

A broken leg, a balcony leap, and a wire transfer to Kileleshwa — how Muhammad Omar’s alleged \$3.6 million fraud scheme left a trail that stretched from Minneapolis to the heart of one of Nairobi’s most desirable postcodes.

Minnesota Medicaid fraud

Omar is one of 15 individuals indicted on 21 May 2026 in what the Department of Justice described as an unprecedented federal crackdown :



The Ebola deal that shook Kenya

American power, parliamentary silence and the dangerous collapse of sovereign diplomacy

US-Kenya



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Mbizo MP challenges stadium birthday party as Zimbabweans struggle

The optics of abundance in a stadium Zimbabwe



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India edges toward \$38 billion Rafale deal in world’s biggest fighter jet order

114 Dassault Rafale multi-role fighter Asia



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How Prepared Are Ghana’s Hospitals to Conduct Blood Lead Testing?

Ghana’s health

Africa



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Fraud: FBI traces Minnesota Medicaid fraud proceeds to luxury Nairobi apartment

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced a portion of the proceeds from a sprawling Minnesota Medicaid fraud scheme to a luxury apartment development in Nairobi’s upscale Kileleshwa neighbourhood, after suspect Muhammad Abdulqadir Omar, 32, wired more than \$74,000 to purchase units at the Blossom Ivy Residence — a high-rise development marketed for its rooftop amenities and panoramic city views — before his dramatic arrest following a fourth-floor balcony leap in Roseville, Minnesota, on 22 May 2026. The case against Omar sits at the intersection of two stories that, on the surface, could not appear further apart: a federal crackdown on Medicaid



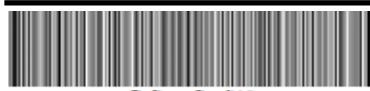
Global Money Flows Under Scrutiny — A symbolic depiction of international financial investigations tracing illicit funds across borders. The magnifying glass over Africa highlights Nairobi’s growing role in global finance as justice, data, and transparency converge in the fight against money laundering.

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Omtatah petitions JSC to probe judges over Kenya-US health deal ruling



The Diaspora Times Global

The Chinese century: how Beijing is reshaping the world’s technology, industry and influence

China has quietly, systematically, and with extraordinary deliberation positioned itself as the dominant force in global manufacturing, technology, and geopolitical influence — a transformation so comprehensive in scope that it is reshaping the world order faster than most West-

ern governments have been willing to acknowledge. The numbers alone tell a story that is difficult to argue with. In 2025, China contributed approximately 30 percent of global manufacturing added value, maintaining its position as the world’s largest manufac-

turing power — a title it has held for well over a decade and shows no signs of surrendering. A new report from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation published in May 2026 found that China now produces nearly one quarter of global output across the world’s most

advanced industries, extending its lead over the United States and other major economies across high-value, innovation-driven sectors. These are

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Mbadi warns Kenya's KSh3.6 trillion revenue target is out of reach

The Treasury has built a KSh4.8 trillion budget it cannot afford to cut and may not be able to fund — and ordinary Kenyans will feel the consequences either way.

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• **The shortfall, if it materialises, will force difficult choices. Kenya's budget deficit is already set to be financed almost entirely through domestic borrowing, with the government expected to raise close to 90 percent of its financing needs from the local debt market. Economists warn that this level of domestic borrowing compresses the credit available to private businesses, raises the cost of capital, and slows the very economic activity that generates the tax revenue the government is counting on. It is a fiscal trap with no comfortable exit.**

• **Mr. Mbadi acknowledges the bind — but argues that the budget's structure leaves him with no room to manoeuvre.**

Treasury Cabinet Secretary John Mbadi has publicly warned that Kenya's projected KSh3.63 trillion revenue target for the 2026/2027 financial year may not be achieved, casting serious doubt over the sustainability of the government's KSh4.82 trillion budget amid worsening global economic conditions and escalating geopolitical uncertainty.

The admission, delivered with striking candour, marks a significant departure from the confident fiscal messaging that has characterised the Treasury's public posture in recent months. Mr. Mbadi has on several occasions defended the expansive budget as both necessary and achievable. His latest remarks suggest that position is becoming increasingly difficult to hold.

"Even the projection that we have for 2026/2027 is not looking very good," Mr. Mbadi said. "If you look at the 2026/2027 budget, you'll notice that in our projection of KSh3.6 trillion, which is rarely achievable, and with the dynamic economic shocks that we are facing as a country and globally, we are not even likely to collect the KSh3.63 trillion." The statement carries significant weight. When a country's chief financial officer publicly questions whether his own government's revenue projections are attainable, the alarm bells it rings are not subtle.

The arithmetic behind the budget was already tight. Of the KSh3.63 trillion total revenue envelope, ordinary revenue — taxes and standard government receipts — was projected to account for KSh2.99 trillion, up from KSh2.78 trillion in the current financial year. That KSh210 billion increase was

ambitious under the best of global economic conditions. Under the current ones — marked by sustained trade tensions, dollar volatility, weakened commodity prices, and the lingering drag of geopolitical disruption on Kenya's export-dependent sectors — it is looking increasingly aspirational.

The shortfall, if it materialises, will force difficult choices. Kenya's budget deficit is already set to be financed almost entirely through domestic borrowing, with the government expected to raise close to 90 percent of its financing needs from the local debt market. Economists warn that this level of domestic borrowing compresses the credit available to private businesses, raises the cost of capital, and slows the very economic activity that generates the tax revenue the government is counting on. It is a fiscal trap with no comfortable exit.

Mr. Mbadi acknowledges the bind — but argues that the budget's structure leaves him with no room to manoeuvre. Debt servicing, public sector salaries, transfers to counties, and statutory social expenditures collectively consume most of the budget before a single discretionary decision is made. "You can hear teacher principals are still making noise," he said, illustrating the political and contractual constraints boxing in the Treasury. "JSS is KSh31 billion, you have KSh7 billion for free primary. I can go on and on. That is why this budget — even if you shout at me that I should cut it down — I have nowhere to cut."

It is a frustration that will resonate with anyone familiar with Kenya's public finance architecture. Mandatory expenditures have



Treasury CS John Mbadi during a past Parliamentary committee appearance. PHOTO | COURTESY

crowded discretionary spending to the margins, leaving Treasury with limited flexibility precisely at the moment flexibility is most needed. But economists are pushing back on the claim that nothing can be done. John Kinuthia, Deputy Executive Director of Bajeti Hub, offered a sharper framework. "Budgets are all about choices between choice A and choice B on the expenditure side as well as on the revenue side," he said. "There is always room for a discussion on what trade-off we can make that will save us some money or reduce the pressure for the need for more revenue measures." The argument is not that cuts are painless — it is that the alternative to deliberate, structured cuts is unstructured fiscal deterioration, which is considerably more painful.

Churchill Ogutu, Head of Research at Capital A Investment Bank, identified the most realistic area for reductions. "If you thought

of areas of reducing the budget, it's the discretionary items — the expenditures going to national government ministries, departments, and agencies," he said. "That is an area where realistically the government can now be able to make reductions." Kinuthia added a further target: "A third of our budget goes to state corporations, and there has been an effort to evaluate which of these corporations are just a burden to the taxpayer."

The proposals on the table — halting non-priority capital projects, eliminating duplication across government ministries, and cutting travel and hospitality expenditures — are neither radical nor new. They have been recommended in successive budget reviews, parliamentary committee reports, and independent fiscal analyses for years. That they have not been implemented reflects not a lack of knowledge but a deficit of political will. The question

Mr. Mbadi's admission now forces is whether the combination of a credibility gap on revenue and a narrowing window on borrowing will finally generate the pressure needed to move from recommendation to action.

For Kenyans already navigating elevated food prices, a weakened shilling, and the residual effects of years of post-pandemic fiscal strain, the implications are direct. A government that cannot collect its projected revenues and cannot reduce its expenditures has only two levers remaining: borrow more, or tax more. Both carry costs that fall disproportionately on households that have already absorbed more than their share.

Kenya has managed tight fiscal positions before. What it has rarely managed is one this tight, this openly acknowledged, and this structurally constrained — all at once.

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Democracy

The rule of law in a democratic society



By: Abriyeva Sevinch
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• In today's fast-developing world, the rule of law and awareness of individual rights are becoming increasingly significant. We often come across opinions such as: "A democratic society can certainly develop." But what does the democratic process actually mean?

• Building a democratic society is considered one of the main factors of progress for every developing country. Democracy is a society where human rights are prioritized, freedom of speech is guaranteed, and every citizen's opinion is valued and respected.



Create an image of The rule of law in a democratic society

In recent years, especially during the period of 2020–2026 when globalization has been rapidly increasing, the rule of law and every person's awareness of their rights have become extremely important.

In today's fast-developing world, the rule of law and awareness of individual rights are becoming increasingly significant. We often come across opinions such as: "A democratic society can certainly develop." But what does the democratic process actually mean?

Building a democratic society is considered one of the main factors of progress for every developing country. Democracy is a society where human rights are prioritized, freedom of speech is guaranteed, and every citizen's opinion is valued and respected. Forming such a society is not only connect-

ed with the work of state institutions; on the contrary, it is a process that depends on the active participation of every citizen and their ability to express their opinions freely. Therefore, I believe that I should also contribute to building such a society, and I consider it my civic duty.

First of all, the strong foundation of a democratic society is knowledge and critical thinking. An educated and well-rounded person can make the right decisions in any situation and express their opinions confidently. In addition, such a person clearly understands their rights and responsibilities. That is why I have set a goal for myself to work on self-development, gain knowledge, and broaden my worldview. Because only an educated person truly understands their rights, does

not remain indifferent to events happening in society, and can make fair conclusions.

Furthermore, I strive to have an active civic position. What does this actually mean? An active civic position means not being indifferent to surrounding problems, expressing one's opinion freely and respectfully, and respecting the opinions of others. Democracy develops through diversity of opinions and mutual respect.

Another important aspect is respect for laws. By obeying laws, maintaining order and stability in society, I aim to contribute to my community. Through following laws myself, I can also encourage others to respect and obey them.

In addition, I strive to be an honest and fair person because a democratic society

is built on honesty and trust. Even small good deeds in daily life — helping others, telling the truth, and fighting against injustice — are all contributions to society. Because changing society begins with changing oneself. A person who changes themselves can also change society.

According to statistics, in societies with a high level of education, about 70–80% of citizens participate in elections. This is because every parent considers the education and upbringing of their child important. Behind elections stand thousands of voices, and this strengthens democracy.

Another important point is that in countries where freedom of speech and openness are stronger, the level of corruption is about 30–40% lower. This helps ensure justice in society.

In conclusion, building a democratic society does not mean making only huge changes; rather, it means that every person contributes small but meaningful efforts. In a society with educated and motivated citizens, democracy develops much faster.

Abriyeva Sevinch was born on June 21, 2008. She is currently studying at School No. 215 in Tashkent City. Her achievements include obtaining a B2 level certificate in English and a B+ result in her native language.

She has completed a debut project and received a certificate from a content center. She also participates in various conferences.

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Ebola

Kenya designates JKIA Gate 16 for Ebola high-risk arrivals in sweeping border health overhaul

With more than 634,000 travellers already screened, genomic testing deployed on aircraft wastewater, and isolation units positioned across East Africa's busiest airport, Kenya is mounting its most sophisticated border health response in years.

Kenya has converted Gate 16 at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport into a dedicated arrival point for passengers from Ebola high-risk countries, Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni announced on Friday following a hands-on inspection of the country's frontline disease surveillance infrastructure at the nation's busiest port of entry. The designation of Gate 16 is the most visible element of a sweeping border health overhaul that Kenya has quietly assembled over the past several weeks as the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo — involving the Bundibugyo strain, for which no licensed vaccine or approved targeted treatment currently exists — intensified and crossed into neighbouring Uganda. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 16 May 2026, while the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention classified it as a continental public health emergency — designations that elevated the urgency of Kenya's response from precautionary to operational.

"The border management team domiciled at the airport has increased surveillance at the six international arrivals gates, with Gate 16 now designated for passengers coming from high-risk countries," Ms Muthoni said following her inspection. The statement was precise and deliberate — the language of a government that has moved from policy discussion to physical implementation. Gate 16 is not simply a labelled corridor. It is a health checkpoint staffed by port health officials, equipped with an isolation centre capable of rapid assessment and management of any traveller displaying symptoms consistent with Ebola virus disease, and positioned as the first line of a response chain that runs from the airport tarmac to Kenyatta National Hospital. Additional isolation points have been established at multiple locations across the airport to ensure that no symptomatic traveller reaches the general public before being assessed. Kenya's Ministry of Health



Public Health PS Mary Muthoni/SCREENGRAB

has stated that more than 634,500 travellers — including international passengers, truck drivers, and transport conveyances — had undergone screening by 18 May 2026, a figure that reflects the scale of the operation Kenya has mounted in a remarkably short period. The screening infrastructure covers not only JKIA but extends across air, sea, and land borders, with Ms Muthoni confirming that the government has expanded mandatory health screening to cover arrivals from ten neighbouring countries. The technological sophistication of Kenya's surveillance response goes well beyond temperature checks and symptom questionnaires, though both remain in place. Port health authorities are now collecting and testing wastewater samples from all aircraft arriving at JKIA — both domestic and international — through national laboratories, deploying genomic sequencing as a tool to detect disease patterns and identify potential threats including Ebola before they can establish a foothold within the country. The approach borrows directly from techniques refined during the Covid-19 pandemic, when wastewater surveillance became a globally recognised early-warning mechanism. Applied to aircraft arriving from affected regions, it provides a layer of population-level intelligence that individual passenger screening cannot deliver alone. Samples

are stored under controlled conditions at the port health clinic before analysis, and laboratory officials say results can be returned within six to eight hours.

All travellers arriving in Kenya are now required to complete online self-reporting forms detailing their travel history and current health status before landing. The digital data feeds into a broader passenger risk profiling system that allows health officials to identify and prioritise high-risk individuals for enhanced screening at arrival. The integration of digital data collection with physical screening represents a meaningful upgrade on the paper-based systems that characterised Kenya's border health management in previous outbreak responses.

Ms Muthoni's inspection covered the full scope of the airport's preparedness architecture — passenger screening procedures, thermal scanning systems, laboratory readiness, aircraft and wastewater surveillance programmes, and emergency response coordination mechanisms. She commended frontline health workers and port health officers for their vigilance, while calling for a strengthened whole-of-government approach. "Effective disease surveillance requires collaboration among all agencies operating at points of entry," she said, directing her message not only at health officials but at immigration, customs, aviation security,

and airline operations staff who occupy the same physical space and whose co-operation determines how quickly a suspected case can be isolated and managed.

Kenya's position in this outbreak demands more than routine vigilance. As East Africa's primary aviation hub, JKIA handles more international traffic than any other airport in the region. That connectivity is a source of enormous economic and diplomatic strength. In a public health emergency, it is also a vulnerability. Passengers transiting through Nairobi to destinations across the continent and beyond represent a potential transmission pathway that Kenya is, in practical terms, managing on behalf of the entire region. The country's response is therefore not merely a domestic health measure — it is a regional public health service of considerable consequence.

The government has been equally clear-eyed about what it does not yet know. Kenya remains free of confirmed Ebola cases, but officials have explicitly declined to offer reassurances about how long that status will hold as the outbreak in DRC and Uganda continues to evolve. Instead, the message from the Ministry of Health has been consistent and calibrated: the risk is real, the surveillance is functioning, and the public has a role to play.

Ms Muthoni urged Kenyans to practise proper hand hygiene, seek medical attention

promptly when unwell, and follow Ministry of Health channels exclusively for accurate information rather than social media rumour. "Please, I want to plead with members of the public to only pay attention to the information coming from the Ministry of Health. Let us stop unverified information," she said. She also cautioned against non-essential travel to countries experiencing active Ebola transmission. "Avoid unnecessary travel to those countries that have reported cases. If possible, wait until the situation stabilises before making the trip," she advised.

Airport personnel and border officials across all points of entry have been briefed on Ebola symptoms, transmission routes, and response procedures. The government is working directly with airlines and affected countries to obtain passenger health information and exit screening reports, closing a coordination gap that has historically weakened border health responses in previous outbreaks across the region.

The gate has been designated. The laboratories are ready. The surveillance is running. Whether it will be enough depends, as it always does in public health, on how the virus behaves next — and how quickly Kenya moves when it does.

Worth Noting:

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Motivation

Modern women are not falling out of love — they are falling into their senses

In an era of rising costs, broken promises, and hard-won independence, more women are asking a question previous generations were told never to ask: what does this relationship do for my life?

By: Jane Mwendu
xxxxxxxxxxxx



sugar dating

Worth Noting:

• A recent Harris Poll survey of more than 2,000 adults found that 74 percent of respondents said financial stability is one of the most attractive traits when dating — a figure that reflects not cynicism but lived experience. Women who came of age watching their mothers struggle financially, who graduated into economies that punished them for career breaks taken during pregnancy, who built savings that evaporated in relationships with men who could not manage money, are not willing to romanticise that kind of poverty. They have done the arithmetic, and the arithmetic is unambiguous.

• The economic context within which modern relationships are being formed matters enormously. The average cost of a date has climbed to \$189 in 2026, up 12.5 percent from the previous year — far outpacing the broader cost of living increase of 2.8 percent.

A growing number of modern women are prioritising financial stability over romantic chemistry when choosing a partner, reflecting a fundamental shift in how love, security, and self-worth are being negotiated in relationships across the world.

It is not a comfortable conversation. Society has long reserved its harshest judgements for women who factor money into their romantic decisions — labelling them calculating, shallow, or worse. Yet the same society that romanticises love-above-all has also consistently failed to protect women from the financial devastation that follows a bad marriage, a painful divorce, or the invisible labour of building a home for a man who walks away from it. Something has changed. Women are watching, learning, and increasingly refusing to pretend that love in a financially unstable relationship is the same thing as love in a secure one.

A recent Harris Poll survey of more than 2,000 adults found that 74 percent of respondents said financial stability is one of the most attractive traits when dating — a figure that reflects not cynicism but lived experience. Women who came of age watching their mothers struggle financially, who graduated into economies that punished them for career breaks taken during pregnancy, who built savings

that evaporated in relationships with men who could not manage money, are not willing to romanticise that kind of poverty. They have done the arithmetic, and the arithmetic is unambiguous. The economic context within which modern relationships are being formed matters enormously. The average cost of a date has climbed to \$189 in 2026, up 12.5 percent from the previous year — far outpacing the broader cost of living increase of 2.8 percent. Americans spent an average of \$2,323 on dates over the past year. Dating itself has become an expensive exercise, and the financial pressure it creates is reshaping who women are willing to invest that time and money in. The rising cost of dating has led some women to prioritise relationships that offer immediate financial security, while pushing some men to put the idea of finding a partner on hold altogether. But to frame this simply as women choosing wealth over love is to misread what is actually happening. What modern women are rejecting is not love — it is the version of love that was sold to their mothers and grandmothers as sufficient compensation for financial dependence, emotional neglect, and the quiet suffocation of ambition. They have watched too many women loved deeply by men who could not pay the rent, adored passionately by men who spent every

shilling on themselves, cherished tenderly by men who resented their success. That kind of love, they have decided, is not enough.

Across all women surveyed on the dating platform Hinge, 72 percent said they care more about a partner's effort to build a relationship than their paycheck. The nuance in that finding is important. Modern women are not simply scanning bank statements and investment portfolios before agreeing to a second date. They are looking for men who are building something — men with direction, discipline, and the capacity to show up consistently for both their relationships and their responsibilities. Financial stability is a proxy for those qualities, not a substitute for them. A man who manages his money well is, the reasoning goes, more likely to manage himself well — to be present, reliable, and genuinely invested in a shared future.

The generational shift driving this change is also rooted in women's own expanding economic power. Women today are more educated, more professionally established, and more financially independent than at any point in recorded history. When a woman no longer needs a man to pay her bills, her reasons for choosing him become entirely different. She is not selecting a provider. She is selecting a partner. And the standards

for partnership — genuine equality, shared ambition, mutual financial transparency — are considerably higher than the standards for provision ever were.

This creates a dynamic that some men find confronting and that social media has amplified into a culture war. On one side, the accusation that women have become mercenary — treating relationships as financial transactions dressed in the language of compatibility. On the other, the counter-argument that men have long selected women for youth and beauty, which are themselves forms of social currency, without being condemned for it. The double standard is not subtle. A man who wants a beautiful woman is called discerning. A woman who wants a financially stable man is called a gold-digger. The vocabulary itself reveals the bias.

What is being described is a crisis of modern romance is, more accurately, a recalibration of power. Women who once had no choice but to accept whatever emotional and financial arrangement was offered to them now have options — and they are using them. The man who expects a woman to overlook his financial chaos because he loves her is encountering, for the first time, a generation of women who have decided that love without security is not a love story. It is a cautionary tale. A 2024 survey found that

31 percent of respondents would consider dating someone for their wealth, while 28 percent admitted they would go on a date for a free dinner. Those numbers are cited as evidence of moral decline by some and as evidence of rational decision-making by others. The truth is more textured than either reading allows. Women who insist on financial compatibility are not abandoning love — they are expanding their definition of it to include the practical conditions under which love can actually flourish.

A relationship in which one person is perpetually anxious about money while the other is indifferent to that anxiety is not a loving relationship. It is a stressful one wearing love's clothing. Women who have lived inside those relationships know this. Women who watched their mothers live inside them know this too. The refusal to repeat that pattern is not a betrayal of romance. It is the most self-aware thing a woman can do.

The modern woman in love with financial stability is not a woman who has given up on love. She is a woman who has given up on suffering for it — and that is a distinction worth defending.

Jane Mwendu is a writer and commentator on gender, relationships, and contemporary social culture.

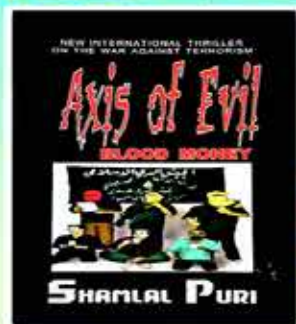
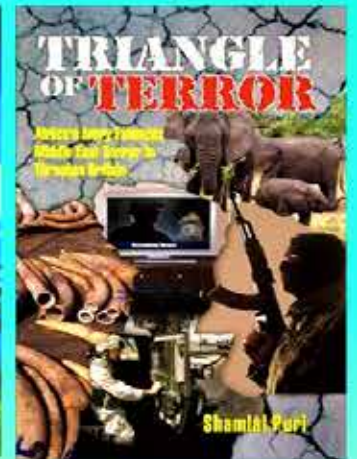
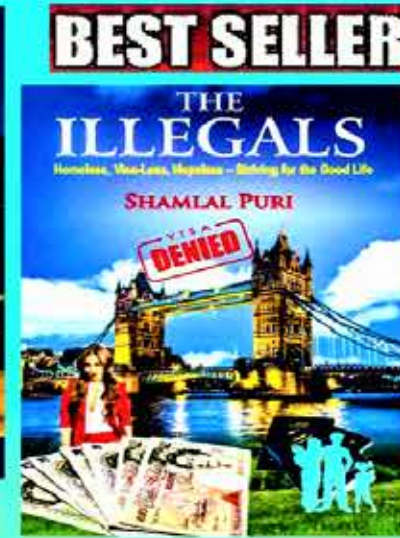
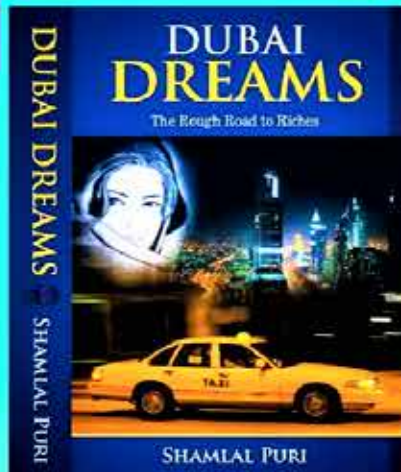
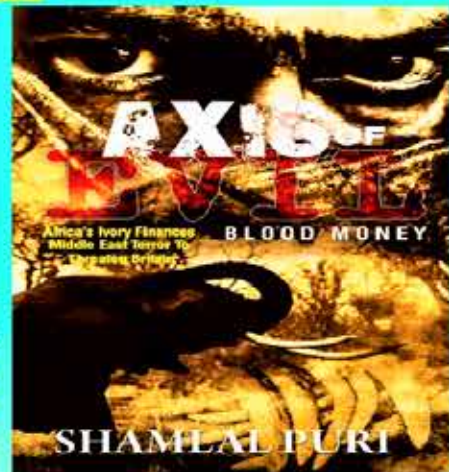
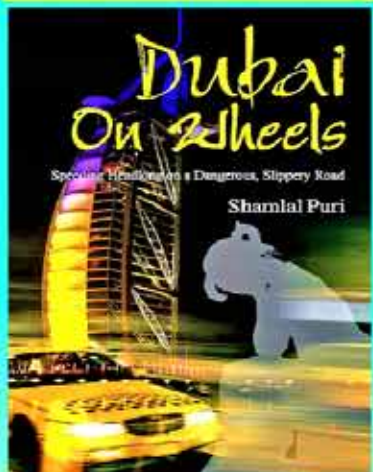
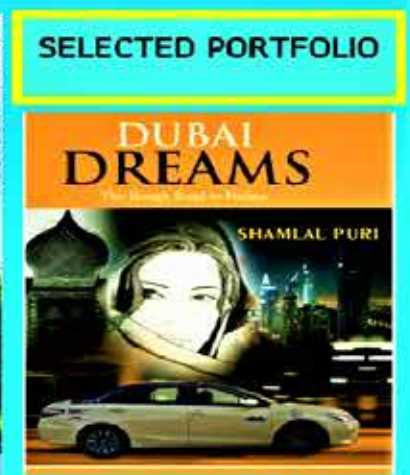
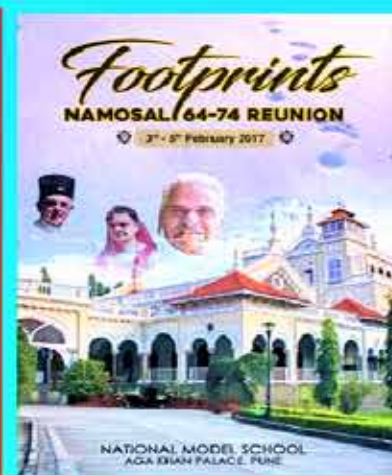
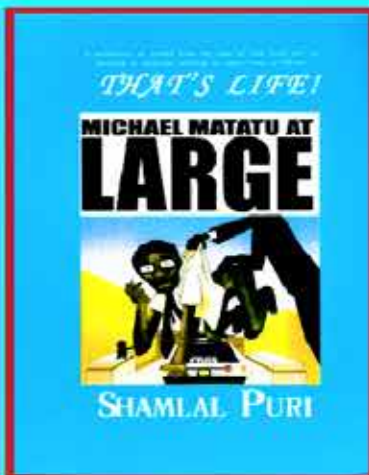
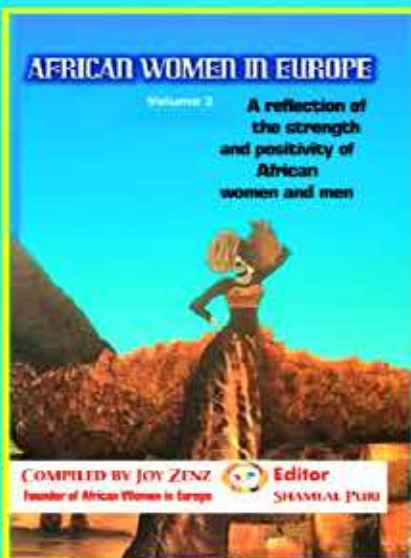
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US News

Fraud: FBI traces Minnesota Medicaid fraud proceeds to luxury Nairobi apartment

A broken leg, a balcony leap, and a wire transfer to Kileleshwa — how Muhammad Omar's alleged \$3.6 million fraud scheme left a trail that stretched from Minneapolis to the heart of one of Nairobi's most desirable postcodes.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

• It was what Omar allegedly did with a portion of that money that drew the FBI's attention to Nairobi. On 5 February 2025, more than three million Kenyan shillings — the equivalent of \$26,356 — were wired to a real estate company in Nairobi, with the transfer earmarked for "Blossom Ivy Residence A802." Three months later, on 13 May, Omar wired another six million Kenyan shillings — \$48,372 — to purchase a further villa in the same development. In total, \$150,000 in allegedly fraudulent proceeds found its way into the Kenyan property market. Federal authorities also said Omar used \$60,000 of the money to lease a Mercedes-Benz.

• The Blossom Ivy Residence is a new-build luxury high-rise development located on Gatundu Road in Kileleshwa, offering one to four-bedroom apartments with a rooftop clubhouse, fully equipped gym, swimming pool, and panoramic views of the Nairobi skyline, with completion expected in December 2026.

fraud in the American Midwest, and the booming luxury real estate market in a leafy Nairobi suburb where diplomats, expatriates, and professionals compete for off-plan apartments in developments that promise elegance and breathtaking city views. That intersection is now the subject of an active FBI investigation that has already resulted in Omar's detention pending trial and raised pointed questions about the vulnerability of Kenya's real estate sector to the laundering of criminal proceeds from abroad.

Omar is one of 15 individuals indicted on 21 May 2026 in what the Department of Justice described as an unprecedented federal crackdown on Medicaid fraud in Minnesota, targeting schemes that prosecutors say defrauded seven state-managed Medicaid programmes of more than \$90 million in taxpayer funds. Federal officials announced the indictments at a news conference in Minneapolis attended by top Trump administration appointees, including Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz. The gathering was itself a statement of political intent: that the federal government was treating Minnesota's fraud crisis not as a bureaucratic anomaly but as a national emergency demanding the most senior levels of attention.

The targeted programmes included Minnesota's Housing Stabilization Services, the state's autism programme, Integrated Community Supports, Individualized Home Supports, and the Child Care Assistance Programme. The numbers behind the scandal are staggering in their trajectory. Minnesota's Housing Stabilization programme — designed to help homeless residents find and keep housing — started with a budget of \$2.5 million. By 2024, that figure had ballooned to \$104 million, nearly fifty times the original amount, before the state ultimately terminated the programme. The explosive growth, prosecutors argued, was not driven by genuine demand but by



A broken leg, a balcony leap, and a wire transfer to Kileleshwa — how Muhammad Omar's alleged \$3.6 million fraud scheme

systematic fraud that treated public funds as a personal revenue source.

Omar's alleged role in that system was specific and calculated. Court records show Omar worked with Ibrahim Bashir Abdi to create North Home Health Care, and separately opened South Home Health Care — both companies registered with Minnesota's Housing Stabilization programme. The men allegedly falsified and inflated service hours provided by North Home. Some of the patients they claimed to serve were hospitalised at the time. Others were dead. Omar and Abdi pocketed \$3.2 million on those false claims. Omar collected an additional \$480,000 through South Home Health Care, bringing his alleged total take to approximately \$3.68 million. He is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and four counts of health care fraud.

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Kileleshwa has long occupied a particular position in Nairobi's residential geography. Bordered by Lavington to the west and Westlands to the north, it is one of the capital's oldest and most established middle-to-up-

per-class neighbourhoods — leafy, relatively quiet, and increasingly the site of high-rise apartment developments catering to the city's expanding professional class and its growing international population. Real estate analysts note that the neighbourhood's appeal to foreign buyers has increased significantly in recent years, driven by proximity to international schools, private hospitals, and the diplomatic enclave in Gigiri. It is, by any measure, an ideal location for an individual seeking to park money in a stable, appreciating asset while maintaining the appearance of legitimate investment.

The question of how that money arrived in Kenya undetected — and what systems were in place to flag it — is now as important as the question of how it was stolen in the first place. Kenya's Anti-Money Laundering law requires financial institutions and real estate agents to conduct due diligence on the source of funds for property transactions, particularly those involving foreign buyers. The Financial Reporting Centre, which sits within the National Treasury and operates as Kenya's financial intelligence unit, is mandated to receive and analyse suspicious transaction reports from obligated entities, including real estate developers and agents. Whether such a report was filed in connection with

Omar's wire transfers — and what, if any, action followed — is a question that Kenyan authorities have not yet publicly addressed.

The case lands at an uncomfortable moment for Kenya's property sector, which has in recent years attracted significant scrutiny over its vulnerability to money laundering. Prosecutors cited Omar's overseas investments in Kenya as a primary motivation for potential flight, with prosecutor Matthew Belz telling the court: "He went to extremes to flee." The argument was persuasive. Magistrate Judge Elsa Bullard ordered Omar detained pending trial, ruling she could not trust that he would not flee the country given his overseas assets. The circumstances of his arrest added an almost cinematic dimension to a case already rich in detail. When FBI agents knocked on his door to execute the arrest warrant on the morning of 22 May, Omar leaped from the fourth-floor balcony of his apartment, sustaining a broken leg, before hobbling to a relative's home in Blaine, Minnesota. Surveillance footage captured him fleeing, hopping on one foot and carrying a shoe in his hand. FBI Co-Deputy Director Christopher Raia played the video at the subsequent

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US News

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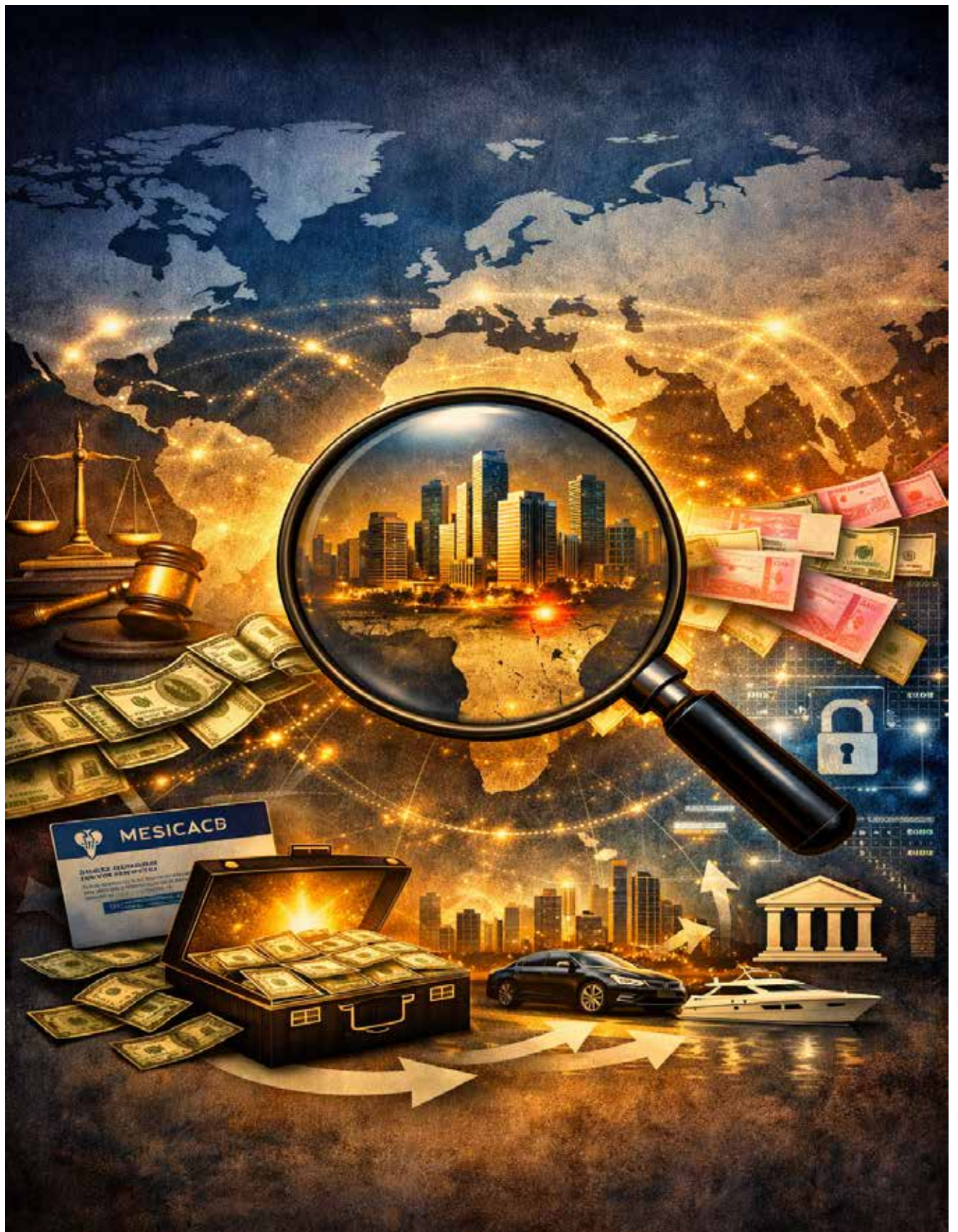
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press conference, where it was received as something between evidence and parable. Omar was arrested within two hours. Those relatives — brothers Anwar and Asad Adow — had already pleaded guilty to federal wire fraud charges brought after KARE 11 investigations exposed a scheme to steal millions from Minnesota's Housing Stabilization Services programme. The family connections in the case run deep.

FBI Director Kash Patel announced the arrest on X that evening, posting alongside a photograph of Omar barefoot and in custody. "After today's interagency press conference announcing 15 public healthcare fraud indictments in Minnesota, the below subject who was on the run — Muhammad Omar — has now been arrested," Patel wrote. "No matter how many shell companies you have, no matter how clever or how brazen your schemes are, if you steal money from taxpayers and people in need, the FBI and our partners will pursue you relentlessly," FBI Co-Deputy Director Raia said at the press conference. "We will find you and ensure you feel the power of American justice."

Colin McDonald, the Trump administration's national fraud enforcement chief, used the occasion to deliver a broader warning. "Let me be clear upfront about something: This is not the end of our work in Minnesota. This is the beginning. The fraud here in Minnesota is shocking," McDonald said, describing those responsible as having treated taxpayer-funded programmes as "their personal piggy bank." The DOJ has since announced the expansion of the healthcare fraud Midwest strike force and the deployment of 15 additional prosecutors dedicated to combating Medicaid fraud nationwide, with 11 prosecutors already on the ground in Minnesota. For Kenya, the implications extend well beyond the criminal record of a single suspect. The Omar case is a reminder that Nairobi's growing real estate market — attractive to international investors precisely because



Global Money Flows Under Scrutiny — A symbolic depiction of international financial investigations tracing illicit funds across borders. The magnifying glass over Africa highlights Nairobi's growing role in global finance as justice, data, and transparency converge in the fight against money laundering.

of its dynamism, its relative political stability, and the ease of cross-border capital movement — can also be attractive to those seeking to convert criminal proceeds into legitimate-appearing assets. Federal prosecutors have estimated the broader fraud scandal in Minnesota could top \$9 billion — a figure disputed by the state's governor but indicative of the scale at which public money has been allegedly misappropriated. Even a small fraction of that sum, if

directed toward foreign real estate markets, represents a significant anti-money laundering challenge for recipient countries. Kenya's Financial Reporting Centre and the Assets Recovery Agency will face pressure in the coming weeks and months to demonstrate that they have been engaged with American investigators and that the appropriate legal mechanisms are in place to freeze or recover assets linked to the fraud. The mutual legal assistance frame-

work between Kenya and the United States provides a pathway for exactly that kind of cooperation, but its effectiveness depends on the speed and willingness with which both sides act. In Kileleshwa, the Blossom Ivy Residence continues to rise from its foundations on Gatundu Road, its promotional videos still advertising elegance, comfort and breathtaking city views. Unit A802 — the first property Omar allegedly purchased — is part of a development

that will, by December 2026, offer its residents rooftop amenities, high-speed lifts, and panoramic views across a city that, for one Minnesota fraud suspect, seemed to offer something else entirely: distance, discretion, and a place to put the money. The FBI followed it there anyway.

Health

The Ebola deal that shook Kenya

American power, parliamentary silence and the dangerous collapse of sovereign diplomacy



BY Fredrick Chelimo

@themkenyatimes

In international diplomacy, treaties are the instruments through which sovereign states negotiate obligations, responsibilities, protections, and mutual interests. They are expected to pass through legal and legislative scrutiny, institutional oversight, public accountability and parliamentary ratification. They exist not only as diplomatic paperwork, but as safeguards against the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals operating behind closed doors and whose decisions may not align with national interests. That is precisely why the ongoing controversy on the proposed United States Ebola quarantine facility in Laikipia Kenya has evolved into far more than a public health dispute.

The controversy erupted after it emerged that the United States government had secured approval to establish a quarantine and monitoring facility in Kenya for American citizens exposed to Ebola while operating in Central Africa. The facility reportedly situated in Laikipia Air Base and staffed by American medical personnel, was intended to receive potentially exposed Americans rather than transport them directly back to the United States. American officials arguing that the arrangement would shorten evacuation times and improve outbreak response capabilities closer to epidemic zone. While at the same time US Secretary of state Marco Rubio was quoted stating “we cannot and will not allow any case of Ebola to Enter the United States”

Technically, the proposal was presented as a public health measure while politically it detonated into one of the most sensitive debates Kenya has witnessed in recent times. Most Kenyan interpreted the proposal not as an act of partnership but as a startling display of geopolitical arrogance. The symbolism was impossible to ignore. The worlds most powerful nation, equipped with some of the most advanced infectious disease facilities and medical technologies ever developed, appeared unwilling to permit potentially exposed citizens onto its soil while simultaneously expecting an African nation with far fewer resources to absorb that risk. The American officials’ statement on the treatments of infectious diseases abroad and not domestically as the case has been previously points at a potential situation that is far from what we can see.

If the virus was potentially dangerous enough to warrant American

citizens being excluded from their territory, many Kenyans asked, by what logic was it acceptable to Kenya?

Kenyans in their small or big ways including through civic organization led by Katiba Institute filed a constitutional petition seeking to halt the arrangement citing constitutional concerns, health agreements, biosafety approvals, public participation, fair administrative action and parliamentary oversight among others. The Law Society of Kenya also added its voice questioning legality, transparency and implications on biosafety and public health. These interventions secured a temporary reprieve, when the High Court of Kenya suspended the establishment, operationalization or facilitation of any Ebola-related quarantine, isolation or treatment facility connected to the United States or any foreign government pending full judicial review.

It also barred entry of any individual exposed to or infected with Ebola under the contested arrangement until the petition is heard and determined. This ruling transformed the matter from diplomatic to constitutional confrontation. While the courts battled out the matter which is at the intersection of public health, foreign policy, sovereignty, and national security, Kenya’s parliament has remained conspicuously absent from the center of national debate. Both houses have not demonstrated the level of urgency expected from institutions constitutionally mandated to oversee executive decisions affecting the Republic. No statement, no enquiry, no emergency debate matching the scale of public anxiety.

There are no visible efforts to explain, or oversight effort to interrogate the legal, diplomatic, and health implications of the proposed arrangement. The silence forms part of the controversy as many observers sees the legislatures inactiveness as a broader democratic problem emerging across many developing nations; erosion of parliamentary oversight in favour of executive centered diplomacy reducing oversight institutions to spectators rather than guardians of public interest.

When international treaties, strategic agreements and sensitive arrangement cease functioning as transparent state-to-state instruments and instead evolve into informal understandings negotiated by a handful of powerful actors, diplomacy itself begins losing institutional legitimacy. International law becomes weakened, democratic accountability deteriorates and citizens lose visibility into decisions that directly affect their security and sovereignty. Formal diplomacy risks degenerating into what critics have described as “gentleman’s agreements” – understandings negotiated among a small circle of executives, diplomats and foreign interests without meaningful public partici-



A symbolic depiction of public health governance

pation or visible transparent parliamentary scrutiny.

The Kenya medical community through the doctor’s union has strongly condemned the health-care workers and citizens to avoidable risks. They have described the move as Kenya becoming a dumping ground for risks that the United States itself appears unwilling to handle. Their concerns lie in whether Kenya possesses sufficient high containment infrastructure, emergency response systems and institutional safeguards to absorb additional risks while struggling with health care resources constraints.

Several experts while questioning the approach by the US noted that United States possesses extensive previous experience in transportation and treatment of Ebola patients and its current refusal to do so has raised ethical questions about whether the political optics are increasingly overriding scientific confidence. Powerful nations inevitably influence international systems,

however, when power overrides visible sensitivities to perceptions of equality and mutual respect, it risks generating resentment even among allies. The current Kenya -US relations on strategic cooperation has quickly misinterpreted as coercion in the absents of transparency and unequal negotiation.

Many African countries see a superpower drawing protective circles around itself while extending risks outwards. They see hierarchy of acceptable exposure, a world order where vulnerability is geographically outsourced and whether the perception is wrong or right, diplomacy functions as much through trust as through logistics. Once trust is lost, even technically rational policies become politically combusive.

The broader lesson emerging from the Kenyan controversy is not only about Ebola, but the future of international relations in a world where citizens are becoming increasingly aware, informed and resistant to decision made without their participa-

tion especially when it affects them significantly. It is also about sovereignty, parliamentary oversight role, and global cooperation with powerful states who appear unwilling to shoulder the same risks they ask others to bear.

As for now, the courts have intervened where parliament has hesitated, civil society has spoken where legislature have remained muted, doctors have raised alarm where official communication has appeared evasive. The unanswered question is whether Kenya’s elected representatives will eventually reclaim their constitutional voice.

“The greatest threat to sovereignty is not always foreign power. Sometimes it is the silence of the institutions entrusted to defend it while decisions of national consequence drift beyond public scrutiny and democratic control”

NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

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WORLD

The Chinese century: how Beijing is reshaping the world's technology, industry and influence

From factory floors to artificial intelligence, from African ports to outer space — China's rise is no longer a forecast. It is a fact being assembled in real time.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

• That model is underpinned by massive state support. Beijing channels billions into subsidies, low-interest government loans, tax incentives, and strategic investments, allowing Chinese firms to operate profitably on razor-thin margins and keeping prices aggressively competitive worldwide. Critics in Washington, Brussels, and Tokyo call this unfair competition. Beijing calls it industrial policy. The distinction matters less than the outcome: Chinese goods dominate global supply chains in ways that competitors have spent years trying, and largely failing, to replicate. But the most important shift in China's global position is not about cheap goods or high volume. It is about the transition from manufacturing muscle to technological leadership — a move that is already well advanced and accelerating. According to research tracking 74 critical technologies globally, China leads in 66 of them — a statistic that captures a tectonic shift in how China leads, moving beyond manufacturing into innovation itself. Once known primarily for scaling



BYD electric vehicles vs Tesla's electric vehicles

not the numbers of a developing nation catching up. They are the numbers of a country that has already arrived and is now setting the pace for everyone else. To understand how China got here requires looking beyond the headline figures to the structural choices made over decades. China's manufacturing output climbed from roughly \$134 billion in 1980 to roughly \$4.8 trillion in 2023. During that time, China's share of global manufacturing output climbed from 5 percent to around 30 percent, while the United States saw its share drop from 21 to 17 percent. The United States peaked at 28 percent in 2001 — the same year China joined the World Trade Organisation. What followed was not a coincidence. It was the consequence of a deliberate, state-backed industrial strategy that identified manufacturing dominance as the foundation upon which every other form of national power could be built. That model is underpinned by massive state support. Beijing channels billions into subsidies, low-interest government loans, tax incentives, and strategic investments, allowing Chinese firms to operate profitably

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trajectory is unmistakable. Chinese AI advancement accelerated sharply in early 2026, with multiple flagship model releases from leading technology companies. Alibaba unveiled Qwen3-Max-Thinking, claiming performance comparable to leading Western models. Moonshot AI released Kimi K2.5, positioning it as among the world's most powerful open-source models. These releases did not emerge from nowhere. They are the product of a research ecosystem built over years through coordinated state investment, a vast pool of engineering talent emerging from Chinese universities, and data access at a scale that few other countries can match given China's 1.4 billion population. China's 15th Five-Year Plan, covering 2026 to 2030, prioritises advanced logic chip processes, memory expansion, and equipment localisation — a direct response to American export controls on advanced semiconductors that sought to slow China's technological ascent. The controls have had some effect, but they have also accelerated China's drive toward self-sufficiency in chip manufacturing, a goal Beijing now pursues with

the urgency of a national security imperative. The Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation continues producing at advanced nodes using domestic equipment, and investment in the sector has reached levels that suggest China intends to close the gap regardless of cost. In electric vehicles, China has already won the first round. BYD delivered 2.26 million battery-electric vehicles in 2025, surpassing Tesla's 1.64 million to become the world's leading EV manufacturer. That figure would have been inconceivable to American and European automotive executives a decade ago, when China's EV ambitions were still dismissed as aspirational. Today, BYD operates in dozens of international markets, with export momentum remaining strong — 100,482 vehicles exported in January 2026 alone, a 51.4 percent increase year on year, with a 2026 target of 1.3 million overseas sales. Meanwhile, more than 50 car brands in China now use ByteDance's Doubao AI model embedded in vehicles, with the technology deployed across 145 car models and over 7 million vehicles. The car is no longer just a vehicle.

In China, it has become a rolling artificial intelligence platform. China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology released its 2026 automotive standardisation work plan in May, outlining measures to tighten technical requirements for electric vehicles, AI systems in automated driving, automotive chips, battery safety, and solid-state batteries — effectively positioning China to set the global standards in the industry it now leads. Whoever sets the standards in a dominant industry writes the rules for everyone else. China understands this. Its competitors are only beginning to. Economically, the full picture is more nuanced than either China's champions or its detractors typically allow. China's economy grew 5.0 percent in the first quarter of 2026 compared with a year earlier — a solid performance, though one achieved against significant headwinds including a property sector still working through years of excess debt, a population that is ageing faster than anticipated, and

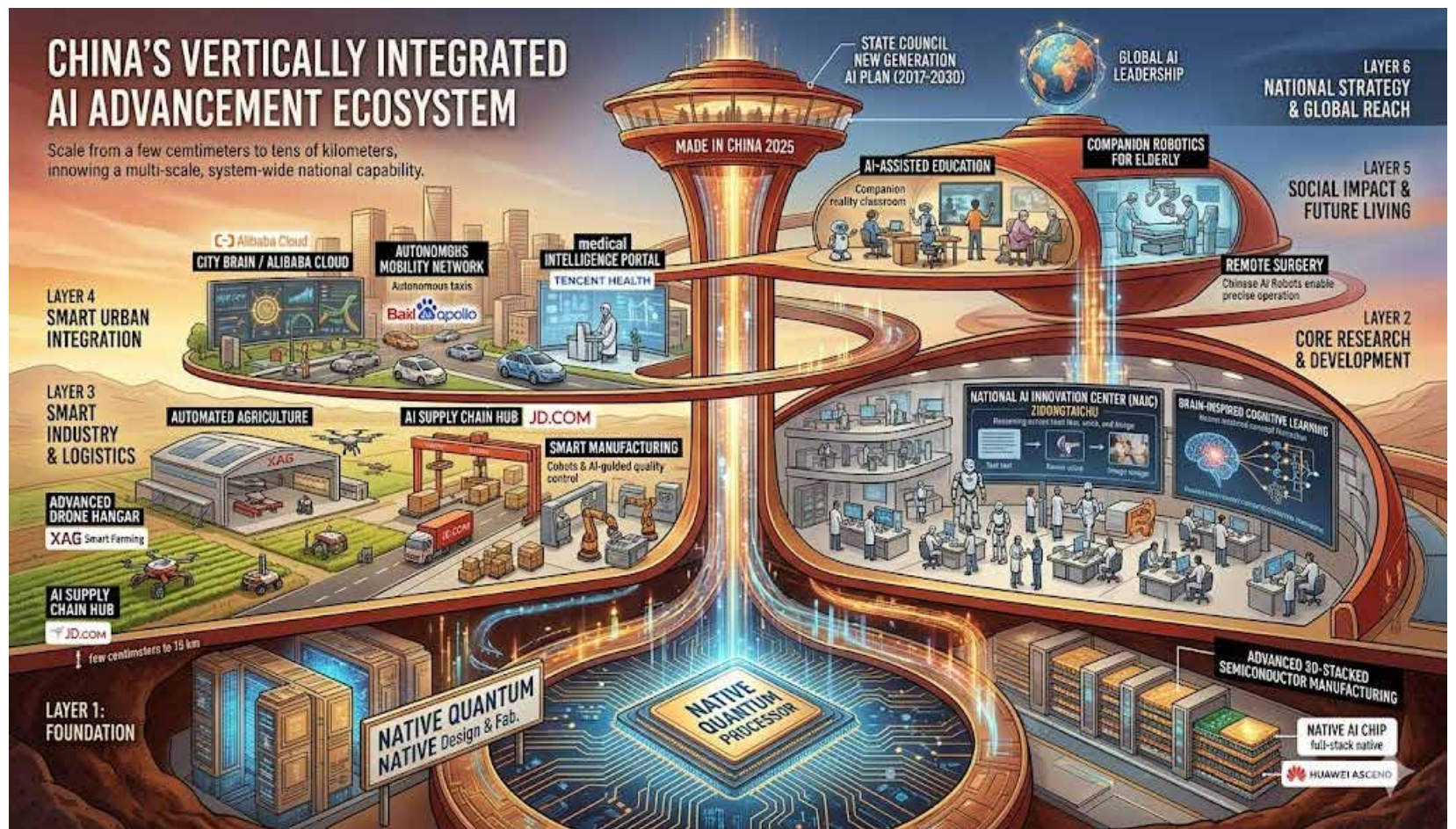
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WORLD

The Chinese century: how Beijing is reshaping the world's technology, industry and influence

From factory floors to artificial intelligence, from African ports to outer space — China's rise is no longer a forecast. It is a fact being assembled in real time.

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Chinese AI advancement

domestic demand that has not yet fully recovered its pre-pandemic dynamism. China's GDP reached \$19.63 trillion in 2025, compared to the United States' \$30.77 trillion — a gap that has not closed as rapidly as many forecast in the early 2020s. The Centre for Economics and Business Research, which in 2020 predicted China would overtake the US by 2028, revised that forecast to 2036. Some economists now question whether it will happen at all in nominal dollar terms. Yet the nominal GDP comparison, while important, captures only part of the story. The IMF forecasts China will contribute 26.6 percent of global real GDP growth in 2026 — by far the largest share of any country. China ranks first among all nations in total GDP added over the period 2026 to 2030, projected to expand by \$5.7 trillion, ahead of the United States at \$5.0 trillion. In terms of purchasing power parity — which adjusts for the fact that a dollar buys far more in China than in New York — China's economy is already larger than America's and has been for years. For the billions of people in developing countries who trade with China, it is those purchasing-power-adjusted realities that determine the

relationship, not the nominal dollar comparison that preoccupies Western commentators. It is in the developing world where China's influence is most visibly and rapidly expanding. In 2025, Belt and Road Initiative engagement reached record levels — \$128.4 billion in construction contracts, an 81 percent increase from 2024, and \$85.2 billion in investment, a 62 percent increase — with total cumulative BRI engagement reaching \$1.399 trillion since 2013 across 150 countries. The BRI's critics, concentrated in Western capitals, describe it as debt-trap diplomacy — a strategy of building infrastructure in exchange for strategic leverage over indebted governments. Its supporters, more numerous in the Global South, describe it as the only major international infrastructure financing programme willing to build roads, railways, and ports in places that Western development banks have long declined to fund. Africa's trade with China reached a record \$275 billion in 2024, with the continent importing \$182 billion in Chinese goods. China is Africa's largest trading partner by a substantial margin, and its presence on the continent — through con-

struction projects, manufacturing investment, telecommunications infrastructure, and development finance — gives Beijing a relationship with African governments and populations that Washington has consistently underestimated and only recently begun to take seriously. As African nations navigate the transition to clean energy, Chinese manufacturers of solar panels, batteries, and electric vehicles are positioning themselves as the primary suppliers — deepening economic ties that are likely to persist for generations. The comparison with other major powers reveals the scale of China's advantage. The United States remains ahead in nominal GDP, dominates in financial services, leads in biotechnology and medical research, and retains unmatched military projection capacity. Its universities continue to attract the world's best researchers, many of them Chinese, and its technology companies still define the global software landscape. But in manufacturing, in infrastructure investment, in clean technology, and in the depth of its industrial ecosystems, the United States has ceded ground that will be extraordinarily difficult to recover. Europe faces a similar reck-

oning. Germany's automotive industry — once among the world's most formidable — is confronting a structural threat from Chinese EV manufacturers that its own government has been slow to address. Japan and South Korea remain strong in specific sectors but lack the scale and state capacity to mount a comprehensive response to Chinese industrial ambition. India is frequently cited as the country best positioned to challenge China's manufacturing dominance over the coming decades, and there is genuine substance to that argument. India's working-age population will surpass China's in absolute terms within this decade, its democratic institutions provide a degree of political legitimacy that China's authoritarian model cannot match in Western eyes, and its technology sector has demonstrated genuine world-class capability. But India's infrastructure deficit, regulatory complexity, and the sheer time required to build the kind of industrial ecosystem China has spent forty years constructing mean that the competitive challenge India poses remains a projection rather than a present reality. The more honest assessment is that China is not simply

leading in any single domain. It is building a self-reinforcing system in which manufacturing scale funds research investment, research investment generates technological leadership, technological leadership enables export dominance, export dominance finances Belt and Road infrastructure, and Belt and Road infrastructure creates the political relationships that insulate China from the consequences of Western pressure. That system is not without its vulnerabilities — demographic decline, property debt, and the political costs of authoritarian governance are real constraints. But they are constraints on the pace of China's rise, not on its direction. The world that China is building, piece by piece, port by port, patent by patent, is one in which the centre of gravity in technology, industry, and influence tilts steadily eastward. The question for every other nation is not whether that shift is happening — it is — but how quickly they are willing to recognise it and what, if anything, they intend to do in response. China is not waiting for the answer.

Zimbabwe

Mbizo MP challenges stadium birthday party as Zimbabweans struggle

When the powerful celebrate loudly, the powerless notice.

By: Norman Mwale
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Worth Noting:

Politically, the sensitivity of Mr. Madzivanyika's intervention is compounded by the charged atmosphere in which criticism of figures close to the ruling establishment is weighed. His decision to veil the name of the celebrant reflects that reality — an attempt to elevate principle over personality in a space where the two are difficult to separate. Opposition voices and independent analysts in Kwekwe have cautioned that conspicuous displays by politically connected individuals, even when entirely privately funded, blur the line between personal entitlement and the standards of public accountability that citizens apply to anyone associated with power.

Economists add a structural dimension to the debate. Zimbabwe's fiscal constraints remain acute, and development partners consistently direct pressure toward channelling resources into productive and social sectors. While private wealth is not public money, high-profile consumption by influential figures sets a tone that shapes spending culture and, in some cases, investment confidence.

Mbizo legislator Mr. Corban Madzivanyika has publicly questioned the appropriateness of a lavish stadium birthday celebration held by a senior figure in President Emmerson Mnangagwa's inner circle in Kwekwe, calling for greater restraint from the politically connected as ordinary Zimbabweans battle rising food, transport and healthcare costs.

Mr. Madzivanyika stopped short of naming the individual, describing him only as one of the president's "right-hand men," but his intervention landed with force in a constituency where the gap between political proximity and daily hardship is not abstract — it is measured in clinic shortages, unrepaired boreholes and classrooms without textbooks. The legislator's concern was not with the act of celebration itself, but with its scale and symbolism at a moment when millions of Zimbabweans are counting every dollar.

The optics of abundance in a stadium, visible to all, while basic services remain absent from the surrounding wards, carry a social cost that economists and community leaders have long documented. "In times of strain, restraint is not a concession of weakness but a demonstration of awareness," Mr. Madzivanyika said. "It signals to citizens that their pressures are seen, shared and factored into decisions." The remark cuts to the heart of a debate Zimbabwe has not yet resolved: whether those with influence bear a moral obligation to calibrate their public conduct against the lived realities of the communities around them.

Faith leaders and civil society organisations in Midlands province have repeatedly argued that visibility carries moral weight. When resources are demonstrably abundant in one space while clinics in the same district cannot stock basic medication, the contrast does not go unnoticed. It erodes the social compact — the unspoken agreement between the powerful and the public that influence will be exercised with some regard for collective wellbeing. A stadium that can be filled for a personal milestone, community advocates note, can

equally host a medical outreach camp, a youth skills fair or a fundraising drive for school infrastructure — platforms that would align convening power with constituency need.

Politically, the sensitivity of Mr. Madzivanyika's intervention is compounded by the charged atmosphere in which criticism of figures close to the ruling establishment is weighed. His decision to veil the name of the celebrant reflects that reality — an attempt to elevate principle over personality in a space where the two are difficult to separate. Opposition voices and independent analysts in Kwekwe have cautioned that conspicuous displays by politically connected individuals, even when entirely privately funded, blur the line between personal entitlement and the standards of public accountability that citizens apply to anyone associated with power.

Economists add a structural dimension to the debate. Zimbabwe's fiscal constraints remain acute, and development partners consistently direct pressure toward channelling resources into productive and social sectors. While private wealth is not public money, high-profile consumption by influential figures sets a tone that shapes spending culture and, in some cases, investment confidence. The counterargument from business advocates — that private celebrations inject short-term revenue into the hospitality, transport and events sectors — has merit, but it does not fully answer the question Mr. Madzivanyika has raised: whether the same platform and expenditure, redirected toward borehole rehabilitation, rural health outreach or vocational training, would generate returns of longer duration and wider reach.

The Kwekwe episode is not an isolated provocation. It is the latest instance of a tension that surfaces regularly across Zimbabwe's constituencies — between the private freedoms of those who have accumulated wealth and influence, and the public expectations that accumulation inevitably attracts. In Mbizo, where political competition is keen and



Mbizo legislator Mr. Corban Madzivanyika

trust between representatives and residents is hard-won, the perception of excess does not need to be fair to be damaging. Perception, in politics, carries the weight of fact.

Mr. Madzivanyika's remarks do not amount to a call for austerity as a performance, nor for the wealthy to apologise for prosperity. They amount to something more considered: an appeal for those with platforms to use

them in ways that acknowledge the weight of the moment. Zimbabwe's resilience — documented across decades of inflation, power cuts and structural hardship — should not be mistaken for indifference to contrast. Communities notice when convoys arrive at funerals but not at clinics, when stadiums fill for parties but not for public health drives, when generosity flows at occasions of personal signifi-

cance but not at moments of collective need.

The conversation that began in Mbizo is, in the end, a conversation about what leadership looks like when the cameras are not pointed at a crisis but at a celebration — and whether those in positions of influence have the self-awareness to ask, before the music starts, whether this is the right moment to dance.



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

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Diaspora

India edges toward \$38 billion Rafale deal in world's biggest fighter jet order

114 jets, a production line on Indian soil, and a strategic partnership that will reshape South Asia's air-power balance for a generation

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

• New Delhi has pushed for up to 50 percent indigenous content under the broader vision of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, with the proposed deal increasingly viewed not merely as a fighter aircraft purchase but as part of a broader India-France strategic industrial partnership involving co-design, co-development, and co-production in defence manufacturing. Discussions are reportedly centred around existing Dassault-linked facilities in Nagpur and Hyderabad for the domestic production component. India is also exploring the incorporation of indigenous sensors, including the Uttam AESA radar and locally developed electronic warfare suites — integrations critical for reducing reliance on foreign suppliers while maintaining operational flexibility across diverse combat scenarios.

• The Letter of Request itself is a preliminary step, outlining India's requirements in terms of aircraft numbers, operational capabilities, and technical specifications. It precedes the formal Request for Proposal stage, when Dassault Aviation will be invited to submit detailed technical and commercial bids, followed by price and contract negotiations covering technology transfer, source code access, offset obligations, and indigenous production timelines.

India has finalised a Letter of Request for the acquisition of 114 Dassault Rafale multi-role fighter jets for the Indian Air Force in a deal valued at approximately \$38 billion — which, if concluded, would represent both the country's largest-ever defence procurement and the single biggest Rafale order in aviation history.

The document, tied to a programme valued at ₹3.25 lakh crore, is expected to be formally transmitted to France within the coming weeks under a government-to-government Inter-governmental Agreement framework — the same procurement channel used for India's successful 2016 Rafale purchase that brought 36 jets into the IAF's inventory. The proposal received Acceptance of Necessity from the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on 12 February 2026 — a clearance granted ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's official visit to India, reinforcing the strategic depth of the bilateral relationship. The timing was not coincidental. Every stage of this procurement has been choreographed to signal mutual commitment between two nations whose defence relationship has grown steadily closer over the past decade.

The scale of what India is proposing to buy is extraordinary even by the standards of global arms procurement. Under the proposed deal, 22 Rafales will be delivered directly from France in fly-away condition, while the remaining 92 will be manufactured in India through a partnership between Dassault Aviation and an Indian private sector company — establishing the first Rafale production line ever built outside France. That production arrangement is not merely an industrial concession extracted during negotiation. It is the strategic core of the entire acquisition. India's Defence Acquisition Procedure 2026 prioritises technology transfer and local industrial participation, and the Rafale deal has been structured from the outset as a vehicle for building indigenous aerospace manufacturing capacity that will outlast the jets themselves. New Delhi has pushed for

up to 50 percent indigenous content under the broader vision of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, with the proposed deal increasingly viewed not merely as a fighter aircraft purchase but as part of a broader India-France strategic industrial partnership involving co-design, co-development, and co-production in defence manufacturing. Discussions are reportedly centred around existing Dassault-linked facilities in Nagpur and Hyderabad for the domestic production component. India is also exploring the incorporation of indigenous sensors, including the Uttam AESA radar and locally developed electronic warfare suites — integrations critical for reducing reliance on foreign suppliers while maintaining operational flexibility across diverse combat scenarios.

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Dassault Aviation's Chief Executive Éric Trappier has publicly stated his confidence that the contract can be signed within 2026, and the signals from India's defence establishment support that ambition. Indian defence industry personnel have already begun training at Dassault facilities in France — a detail that speaks to a level of confidence on both sides that no formal contract has yet been needed to generate.

The IAF's preference for the Rafale over rival American, Russian, and European plat-



114 Dassault Rafale multi-role fighter jets

forms was shaped decisively by operational experience. The 36 jets acquired under the 2016 deal, now stationed at Ambala and Hasimara air bases, have performed consistently across the full spectrum of the IAF's operational requirements — from air superiority and ground attack to nuclear delivery and maritime strike. That versatility, combined with the aircraft's proven performance in French combat operations over Libya, Mali, and Syria, gave the IAF a level of confidence in the platform that no competitor could replicate through a brochure or a demonstration flight.

The 114-jet acquisition follows the ₹63,000 crore deal signed in April 2025 for 26 Rafale Marine aircraft for the Indian Navy, intended to operate from carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. Together, the two contracts position France as one of India's most significant long-term defence partners. The cumulative Rafale commitment now exceeds \$45 billion — a transformation of the India-France defence relationship that would have been difficult to imagine a decade ago, when India's defence procurement was dominated by Russian platforms and Washington was still the aspirational partner for New Delhi's military modernisation.

The strategic rationale for the 114-jet acquisition is

rooted in numbers that India's military planners cannot afford to ignore. The IAF faces significant squadron shortages, and the evolving regional security environment — shaped by China's accelerating military modernisation and the lessons of the 2020 Galwan Valley clash — has sharpened the urgency of force structure decisions. The proposed acquisition of 114 Rafales could contribute approximately six to eight additional combat squadrons, reshaping operational readiness across the contested air theatres that India's strategic planners are preparing for in both the western sector facing Pakistan and the northern sector facing China.

The Rafale F4-standard aircraft offer expanded sensor fusion, network-centric warfare functions, electronic warfare survivability, and advanced beyond-visual-range combat performance — capabilities that increasingly matter in modern air warfare, which prioritises information dominance and kill-chain compression over platform-centric combat paradigms. India's own Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, its domestically developed fifth-generation fighter, remains years from operational deployment. The 114 Rafales are designed to bridge that gap — providing front-line capability while the indigenous pro-

gramme matures. One significant sticking point remains. India's access to the Interface Control Document — technical data essential for integrating indigenous weapons and sensors into the Rafale airframe — has become a non-negotiable condition, with India signalling it will not finalise the contract without it. France's willingness to provide that access, which touches on proprietary aviation technology at the core of Dassault's competitive advantage, will be one of the most closely watched elements of the negotiations ahead.

If those negotiations succeed and deliveries begin around 2030 as planned, India will possess one of the most capable and numerous Rafale fleets in the world — built partly on its own soil, maintained with its own industry, and integrated with its own technology. That is not simply a defence acquisition. It is an assertion, made in steel and titanium, that India intends to be a first-tier military power on its own terms.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

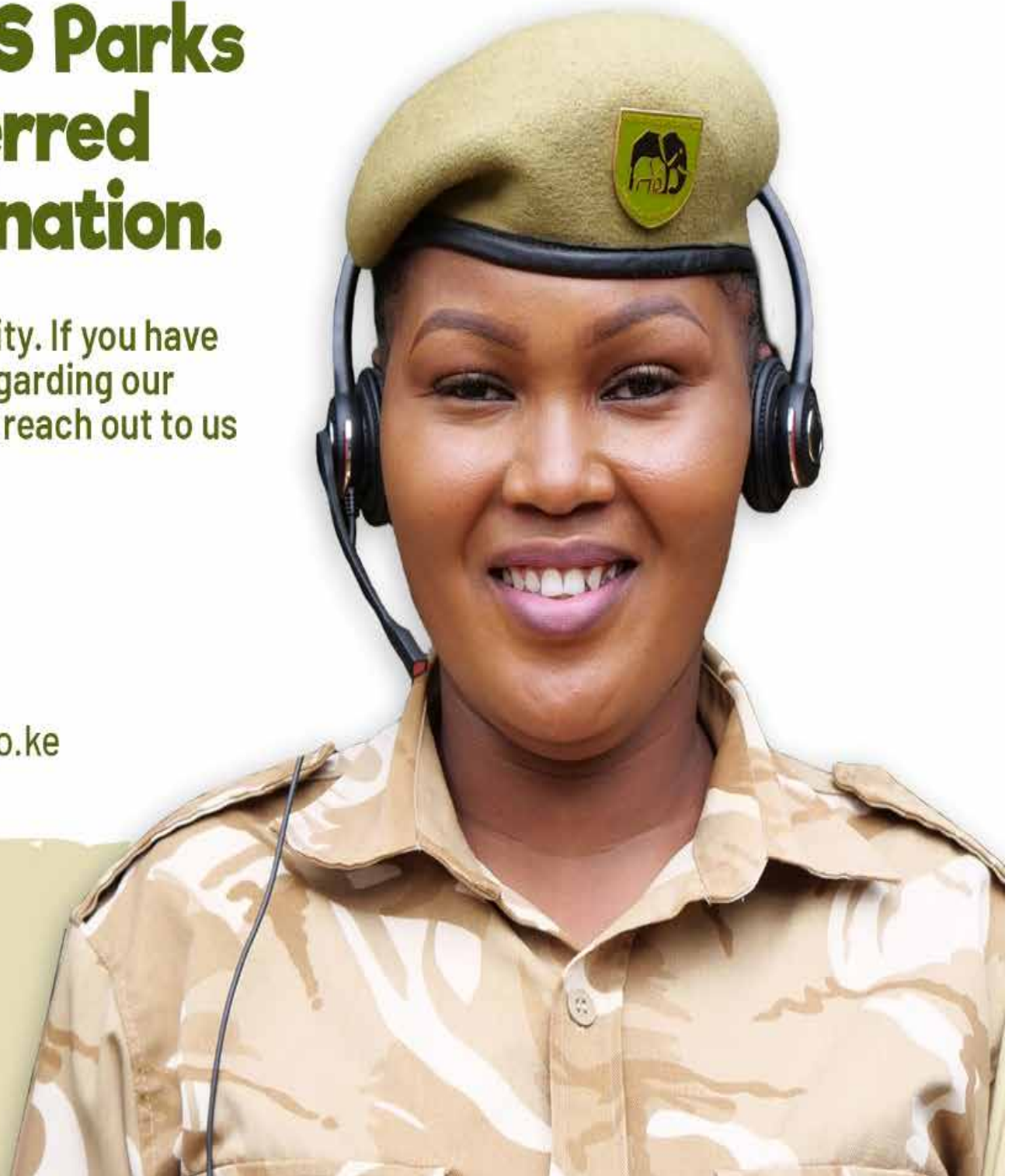
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Diaspora

How Prepared Are Ghana's Hospitals to Conduct Blood Lead Testing?

In many communities across Ghana, families begin their day unaware of a hidden danger around them.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

• Lead exposure has become a growing public health concern in Ghana. The toxic metal can enter the body through contaminated food, water, soil, dust, and household products. Over time, it builds up in the body and may cause serious health complications, including kidney damage, cardiovascular diseases, developmental disorders in children, and neurological problems.

• Local cooking pots made from aluminium or recycled materials have become one of the concerns raised by health authorities. Some of these products contain lead from paints or other metals used during production. When used repeatedly for cooking, the lead may contaminate food consumed by households daily.

• Recently, the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority called for a ban on Dadesen cooking pots after laboratory tests detected unsafe levels of lead in some samples. According to the Authority, lead is sometimes added during manufacturing to soften the metal, despite the associated health risks.

In many communities across Ghana, families begin their day unaware of a hidden danger around them. Children play near mining sites where illegal gold operations have contaminated the soil with heavy metals. In homes, meals are prepared with locally manufactured aluminium cooking pots commonly known as Dadesen.

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Recently, the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority called for a ban on Dadesen cooking pots after laboratory tests detected unsafe levels of lead in some samples. According to the Authority, lead is sometimes added during manufacturing to soften the metal, despite the associated health risks. The Authority further noted that many local manufacturers may not fully understand the health implications of using lead in cookware production. Consumers were advised to avoid the products and use safer alternatives such as stainless steel cookware.

Limited Access to Blood Lead Testing

For citizens who suspect exposure to lead and want to test their blood lead levels, access to testing remains limited. Only a few public health facilities are able to conduct the tests, while the cost of testing and equipment continues to pose a challenge.

Dr. Carl Osei, Programme Manager for Occupational and Environmental Health

at the Ghana Health Service, explained the situation during a three day Lead Poisoning Prevention and Health Journalist Training organised by Bloomberg Philanthropies in partnership with Vital Strategies in Koforidua in the Eastern Region.

"We have been talking about the risk of lead and people will definitely ask where they can go to get tested. This is an area where the health sector has a huge capacity gap," Dr. Osei said. He explained that screening tests used for research are expensive and often sent abroad for analysis.

"So to test, usually you have the screening test. The screening test is what we use for research and then send to the US and it is expensive. I don't think the government would be able to keep up with importing those expensive screening tests. Also, for the confirmatory test, the equipment is expensive," he said.

According to Dr. Osei, strengthening blood lead testing services across the country will require investment and partnerships. "Ideally, all the regional hospitals should have it. Now we will need support. The government cannot do it alone and will need partners to come on board," he added.

Efforts to Strengthen Capacity

Some organisations are already supporting efforts to improve awareness and testing services within communities.

Sumi Mehta, Vice President at Vital Strategies, said the organisation conducts free blood lead level testing through community outreach programmes.

The Global Burden of Disease, in a study published in 2023, reported about 5,000 cardiovascular deaths in Ghana linked to lead exposure. The figures have increased concerns about the need for stronger laboratory systems for early detection and monitoring.

As part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiative, the CDC Foundation is working with the Government of Ghana and local partners to strengthen laboratory

capacity for blood lead testing. The initiative includes assessments of current laboratory systems for sample collection, analysis, and data reporting.

Justice Sitsofe Yevugah, Surveillance Coordinator for Vital Strategies, said lead poisoning prevention requires collaboration and public awareness.

"Lead Poisoning Prevention requires a coordinated effort and community awareness," he said.

During the training, 22 journalists from across Ghana received education on lead toxicology and its effects on health and society.

The writer is a science journalist.

Email: prissyof@yahoo.com



Community Lead Screening Drive



Blood Lead Level Testing



Sumi Mehta, Vice President at Vital Strategies

PSG end Arsenal's Champions League dream with clinical semi-final victory

Luis Enrique's side are one game from glory — Arsenal are left wondering what might have been.

By: Norman Mwale
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Worth Noting:

- Arsenal were handed an unexpected route back into the tie when Vitinha's penalty was saved by Raya in the 69th minute following a handball decision — a moment that briefly silenced the Parc des Princes and sent a tremor through the home support. The reprieve lasted three minutes. Achraf Hakimi, one of the most dangerous right backs in world football, received the ball in space and drove a precise finish beyond Raya to make it 2-0 on the night and 3-0 on aggregate. The tie was over.

- Bukayo Saka reduced the deficit in the 76th minute, finishing calmly to give the scoreline a measure of respectability and briefly restore hope of the improbable. Moments later he had a clear opportunity to set up a grandstand finish and blazed over the crossbar. It was Arsenal's last genuine chance. The final whistle confirmed what the scoreboard had long suggested.



Paris Saint-Germain beat Arsenal 2-1 at the Parc des Princes

Paris Saint-Germain beat Arsenal 2-1 at the Parc des Princes on Tuesday to complete a 3-1 aggregate victory and secure a place in the Champions League final against Inter Milan in Munich on 31 May, ending the Gunners' most significant European run in nearly two decades.

Arsenal arrived in Paris needing to overturn a one-goal deficit from the first leg at the Emirates Stadium, and for long stretches of the opening half they looked capable of doing exactly that. Gianluigi Donnarumma was tested repeatedly, producing saves that kept the tie intact as Mikel Arteta's side pressed with urgency. But pressure without conversion is a dangerous currency in European football, and Arsenal were made to pay in the 27th minute when Fabian Ruiz collected possession on the edge of the area and lashed a stunning left-footed strike past David Raya. PSG led 2-0 on aggregate, and the mathematics of the evening had shifted decisively against the visitors.

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Bukayo Saka reduced the deficit in the 76th minute, finishing calmly to give the scoreline a measure of respectability and briefly restore hope of the improbable. Moments later he had a clear opportunity to set up a grandstand finish and blazed over the crossbar. It was Arsenal's last genuine chance. The final whistle confirmed what the scoreboard had long suggested. Arteta was measured but clearly affected in his post-match remarks. "I am so proud of the players," he told TNT Sports. "They deserve a lot of credit for what they are doing in the context of the situation and the amount of injuries — probably the worst state you could arrive here as a team. To come here with a different context and still do that gives me a lot of positives for the future, but

tonight I am very upset." The injuries he referenced had been a theme throughout Arsenal's campaign, with key absences limiting the squad's depth at the moments it mattered most. For PSG, the evening carried the weight of vindication. Hakimi, whose goal sealed the tie, reflected on the scale of what the club has built under Luis Enrique. "Luis Enrique has done an incredible job since arriving at PSG — he has created a great team," Hakimi told Canal Plus. "We have worked so hard for this moment. It was a difficult match and we are very happy and proud to win." Captain Marquinhos, composed as ever in the mixed zone, offered a note of determination alongside the celebration. "It is a great feeling — we have done a great job to deserve all this,"

he said. "We have done our job to get to the final, but it is not over yet. We want more. We want to win this title." The foundations of PSG's victory were laid at the Emirates a week earlier, where Ousmane Dembélé's fourth-minute goal — the product of a fluid 26-pass move — gave the French champions a lead they never surrendered. Donnarumma's saves in the second half, including stops to deny Mikel Merino and Leandro Trossard, preserved the advantage despite sustained Arsenal pressure. The aggregate statistics tell a story of opportunity squandered rather than dominance denied. Arsenal registered 19 shots across both legs to PSG's 11 and accumulated 3.14 expected goals against 1.74 for the French

side. Yet PSG converted with the efficiency of champions. Six shots on target produced two goals at the Parc des Princes. It was enough, and it was clinical. Arsenal's elimination ends a campaign that generated genuine belief that the club had closed the gap on Europe's elite. They finish as semi-finalists for the first time since 2006 — a marker of progress, but also a reminder of the distance that still separates promise from a place in the final. For a club and a fanbase that has waited a long time to feel relevant on this stage again, the exit will sting. PSG travel to Munich carrying Qatar's long-held ambition for European glory on their shoulders. One match separates them from the one prize that has always remained just out of reach.



The Life and Scientific Activity of Shoislom Shomuhamedov

Shoislom Shomuhamedov's youth coincided with a difficult historical period. With the outbreak of World War II, he, like thousands of his compatriots, was mobilized to the front.



By: Sultanboyev Asadbek Ulugjon.
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Shoislom Mahmudovich Shomuhamedov born on April 16, 1921, in Tashkent

Worth Noting:

• After the war, Shoislom Shomuhamedov devoted himself to scholarship. He entered the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the Central Asian State University (now the National University of Uzbekistan), where he deeply studied Arabic, Persian, and Tajik languages. During his studies, he thoroughly mastered Eastern philology, classical literature, Eastern philosophy, and history. His particular interest in Persian-Tajik literature determined the main direction of his future scientific career. Even during his university years, Shoislom Shomuhamedov was recognized as a talented student, and his teachers placed great hopes on his scientific potential.

• After successfully graduating from the university in 1952, Shoislom Shomuhamedov began his scientific and pedagogical career. He initially worked as a teacher, educating young people in Eastern languages and literature. Later, due to his scientific potential, organizational abilities, and pedagogical skills, he held responsible positions such as associate professor, professor, dean of faculty, and vice-rector for scientific affairs.

Shoislom Mahmudovich Shomuhamedov is considered one of the outstanding scholars who made a significant contribution to the development of Uzbek Oriental studies, translation studies, and literary criticism in the twentieth century. He was born on April 16, 1921, in Tashkent, into an intellectual family. From an early age, he showed a strong interest in science, especially in the history, languages, and literature of Eastern peoples. At that time, Tashkent was one of the major scientific and cultural centers of Central Asia, and this environment played an important role in shaping Shoislom Shomuhamedov's worldview. During his school years, he became acquainted with examples of classical Eastern literature and developed an interest in the works of great thinkers such as Alisher Navoi, Saadi, Hafez, Ferdowsi, and Omar Khayyam.

Shoislom Shomuhamedov's youth coincided with a difficult historical period. With the outbreak of World War II, he, like thousands of his compatriots, was mobilized to the front. During the war years, he witnessed the severe trials faced by humanity and the devastating consequences of war. Life at the front strengthened his character and encouraged him to reflect deeply on human

dignity, peace, and spirituality. Later, these life experiences played a crucial role in the dominance of humanitarianism, kindness, and enlightenment in his scientific and creative activities.

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After successfully graduating from the university in 1952, Shoislom Shomuhamedov began his scientific and pedagogical career. He initially worked as a teacher, educating young people in Eastern languages and literature. Later, due to his scientific potential, organizational abilities, and pedagogical skills, he held responsible positions such as associate professor, professor, dean of faculty, and vice-rector for

scientific affairs. In particular, during his work at the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, he made a major contribution to the development of the Uzbek school of Oriental studies.

The deep study of classical Eastern literature played an important role in Shoislom Shomuhamedov's scholarly formation. He not only studied but also scientifically analyzed the works of Eastern thinkers such as Ferdowsi, Saadi Shirazi, Hafez Shirazi, Jami, Bedil, and Omar Khayyam. The scholar paid special attention to the humanistic ideas of Eastern literature, the concept of the perfect individual, moral education, and spiritual maturity. He interpreted Eastern literature not merely as a historical heritage, but as a priceless treasure enriching human thought and spirituality.

By the 1960s, Shoislom Shomuhamedov had become widely recognized as an Oriental scholar. He published numerous scientific articles on Persian-Tajik literature and translation studies. In particular, his research devoted to the poetics of Eastern literature, principles of literary translation, and issues of classical heritage received high praise from the scholarly community. In his scientific studies, the scholar sought to reveal the philosophical and aes-

thetic essence of Eastern literature.

In 1968, Shoislom Shomuhamedov obtained the degree of Doctor of Philological Sciences. By this time, he had become one of the leading representatives of Uzbek Oriental studies. His doctoral research, devoted to problems of Eastern literature and translation studies, occupied an important place in the development of Uzbek scholarship. Receiving the academic title of professor in 1970 was a high recognition of his scientific achievements.

Shoislom Shomuhamedov gained great respect not only as a scholar but also as a talented pedagogue. He mentored hundreds of students, young researchers, and translators. His lectures were distinguished by deep scholarship, fluent language, and rich spiritual content. Students recognized him as a broad-minded, demanding, yet kind teacher. He taught young people to appreciate Eastern literature and to serve science with devotion.

Throughout his scientific career, Shoislom Shomuhamedov also achieved great success in the field of translation studies. He worked tirelessly to introduce the literary heritage of Eastern peoples to Uzbek readers. In particular, his contribution to translating Ferdowsi's "Shahnameh"

into Uzbek immortalized his name in the history of Uzbek culture. During the translation process, he paid great attention to preserving the artistic spirit, poetic tone, and philosophical meaning of the work.

In 1978, Shoislom Shomuhamedov was awarded the title "Honored Scientist of the Republic of Uzbekistan." This title was a recognition of his enormous contribution to the development of science, education, and culture. Until the end of his life, he remained engaged in scientific research, translation, and pedagogical activity.

The life and scientific activity of Shoislom Shomuhamedov left a bright mark in the history of Uzbek scholarship. Through his dedicated work, profound knowledge, and high spirituality, he became a scholar who made a significant contribution to the development of the Oriental studies school. Even today, his scientific heritage serves as an important source for Orientalists, translators, and literary scholars.

Shoislom Shomuhamedov occupies a special place in the history of Uzbek translation studies as one of the major translators who brought

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Shoislom Mahmudovich Shomuhamedov born on April 16, 1921, in Tashkent

classical Eastern literature closer to the Uzbek people. He understood translation not merely as the process of transferring text from one language to another, but as an important means of strengthening spiritual and cultural ties between peoples. Therefore, his translations are distinguished not only by scientific accuracy but also by artistic perfection. Through translation, Shoislom Shomuhamedov succeeded in conveying the centuries-old cultural heritage, philosophical views, and aesthetic thinking of Eastern peoples to Uzbek readers.

As a scholar and translator, Shoislom Shomuhamedov introduced Uzbek readers to many famous representatives of Persian, Tajik, Arabic, Indian, Azerbaijani, Russian, and Turkmen literature. Among the works he translated, classical Eastern poetry, epic epics, philosophical quatrains, and historical-literary works occupy an important place. In particular, through his translations, Uzbek readers gained the opportunity to closely familiarize themselves with the artistic and aesthetic world of Eastern literature.

One of the largest and historically significant directions of Shoislom Shomuhamedov's translation activity is connected with the great

"Shahnameh" of Abulqosim Ferdowsi. "Shahnameh" is one of the greatest epic monuments of Eastern literature, embodying the ancient history, legends, heroic spirit, and traditions of statehood of the Iranian peoples. Translating such a work into another language requires not only linguistic knowledge but also deep historical, cultural, and poetic understanding.

Between 1975 and 1979, a new three-volume Uzbek translation of "Shahnameh" was produced under the leadership and direct participation of Shoislom Shomuhamedov. This translation became one of the most important events in the history of Uzbek translation studies. The team of translators sought not only to convey the content in an accessible form, but also to preserve the epic spirit, artistic tone, and poetic structure of the work as fully as possible. In this process, Shoislom Shomuhamedov actively participated as a scientific consultant, editor, and translator.

In translating "Shohnoma" Shoislom Shomuhamedov's main approach was to preserve the national spirit of the work while expressing it in a form understandable to Uzbek readers. He sought to recreate Ferdowsi's elevated pathos, heroic spirit, and philosophical reflec-

tions through the artistic possibilities of the Uzbek language. This contributed to the translation becoming perfect not only in content but also in aesthetics.

Shoislom Shomuhamedov paid special attention to language issues in his translations. He tried to naturally and fluently express the complex artistic devices, metaphors, and symbols of classical Eastern literature in Uzbek. The translator's mastery lay in preserving the philosophical essence of the original text while presenting it in an understandable and emotionally powerful form for Uzbek readers. Therefore, his translations are highly valued both scientifically and artistically. Shoislom Shomuhamedov also demonstrated great skill in translating the quatrains of Omar Khayyam. Omar Khayyam's poetry is considered complex because of its philosophical depth, symbolic meanings, and unique poetic style. The translator succeeded in naturally and expressively conveying the philosophical reflections on life, time, humanity, and destiny found in these quatrains into Uzbek. As a result, Uzbek readers were able to appreciate the profound meaning of Eastern philosophical poetry.

In addition, Shoislom Shomuhamedov translated the works of Eastern

thinkers such as Saadi Shirazi, Hafez Shirazi, and Abdurahman Jami. In these translations, he strove to preserve the musicality, mystical-philosophical meaning, and artistic elegance of classical poetry. The translator demonstrated great experience and knowledge in adapting the unique spirit of Eastern poetics into the Uzbek language.

During the translation process, Shoislom Shomuhamedov paid more attention to conveying the inner spirit of the text rather than merely its external form. He avoided literalism in translation and considered preserving the artistic impact of the work as his primary task. In this respect, his translations are regarded as vivid examples of the school of creative translation.

The translator's work had a significant influence on the development of the Uzbek school of translation studies. He not only translated major works but also dealt with issues of translation theory and practice. Shoislom Shomuhamedov believed that the task of a translator was to bring peoples closer together and introduce their cultural values

to one another. Therefore, his translations are valued for their spiritual and educational significance as well. Shoislom Shomuhamedov's translation activity occu-

pies an important place in Uzbek cultural life. By skillfully translating rare masterpieces of Eastern literature into Uzbek, he contributed to enriching the spiritual world of the Uzbek people. Even today, his translations retain their scientific, artistic, and educational value. Shoislom Shomuhamedov is one of the great scholars who made a tremendous contribution to the development of Uzbek Oriental studies, Iranian studies, and translation studies. Through his scientific research, literary translations, pedagogical activities, and enlightenment ideas, he earned a worthy place in the history of Uzbek science and culture. The scientific and creative heritage of Shoislom Shomuhamedov has not lost its significance even today. His works continue to serve as important scholarly sources for young Orientalists, translators, and literary critics. The life and activity of the scholar represent a vivid example of devotion to science, loyalty to national and universal values, and service to spirituality.

Sultanboyev Asadbek Ulugjon is a Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies 2nd-year student

Omtatah petitions JSC to probe judges over Kenya-US health deal ruling

A senator is not challenging the outcome — he is challenging the silence that followed it.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

• The sequence of events that led to the petition begins on 19 December 2025, when the High Court granted conservatory orders stopping implementation of the Kenya-US Health Cooperation Framework pending the full hearing and determination of a constitutional petition filed by Omtatah. The court found the issues raised to be serious, arguable, and constitutionally significant, and concluded that continued implementation of the framework risked rendering the case moot before it could be properly heard. Those orders represented a significant judicial intervention — a pause button pressed on an agreement that the government had already begun acting upon.

• The government moved swiftly to challenge the High Court's intervention, filing an application at the Court of Appeal seeking a stay of the conservatory orders. On 12 May 2026, Justices Kimaru, Munyao, and Okello granted that stay — lifting the High Court's pause and clearing the path for the framework's continued implementation. What they did not do, Omtatah argues, is explain why.

Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah has petitioned the Judicial Service Commission to investigate three Court of Appeal judges who suspended High Court orders blocking the Kenya-United States Health Cooperation Framework in May 2026, without providing reasons for their decision — reasons they say will only be delivered on 30 October 2026, nearly five months after the ruling was issued.

The petition, filed this week, targets Justices Kimaru, Munyao, and Okello, and asks the JSC to determine whether their conduct amounts to gross misconduct, a breach of the Judicial Service Code of Conduct and Ethics, a violation of constitutional rights to fair hearing and access to justice, or conduct undertaken in bad faith outside the protection of judicial immunity. In the alternative, Omtatah asks whether the failure to apply binding Supreme Court precedent may constitute judicial incompetence.

The case sits at the intersection of two questions that rarely occupy the same courtroom: the content of a bilateral health agreement between Kenya and the United States, and the procedural obligations that bind the judges who adjudicate challenges to it. Omtatah has been careful to separate them. “My complaint is not that the judges ruled against me,” he said in a statement accompanying the petition. “My complaint is that they adopted a procedure unknown to law, one whose natural and foreseeable consequence was to block immediate and meaningful review by the Supreme Court.” It is a distinction that matters enormously — and one that the JSC will now be asked to evaluate.

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The judges announced that their reasons would be delivered on 30 October 2026. By the standards of ordinary judicial administration, a short delay between ruling and written reasons is not unusual. But five months — in a constitutional matter of this complexity and consequence, where the right of further appeal is contingent on understanding the basis of the decision — is, Omtatah contends, something categorically different. “By withholding the reasons for nearly five months, the Court of Appeal has rendered the right of appeal ineffective while the contested framework continues to be implemented,” he said. An appeal to the Supreme Court cannot be meaningfully mounted without knowing the reasoning that the appellate court applied. In practical terms, the October delivery date forecloses that option until the framework has been in operation for months.

The senator has been deliberate in framing his concerns as procedural rather than political. He acknowledged in the petition that the judges remain entitled to fairness, due process, and the presumption of regularity unless and until lawful findings are made. “I wish to emphasise again that these are allegations placed before the Judicial Service Commission for constitutional



Busia Senator Okiya Omtatah

determination through due process,” he said. The care with which he has drawn those boundaries reflects an awareness of the charge he is making — that senior judicial officers may have acted in a manner that places their conduct outside the protection ordinarily afforded to judicial decisions.

The substance of the underlying constitutional challenge is formidable. Omtatah's original petition, filed against the Kenya-US Health Cooperation Framework reportedly signed in Washington on 4 December 2025, raises concerns that touch on some of the most sensitive intersections of sovereignty, public health, and democratic accountability in Kenya's recent history. Among the questions he has asked the court to resolve: whether the framework required parliamentary ratification under the Constitution and the Treaty Making and Ratification Act; whether it permits the transfer of sensitive health data belonging to millions of Kenyans to institutions outside the country; whether it imposes long-term financial obligations on the Kenyan state without parliamentary approval; and whether it effectively cedes aspects of Kenya's sovereign regulatory authority over health products and medicines to foreign bodies.

Those concerns have acquired greater urgency in

recent weeks following public disclosures about the framework's scope. Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale has publicly linked discussions about a planned United States Ebola isolation facility in Kenya to the framework — a connection that has fuelled debate about what exactly Kenya agreed to in Washington in December, and what obligations flow from that agreement. Omtatah argues that by the time the Court of Appeal delivers its reasons in October, irreversible consequences will already have occurred — including the transfer of sensitive health data and the undertaking of major fiscal commitments that have never been placed before Parliament for scrutiny or approval.

The JSC petition therefore carries weight that extends well beyond the procedural question at its core. It is, in effect, a challenge to the idea that courts can issue immediately enforceable orders in matters of constitutional significance without simultaneously providing the reasoning that allows those orders to be challenged. Kenya's Constitution is explicit on the right of access to justice and the right to a fair hearing — rights that Omtatah argues are rendered hollow when a court imposes consequences but withholds its logic for five months.

The JSC will now have to

navigate that argument carefully. Investigating sitting appellate judges is not a step the commission takes lightly, and any finding that touches on judicial conduct in an active legal matter will carry implications far beyond the individuals named in the petition. The commission must also weigh the distinction between judicial decisions that are simply wrong — which are correctable on appeal — and judicial conduct that falls outside the protection of judicial immunity altogether, which is the threshold Omtatah is asking it to apply.

What is not in dispute is the timeline: an agreement signed in December, High Court orders granted in December, a Court of Appeal stay issued in May, reasons promised for October, and a framework continuing to operate throughout. The senator's central argument is simple — that justice delayed is justice denied, but justice delivered without explanation is something closer to justice concealed.

Whether the JSC agrees will shape not just the fate of three judges, but the standard Kenya's courts are held to when the stakes are highest and the watching public deserves nothing less than full transparency.