspire and uplift others. Whether through fashion, basketball, or humanitarian work, she continues to empower people to embrace their individuality, believe in their dreams, and create a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Missatge de Womenleaderhub9 Womenleaderhub9 <womenleaderhub9@gmail.com> del dia dt., 12 de maig 2026 a les 15:38:

Blanca Rigau — Inspiring Fashion Through Creativity, Inclusion, and Social Impact

is a Spanish fashion designer, entrepreneur, humanitarian advocate, and former basketball coach whose inspiring journey reflects resilience, creativity, and determination. Recognized for combining luxury fashion with inclusivity and social awareness, Blanca has built a career that extends far beyond the fashion world. Through her work in design, youth empowerment, anti-bullying advocacy, and humanitarian initiatives, she has become an influential figure who inspires others to embrace confidence, individuality, and perseverance.

Blanca graduated in Biotechnology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and later completed Master's degrees in Pharmacology and Neuropsychology through UAB and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). Despite building a professional career as a quality technician in a pharmaceutical company, Blanca always carried two strong passions in her heart: basketball and fashion. These passions would later shape her future and become the

foundation of her inspiring journey.

On February 18, 2024, Blanca achieved one of her first major public recognitions after winning the Mrs Girona+30 beauty pageant. This victory became a turning point in her life, opening the doors to larger opportunities within the fashion and advocacy world. At the same time, she was coaching a remarkable group of 11-12-year-old girls in Girona, a role she proudly carried out for five years. For Blanca, coaching was about much more than basketball skills. She believed that sports could teach discipline, confidence, teamwork, emotional strength, and important life values that children would carry into adulthood.

During this stage of her life, Blanca also collaborated as Manager and designer for Xander Pratt Collection, founded by artist Xander Pratt. The experience allowed her to strengthen her understanding of luxury fashion, creative direction, and international presentation projects. Blanca quickly became deeply involved in the creative development of collections while refining her own artistic identity as a designer.

One of Blanca's earliest and most important projects was the "Aladdin Collection," showcased during the Mrs Girona+30 pageant in February 2024. Inspired by the colors, beauty, and cultural elegance of Marrakech, the collection symbolized dreams, empowerment, and inner strength. Blanca included the collection at La Mamounia and received attention for promoting inclusive luxury fashion. Blanca challenged traditional fashion standards by creating designs ranging from size S to 3XL, proving that elegance and exclusivity should be accessible to all people regardless of body type, race, or age. In April 2024, Blanca participated in a fashion television project with Asia TV for Xander Pratt Collection. During the same period, she traveled to Marrakech with Xander Pratt to develop the "Afrokimono Collection." Inspired by both African and Asian cultures, the collection represented cultural fusion, diversity, and global unity through fashion. Blanca included these designs at Be in Touch store in La Mamounia and were later showcased during the Mrs Barcelona+30 beauty pageant on May 19, 2024.

Alongside her growing fashion career, Blanca remained deeply committed to humanitarian work and youth empowerment. While in Morocco, she collaborated with organizations supporting scholarship-funded rural girls and organized basketball activities for young women living in the Soroptimist Club Marrakech residence. Through sports, she encouraged young girls to build confidence, discipline, resilience, and emotional strength. Blanca believed that sports could become a powerful tool for helping children discover their potential while promoting positive values and teamwork.

Blanca's commitment to children

and emotional well-being was also evident during her years as a basketball coach. She created a safe environment where young players felt comfortable expressing themselves and discussing personal challenges. Many times, training sessions were paused to address emotional concerns and even identify cases of school bullying. Blanca strongly believed that a coach has the responsibility not only to train athletes but also to support children emotionally and mentally. She worked to create unity among her players both on and off the court, encouraging empathy, friendship, and mutual respect.

In mid-2024, Blanca decided to take a courageous new step by launching her own independent fashion brand, Blanca Rigau. Becoming an entrepreneur marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life and allowed her to fully express her creative vision. Her brand focused on exclusive, elegant, and versatile designs that empower individuals while remaining fully inclusive. Blanca believed that fashion should help people embrace their individuality and feel confident in their own identity.

On June 16, 2024, Blanca presented a preview of her first men's summer collection, "Essence," during the Mrs Spain+30 event in Málaga. The collection featured sophisticated and modern designs suitable for different body types while maintaining her signature focus on inclusivity. This presentation represented the realization of one of her biggest dreams and established her as an emerging independent designer with a distinctive artistic identity.

As her career continued to grow, Blanca's talent began receiving international recognition. At the end of 2024, she designed an exclusive collection for a professional NBA basketball player. Shortly afterward, she created bespoke designs for a EuroLeague basketball player in early 2025. These opportunities reflected her growing reputation in the luxury fashion industry and demonstrated that persistence and passion can lead to extraordinary achievements.

On February 16, 2025, Blanca showcased her Spring/Summer "Mirage Collection" during the Mrs Catalunya+30 beauty pageant. The collection symbolized emotional growth, transformation, hope, and inspiration through lightweight fabrics and exclusive designs. On the same day, Blanca also won the Universal Wom-



an Catalunya+30 2025 title, another important achievement in her evolving journey.

During her speech, Blanca courageously shared her childhood experiences with bullying and insecurity caused by negative comments about physical appearance. She encouraged young girls and boys facing similar struggles to believe in themselves and focus on inner values rather than external criticism. Her powerful message promoted self-confidence, resilience, and the importance of following one's dreams despite challenges and negativity.

Beyond fashion and beauty pageants, Blanca became highly dedicated to fighting school bullying. In April 2024, she created the Girona branch of the Spanish Association for the Prevention of School Bullying (AEPAE). She gathered a professional team in Girona to help identify bullying cases and provide support to affected children. In October 2024, the organization launched a bullying prevention plan at Aldric School in Cassà de la Selva, successfully implementing sensibilization and assertiveness workshops. Throughout 2025, AEPAE Girona Delegation also imparted mental health workshops in different high schools of Girona province with very positive results. In 2026, Blanca imparted sensibilization workshops at Lloret de Mar school and high school.

On April 11, 2025, Blanca received the Europa Award for Excellence and Social Commitment in Madrid. This prestigious recognition honored her achievements in fashion, social activism, youth empowerment, and anti-bullying advocacy. The award represented not only professional success but also proof that compassion, dedication, and perseverance can create meaningful change in society.

On February 14, 2026, Blanca received the Iberoamerica Business Award in the fashion category in recognition of her entrepreneurial achievements and successful journey in the fashion industry. Beyond fashion and advocacy, she also continued developing creative projects in multiple professional fields while expanding her international presence.

Through every stage of her journey, Blanca Rigau has shown that true success comes from using one's talents to inspire and uplift others. Whether through fashion, basketball, or humanitarian work, she continues to empower people to embrace their individuality, believe in their dreams, and create a more inclusive and compassionate world.

Modi's UAE Visit Signals India's Push for Energy Security Amid Gulf Tensions

The trip also comes barely a month after the UAE's landmark decision to withdraw from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a move widely viewed as signalling the emergence of a new Gulf energy order.

By: Agencies
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Modi embraces Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan upon arrival in the UAE on Friday. Photo: UAE Presidential Cour

Worth Noting:

- “Abu Dhabi’s move to ditch OPEC quotas and ramp up production gives it flexibility to supply more oil and LNG directly to key buyers like India,” said Srinivasan Balakrishnan, Director of Strategic Engagements and Partnerships at the New Delhi-based Indic Researchers Forum.
- Though Modi’s stop in the UAE lasted only a few hours, both sides quickly translated diplomatic goodwill into concrete agreements.
- Under a new strategic collaboration agreement between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the UAE will increase its oil supply to India’s strategic petroleum reserves to 30 million barrels.
- A separate agreement between Indian Oil Corporation and ADNOC formalised long-term liquefied petroleum gas supply arrangements, while the two countries also agreed to explore the establishment of strategic gas reserves within India.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s whirlwind visit to the United Arab Emirates on Friday — the opening leg of a five-nation tour that will also take him to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy — comes at a moment analysts describe as one of significant strategic opportunity for India. With global oil prices surging amid the fallout from the US-Israel conflict with Iran and growing instability across the Middle East, Modi arrived in Abu Dhabi carrying more than diplomatic symbolism. The visit produced a series of major energy agreements aimed at shielding India from worsening supply shocks and future market volatility. The trip also comes barely a month after the UAE’s landmark decision to withdraw from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a move widely viewed as signalling the emergence of a new Gulf

energy order. As OPEC’s sixth-largest oil producer, the UAE is now free from the cartel’s production quota system, allowing it to pump beyond its previous ceiling of 4.8 million barrels per day and negotiate more flexible supply arrangements with strategic partners. India, which sources roughly 10 per cent of its crude oil from the UAE and remains the Gulf nation’s largest liquefied natural gas customer, appears to be among the biggest beneficiaries of this shift. Analysts say the timing of Modi’s visit was deliberate. “Abu Dhabi’s move to ditch OPEC quotas and ramp up production gives it flexibility to supply more oil and LNG directly to key buyers like India,” said Srinivasan Balakrishnan, Director of Strategic Engagements and Partnerships at the New Delhi-based Indic Researchers Forum.

Though Modi’s stop in the UAE lasted only a few hours, both sides quickly translated diplomatic goodwill into concrete agreements. Under a new strategic collaboration agreement between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the UAE will increase its oil supply to India’s strategic petroleum reserves to 30 million barrels. A separate agreement between Indian Oil Corporation and ADNOC formalised long-term liquefied petroleum gas supply arrangements, while the two countries also agreed to explore the establishment of strategic gas reserves within India. In addition, the UAE pledged fresh investments worth US\$5 billion, underlining the rapid expansion of a bilateral relationship now valued at approximately US\$85 billion annually.

The urgency behind the agreements has been reinforced by renewed security concerns in the Gulf. Fresh drone strikes targeting both the UAE and Saudi Arabia on Sunday, despite a ceasefire linked to the Iran conflict, highlighted the continuing vulnerability of Gulf energy infrastructure. For India, which relies heavily on Gulf imports to power its economy, any prolonged disruption would carry serious economic consequences. Balakrishnan described the strengthened partnership with the UAE as a “pragmatic hedge” designed to lock in stable long-term supply arrangements before global spot-market shocks intensify further. Beyond oil and gas, the relationship is also expanding into infrastructure, ports, green hydrogen and civil nuclear cooperation. The geopolitical dimension of the partnership is equally

significant. The UAE’s growing rivalry with Saudi Arabia over regional influence has simmered for years, but its decision to leave OPEC is viewed as the clearest indication yet that Abu Dhabi intends to pursue a more independent strategic and economic path. India appears to be benefiting from this recalibration. Analysts also point to the UAE’s recent demand that Pakistan repay US\$3.5 billion in outstanding loans — a move that added pressure on Islamabad’s foreign reserves — as another signal of shifting regional alignments. The deepening India-UAE relationship is increasingly being viewed as part of a broader strategic axis involving India, the UAE and Israel, particularly in areas of trade, technology, logistics and energy security.